

**News Release**  
**For Immediate Release**

**46 state employees receive Public Service Achievement Awards**

INDIANAPOLIS (May 5, 2010) – Governor Mitch Daniels today presented the sixth round of Governor’s Public Service Achievement Awards to 46 state employees representing six agencies.

“These individuals have proven that there is always a way to get better, always a way to make the money go further, and always a way to serve our fellow citizens a little more effectively,” said Daniels.

Some of the accomplishments being rewarded include:

- The combined efforts of nine employees of the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) resulted in the Fund being named Money Management Letter’s Large Public Plan of the Year for 2009. PERF’s investment team retooled the fund’s under-diversified structure, which enabled it to survive the financial crisis and recover faster during the market recovery over the last 12 months and added nearly \$500 million to the portfolio in 2009 compared to what it would have returned had it performed at the average of other large public plans.
- A team from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helped achieve the certification of “sustainably managed” on all 154,000 acres of the state’s forests. They were able to pass or exceed all environmental reviews and met or bettered standards while increasing timber revenue by 66 percent over the past five years; using a portion of those revenues to acquire 800 to 1,000 new acres of land annually, all without adding any new full-time foresters.
- Four employees from the Indiana Department of Correction implemented a program that focuses on preparing offenders for re-entry into the workforce and reducing recidivism. That program is credited as the largest correctional apprenticeship program in the nation and is being implemented in other states.

Daniels created the Public Service Achievement Award in 2005 to reward employees who improve efficiency, provide better service, and stretch tax dollars. State agencies submit nominations of individuals or teams for review and recommendation to the governor. Teams receive up to \$4,000 to be divided among team members while individual award winners receive a medal and \$1,000. In 2009, awards were presented to 35 state employees.

A list of award recipients and their accomplishments is available here:

[http://www.in.gov/spd/files/2010\\_GPSAA\\_program.pdf](http://www.in.gov/spd/files/2010_GPSAA_program.pdf)

Audio from today’s event can be found here:

[http://www.in.gov/gov/files/Audio/050510\\_Public\\_Service\\_Awards.mp3](http://www.in.gov/gov/files/Audio/050510_Public_Service_Awards.mp3)

For individual photos please contact our office.

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