

Staff Employee of the Week

Diane Bourne

Dianne Bourne has worked as a laboratory staff member at Virginia Tech since 1966, working in Poultry Science, the Anaerobe Lab and Food Science. According to her colleagues, she has acquired a wealth of knowledge working in various microbiology labs which she applies in a rigorous and professional way to research studies. She is an excellent leader and her research is nothing but outstanding.

“Bourne is an integral part of the seafood and aquaculture research group, and having her as part of the team means that graduate students are well-trained and supervised, lab work is consistent and reliable, and that only the most recent and appropriate laboratory methods will be utilized,” said Laura Lawson. “The fact that the seafood and aquaculture group’s research is well-respected by government agencies, private industry and colleagues in academia is symbolic of the true professionalism with which Bourne handles the laboratory work and data analysis.”



According to Mr. George Flick, Bourne has made significant contributions in the past four years that are not customary for laboratory personnel. Some of her most recent contributions have resulted in a potential new industry for Southside Virginia and the expansion of another industry in Southwest Virginia, an improved method for cooling clams, and the prevention of a million dollar product loss for a lobster company.

According to Lawson, “Bourne’s continuing commitment to excellence in research is invaluable and her years of dedicated effort in the laboratory are worthy of acknowledgment.”

Job title: Lab and Research Specialist

Home department: Food Science and Technology

College or VP area: Agriculture and Life Sciences

Nominated for: President’s Award for Excellence

Nominated by: Laura Lawson, research associate, Food Science and Technology