

## CMS Welcomes Acting Director Michael M. Hoffman

Michael M. Hoffman was appointed Acting Director of the Department of Central Management Services in January of 2016. Hoffman is an accomplished and transformational leader who brings vast experience from public service and the private sector to lead CMS.



Hoffman most recently worked as the Chief Operating Officer of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. At DCEO, Hoffman ran the day-to-day operations of the Agency and led the Department's strategic planning effort. These efforts are transforming DCEO to become more innovative to improve Illinois' economic and business climate.

Prior to his work for the State of Illinois, Hoffman worked for RockTenn (now WestRock), which is a Fortune 500 company that manufactures consumer and corrugated packaging.

Hoffman is a retired Major in the Marine Corps, where he served the U.S. for 15 years. Hoffman served in a variety of command and operations leadership positions, including serving as the Operations Officer for a 1200 person organization during combat operations in Afghanistan.

Hoffman earned his bachelor's degree from Tulane University and holds a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Originally from Naperville, Hoffman still resides there with his wife, Natalie, and two sons.

## Important Information About Your 2015 Tax Filing



Under the Affordable Care Act, new health care coverage reporting requirements went into effect in 2015. As a result, the State of Illinois is required to provide you with information about health coverage you had or were offered in 2015. CMS and other state employees should

expect to receive a 1095-C form no later than March 31, 2016. A list of **Frequently Asked Questions** has been compiled for those who are anticipating receiving the new type of tax notice. State employees may contact (217) 558-4671 with additional questions about the information on these forms.

### In this issue

Governor Announces New Information Technology Agency .....	2
Message from Hardik Bhatt .....	2
We are CMS .....	3
Important Group Health Insurance Update .....	6

# Governor Announces New Information Technology Agency to Accelerate Illinois' Modernization



## Department of Innovation and Technology will be led by Hardik Bhatt

*Governor Bruce Rauner signs Executive Order 16-01 on an iPad. Executive Order 16-01 will consolidate Illinois' information technology into a new agency to accelerate Illinois' modernization.*

## Message from Hardik Bhatt, Chief Information Officer

### Greetings,

Governor Bruce Rauner has announced a significant step forward in the State's efforts to modernize and transform the way that the State of Illinois serves its residents and businesses. Last month, as part of the Accelerating Illinois Modernization (AIM) initiative, Governor Rauner issued an Executive Order to bring together the State's information technology resources into a single, modern agency: The Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT).

I am honored that Governor Rauner has selected me to lead this new Department and the State's transformation efforts to improve service and productivity, and enable Illinois to be more proactive in the quickly changing world of IT. Prior to joining the State of Illinois, I worked with cities and states across the globe, helping them better understand how to use technology to make government more efficient and effective. My goal is to make Illinois the most competitive state, not only nationally, but globally as well.

While there has been some consolidation of IT service in the past, each agency was left in charge of developing its own technology solutions. That created a patchwork of systems that were often redundant, not interoperable, and vulnerable to cyber attacks. And, despite significant spending, many State agencies rely on out-of-date technology. Currently, agencies often cannot share data easily to identify waste, save taxpayer money, and more efficiently serve businesses and residents.

Executive Order 16-01 creates a strategic, statewide technology plan to accelerate Illinois' modernization. All

information technology decisions and spending will be centralized and consolidated under this new agency. DoIT, targeted for a July 1, 2016 launch, will develop statewide IT solutions that take a 360-degree view of a resident or business. This will allow the state to use data to provide more tailored services while reducing inefficiencies and costs to taxpayers.

DoIT will be an organization accountable to its customers for delivery of service while advancing these critical enterprise-wide needs for a 21st century operation. By providing a consistent and unified approach to IT, it will give us as a State an opportunity to further train and develop our IT workforce with cutting edge skills.

More details will become available as the new Department structure is finalized in the coming months. Should you have any specific questions, please direct them to the following email address: [IT.Transformation@illinois.gov](mailto:IT.Transformation@illinois.gov). In the meanwhile, I encourage you to visit <http://cio.illinois.gov> to hear about our strategy for Accelerating Illinois Modernization.

This is an important initiative for the State of Illinois and I look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to transform our technology systems, protect private information from cyber attack, reduce costs, and provide better service to Illinois residents and businesses across all of our agencies.

