



Newsletter Issue No. 75

June 2022

In January 2020, TekSynap won a full and open competition to support the DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) providing Data Management Services (DMS). Support was to be provided onsite in New Orleans but, just a few short months later, COVID-19 changed everything. Following the first quarter of the new contract, our TekSynap DMS team began working remotely. Eventually, some of our team members returned to the building in a limited capacity, due to the nature of their work, while others did not go in the building for over two years and provided all support remotely.

**BACK
TO THE
OFFICE**

Fast forward to May 2022 and all of our TekSynap team members in New Orleans work a hybrid schedule to meet customer demands – some days in the building and some days remotely. And just like that, we had to get used to working remotely, we are now having to adjust to working in the building! We are seeing people “in real life” that we haven’t seen in two years! Our team and our customer have both gained new employees so, in some instances, we are very aware of names, but have not had the opportunity to attach a visual. We are discovering that the faces of people we have had Teams chats with are really tall or shorter than we expected!

BOEM hosted a Welcome “Back to the Future” (BTTF) Employee Appreciation event on June 1 that our TekSynap team was invited to. It was a fun team-building event with activities and games based on the BTTF movies. Stations were set up with activities designed to create conversation and strengthen new relationships. *Sort the Plutonium* was a race to see who could retrieve specific small glow sticks from an ice chest filled with water beads – while wearing dish gloves; *Save the Clock Tower* required teamwork, strategy, and communication to stack plastic cups using rubber bands and string; while *Build a Flux Capacitor* required creativity and communication, while building a replica of a BTTF Flux Capacitor with the equivalent of junk drawer items.

The benefits of our team participating in the BOEM BTTF event are immeasurable. We were able to meet new BOEM employees, we reconnected with longstanding BOEM employees, and we got to bond as a team. We had a lot of fun, all while strengthening our customer relationships. Getting to know your customers better allows you to provide better support and services. If any of you are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to grow your customer relationships, outside the realm of the typical office interactions, I encourage you to fully participate.

-Tami Devitt, Director

Photo: **Heather Davis, Sara Thompson, Rachel Holliday and David Bourgeois** work together to "Save the Clock Tower" at the DOI BOEM Welcome Back to the Future event.



Congratulations MJ for being featured on *Women We Admire's Top 50 Women Leaders of Louisiana!*



Family Day at Nat's Park

TekSynap celebrated Family Day at Nat's Park! Over a hundred TekSynap employees joined by over 200 of our family members were treated to a 2019 World Series rematch as the Washington Nationals took on the Houston Astros.

Pictured Right: TekSynap employee **John Evangelista**, the recent recipient of the Spirit Award for the leadership of his team at NGA, joined by his family and TekSynap President David Gauldfeldt during Family Day!





Oculus Golf Tournament in July

Details for registering for the Tournament will come via email within the week.

We hope those that played in the Ladder had fun. It is still not too late to register and compete in July!

[Register Here](#)

Leading with Purpose

I am extremely grateful for the people I get to work with at TekSynap. Over the past three years, I have seen great leadership from many people, across many divisions in our company. But what makes a great leader? Theodore Roosevelt once said, **“The best leader is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and the self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”** Leadership comes naturally to some people, and not as much to others. Some of the pitfalls to avoid are:

Micro-Managing – Give your people the time and space to work in peace. If you hang over their shoulders, they will think you do not trust them, they will lack confidence, and productivity will suffer.

Not Communicating Clearly – Communication is one of the biggest keys to success. If you do not communicate with your team and provide real-time feedback, do not be surprised if your team fails to live up to your expectations. People cannot know what they do not know.

Not Letting Them Do It – You cannot do it all, even if you want to. The last mistake you want to make is to fail to delegate work to your team. Not only will you burn yourself out, but you will also waste the diverse and creative resources at your fingertips. If you teach your people well and inspire them with your vision, you can rest assured that they will rise to every occasion. And when they do, give them the credit they deserve.

Exceptional leaders see people as people.

Anytime we find ourselves being critical or judgmental, we can shift into this “thing” mindset and lose touch. When we do this, only negative and unintended outcomes arise. You can be a strong and effective leader, including being critical and demanding, when you have a compassionate mindset. Our state of mind is what makes the difference. When we come from a compassionate way of being, we create the culture we want and accomplish great things.

