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Karen Myers Receives 2021 W. Y. Smith Award for Contributions to IDA

ALEXANDRIA, VA (August 2022) – Karen Myers, senior contracts business partner in the Finance Directorate at IDA’s Alexandria, VA headquarters, was presented with the W. Y. Smith Award in recognition of her team’s contributions to IDA.

“The team made significant contributions to the successful completion of IDA’s Contractor Purchasing System Review and the end-to-end consultant process,” said IDA President Norty Schwartz. “Completing these two procurement projects enables IDA to maintain an approved purchasing system that meets sponsor requirements, supports timely purchasing and avoids non-value-added extra work for our government contracting officers.”

Named in honor of General William Y. Smith, who served as president of IDA from 1985 through 1990, the award recognizes extraordinary individual or group contributions to IDA from non-research staff members who contribute to IDA’s success. The award-winning finance team consists of Myers, Katherine Hall, Steven Houdbert and Pamela Harris.

In their efforts towards completing IDA’s CPSR, the team worked together reviewing and updating policies, procedures, workflow and templates. They developed a comprehensive Procurement Policy and Procedural Manual, which includes more than 60 procurement policies. The group implemented new processes, which streamlined the delegation of signature authority for files; and they ensured company directors, managers and project leaders across the company were well-trained in the new processes.

The team also established a new Contractor Purchasing System Review (CPSR)-compliant consultant agreement and honoraria system. Through templates, examples, implementing IT requirements and providing training, they revamped the procedures and processes to make them meet all of the goals for the new system.

“It’s such an honor for the team to be recognized with the W. Y. Smith Award,” said Myers. “Together, we worked to develop innovative processes that have truly made a significant impact across IDA.”

Myers earned her bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Maryland and her master’s degree in business administration from the George Washington University. Myers is a member of the National Contracts Management Association.

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Institute for Defense Analyses

Herman Phillips • 703.845.2371 • hphillips@ida.org • ida.org

