

Congratulations to SCS's 2022 Conrad Quality Focus Award Recipients

Diego Reyes Lopez, Staff Professional (BU-01)

Astha Thakali, Staff Professional (BU-02)

Ian Spurlock, Sr. Staff Professional (BU-02)

Bob Viers, Project Director/Vice President (BU-06)

Tony Ramirez, Sr. Superintendent (BU-07)

Dan Faby, O&M Superintendent (BU-07)

Whitney Rodriguez, Project Manager (BU-09)

Brooke Aumann, Project/GIS Professional (BU-09)

Safiyah Junaid, Project Professional (BU-09)

Larry Taylor, Superintendent (BU-12)

Naima Rahman, Staff Professional (BU-16)

Brett DeVries, Project Professional III (BU-16)

Lisa Haefner, Project Administrator (BU-25)

Tyler Warren, Staff Professional (BU-27)

Meet the Awardees below through the testimonials submitted by their nominators. These testimonials provide valuable insight into these individuals' project performance and, more importantly, their character.

Join us in celebrating these dedicated individuals – they make SCS better every day!

Diego Reyes Lopez
Staff Professional: BU-01 San Diego

Nominated by Vidhya Viswanathan

“Diego is a vital part of the team here in San Diego. He always seems to find time outside of his day-to-day duties to assist BU-01 and BU-07 managers with on the fly requests like map updates for field techs and clients, flare data review, and questions about field conditions versus designs. Diego always has a great attitude and never backs away from lending a hand. He shows true leadership potential in that he is able to effectively communicate project scopes with peers, giving them the direction they need to complete tasks and provide quality deliverables to clients. Diego is a pillar in the San Diego office.”



Astha Thakali
Staff Professional: BU-02 Reston

Nominated by Justina Mayo

“Astha Thakali is a high performing Staff Professional Engineer in the Mid-Atlantic LFG Group in the Reston, VA office. She is consistently sought after by her colleagues and leaders in SCS because of her dedication to ensuring the highest standards of engineering rigor, her ability to meet project schedule deadlines, and her willingness to go above and beyond in all that she does. Her positive and professional attitude makes her a joy to work with on every project, even when driving to meet particularly tight deliverable schedules. She taught herself how to utilize new stormwater design software and immediately leveraged this capability to complete a priority task on a landfill cell design project. Astha’s work on Prince George’s County Landfill stands out as a model for creativity, providing multiple design solutions to a spatially constrained landfill while still meeting its operational requirements.



Astha is particularly adept at conceptualizing and executing challenging design projects; she gives herself the tools to succeed by asking good questions in the beginning and conversing with landfill staff on-site to ensure proposed designs are actual improvements and not just more of the same. Astha inspires those around her through her desire to continuously learn new skills and technical tools, as well as quickly develop mastery over new regulations that impact our client projects every day. As all who have worked with her know, she represents the highest standard of integrity at all times. Astha is meticulously detail oriented, frequently making quality control improvements on draft client deliverables produced by senior level engineers. Astha’s attitude, adaptability, and creativity serves as a reminder of why we started in this field in the first place!”



Ian Spurlock
Senior Project Professional: BU-02 Raleigh

Nominated by Matt Brokaw

“Ian is serving as the client manager/project manager for one of our main North Carolina landfill clients. His role as the prime contact is beyond his current labor category and the client contacts trust his opinion and work. We would not be in as good a position without Ian since the long-serving client manager, Ed Hilton, retired. Ian has excelled in filling that role.

Ian is an active mentor and teaches those around him in our quality management system. He takes our systems to heart and is pragmatic with them. Ian is an active user of the QMS app and Newforma, and he passes that knowledge on to others through his mentoring. He has been a critical force in continuing to build the Raleigh office with a focus on quality, ethics, and outstanding performance.”

Upon being congratulated, Ian said: “I was very surprised and honored by the award. The credit really goes to my whole team, they make me look good: Andres Velosa, Wiley Smith, Matt Brokaw, and Kenton Yang. They are amazing and deserve the recognition.”