- Rachel Bates, Director

TekSynap West Grand Opening



On Friday, June 10, 2022, Joe Walker and his team hosted the grand opening of TekSynap “West” located in Sierra Vista, Arizona. In attendance was Sierra Vista Mayor Rick Mueller and the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce CEO Melany Edwards-Barton and several council members. Our local employees and their families also attended the festivities followed by a barbecue dinner. We are excited to be part of this wonderful community and look forward to supporting our warfighters at Ft. Huachuca.



Bottom Photo Left to Right: **Julia Walker, Christine Schemmel, MJ Helveston, Toni Fisher, Kearstin McGinnis, Kam Jinnah, and Joe Walker**

TekSynap's DENIX program was highlighted at the AWS Summit

TekSynap, as the prime contractor supporting the Department of the Defense Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) program continues to raise the bar in providing leading capabilities. DENIX has achieved many first and outstanding accomplishments over its history. Most recently, during the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Washington DC Summit 2022, the DENIX program was highlighted for our Infrastructure as Code (IaC) implementation. Our partnership with Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Hosting and Compute Center (HaCC) to implement IaC as a project accelerator enhances the program’s security posture and decreases operational costs.



Caught in the Act

Congratulations to the **AFNCR team** for helping contribute towards Leidos getting an Award Fee score of 85%.

Quintina Poole, Donald Long, Kirk Jackson, Randall Powell, Pelagio Perez, and Jacob Miller were recognized for their efforts in the preparation, execution, and recovery of the Exercise Southern Strike at the Gulfport CRTC and Rattlesnake Range.

A customer recognized **Jasmin Soriano-Morales** for exhibiting professionalism and great customer service.

Rowan Stevens was recognized for going above and beyond.

A customer noted the great work done by **Rob Kennett**.

Brandon Perrodin has been excelling in his NetOps position and continues to be relied upon for challenging tasks.

Rob Yohn went above and beyond and was instrumental in completing a DLA project.

LaTasha Johnson is a new TekSynap employee who is already knocking it out of the park!

Thank you to the **team who worked HINB215 site**. Your hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed.

Katie Fox was noticed for providing exceptional service in every way.

James Ten Eyck received kudos for giving "outstanding support" during a VIP customer site visit!

Sarah Keiper sent in kudos for **Victorio Curley** who was identified as "Excellent across the board" in a Customer Service Survey.

Marla and Stone recognized **Carrie Veatch, De James, and John Lyon** for all the hard work they did on the first DISA SETI proposal submitted.

A customer recognized **Timothy Clark** for always being responsive and getting issues resolved quickly.

Don't forget to let your Quality team know about all the good things going on at TekSynap by submitting your Kudos on the **Employee Portal**. We use these to recognize TekSynap greatness in the monthly Newsletter.

TekSynap was a proud sponsor of the
Adjutant General's Corps National Ball hosted

by the Adjutant General's Corp Regimental Association (AGCRA).



Pictured: **Darris Curry, Maria Lindsey, Kearstin McGinnis and Billy Blackmon**

Cigna Reminder

Cigna's Health no-cost Information Line is always confidential. This line puts you in touch with a personal nurse advocate via chat or phone. They're here to answer your health questions and help you make the best choice for your needs.

Nurse advocates are available for questions like:

- I've had a fever for 2 days. Should I go to the emergency room?
- Is virtual care a good option for my needs?
- Is there a good orthopedic doctor in my area?
- I take maintenance medication. How can I save on my prescription and get it delivered?

You can chat with them **online** or on the **MyCigna app** from Monday-Friday 9am-8pm EST. Hours don't work for you? Call the 24/7/365 number on the back of your Cigna ID.

Save Money and Time with Virtual Appointments!

MDLIVE for Cigna offers reliable 24/7 health care by phone or video. Our national network of board-certified doctors, pediatricians, dermatologists, psychiatrists, and therapists provides personalized care for hundreds of medical and behavioral health needs.

