

I would like to nominate System Programmer Nathan Atkins for the 2016 Lancaster County Department of Corrections Employee of the Year. Nate has been assigned as our System Programmer since June 18, 2015 when he started his employment with the Department.

During the last year Nate's contributions to the Department were numerous. He designed, built, implemented, and monitored the Electronic Timesheet System database. His effort at this cannot be over-stated. His knowledge of programming to put that system together is second-to-none. He not only was able to encompass the myriad rules that go along with processing the paper timesheets, he was able to design a system that is more user-friendly for employees and for the personnel processing payroll. This timesheet system has allowed the Department to gather data that would have been extremely labor intensive, if not impossible, to gather under the previous manual system. The next step in this process is to add a scheduling component to the system which will revolutionize how the supervisors plan for their shifts.

Nate has also kept up with the cameras and video recording system at the jail. He has been proactive in seeing problems before they arise and putting the right fix in place. When the system has failed, he has also come in several times on off-duty time to get the system going again. He is currently working on a project to modernize the entire system. This will make it more robust and allow it to store more data. In addition, this revitalization will make the video more usable as it will increase the resolution.

Lastly, Nate has been the spearhead of getting our handheld data units to be a useful tool for the line staff. He has been able to get new tablets that do all of the tasks we need them to and more. We are on the path to not only have a more paperless system, but a system where more data can be gathered and utilized to make accurate predictions for future operations.

I personally worked with Nate on a large data processing project and his knowledge of not only how to gather the data but how to present it in a usable fashion was instrumental in the success of the project.

In conclusion, Nate is an essential part of the Lancaster County Corrections team and our operations would not be as efficient as they are without him and his support. His positive attitude and can do spirit is infectious and makes changes that can sometimes be challenging much more successful.