

The Building Buzz is a monthly bulletin intended to highlight key happenings at the NSSC. For up-to-date information, check out the NSSC Employee Homepage at [internal.nssc.nasa.gov](http://internal.nssc.nasa.gov). Submit your department milestones to [NSSC-CUST-SAT-and-COMM@nasa.gov](mailto:NSSC-CUST-SAT-and-COMM@nasa.gov).

## A Message from Mark

I have all but dreaded writing this farewell. Many of you know that although it is my choice to retire, I do so for reasons of a medical nature. As much as I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life with great expectation, I lament a few things regarding my tenure at the NSSC with you. What I am feeling more than anything is leaving you. Relationships are all that matter.

I like the following quote by Matthew Kelly, from his book, *Resisting Happiness*,

*“Your friendship with others is not to be taken lightly. You are changing the direction of your friends’ lives, for better or for worse. Sooner or later, we all rise or fall to the level of our friendships.”*

I hope I instilled a curiosity among you for building relationships. I also hope you will go forward realizing that every choice we make, from the mundane to life’s biggest events, comes down to a single thing—the effect our choices have on those around us. In our work, in our home life and in our private life, we must strive to follow the greatest Commandment. Whether you believe or not, life works better when we care about others first, when we contribute to others well-being above our own, and when we realize that the person or people we are in contact with are going through things we could never imagine—that is when we have to step up and be empathetic in all of our decisions.

It’s been an honor to serve along with you as your leader, and I hope that in the time we’ve had together, we have all grown. With this in mind and especially during this Christmas season, take just a little time to do for others, to think about others, and mostly to think about how what you do influences others’ lives in a positive way. Also, don’t forget to build in time for yourselves.

I hope to see you all on January 8 at my swansong reception to say goodbye...for now; details will be forthcoming.

Mark



## Updates on Transition of Center Purchase Card Programs to the NSSC

GSA recently awarded master contracts to Citibank and U.S. Bank to provide the commercial credit card products and services to all Federal Agencies. Presently all agencies are working on activities to award their task orders for the follow-on contracts for purchase, travel and fleet cards – known as SmartPay 3.

NASA’s current bank contractor, JPMorgan, did not bid on the SmartPay 3 effort so the Agency will be transitioning to a new bank in the October/November 2018 timeframe. This means that all NASA civil servants will receive new travel cards beginning October 2018 and NASA purchase cardholders will also receive new purchase cards during that same timeframe. NASA owned vehicles will be assigned new fleet cards for fuel and vehicle maintenance.

In Spring 2018, the NSSC will lead the Agency in transitional efforts to change over from JPMorgan to the new bank. The approximate 8-month lead time will allow the new bank and NASA’s travel and purchase card technical teams to coordinate and test interfaces to ensure the bank can provide us with transactional files for us to import to our various systems. During the transitional period, the team will also prepare the Communications Plan and Training Plan to ensure a successful and smooth transition to the new bank.

Actual transactions using the new SmartPay 3 credit cards will not be effective until November 30, 2018.

In other Purchase Card team news, Suzanne Honeycutt was selected by the General Service Administration’s Agency/Organizational Program Coordinator (A/OPC) Spotlight. Suzanne answered a series of questions, offering tips and lessons learned from SmartPay 2. Check out Suzanne’s interview at <https://smartpay.gsa.gov/content/smart-bulletins-news-events#sa1092>.

The NSSC Purchase Card team is wrapping up site visits tied to the transition of the p-cards. The team’s most recent visit was to Glenn Research Center.

The final site visit will be at Ames in January.



Front row from left to right: Bobbie Young (NSSC), Cherie Westbrooks (GRC), and Suzanne Honeycutt (NSSC)  
Back row from left to right: Millie Laury (GRC), Tim Pierce (GRC Deputy Procurement Officer), and Kurt Straub (GRC Procurement Officer) and Star Mitchell (NSSC)



On a recent visit to SSC, NASA’s Associate Administrator for the Office of Communications, Jen Rae Wang had mentioned that her NSSC In-Processing experience was exceptional, especially the service provided by Joyce Kelly, Jen Rae’s In-Processing Caseworker. Jen Rae joined NASA in January this year and Joyce made a positive and lasting impression. Way to go, Joyce!

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Federal employees may pledge online via the centralized giving platform by visiting [opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC](http://opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC). Employees are also invited to broaden the impact of their gift by pledging volunteer hours to participating charities.

Combined Federal Campaign

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
THE NSSC HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE HELD IN THE NSSC LOBBY  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH  
FROM 1-3 PM.