Immediate Care



- Best for cold & flu, UTI, sore throat, pink eye, etc.
- Able to prescribe medication (if necessary)
- Available 24/7 on-

Primary care



- Consult with a doctor for your annual wellness screening
- Review lab results (taken prior to your visit)
- Manage chronic

Dermatology



- No appointment necessary
- Message with a board-certified dermatologist who can diagnose and treat conditions such as acne, dermatitis,

- demand or by appointment
- Connect by video or phone

- conditions such as asthma; cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure
- Connect by video, phone or send a secure message

- eczema etc.
- Upload pictures and describe symptoms to receive a treatment plan within 15 hours
- Dermatologists can send prescriptions to your nearest pharmacy



Tiny Team TekSynap!

Jike-Ere had a healthy baby girl on 5/22! Her name is Victoria Ebikelegba Allen.

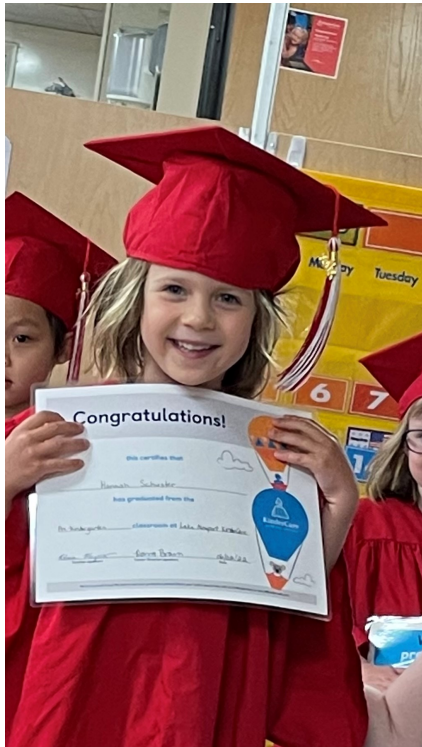


Kearstin McGinnis' daughter, Avrin has graduated from Washington High School and will study Exercise Physiology - Pre Athletic Training in the fall at Ohio University. We wish you well in the next chapter of your life!





Frank Amrhein's daughter, Everly (blue) graduated Kindergarten!



Chris and Katie Schuster's daughter, Hannah (red) graduated preschool!

My teacher's name is Miss Schuster
 I was born on July 18th in 2013
 I have 0 brother(s) and 1 sister(s).
 I have 1 pet(s).
 My best friends are arif, braden, ben
 My hobbies include base ball
 When I grow up I want to be a teddy bear worker

MY FAVORITES
 Food: mac and cheese
 Color: blue
 Sport: base ball
 Book: bein' dicket so's
 TV Show: Sunday
 Movie: Sky high
 School Subject: free

MY PICTURE

David Gauldfeldt's grandson has great aspirations!



Meet Peanut!



Meet Peanut, **Arielle Gick's** new puppy!

About the size of a peanut at only 3lbs, she is a 9-week old chihuahua mix puppy with lots of energy! Arielle recently adopted her and she is already working hard!



