

Collin County

Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Brandon Mestas

Honoree's Job Title: Database Administrator

Department: Information Technology

Years of Service with the County: 8

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

In November, when the purchase of new SQL server hardware was approved, Brandon began planning the migration of databases to the new system. He created a model SQL Cluster environment on his local system. The model allowed him to test various configurations of the new system and gather information about events, such as a failure in the cluster and unscheduled rollovers. The modeling results allowed him to configure a stable environment tuned for the new server. In addition, he used the environment to write and test queries for migrating the data files from the old system to the new one.

The test results allowed Brandon to conduct performance tuning on his migration to provide time savings during the transfer. After tuning the queries, Brandon used the environment to test timings to plan an accurate duration window for moving the databases. Finally, he took these results and, based on the criticality of a system to be moved, created a plan for moving the systems with the most negligible impact on the organizations affected by each stage of the transfer.

In April, Brandon began the move from the extreme I/O server to the new PowerStore system. Brandon coordinated a schedule with the OCCB, MCCB, Laserfiche, HR, County Clerk, Tax Office, Elections, Healthcare, and Jury business owners to schedule moving dates and times for each affected application database. After moving the databases, he worked with a functional person or group to verify that the affected application functioned properly. The move also required coordination within the different functional IT groups because specific security applications use the SQL system to store data. As a result of his efforts, the migration to the new server had no impact on county operations.

Approved by elected official or department head on the 15 day of Sep, 2022

Caren R. Skipworth

Signature of Elected Official
or Department Head

Caren Skipworth

Printed Name