Sincerely,

**Hardik Bhatt**, *Chief Information Officer,*

*Office of the Governor, Bruce Rauner, State of Illinois*



## New Feature Showcases CMS Team Members

Workplace Matters continues to meet regularly to generate new ideas for improving CMS for both our employees and customers. One initiative put forward by Workplace Matters is “We are CMS”, a new standing feature in the CMS Connection, designed to take a closer look at the people who make up the CMS team. In this issue we will get to know Dave Haley, a graphic designer with the Illinois Office of Communication and Information; Renee Costallos, with the Bureau of Personnel, Division of Transactions, Records and Benefits; Albert Coll, an attorney with CMS legal; and Jaci DeBrun, with the Bureau of Personnel, Division of Examining and Counseling.

Nominate our next “We are CMS” employee! Want to see someone you know at CMS featured in our next We are CMS? Nominate them today by emailing [Meredith.krantz@illinois.gov](mailto:Meredith.krantz@illinois.gov).



## RENEE COSTALLOS

*Bureau of Personnel, Division of Transactions,  
Records and Back Wage Claims*

### Tell us a little about yourself.

We are new to Springfield and have only lived in the area for a couple of years. I am a wife and mother of three children ages 6, 3, & 1. I have a Master’s degree in education and I used to teach middle school.

### What is your role at CMS?

I work in the Bureau of Personnel in the Division of Transactions, Records and Back Wage Claims. I review personnel transactions ensuring compliance with all applicable Personnel Rules, bargaining

agreements, policies, and procedures. I am here to support agencies and provide assistant in any way possible when it comes to Personnel.

### What would people never guess you do in your role?

Most state employees may not know that their agencies don’t enter their job changes onto the computer system, those are all entered by the team in our division.

### How many years have you been at CMS and State government?

State Government since June 2012, CMS since 2014.

### What is your proudest moment at CMS?

When I started with CMS personnel we had a massive backlog of open requisitions and transactions. Our team worked hard to bring the state employees record current. The hard work paid off we now update the computer system within a few months of receiving paperwork for a job change.

### What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy collaborating with people from other agencies to solve problems. I haven’t physically met most of the people I work with over the phone or through emails, but I feel like I have an expanded office and enjoy working with them.

# We are CMS

## What is the most common question you receive that you want your colleagues to know?

I don't get just one common question; I receive a magnitude of questions each day. We work with such variety that no two days are the same. And this is why I enjoy my job so much.

## What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

I enjoy spending time outdoors tent camping with my family. I especially enjoy going to the Gulf Coast.

## What is the one thing you couldn't live without?

My Family is such a blessing to me and I would be lost without them.

## What is your favorite movie and book?

I am actually reading the "Junie B. Jones" series to the kids right now and I actually enjoy these chapter books with the kids.



## DAVE HALEY

*Office of Communication and Information, Graphic Services*

## Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm married and have two children with the youngest being a freshman in college. I have a Bachelors degree in Graphic Design from Eastern Illinois University and I have over 25 years experience in the creative field in both the private and public sector. I'm a St. Louis Cardinals fan and huge college football fan.

## What is your role at CMS?

I provide graphic design services as well as website design and maintenance. I would say I help agencies interact with their clients/customers. Whether it's informational brochures, forms for needed services or a website, I help put a face on State agencies' public interactions.

## What would people never guess you do in your role?

I do a lot of the computer networking and technical support for my division. Since we work primarily on Apple Macintosh hardware and software, we are more or less on our own to maintain our equipment/software (although with the proliferation of Apple devices in the marketplace, that has improved over the last few years).

## How many years have you been at CMS?

I've been with the State for over 17 years, 11 years with CMS.

## What is your proudest moment at CMS?

I probably have two. The first was doing a complete redesign of the State Fair website in just over a month. It was a great example of collaboration between our client (the Department of Agriculture), CMS Web Services and IOCI Design and Publications.

The other would be learning to use Adobe LiveCycle Designer and discovering how to leverage its ability to make some really interactive forms. The new skills I've learned (and am still learning) should make for a more enjoyable experience for the user (well, at least as much joy as you can have while filling out a form).

## What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

The role I enjoy the most would probably be web design. It's challenging but can be fulfilling when, as a team, you see your design come together and it looks good and functions well as far as navigation, ease of use, etc. and can really be experienced by people all over the world.

## What is the most common question you receive that you want your colleagues to know?

"When can I have this?" has to be one of the most common questions I receive and is probably one of the more difficult to answer. There are several variables that can determine how quickly a request can be turned around: the complexity of the design being

# We are CMS

requested, the size (number of pages) of the document, production needs (quantity, laminating, mounting, cutting, etc.) and probably one of the most important, how much I have on my plate (how many and what kind of other requests I have already received before yours). I now things have a habit of just “coming up” but please give me as much time as possible, you will most likely end up with a better product.

