

Black is SESDAC, Inc., May Employee of the Month

Elvira Black, Direct Support Professional, was selected as the SESDAC, Inc. May, 2012 Employee of the Month. Elvira has been a part of our organization since November, 2011.

Elvira was nominated for the award by her fellow co-workers, based on her dedication to her job and the people she supports.

Co-workers had the following compliments written in their nominations for Elvira... "Elvira has done a wonderful job of building relationships with everyone she works with. Elvira works the overnight shift and when she is working, everything is ready, completed and looks great for the morning staff."

Elvira currently resides in Vermillion.

SESDAC, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to



Pictured above is Elvira Black, direct support professional, left, and her supervisor, Shannon Buam.

live, work, and socialize in their community. SESDAC, Inc. began providing services in 1973 and currently serves 75 people with disabilities and has 140 employees.

Hillrichs is SESDAC, Inc., June Employee of the Month

Janelle Hillrichs, direct support professional, was selected as the SESDAC, Inc. June, 2012 Employee of the Month. Elvira has been a part of our organization since July, 2006.

Janelle was nominated for the award by her fellow co-workers, based on her dedication to her job and the people she supports.

Co-workers had the following compliments written in their nominations for Janelle... "Janelle really cares and understands the people she supports. Even when things get really hard, Janelle is there day in and day out. She is an awesome person!"

Janelle and her family currently reside in rural Akron, IA.

SESDAC, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities to



Pictured above is Janelle Hillrichs, direct support professional, right, and her supervisor, Ashley Lee.

live, work, and socialize in their community. SESDAC, Inc. began providing services in 1973 and currently serves 75 people with disabilities and has 140 employees.

Governor's initiative cuts red tape

As part of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's "Better Government" initiative, a series of new laws taking effect July 1 will repeal more than 400 sections of state law that are unnecessary, out-of-date or too complex.

In addition to those statutory changes, the Governor initiated the elimination of more than 1,100 state government regulations through the administrative rules process.

"It's my goal to get rid of laws and regulations that are not needed and are a burden on

South Dakotans," Gov. Daugaard said. "I want to compliment my Cabinet and staff for doing their best to conduct a very successful review of red tape."

Examples of rules and laws to be repealed include outdated banking provisions; burdensome insurance regulations; redundant measures governing the construction and inspection of burial methods; and information that was collected to obtain federal funds that no longer are appropriated.

Jackley: SCOTUS immigration ruling won't affect existing S.D. law

Attorney General Marty J. Jackley announced today that the United States Supreme Court's ruling striking provisions of the Arizona immigration law does not affect existing South Dakota law or enforcement efforts.

"While a state should be able to extend its enforcement efforts when federal authorities fail to respond, the Supreme Court has fortunately rejected the federal government's dangerous position "that the power to regulate immigration is vested exclusively in the federal government," Jackley said. "South Dakota presently enjoys and will strive to continue our tradition of cooperative immigration enforcement with our local federal partners, which is supported by the language and directive of today's Arizona decision."

In July 2010, the federal government filed suit challenging Arizona's new law governing state immigration enforcement. At this time, South Dakota joined several states in a capacity as amicus curiae, or friend of the Court. South Dakota joined the amicus curiae state attorneys generals primarily to protect existing South Dakota cooperative law enforcement efforts to ensure public safety, and also to support a state extending its enforcement efforts when federal authorities fail to

appropriately respond.

Significantly, throughout the litigation, the federal courts have rejected the federal government's argument "that the power to regulate immigration is vested exclusively in the federal government."

It has been and continues to be recognized even after this Supreme Court decision that federal immigration law also envisions certain areas of cooperation in immigration enforcement among the federal government and state and local governments.

In the Arizona decision, the United States Supreme Court recognized that the Supremacy Clause gives Congress the power to preempt state law, and that state law must give way to federal law in at least two other circumstances.

First, states are precluded from regulating conduct in a field that Congress has determined must be regulated by its exclusive governance.

Second, state laws are preempted when they conflict with federal law, including when they stand "as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress."