Bob Viers
Project Director/Vice President: BU-06 Long Beach

Nominated by Jeff Grill

“Bob Viers instills the need for quality and consistency in work product to the Energy team through leading by example and giving clear direction to deliver engineering excellence. During client meetings he is acutely attentive to client needs & requests, sensitivities & concerns. These client needs are then communicated in a way that encourages our team to exceed expectations. He leads with dedication and resolve to achieve high quality results. Bob has said “no problem is

insurmountable.” That is as optimistic and open minded to client success as it gets. Bob encourages free thought and discussion. He promotes investigation and discovery. He challenges with reason and logic helping the individual as well as the team hone their ideas and solutions. He is cautious to point out that often times good ideas are not the solution due to cost, and so the process begins again with a focus that protects both SCS’s and the clients’ interests by providing technically sound yet cost conscientious results. Bob also takes the time to work one on one with each of the team members whether new hire or established employee to impart his methodology and work process. He lays a solid foundation then allows individuals to thrive with guidance as required to encourage the individual’s personal growth. He assigns responsibility that pushes individuals out of their comfort level for personal growth and challenge but also provides the support and framework for success. He builds cohesiveness by encouraging the team to work as colleagues towards a common goal and designates each person a resource to all. This cohesiveness results in group accountability to each other and drives a high quality work product.”

Tony Ramirez

Senior Superintendent: BU-07 Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Nominated by Ray Al Ayass

“Tony Ramirez is a Senior Superintendent at SCS leading the gas technician group at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Tony Ramirez has a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to monitoring and adjusting the wellfield, troubleshooting gas and liquid management systems, Flare station operations and maintenance. At Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Tony manages the operations of the Zule Flares which are quite complex in their operations. Over the years Tony has developed methods and checklists to look for when troubleshooting Zule Flare operations and ensure their continuous operations, especially at a site like Sunshine where flare downtime is unwelcomed and 100% operation is key to the site’s success. In addition, Republic Services clients and SCS employees at other sites reach out to Tony whenever they have questions about flare burner cleaning and other activities.

Tony also goes above and beyond to extend his assistance to other team members as his time permits to ensure that the site remains in compliance and the operations remains smooth. He mentors and coaches his team members daily to ensure that they understand the reason behind operating in a certain way and to ensure that the scope is covered. Tony is efficient in preparing the Crew Activity Plan (CAP) forms daily and involves his team members in the preparation process; that way everyone knows what PPEs are needed to execute the task in a safe and efficient manner. He communicates all site hazards to the team to ensure that everyone goes back home safely to their families.



Dan Faby

Superintendent: BU-07 Harrisburg (Conestoga Landfill)

Nominated by Justin Stevenson

“Dan Faby is an O&M Superintendent working at Conestoga Landfill in Morgantown, Pennsylvania. Dan serves as the lead O&M representative at one of the largest Republic Services sites in Pennsylvania and is responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the gas collection and control system at Conestoga. The site’s GCCS is made up of approximately 285 active LFG collectors and takes in up to 7,000 tons per day. Conestoga is a very busy site that requires a lot of attention to detail to keep things operating smoothly. Dan not only keeps things operating smoothly, he delivers high quality service to the client and the other members of the SCS team on site.

Dan is the guy you want to be representing SCS to our largest client at a critical site. Dan finds a way to deliver quality service day-in and day-out at a site that keeps asking for more from him and from our SCS team. Dan’s meticulous and efficient work efforts keep our client in compliance and saves them time and money. If Dan says “it will get done,” I never think twice about it. It will get done, and it will get done well. Dan is dependable, thorough, and an extremely hard worker. I personally appreciate all of his efforts and believe that Dan is a great representation of client service and quality in a Field Services employee.”





Whitney Rodriguez
Project Manager: BU-09 Tampa

Nominated by Kirk Blevins & Kayla Ouellette

“Whitney’s incredible attention to detail in all aspects of her work has allowed her to stand-out amongst her peers and become a “go-to” person with our clients. When problems arise, clients come to her because she effectively and clearly communicates their options and they trust that she can guide them through their issues. Our largest ES client, Lennar, knows that they can rely on Whitney for quality and on-time delivery for their projects.