## What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

I like to dabble in photography and I'm also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

## What is the one thing you couldn't live without?

My family.

## What is your favorite movie and book?

I would probably have to say the Lord of the Rings series, both books and movies (the books are better of course).



## JACI DEBRUN

*Bureau of Personnel, Division of Examining and Counseling*

## Tell us a little about yourself.

I have worked for the State of Illinois for 26 years – all with CMS, other than a two year time frame that I worked in the capitol. My positions over the years have included time in the Personnel Bureau manager's office, the Director's office, and Technical services – first doing job audits, then in test development. I started in August of 2000 as a career counselor at the test center and have been here since. In 2006 the disability programs were added to my duties.

## What is your role at CMS? (Can you talk about how you support other agencies' missions?)

As a career counselor I guide applicants through the application process. My career counselor duties include reviewing the applicant's CMS application in order to guide them on how to thoroughly complete it and suggest state job titles for which they qualify. I also manage the Alternative Employment Program and Successful Disability Opportunities Program. My job also involves a good amount of public speaking as I go out and speak to groups in order to educate them about the disability programs. I also answer all emails which go through the CMS disability resource center. This email account is set up for various questions regarding accommodations and disability questions. These questions come from various state and private agencies and the general public.

## How many years have you been at CMS and State government?

26 years total.

## What is your proudest moment at CMS?

My proudest moment and what I enjoy most in my job is when an applicant calls me to say they have been hired by the state. The job can change their life entirely for the better. They are sometimes very emotional and always so appreciative. I often say there are not that many state jobs where you feel you are helping someone & feel truly appreciated. I am lucky to have one!

## What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

My interests & hobbies outside of work involve mostly family & running! I have a daughter, Brooke, in Chatham and a son, Zac, in Denver. I also have two sweet granddaughters, Parker and Emerson, who I couldn't live without! I spend as much time with them as possible. I rarely miss their basketball and soccer games, cross country meets, plays, band concerts etc. I am also very passionate about running. I have been running for over 35 years. I've completed countless ½ marathons and other races over the years --and 4 full marathons in my 50's. Now at age 61, and after surgery on both knees, my marathon days are over – but I'm still running! I feel very fortunate to still be running 5K races - with my granddaughters!!

# We are CMS



## ALBERT COLL

*CMS Legal*

### Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Virginia and Rhode Island. I first came to Illinois for grad school (DePaul University College of Law) where I met my wife.

### What is your role at CMS?

I am an attorney for CMS legal. I provide attorney review of facility related issues for state-owned and state-leased space.

### What would people never guess you do in your role?

Conduct research in the Secretary of State Archives, which contains deeds and related documents for all State-owned properties.

### How many years have you been at CMS?

I will have 2 years with CMS in June

### What is your proudest moment at CMS?

Working on the design and roll-out of the ARPUR system. An in-house (BCCS created) real estate portfolio inventory system.

### What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy the people I meet and work with in State government.

### What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

Before having children I enjoyed a host of hobbies from skiing, fishing, hiking, live music and travel. Now I enjoy the simple things in life, like a moment of peace or a sip of hot coffee.

### What is the one thing you couldn't live without?

Farm raised eggs

### What is your favorite movie and book?

Favorite movie: Life is Beautiful

Favorite book: Blood Meridian – Cormac McCarthy

## Important Group Health Insurance Update

CMS continues to do everything in its power to mitigate the impact on our State Employee Group Insurance Program members as we navigate through this budget impasse. The agency and the medical plan administrators are working diligently with healthcare providers to try to avoid members being charged up front for services and to ensure there is no interruption of service. At this time, many providers have

indicated that they will not be requiring members to pay more than the member's applicable cost sharing amount (deductible, copay, etc.) at the time of service.

Members having any problems receiving services should call **CMS Group Insurance Division at 800-442-1300** for assistance.



State of Illinois  
Central Management Services

**CMS** Illinois Department of  
Central Management Services

Office of the Acting Director  
**Michael Hoffman**  
(217) 782-2141

For more information on this newsletter or any other CMS initiatives, contact:

**Meredith Krantz** • Public Information Officer: (312) 814-6914  
**Wendy Butler** • Director of Governmental Affairs: (217) 785-1941