The Cornerstone for Effectiveness Improvement winner, Sarah Zemanick, was nominated by 7 of her peers. They all say Sarah consistently exceeds everyone's expectations for follow-through, team building and communication. The Utilities Section of the Energy & Sustainability Department needed a way to continuously improve – by first identifying all the myriad requirements for safety, efficiency, regulatory compliance, and other operational requirements – then developing a management system to gather data, develop priority objectives and follow it through to completion.

Working with teams led by the Director of Utilities, her energy and creativity has been critical in developing and implementing a management system to keep staff safe, efficient and focused on priorities. She has also been instrumental in helping the Central Energy Plant create a SharePoint website that is incorporated into the operational functionality of the plant. She has consistently performed at a high level while spearheading multiple initiatives and putting the teamwork first.

Sarah makes our department hum with efficiency and transparent communication, by helping everyone with organization. She has created web tools and business processes to assure that we continuously improve, by setting priorities and by learning from our mistakes and near misses. She is the hub of knowledge when it comes to SharePoint and many other software application tutorials. She is always available for questions and provides well illustrated technical guidance.

She has been a phenomenal project manager to two website projects, the HEB energy dashboard and the redesign of the Cornell Sustainable Campus website. She is consistently exceeding everyone's expectations for follow through and team communications. She is deeply passionate about sustainability, and is the go-to person for getting task teams up and running. When the student assembly made a resolution to "Take Back the Tap" and ban bottled water, Sarah was a key force on the TBTT task team helping President Skorton formulate a response. She has the uncanny ability to keep all members on-task, motivated, and laughing. She is an absolute pleasure to work with.

Sarah lives the FS Values:
Truth - She is trusted by her colleagues, she is as comfortable with the hard truth as she is with the easy truth.
Respect - She shows respect for everyone and in turn is respected by everyone
Excellence - She has achieved Triple “E” rating – Tim Peer calls it - She Exceeds Expectations Every time.
Teamwork – This is where Sarah shines, whether participating or leading the team she is engaged and cheerfully helps everyone to establish their goals.
Integrity – Sarah consistently represents the qualities of candor, honesty, sincerity and integrity.