Effectiveness and Improvement Award

2016 CORNERSTONE AWARD

REVIT Team

The Cornerstone for Effectiveness Improvement goes to the REVIT Team, which implemented a drafting program that brings a higher level of sophistication to construction documents produced by Facilities Engineering (FE) and IPP as a whole. This program improves coordination in our construction documents, enables designers and drafters to easily identify clashes and areas of congestion, and resolves these problem-areas early in the process, resulting in fewer change orders on projects and improved constructability. For nearly 20 years prior to transitioning to this new program, FE used a production drafting tool to create construction documents. All of the standards and drafting practices were built around that system. Consequently, changing the primary drafting platform was no small task.

The first order of business was to develop standards and templates linking construction documents to the FE drafting standards. Next was to implement a training program for the staff. Proposals to conduct training were solicited from several companies. The quotes received were in the tens of thousands of dollars. In order to save money and utilize the expertise within IPP, the Revit Team offered to host the training based on their experience with the program. The training agenda was well organized, covering all of the major design areas within the program over a three-day period.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, many commenting on the high level of expertise we have within IPP to conduct this type of training. This high functioning team pulled together a training program that went above and beyond their normal job responsibilities in order to save resources within IPP and train staff across the division in this new drafting program.

The Revit Team’s efforts have led to significant cost savings. There was the immediate savings of $10,000 as a result of the team volunteering to conduct in-house staff training. Additionally, FE will now be utilizing a software program that does not have an annual subscription fee. There is also an anticipated savings of an additional $10,000 by reducing the number of licenses the old system required in order to produce construction documents. The largest ongoing savings will be from reduced change orders on projects due to improved coordination of construction documents. FE estimates that the new program should reduce change orders by 20% to 40%. Assuming a change order rate of 4%, the University could see savings of $50,000 to $100,000 per year.

FE staff need to utilize a drafting program to do their jobs on a daily basis. The easiest path forward would have been to continue to utilize the drafting program that is familiar and already part of the daily work flow. Instead, the Revit Team went above and beyond by customizing a new program that will lead to increased efficiencies in the development of construction documents and by taking the initiative to develop and conduct training for IPP staff. The potential overall savings of the initiative could be in the order of $70,000 to $120,000 per year, which is a great accomplishment.

This team was nominated by Erik Eshelman, Sara Bergakker, Andrew Germain, John Bell, Steve Beyers and Kim Frost.