2014 Models of Excellence
Penn’s Move-in Team is being recognized for their initiative, creativity, and innovations to the move-in process that made this year’s academic opening a spectacular success. Prior to move-in, the team sent out a video to new students to help them get ready. They used social media to share fun campus facts and photos. Then, they enlisted staff members from across campus and hundreds of volunteers to streamline the whole process. Feedback from students and their families confirmed this was the best move-in experience ever.
MODELS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

The Travel and Expense Management Initiative Team is being recognized for identifying and implementing a new travel and expense system that addresses customer needs and preferences while reducing travel costs. Last year, Penn reinvented its travel and expense management process with the rollout of Concur Expense. To achieve this upgrade, the team identified campus needs through extensive outreach to all Penn stakeholders, searched for vendors, and piloted the program. After the upgrade, they conducted more than 100 demonstrations and presentations. The final result provides an outstanding infrastructure and support system for Penn travelers and business administrators.
Rob Ditto is being honored for his substantial support of the Penn-wide effort to review options, choose, and implement Canvas as Penn’s unified, web-based learning management platform. After Rob had honed his learning management system knowledge through his involvement with introducing Canvas at Wharton, he offered his expertise, experience, and insight to all the schools on campus to ensure that everyone was using the software system correctly.
The National Resource Centers Outreach Team is being honored for their creativity, initiative, and collaboration in delivering outstanding programs and services to support the mission of Penn’s four National Resource Centers in spite of significant federal cutbacks. Rather than reduce their goals, the leaders of Penn’s South Asia Center, Middle East Center, Africa Center, and the Center for East Asia Studies pooled their resources and co-sponsored numerous events with an international focus such as the Greater Philadelphia Global Education Network and the Global Awareness Dialogue Project.
MODELS OF EXCELLENCE HONORABLE MENTION

The Programs & Special Events Making History Campaign Team is being honored for going above and beyond all expectations to design and orchestrate outstanding campus, community, and international events celebrating the successful Making History campaign. In April 2013, the campaign reached 4.3 billion dollars. The Programs & Special Events team produced events to celebrate everyone who helped to attain this success. These world-class events made lasting impressions on more than 10,000 members of the Penn community. At the same time, they managed Penn’s largest annual event: Alumni Weekend.
MODELS OF EXCELLENCE HONORABLE MENTION

Ernest Wright is being honored for outstanding initiative, leadership, cost-effectiveness, and focus on customer needs in the production of instructional online videos for Hyperion Planning system users. Ernie has developed and produced 10 training videos so far, engaging the Budget Office and the Financial Training Group in the process. He posted the videos on a temporary Budget Office YouTube channel. Then, with help from IT support staff, he migrated the videos to a Penn-hosted server. His impact has gone far beyond Penn. Users from 22 different countries have accessed the videos online.