

Collin County Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Sam Grader

Honoree's Job Title: IT Project Manager

Department: Information Technology

Years of Service with the County: 9 years 8 months

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

Sam has demonstrated several times this year where he has gone above and beyond the normal requirements of an IT Project Manager. Most recently, on July 29th and 30th, 2025, Sam worked 26 hours straight in preparation for the Enterprise Justice (Odyssey) upgrade. He stayed on well into the hours of the next morning to ensure post-upgrade system stability and even attended an 11:00am Jury project call on July 30th before signing off to get some sleep.

In addition to his leadership role on the Odyssey Change Control Board, Sam has carried a significant project load with upgrades to Odyssey, SoftCode, Judge Edition, a Healthcare RFP, Jury system upgrade, credit card machine initiative, Defendant Access implementation, as well as a very, very challenging countywide surveillance retrofit project.

Finally, Sam continues to seek out professional development courses via the Project Management Institute course offerings. He recently completed an "AI for Project Managers" course and implemented AI note-taking tools which have proven to be a valuable resource.

Sam has far surpassed expectations this year and his efforts and successes are well deserving of a GEM award.

Approved by elected official or department head on the 27 day of 8, 2025

Caren R. Skipworth

Signature of Elected Official
or Department Head

Caren R. Skipworth

Printed Name