Whitney is quality-driven, which results in less comments from regulatory agencies on submittals, more satisfied clients, and more profitable projects for SCS. She has accepted additional responsibilities from her project directors and project managers, which she has embraced, excelled, and has allowed her to grow professionally. She is a team player who communicates responsibilities and expectations clearly with all team members. Whitney is an irreplaceable part of our BU-09 ES team!”



Brooke Aumann
Project/GIS Professional: BU-09 Tampa

Nominated by Kayla Ouellette

“Brooke Aumann is a GIS professional that has blazed new territory for the Southeast Business Unit by applying GIS to our work. She has set the tone for the way we practice GIS in the Southeast BU in that we are project team members who can add value by asking “what is the ultimate goal/what is the client trying to do,” instead of just doing what is asked. Asking those questions and understanding the project and the process often results in greater project efficiencies by being able to anticipate future needs and seeing how our part fits into the client’s bigger picture and processes. For instance on a project early in 2021, they worked by directly sharing project maps and data through ArcGIS Online with the client. This resulted in greater efficiency, clarity and a happy client compared with sending pdf maps back and forth in a dozen emails.

Brooke is always finding ways to improve processes and work efficiently, even beyond her GIS work, because she has an uncanny ability to see how seemingly independent processes fit together. She has a positive attitude and she asks thoughtful questions. She is generally adaptable and rolls with the project demands and does find new ways to do things. She is constantly coming up with creative ways to apply GIS to things outside of our normal work (equipment tracking, Phase I and Phase II project maps, applying GIS to marketing and story maps). She isn't afraid to voice her ideas, which leads to collaborations and new GIS applications. I do not know of any other people/teams that use MS Teams as consistently and effectively.”

Safiyah Junaid

Project Professional: BU-09 Miami

Nominated by Karinne Brown and Chris King

“Throughout the course of the year, Safiyah led and coordinated the fieldwork and data management for a golf course redevelopment project (Calusa) in Miami Dade County. At the beginning of the year, she was able to work on those two tasks as an individual, but as the scope of the project grew and we began submitting thousands of soil samples to the lab, there was a need for a small team of people handling these aspects of the project. Safiyah stepped into the leader role and has excelled. Safiyah always looked for opportunities to better herself and the others around her. The incredible amount of work she put in for our team and clients is reflected in the respect that both the client and our team members have for her. Her work ethic and the high standards she expects of herself have had such a positive influence on our group, as these two traits have become standard among our team members.



This year, we have collected 6,000+ samples at Calusa. While we could not have predicted a number of samples quite that high, we knew we would be collecting a lot of samples and that some sort of tracking system needed to be established. Safiyah was able to develop a spreadsheet that tracked sample ID's along with other pertinent information (lab numbers, holding times, soil description, etc.). The biggest benefit of this spread sheet has come during data analysis as it provides a centralized location where we can easily retrieve information that otherwise we would have had to sift through thousands of logs and COCs to find. This allows for us to move on to other aspects of the project. Most importantly, it saves both time and money for our client, time being most important as their end goal is to develop homes and sell them as quickly as possible. While this is a standout example of the value that Safiyah has brought to our team, it is just one of many from throughout the year.”

Larry Taylor

Superintendent: BU-12 Reston & Project Sites

Nominated by GiGie Heffel

“Larry Taylor is one of SCS's exceptional superintendents. He brings deep knowledge, experience, and quality in every project assigned to him. His vast knowledge and decades of hands-on experience in LFG construction help him to be very effective in dealing with every new challenge each project brings. He has the ability to visualize a solution for any problem and knows what will work, and what will not work, and he will come up with a cost effective solution that will meet the client's expectations. He requires high quality work practices on his projects, and each new team member quickly come to understand his high expectations. This results in better project execution and success which is demonstrated during the final walk through with every client. He is always looking for ways to improve quality, safety, and efficiency. All of what he learns he also shares with his team members fostering growth and leadership for others. His client services relationships have resulted in numerous repeat projects and was also helpful in the recent \$21 million contract award for Prince Georges County Browns Station Road project. Ownership does make the difference.”





