

Dear Colleagues,

As we embark on 2010 and prepare to face the challenges ahead, I am especially grateful for the dedicated employees here at the Department of Energy. All of you work hard each day to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States; to promote scientific and technological innovation in support of that mission; and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex. I hope that you know how much your work is valued, not only by the leadership of our organization, but also by the American people.

With that in mind, I would like to encourage you to nominate your colleagues for the 2010 Service to America Medals (Sammies), which honors Federal employees who have shown a strong commitment to public service and have made a significant contribution in their field of government that is innovative, high-impact, and critical for the Nation.

Nominees must be career civilian employees of the Executive Branch. Award categories, eligibility information, and the online nomination form are available at www.servicetoamericamedals.org. The recipients of the 2010 Sammies will be honored at a black tie awards gala in Washington, D.C. The honorees also receive a monetary award from \$3,000 to \$10,000. The deadline for nominations is February 8, 2010.

Since creating the Sammies program in 2002, the Partnership for Public Service has honored more than 240 remarkable individuals and teams from dozens of Federal agencies. Profiles about their work and accomplishments have been published in leading national newspapers and magazines including Newsweek, Parade, The Washington Post, Houston Chronicle, Tampa Tribune, Denver Post, and San Jose Mercury News, among others. In addition, the honorees have been covered by CNN, CNBC, NPR, and various local TV affiliates of ABC, CBS and NBC, along with good government trade outlets.

By sharing these stories with the American people, the awards shine a spotlight on the positive impact that you have made in the lives of others. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jim Seymour at the Partnership for Public Service by e-mail at sammies@ourpublicservice.org or by telephone at 202-775-9111.

Thank you,
Secretary Chu