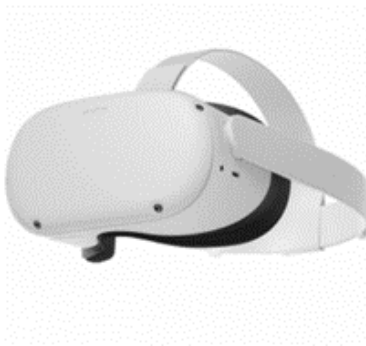
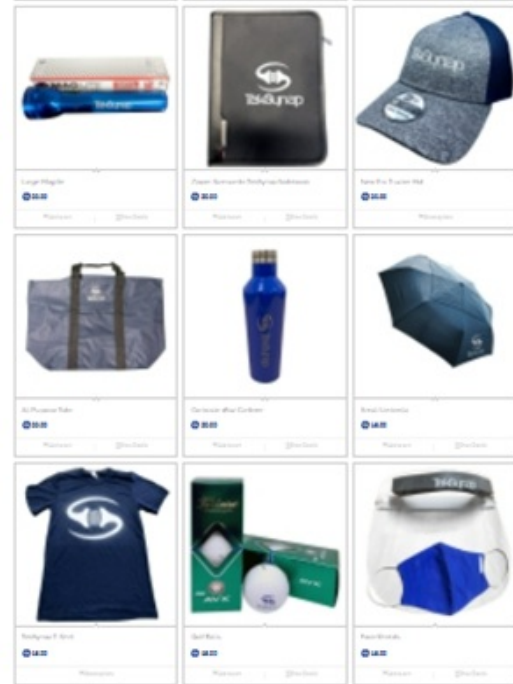
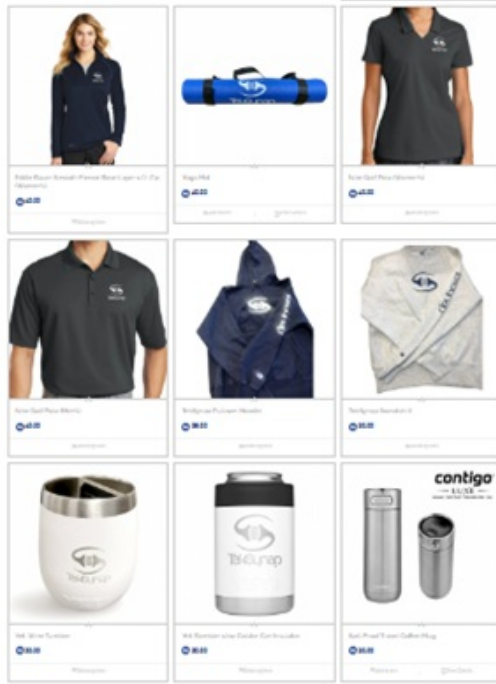
Feature your pets in the next newsletter!
Send pictures of your companions to news@teksynap.com



Get some TekSynap Gear!

Find the **TekSynap Store** on the employee portal and check out our TekSynap Gear! You can use the TekDollars you've earned to purchase items at the store. For more information on how TekDollars work, check out **BMS 9.11.9 TekDollars Info**.

On top of all the TekSynap clothes we have, you can also find water bottles, coolers, umbrellas, pop sockets, tumblers, frisbees, and much more!



Don't forget, we have an Oculus Golf tournament coming up, and you can get your Oculus at the TekSynap store, too!



Certification Corner

Leon Faircloth
PMP

Jonathan Tobar
CWT

Logan Edens
CWNA-108

Tiffany Bean
Lean Six Sigma White Belt

Delante Moultrie
CEH

Mercedes Mason
ITIL4

Matthew Rosov
CISM

Andrea Warsewich



Employee Learning Program

Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Learning Program (ELP) Benefit. [Click Here](#) to access the form.

If you have earned a new certification please add it to your ADP profile. Remember to include the effective date.

ADP > Myself > My Information > Profile

And email a copy to HR@teksynap.com

Updating your certifications in ADP will help us identify you for career advancement opportunities.

Security Clearance 411: Security Clearance Hot Topics

Some of the hottest topics surrounding the security clearance process relates to continuous vetting, clearance mobility, self reporting, and security clearance status.

1. CONTINUOUS VETTING.

If you're a security clearance holder, you are likely under continuous vetting. The good news is the government has rolled out the program so well, the private sector could stand to take some tips from *how the government is rolling it out*.

2. SECURITY CLEARANCE MOBILITY.

Reciprocity is a clearance hot topic that has been around for awhile. A *recent white paper from the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA)* unpacks the topic one level higher, noting how important security clearance mobility is to today's workforce and outlining specific action steps the government can take to make it better.

3. SELF-REPORTING.

This definitely falls into the category of topics that generate some of the most questions from security clearance holders. The fact is self reporting requirements have long been around in some capacity, but they recently got a major overhaul thanks to Security Executive Agent Directive (SEAD) 3. That means if you plan an *overseas trip during summer vacation*, you'll need to report it.

4. REQUESTING A COPY OF YOUR BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.

This isn't exactly a new topic, but one that was in the news recently thanks to the *security clearance issues of Katie Arrington*, former Pentagon official and current congresswoman. While opponents claimed Arrington lost her security clearance, that's speculation, and the reality is probably much less sexy. With a potential flag or issue, Arrington would have entered into a loss of jurisdiction status. But how could Arrington get clarity? The same way the average security clearance holder can (and should) – but submitting a *privacy act request* to get a copy of her background investigation.



TekSynap IT Internships Have Begun!

