



FAC Spotlight:
Broadway, Here I Come...
COT's Freida Vinegar hams it up in latest production

Although Freida Vinegar didn't get involved with theater until about 15 years ago, she admits she's always been a "bit of a ham." So, she took a chance, tried out for a play, and "was bitten by the bug" to act.

"It really happened by accident," said Vinegar. "My cousin had a fledging theater company and was helping produce a fundraiser show for our church. I tried out, got the part, and the rest is history."

According to Vinegar, she had had a rather bad year. With a brand new year looming, she thought why not do something different? You only go around once and something different was exactly what she wanted.

Even in her day job with COT's Office of Application Development (OAD), Vinegar stands up and delivers...training, that is.

When I first started with the Department of Information Services (DIS)—the precursor to COT—she was an application software instructor in the training branch. Over the past several years with OAD, she's done soft skills training, testing of new software and is now creating course work for *Customer Service 103: How to Remove the Boxing Gloves with Finesse*.

Before joining state government in 1989, Vinegar was in the U.S. Army for 13 years and traveled the world with different assignments. She came back to Lexington, her hometown, and settled in to training at DIS. That's when she became involved with theater.

Over the years Vinegar has been in musicals, dramas, comedies...just about all genres of theater. She's performed with different local and regional theater groups.

You can see her in her latest production, **Necessary Targets**, with the Shelby County Community Theater Company.



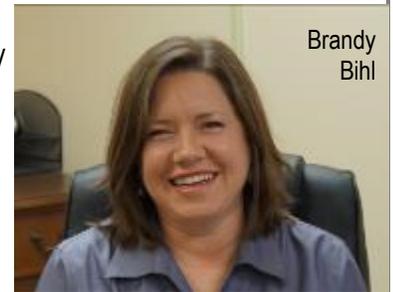
Finance Employees Nominated for Governor's Ambassador Awards

Recognized as part of Public Employee Recognition Week

Public employees were honored Wednesday with the presentation of the sixth-annual Governor's Ambassador Awards. Personnel Cabinet Secretary Timothy Longmeyer commemorated Public Service Recognition Week by recognizing the employees for exceptional service in the workplace and in their communities.

The Finance Cabinet had nominees for customer service and teamwork. Brandy Bihl was nominated for customer service and the Landscape branch staff for their Snow Team efforts.

"Public employees are an extraordinary group," Secretary Longmeyer said. "They are servants to others, and their career is focused on giving, serving and providing a better way of life for all our citizens. Today, we recognize the cream of that crop, and I invite all Kentuckians to continue honoring our public servants for the work they do each and every day."



Brandy Bihl

Following is an excerpt from Brandy's nomination:

Although relatively new to her position, Brandy has excelled at assisting office attorneys in addressing client needs with an array of diverse legal concerns. Brandy is a key member of the Office of General Counsel and, while her name isn't on the bottom of any legal filings and she doesn't appear in court, the legal work in the office would be much more difficult to accomplish without her.

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It is a groundbreaking play about women and war—about the violence of dark memories and the enduring resilience of the human spirit.

The play runs over two weekends; information is below.

Freida lives in Frankfort with her cat, 3B, who showed up on her doorstep and adopted Freida. Bold, beautiful broad describe Ms. 3B perfectly.

If you go...

Necessary Targets

Show times and dates:
 7:30 p.m. October 17-18 and 24-25
 2:30 p.m. October 19

Shelby County Community Theater
 801 Main Street, Shelbyville 40065
 (502) 633-0222

Ticket Information: <http://www.shelbytheatre.org/box-office/>
 (502) 633-0242 (reserve tickets)



Specifically, Brandy has designed and maintained an array of case management and tracking tools to provide constantly updated information and status reports in several distinct areas of litigation. She constantly displays both initiative and discretion in making sure important client matters don't fall through the cracks, an important asset in a smaller legal office with a substantial caseload. She always has an eye on the needs of our clients and highlights for the attorneys any important issues and deadlines that remain in need of addressing.

In her communications with all customers, whether they are clients or members of the general public, Brandy is unfailingly kind, polite, and courteous. She not only addresses the specific concerns or questions they have, but leaves them feeling that they have both been heard and understood, and that whatever issue they may have called about will be brought to the attention of an attorney and promptly addressed.

The Snow Team is:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bill Blackburn | Joe Hobson |
| Tim Deppenbrock | Mark Nichols |
| James Ferguson | Sandy Perkins |
| Ross Flatt | Beth Sebastian |
| Derrick Hammond | Harper Smith |
| Ryan Hix | Garth Vinson |

The Snow Team nomination included the following:

This winter had an unusual number of snow episodes that either happened just prior to the morning commute or in early afternoon



L to R front row : William Blackburn, Ryan Hix, Beth Sebastian, Garth Vinson. **L to R back row:** Joe Hobson, Ross Flatt, Harper Smith. Not pictured snow team members: Mark Nichols, James Ferguson, Sandy Perkins, Derrick Hammond, Tim Deppenbrock

before state employees were to head home. With 30 separate snow events, the actual calculated days to remediate and remove snow/ice was estimated at 36 days.

And yes, to make sure parking lots and sidewalks are safe for employees, this meant the Snow Team was often called out in the wee hours of the morning, usually around 4 a.m. The Snow Team put in some long hours, but did so in an extremely professional manner working together to complete each task as quickly as possible. The Snow Team is truly an example of great teamwork paying great dividends in the most adverse weather conditions.

Each snow event is different and takes flexibility, reliability and coordination to remove snow from state government parking lots and sidewalks—all before employees arrive at or depart from work. This type of work entails an incredible amount of preparation and the utmost confidence in the entire team. Knowing that the Snow Team can be called at a moment's notice, at any hour demonstrates the commitment to not only being good stewards of Commonwealth resources, but also is evidence that the team is concerned with the health and safety of their fellow co-workers.

Created in 2008, the Governor's Ambassador Awards was established to highlight stories of employees who have made a positive impact on their co-workers, customers or community. Nominations are accepted in six categories: customer service, courage, leadership, professional achievement, teamwork, or community service and volunteerism. The 2014 awards generated nominations involving nearly 200 employees.

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Check out Next Week's Cyber Security Events

COT and Tandem Solution have several Security Awareness events scheduled whose content will be relevant to all computer users. Seats will be filled on a first come basis.

Sessions will be fun and interactive with a Security Trivia game. Discussions will include practical information about strong passwords, recognizing phishing emails, applying computer updates, using public Wi-Fi, making home Wi-Fi secure & much more.



10/15/2014 10:00-10:30am
Capital Plaza Tower
 500 Mero Street
 Basement Conference Room

10/15/2014 1:00-1:30pm
State Office Building
 501 High Street
 1st Floor Auditorium

10/16/2014 10:00-10:30am
Cabinet for Human Resources Building
 275 East Main Street
 CHFS Conference HS-2 Board Rm.

10/16/2014 2:30-3:00pm
Transportation Building
 200 Mero Street
 1st Fl. Conference Rm. C117

**Pictures
for the
week.**

**Dept. of
Revenue**

Rocks at

**Employee
Appreciation
Lunch**



**REMINDER:
Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming
Fleet Auction**

State Fleet Auction

Oct. 14, 2014

Oct. 13: pre-register/inspect vehicles, 1:30-4 p.m.

Oct. 14: pre-register/view vehicles, 8 -9:50 a.m.; Sale starts 10 a.m.

513 Barrett Street, Frankfort, KY

[Click here for vehicle listing](#)