Although the Arizona decision sets forth that federal law specifies limited circumstances in which state officers may

perform an immigration officer's functions, it clearly recognized that federal law permits state officers to "cooperate with the attorney general in the identification, apprehension, detention or removal of aliens not lawfully present in the United States."

The Arizona decision went on to recognize that consultation between federal and state officials is an important feature of the immigration system, and that Congress has encouraged the sharing of information about possible immigration violations between state and federal authorities.

With respect to potential future South Dakota legislative action, the Arizona decision directed that if a state law only requires state officers to conduct a status check during the course of an authorized, lawful detention or after a detainee has been released, the provision would likely survive federal preemption.

At least absent some showing that it has other consequences that are adverse to federal law and its objectives.

However, the Supreme Court warned that this opinion does not foreclose other preemption and constitutional challenges to state law as interpreted and applied after it goes into effect.

Internships highlight summer for USD students

University of South Dakota political science students are making the most of their summer break to gain valuable career experience through internships at the local, state and federal levels.

More than a dozen students are working in various government office internships in Washington, D.C. and throughout the state of South Dakota.

Alissa VanMeeteren, a junior from Yankton, is spending the summer in Washington, D.C. learning more about bureaucratic health care issues as a staff member for the House Committee on Ways and Means, specifically the subcommittee on health.

VanMeeteren, current USD Student Government Association president, spends her days with other staffers preparing representatives for various hearings on Capitol Hill.

"There is usually at least one hearing a week while the House is in session," said VanMeeteren, whose career goal is economic development for the state of South Dakota once she finishes her academic pursuits. "These hearings cover a variety of issues and are usually very interesting and entertaining." She added that the

subcommittee is currently waiting patiently for the outcome of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act. She expects that the decision will come within the next week and then everything will change.

"All we can do is prepare for each possible outcome and wait until the decision is announced," she added. "These next few weeks could become very hectic very quickly."

This is VanMeeteren's second consecutive summer of work in Washington, D.C. She spent last summer as an intern for Rep. Kristi Noem, R-SD and when the opportunity arose to return to D.C. for an internship with the Ways and Means Committee, she leapt at the chance.

VanMeeteren also praised the USD Department of Political Science and the Alumni Association for their involvement with placing interns in specific government jobs as well as connecting current students with alumni living in the Washington, D.C. area.

"One of the best parts about Washington D.C. is that it is surprisingly easy to connect with USD Alumni," VanMeeteren admitted. "USD's Alumni Association

does a fabulous job of planning events for USD affiliates and the number of attendees at these functions is truly a testament as to how well USD trains its students. There are graduates everywhere."

In addition to VanMeeteren, other involving USD students interning in Washington, D.C. this summer include Alex Curry of U.S. Senate; Teresa Johnson, D.C. office; Teresa Johnson, Sioux Falls, United States Senate Republican Conference; Jennifer Kelly, Omaha, NE, Secretary of the U.S. Senate; Carolina Logato of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Council on Hemispheric Affairs; Rachelle Norberg, Burke, S., Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD, Washington, D.C. office; Rebecca Reiter, Florence, SD, Sen. John Thune, R-SD, and Rep. Kristi Noem, R-SD, Washington, D.C. offices; and Kevin Robb, Rapid City, Sen. John Thune,

R-SD, Washington, D.C. office.

USD students serving internships closer to campus are Shiloh Day, Highmore, SD, Sen. John Thune, R-SD, Rapid City, office; Marina Kiefer of Zurich, Switzerland, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD, Sioux Falls office; Hanna McElroy, Sioux City, IA, Office of Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Pierre; Zach Nipp of Langford, SD, Sen. Tim Johnson, D-SD, Aberdeen office; Steven Payne, Sioux Falls, Great Plains International Trade Association; Nolan Schmidt of Avoca, IA, South Dakota Department of Transportation (Legal Counsel Civil Rights Compliance), Pierre; and Andy Walz of Meckling, Matt Varilek for Congress campaign, Sioux Falls.

More information about the Department of Political Science, part of the College of Arts & Sciences at USD, is available online at www.usd.edu/polsci or by contacting polsci@usd.edu.

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