

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Kevin Mueller, B.S., Heather Russell, L.A.T.G., & Nicola DeBolt Robertson, M.S.
Oregon National Primate Research Center, Division of Animal Resources

Adriane Maier from the Oregon National Primate Research Center submitted the following nomination...

When they say “it takes a village to raise a child” they probably were referring to a human child, but at the Oregon National Primate Research Center it is the responsibility of a very dedicated group of people to make sure that our non-human primates get the best care possible. While the technicians all work together in this endeavor, sometimes particular individuals stand out. I would like to nominate Kevin, Nicola, and Heather for a Golden ROSE Award to recognize their special contribution. These individuals took the initiative to start a “Foster Mom” program, in which abandoned infants are placed with an adult female rhesus macaque. For the development of psychologically healthy adult monkeys it is very important that they spend the first year of life with their mom. In cases where that is not possible (for example, if the mother rejects the infant), the babies are usually sent to the nursery. Even with the dedicated staff, there is no better way to care for an infant than by leaving it with a mom. In the Foster Mom program, infants that would have been reared in the nursery are instead reared with an adult female. The female is trained to allow the staff to bottle feed the infant, which is no easy task. This training involves long hours and a lot of work. It is only through the dedication of Kevin, Nicola, and Heather, as well as the other technicians who are helping, that this program has been a success. I would like to extend my thanks and recognition to these main players!



Award Recipient - June 2010