

# Collin County Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Recognition Form

Honoree's Name: Brittany Gurney

Honoree's Job Title: Supervision Officer

Department: Collin County CSCD

Years of Service with the County: 4 years 7 months

Why the Honoree is receiving a GEM Award including dates:

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I would like to nominate Brittany Gurney for a GEM award for her participation in the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) validation study that was recently conducted by the Community Justice Assistance Division. (CJAD is the state office that oversees funding and operations of CSCD offices in Texas). Ms Pharr participated in this endeavor along with two other CSCD employees, Joseph Arendt and Brittany Gurney. The study required participants to attend a two day training in Dallas, Tx. on April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> where they received training on a new offender assessment tool which was revised/designed for use in Texas(Texas Risk Assessment System-TRAS). This training designated the participant as a SME (subject matter experts) for the TRAS validation study.

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Once the training was successfully completed, Joseph, Brittany, and Jill then participated in the Interrater reliability (IRR) testing of the TRAS instrument. This testing was conducted at the McKinney UDCF office from May 2<sup>nd</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. During this time frame Joseph, Brittany, and Jill coordinated and conducted offender interviews and scored the TRAS instrument. The purpose of the IRR testing was for multiple interviewers to score the same interview to determine the validity of the assessment instrument. Joseph, Brittany, and Jill all participated in this process while maintaining their regular caseload duties. The work that they have completed on the TRAS instrument has been instrumental in the validation process. Once CJAD has completed the validation process the TDCJ-CJAD Standards for CSCD's will be updated and they are planning for statewide implementation of the TRAS instrument. Once that is accomplished the TRAS interview will be conducted on all direct supervision cases. Joseph, Brittany, and Jill will be instrumental in training other staff in the use and scoring of this assessment tool.

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Approved by elected official or department head on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 20 11

R L Hughes

Signature of Elected Official  
or Department Head

Bob Hughes

Printed Name