TekSynap's internal IT department has closed submissions and began its annual summer internship program. The purpose is to provide new IT professionals a chance to gain exposure to the industry and enough experience to help them decide where they would like to focus their IT careers. The program is also designed to allow opportunities for long-term growth with TekSynap internally or on TekSynap contracts. We have also expanded the IT team to include two new IT Specialists. Please be aware of these new names and faces that will be solving our IT troubles through the summer and help us give them a warm welcome!

Summer Intern Program Reston HQ:

Alexis Johnson
Christopher Mercado
Cooper Martin (remote)
Ethan Almeida
Jared Perry
Joshua Castillo
Kevin Bourdelais
Shawn Mitchell

TekSynap West:

Shane Baker – IT Specialist
Zachariah Allison – IT Specialist

TekSynap Reston HQ:

Leonard Newman – IT Director
Zachery Gardner – Information Security Manager
Dillyan Abarca – Jr. Security Analyst
Dylan De Leon – IT Administrator



Left: **Zachariah and Shane** Right: **Cooper**

Top Photo:

Back: **Joshua, Dylan, Dillyan, Jared, and Shawn** Middle: **Christopher, Kevin, Ethan, and Alexis** Front: **Zach and Leonard**

Open Positions

DLA IOEE – Hawaii

Senior Network Engineer

Enterprise Storage – Columbus, OH

Systems Engineer

ESD II – Cherry Point, NC

Central LAN – Texarkana, TX

Senior Network Engineer

DPAS – Camp Hill, PA

Sr. Software Developer

DTRA – Fort Belvoir, VA

Senior Network Engineer

SQL DBA

Systems Engineer Site Lead

Cloud Engineer

VMware Engineer

VMware Admin-

SolarWinds Admin

Cloud Admin

Help Desk Specialist

Cyber Analyst

Cyber Engineer

INSCOM – Fort Belvoir

Splunk Architect

Splunk Engineer

NGA – St, Louis MO or Springfield, VA

Jr Helpdesk Specialist (6 openings)

DHS CISA – Arlington, VA

Journeyman Administrative Analyst



Journeyman Public Relations
Journeyman Communications Specialist
Journeyman Business Analyst
SME Operations Research Analyst
Senior Program Analyst
Senior Business Analyst

DOJ PPAMS

Senior ISO Analyst

DOT EITSS

Sr Oracle PL/SQL Analyst (2) (Vancouver, WA)
VMware System Administrator (Lakewood, CO)

DOT EITSS – Washington, DC

Power Platform/Power App Administrator
Middleware Engineer
Desktop Engineer
Senior Cloud Engineer

NOAA SBITS – Multiple Locations

Tier II Support Help Desk Specialist II
Tier 3 Infrastructure & Operations Support Help Desk Specialist III
Tier 3 Infrastructure & Operations Support IT System Engineer
Tier 3 Infrastructure & Operations Support System Administrator II
A/V Support Help Desk Specialist II & III
Tier 3 Infrastructure & Operations Support System Administrator III

NOAA SBITS – Silver Springs, MD

Tier 3 Infrastructure & Operations Support System Administrator I
End User Migration System Administrator II
End User Migration System Administrator III
End User Migration System Administrator IV
Project Management Support IT Business Analyst I
Project Management Support IT Business Analyst II
Project Management Support IT Business Analyst IV
IT Inventory Management Help Desk Specialist I

NRC SNCC

Release and Deployment SCCM Administrator
Computer Scientist

Wireless

Site Manager (telework w/travel)
Jr Wireless Engineer (telework w/travel)
Junior Project Coordinator
Sr ServiceNow Developer
AWS Solutions Architect
Core Network Engineer
Project Manager

Senate – Washington, DC

Help Desk/Break-Fix Specialist
VTC Support Specialist
System Consultant

Please email your referral resumes to careers@teksynap.com



WE ARE HIRING!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
REFERRAL PROGRAM & GET PAID



Position Available: DLA Senior Network Engineer

Location: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Position Requirements:

Minimum five (5) years of progressive Information Technology (IT) recent experience including at least two projects in the following technical areas.