Naima Rahman
Staff Professional: BU-16 Houston

Nominated by JRoy Murray & Jeff Reed

“Naima Rahman exemplifies SCS’ core value that *Quality is Inherent in All that We Do*. Naima is a Staff Professional in the Houston office of BU-16 Texas. Naima begins every project by reviewing the project scope and researching the background information, including interviewing the client contact to gather a comprehensive view of what our scope is and what the client is expecting. Naima is an excellent team member, always providing a positive and cooperative attitude. She is willing to take on any task and put in whatever time is necessary to get the project complete. Naima is interested in learning about all aspects of the work that SCS performs. Naima enjoys taking on new projects and tasks that she has never performed and learning about those tasks. Talking with experts and researching the background theories and/or regulatory platforms that guide them.

Naima has demonstrated an ability to respond to unforeseen challenges. On multiple occasions, Naima has attended construction meetings at which either client driven design changes or unforeseen issues have been presented. Naima is quick to return to the office and prepare the required plans and other documents to address the revisions in a prompt and accurate way.

Naima’s core values are to provide a technically accurate product, while considering the costs and schedules as they relate to the client’s needs.”



Brett DeVries
Project Professional: BU-16 Bedford

Nominated by Ryan Kuntz

Brett DeVries, P.E., Ph.D. joined SCS in 2016 with two-years of solid waste experience. During his first year with SCS, Brett received his P.E. and Ph.D. in the same year, all while working full-time. This is a true testament to Brett’s dedication to his career and SCS as a whole. Through his tenure, he has excelled from a Staff Engineer to Project Professional III through growth in experience and knowledge of the solid waste industry. Brett is well versed in regulatory permit submittals; preparation of construction plans and bid packages for gas collection and control systems, landfill liners, and landfill final covers; and manages the CQA activities and certifies the construction these landfill features. Brett is an effective communicator to his clients and project team members, including reaching out to other experts or colleagues, for advice or to confirm his designs and deliverables meet the client’s, SCS’, and industry standards. Brett demonstrates leadership on projects he manages and instills quality in the deliverables that he and his team generate by following SCS’ QMS procedures and implementation of CSi in proposal writing and project execution. Brett is an outstanding employee and mentor, and BU-16 appreciates his contribution to our office and SCS.”

Lisa Haefner

Project Administrator: BU-25 Madison

Nominated by Mark Huber

“Lisa Haefner is critical to quality management in the Upper Midwest. She leads a team that reviews every document that is sent to our clients to ensure that they are in conformance with our quality management system and format standards. With over 20 years of experience reviewing technical documents, Lisa’s adds value way beyond fixing grammar and spelling errors, she knows when our written products don’t make sense and works with the project team to get the document fixed. Lisa also provides quality control of data tables, ensuring that we consistently send accurate data to our clients. She was named a co-Quality Management Coordinator at the beginning of 2022 due to her leadership in developing and implementing quality control procedures for the Upper Midwest over the past 20 years. Lisa is extremely professional and helpful, and everyone wants her on their team.”



Tyler Warren

Staff Professional: BU-27 Overland Park

Nominated by Dillon Baird

“Tyler has taken the initiative to develop drone surveying services that are cost effective and efficient. He has done so by researching methodologies and collaborating with professionals inside and outside SCS. With his design experience, he understands the needs of our clients and has provided them with accurate data for future planning, budgeting, and construction purposes.



In 2021, Tyler utilized his drone expertise to provide exceptional client service to the City of Lincoln. His dedication and quality work was crucial in the successful construction of a new landfill cell and continued fill operations within the active landfill. In addition to leading the Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) program, Tyler performed drone surveys of the active landfill area after construction hours. He then worked with City personnel to develop fill sequencing plans as they dealt with staffing issues and needed operational direction.

Tyler’s leadership in developing the drone service was instrumental to our client success in 2021 and will continue to provide immeasurable value in the future.”