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PSC COMMUNICATOR

News from the Procurement Service Center

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March 8, 2017

PSC Staff News: David Turner Retires this Month

Congratulations to purchasing agent David Turner, who announced his retirement effective March 31.

Before coming to the University of Colorado, David was a purchasing agent with Copper Mountain Resort for many years. He remembers the work there as "like buying for an entire city" – everything from food and lodging facilities to athletic club and golf course equipment. One of his specialty items was moguls.

In March 1992, he joined the Boulder Campus Office of Buying and Contracting. In 1999, that office merged with purchasing, payable, and travel units from across CU to form the new Procurement Service Center (PSC).

Throughout his years at CU, David has been known for outstanding customer service in professional services, speakers/entertainment, charter services, and other commodities. Of the many speakers/entertainers he helped bring to Colorado, he recalls (and wishes he could have attended!) Carl Sagan, Salman Rushdie, and the Grateful Dead.

David notes, "I've been privileged to work with people who are professional, dedicated, and pleasant … and to be involved in the wide variety of great things that CU does."

So what now, after CU? His plans include spending more time with his beloved granddaughter, refinishing more chair lifts (they become valued wedding gifts for the back yards and gardens of newlywed friends), and investigating part-time career opportunities. You can thank him for his service and wish him luck at 303.764.3422 or David.Turner@cu.edu.

Inside the PSC: Strategic Procurement

This begins a series of articles looking in detail at the work of the Procurement Service Center.

We're often asked about Strategic Procurement. What does the term mean? What does the group do?

Strategic procurement is the foundation of the PSC's work for CU. In a nutshell, it's the process of identifying and sustaining ideal supplier partnerships. CU spends over $1 billion annually on goods and services. The strategic procurement process evaluates CU's entire procure-to-pay cycle to decrease costs and increase efficiencies. There are five key components:

Through Strategic Sourcing, we identify suppliers that can provide the greatest strategic value for CU's purchasing needs and negotiate contracts that leverage our economies of scale to obtain hard-cost (dollars) and soft-cost (ease of ordering) savings. The ultimate goal is to make the acquisition of goods and services more effective and efficient.

Through Supplier Relationship Management, we build meaningful relationships with CU's most critical suppliers and manage them through regular business reviews, contract management, and frequent supplier contacts. The ultimate goal is to assure key suppliers perform at optimal levels with regard to pricing, effective Marketplace catalogs, and customer service.

Using Spend Management, we see where and how CU spends its money and work directly with campus departments to enhance their budgeting and planning activities. We highlight the value of using Marketplace catalogs and contracts as a primary means to obtain goods and services since total cost of ownership includes the time/effort spent (e.g., shopping outside of Marketplace, reconciling Procurement Card). The ultimate goal is to use understanding of spend to generate better procurement decision-making.

Business Analytics support data-driven Strategic Sourcing, Supplier Relationship Management, and Spend Management. We collect, analyze, and categorize CU spend data and spending habits. The ultimate goal is to use real data to identify improvements in the procure-to-pay cycle.

Finally, we rely on Customer Feedback through a variety of on-campus events and online surveys.

Strategic Procurement Team

Questions? Contact Duane.Tucker@cu.edu or 303.764.3453.