

August 27, 2009.....Article by Robert Mudge, Director of Purchasing, Ithaca College.....

The membership of the Upstate NY New York Region of NAEP and the SUNY Purchasing Association extend their congratulations to Ms. Karen Cleveland for recently attaining her lifetime C.P.M. title. Karen is a Procurement Specialist in the Purchasing Department at Ithaca College. Her current position includes responsibility for procurement of equipment, supplies, and services within specific job commodities that includes identifying the best total value of quality, price, and service. She also administers testing for upgrades of the (Oracle Based) Parnassus automated procurement system, which includes training/support of the core user group and the work flow/processing of requisitions from across the campus. This also includes daily interaction with the staff in A/P, A/C, Travel, Accounting, and Budget operations at the college. Prior to starting her current position at Ithaca College, Karen was employed at the Smith Corona as a Senior Buyer.

Karen surprised everyone, including Robert Mudge, Director of Purchasing at Ithaca College, with the announcement that she had just received confirmation of passing the fourth examinations and was ready to apply for her lifetime C.P.M. certificate. According to Bob; "My jaw hit the ground! It wasn't because she had passed the tests, which is no easy feat; she had accomplished this in six months without even informing me what she was up to. I am extremely proud of her accomplishment and very happy for her!"

According to Karen, I wanted to earn my C.P.M. and just decided now was the time. I spoke with Todd Hawkins C.P.M. at Cornell University and Bob Ashby C.P.M. at University of Nevada, both of whom were supportive and very helpful. I was also impressed and inspired by the Educational Procurement Journal article "How the Musketeers Obtained Their Professional Certification (Winter 2008-2009). Karen indicated that Todd Hawkins C.P.M. (Cornell), Kathy Crilly C.P.M. (State University of America), Bette Gilliland C.P.M. (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, Alaska), and Kathie Jameson C.P.M. (Boston College) provided assistance and encouragement. Also, Bob Ashby C.P.M. (University of Nevada) was there throughout the process with direction, advice, and support as a terrific mentor.

This accomplishment of passing all four modules in just six months is a statement of determination, time management, great study habits, and hard work. Again, on behalf of all her professional colleagues and friends in the Upstate New York Region and SUNY Purchasing Association, "we are very proud of your accomplishment- no more surprises Karen!"