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Salem, OR (March 12, 2019) – The Office of the Public Records Advocate, in conjunction with Governor Kate Brown, has initiated a new program to honor government employees who upheld not only the letter – but also the spirit – of Oregon’s public records law by providing exemplary service to requestors, acting decisively to improve their agency culture to ensure fair, efficient and timely processing of public records requests, or by proactively posting information of value to the public online and at no cost. The recipients were nominated by government leaders, members of the public, or members of the media and all are being recognized with a letter of congratulations from Governor Kate Brown.

- The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Secretary of State:
 - Dave Belyea, Onsite Program Manager
 - Matt Brown, Records Management Analyst
 - Jessica Clawson, Project Manager
 - Mike Kucinski, Acting Onsite Program Manager
 - Lisa MacGregor, Onsite Licensing and Support Specialist

The state employees listed above, with assistance from the Archives Division of the Secretary of State, worked to digitize over 100,000 pieces of information related to the Onsite Septic Program for the nine Oregon counties administered by DEQ. Previously, community members including homeowners, realtors and contractors, had to travel to one of three regional offices in Medford, Coos Bay or Pendleton and pay a fee to receive hard copies of septic system records. This information is now available free online, including step-by-step instructions that ease use, thus largely eliminating public records requests for this information.

- Anthony Barnack, Air Quality Monitoring Coordinator, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Anthony went to great lengths during the 2018 fire season in the Grants Pass area to provide air quality data to a member of the media spanning the most recent figures still being compiled all the way back through the year 2000, thus ensuring a clear and accurate portrayal of wildfires in the region for understanding and analysis by the public.

- Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit, Aging and People with Disabilities Program, Oregon Department of Human Services:
 - Allyson Quiring, Nursing Facility Administrative Specialist
 - Melanie Broderick, Administrative Specialist 1

Allyson, with Melanie's assistance, overhauled the Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit's processes, procedures and standard correspondence letters for public records requests to comply with the 2017 revisions to the public records law, including the implementation of deadlines to acknowledge and resolve public records requests.

- Timothy Lewis, Office of Policy and Education, Office of the State Court Administrator, Oregon Judicial Department

Tim worked with a member of the media on two occasions, quickly providing information going back years and for every county in Oregon at no cost.

- Sophia June, Senior Writer, Office of Mayor Wheeler, City of Portland

Sophia worked closely with a member of the media to disclose large amounts of records held by the Mayor's office. She then continued to proactively disclose additional records as she anticipated further interest in this information.

- Robyn Christie, Office of the City Recorder, City of Bend

Robyn provided decisive assistance to a member of the media during the 2018 general election and 2019 special election in Bend, Oregon. She disclosed the information of City Council applicants as they were received without requiring the media member to file additional requests or to pay a fee for the records as there was a great deal of public interest around this matter.

The letters signed by Governor Kate Brown honoring these eleven individuals from across multiple levels of government in Oregon, will be available on Public Records Advocate's website (<https://sos.oregon.gov/public-records/Pages/default.aspx>) on Thursday, March 13.