

Champion of Innovation Award:

It is with pleasure that we collectively submit the below Award Nomination Cover Page and Innovation Narrative with attached animated video clip detailing the innovative behaviors displayed by our supervisor for consideration in this prestigious opportunity.

Name of the Individual being nominated – Tony Killiri

Everyone today is talking about innovation lately, but what does it really mean to be a Champion of Innovation? Ideally a champion would support and encourage creative and innovative behaviors from their employees while promoting conditions that enable teams to achieve stretch goals and deliver enhanced services. That is exactly what Mr. Tony Killiri does as the Chief of the IT Application Engineering and Operations team. As our supervisor, he has raised the bar for performance on both the individual and team levels, which has resulted in implementation of more creative solutions and effective approaches to achieve work tasks with greater efficiency and higher quality. This award was created for supervisors that represent innovation in the true sense of the word, and we proudly nominate Mr. Tony Killiri as a prime example of someone who exemplifies the criteria set forth in this call.

Though it is not in his official job description, Tony always leads by example, offers suggestions and challenges the status quo. Specifically in the discipline of software development, he recognized the opportunity to lead the charge for change at KSC and collaboratively worked with IT management and technical staff to alter the legacy approach by bringing a new initiative called Agile Scrum out of the classroom and into practice. This iterative path forward is significantly improved over the methodical, linear approach of past waterfall application development efforts. Scrum is a framework for completing complex projects that implements the traditional software development methodology in smaller cycles (usually two weeks) using cross-functional, self-organizing teams that incorporate regular feedback from the customer with emphasis on face-to-face communication. The concepts of this streamlined framework are simple - prioritize large to-do lists into manageable tasks with improved teamwork, better communication and faster results. The resulting benefits include increased customer satisfaction through transparency and visibility of progress, enhanced quality from heightened accountability and greater flexibility to respond to inevitable changes in priorities and requirements. As an early adopter of this trend-setting transformation, Tony is credited with tangible savings through increased productivity and improved quality in IT's software development and maintenance activities. Additionally the best practices, supportive guidance, and associated lessons learned from this advancement have the potential to be successfully replicated and adapted for other organizations, NASA Centers and Federal agencies.

Tony Killiri's commitment to excellence and knowledge of strategic partnerships were essential ingredients to a successful implementation and superior path forward. He inspires an overall sense of belonging that has led to a welcoming environment during this transformation and consistent commitment to enhanced performance by all team members. For his outstanding leadership, dedication to his employees and strong work ethic, we gladly nominate Mr. Tony Killiri for the Champion of Innovation Award 2014.

http://goanimate.com/videos/0U69yCHN1nhY?utm_source=linkshare&utm_medium=linkshare&utm_campaign=usercontent