



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: March 6, 2014
Board Meeting Date: March 25, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager
Subject: Employee of the Month for March 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Honor Elenita Silva as Employee of the Month for March 2014 and authorize the President of the Board to sign the commendation

BACKGROUND:

The Employee of the Month program was established in December 1984 to recognize and honor County employees who consistently demonstrate an outstanding level of performance.

Our Employee of the Month for March 2014 is Elenita Silva, Public Health Nurse in the Health System.

DISCUSSION:

Elenita, also known as Ellen, began her career as a registered nurse with the County in 1998 and joined the Communicable Disease Control Program as a public health nurse in 2007. She is an upbeat, solution-focused and highly self-motivated nurse who is passionate about her work and deeply committed to public service.

Ellen routinely seeks new professional growth opportunities and is currently pursuing board certification as an Infection Control Practitioner, in order to provide enhanced prevention expertise and consultation to our health care and community partners. She is actively engaged with our local hospitals, clinics, skilled nursing/assisted living facilities, schools and child care centers, and works with them frequently to assess and review infection prevention and control practices.

Ellen is also a tireless mentor and resource to colleagues, nursing students, public health interns and the public, readily sharing her skills, knowledge and experience. She

frequently works long and irregular hours in challenging field settings, investigating and following up with urgent disease cases and outbreaks.

One of Ellen's most significant contributions to further the public health mission has been to initiate, organize and facilitate quarterly community meetings with school nurses and health aides from all public and private schools within the County, with a focus on public health updates and issues affecting children and youth. Ellen began these meetings several years ago, and their initial focus was on communicable disease topics. The meetings clearly struck a chord with the school nurses and health aides, providing them with a forum for learning, group discussion and collective problem-solving, and they are consistently well-attended. One of the benefits of this successful outreach strategy has been a notable increase in inquiries and requests for communicable disease consultation from local schools to our programs.

Based upon the success of the School Nurses/Health System meetings, Ellen subsequently organized infection control and prevention meetings with healthcare providers from local skilled/assisted living and long-term care facilities in 2012, and now facilitates meetings twice a year for this group. These meetings provide a forum and opportunity for discussion and collaboration and are also well-attended with positive feedback from participants.

In February 2014, Ellen organized the first-ever infection control and prevention meeting with local child care providers, and participants requested that she continue to host these meetings biannually. Ellen has thoughtfully scheduled these meetings in the early evening to accommodate attendees' work schedules, and continues to bring the same level of enthusiasm and energy that she brings to all of her work.

Ellen has an extraordinary commitment and service to San Mateo County's residents and visitors and goes far beyond the call of duty.

Our County is fortunate to have Elenita Silva as one of its outstanding employees.