- Secret Clearance
- CCNP
- IAT Level III
- Deployment of separate WAN network
- Deployment of a separate Pulse Secure Remote Access infrastructure
- Support the design and implementation of WAN equipment on NIPR and SIPR
- Provide network engineering services to support full WAN lifecycle including design, implementation, installation, testing and transition
- Analysis of hardware, hardware configuration, security policy, network management, network protocols and security solutions in support of network functions related to the inoperability of the LAN, WAN and DISN

**TEKSYNAP IS
OFFERING A
\$10,000
REFERRAL
BONUS**

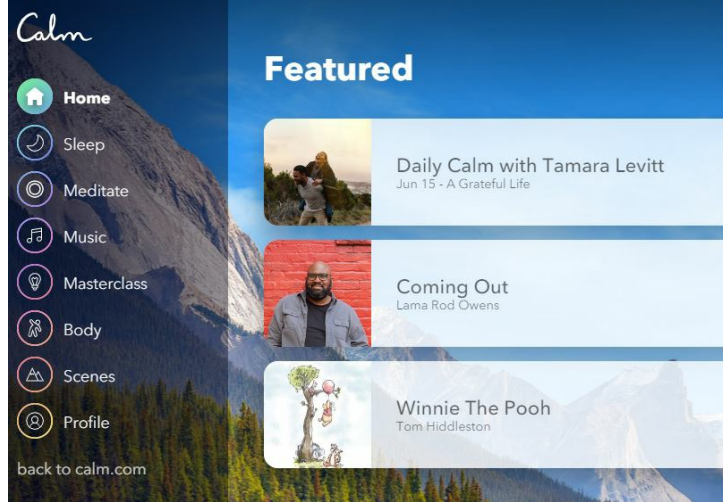
**\$5k after 6 months of employment
and the other \$5k after one year on
contract**

PROMOTION ONLY APPLIES TO OPEN POSITION ABOVE

As part of the 2021 TekSynap Holiday gift, all employees received access to a one-year subscription to the Calm App. If you haven't done so already, please click this [link](#) and register for your account with your TekSynap email.

If you are having any issues registering, please reach out to Katie.schuster@Teksynap.com. If you are registered and having technical issues, please reach out to [Calm Support](#).

Whether you have 30 seconds or 30 minutes, Calm's diverse content library offers various resources to suit your schedule and needs.



**Congratulations to Robert Yohn,
Keith Pressel, and Ruben
Hormostay for reaching 5 years
with TekSynap!**



Your \$5,000 vacation is right around the corner

Anniversaries

Eight Years

Jeffrey Beyer

Five Years

Robert Yohn

Keith Pressel

Ruben Hormostay

Four Years

Jessie Ragsdale

Three Years

Joshua Tudor

Rachel Bates

Jordan King

Eric Simpkins

Karen Billingsley

Anthony Bosco

Welcome, New Employees!

Christopher Mercado

Kevin Bourdelais

Yoonis Abdulle

Skyler White

Isaiah Thomas

Shawn Mitchell

Jared Perry

Alexis Johnosn

Pete Ward

Cooper Martin

DeForest Day

Joya Dabi

Joshua Castillo

Jonathan Barksdale

Everett Smith

Michael Johnson

Mohammad Umaid

Two Years

David Bourgeois
Michael Freeman
Stanley Beaver
Gerald Coles
Roderick Moton
Gilbert Lafayette
Daniel Lyons
Benjamin Schwieterman

One Year

Michael Schnell
Jian Chen
Avery Rolle
Cydney Schrader
Mark Vinson
Crystal Cross
Zachary Tabor
Stephen Barber
Robert Lopez
Jane Henry
Anthony Byrd
Karen Kane
Christyna Bishop
Pablo Julia-Ocasio
Timothy Morgan
Laurie Hrubowchak
Jason Morrow
Jesse Phillis
Jesenia Fonseca
David Fulton
Maria Singarayan
Kelly Keyser

Brandon Cho
Ty Peebles
Lyan Hung
Joey Medarac
Kyle White
Alan Lowell
Tod Whetstone
Steven Doyle
Leif Irvine
Anna Enriquez
Dylan De Leon
Grace Jinnah
Lisamarie Hughes
LaMario Favron
Travis Rolison
Jeremy McGowan
Benjamin Kohler
Solomon Banks
Denis Nkeangnyi
Mariah Bailey
Andrew Kelly
John Sheffer
Lisa Langsam
Jennifer Topps
Kareen Moore

