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## Virginia Tech Staff Employee of the Week

July 25, 2005

**Name:** Rhonda J. Pennington

**Job Title:** Program Support Technician Senior

**Employee's Home Department:** Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures

**Employee's College or VP Area:** College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

**Nominated For:** President's Award for Excellence

**Nominated By:** Dr. Andrew S. Becker, Department Chair

**Virginia Tech Hire Date:** Sept. 17, 1985



### Summary

Colleagues in Foreign Languages and Literatures praise Rhonda Pennington for her superior efficiency, organization, and kind and helpful manner that result in "unparalleled standards of excellence."

Ms. Pennington joined the department in 2003 and found much work that needed to be done. She spent countless hours reorganizing the department's office after the abrupt and unexpected departure of the office's fiscal manager. She reorganized the financial and personnel records.

She improved all the procedures for the Study Abroad program. When the department had increased its involvement in grants and experienced documentation problems, Rhonda helped in resolving the problems. The department chair, Andrew Becker, averred "Rhonda's effort and careful attention to figure out what had been done and what should be done was truly exceptional and bordering on amazing."

Dr. Becker reserves his greatest praise for Ms. Pennington for the work she performed in improving the department's budget. Although she had no experience as a fiscal manager, she "turned us into a department that is financially efficient, transparent, and well-structured."

He says that through "careful work and talented organization skills, Rhonda has brought our financial books into superb shape, to such a degree that we are now being complimented on our financial state and our procedures."

In summing up her "exceptional performance," Dr. Becker says, "Rhonda has transformed our department. The extraordinary efforts and leadership she has shown seems miraculous, especially considering the difficulty of the situation she found when she arrived."

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