Angelo Della Manna: From Laborer to Leader

Our featured employee this month is Angelo Della Manna, who currently serves as the Director of the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS). ADFS is one of the premier forensic science agencies in the country, and is the only internationally accredited provider of forensic science laboratory services in Alabama. ADFS is committed to their mission - “the application of science and medicine to the purposes of justice” - and focuses on unbiased analysis of evidence originating from criminal investigations. ADFS provides forensic test results to members of the criminal justice system in all 67 counties of Alabama.

ADFS is uniquely positioned in the justice system of Alabama as an independent State agency. Formed in 1935, ADFS is one of the oldest forensic laboratory systems in the United States and receives evidence from over 450 different law enforcement agencies across Alabama. As an independent agency, ADFS is neither prosecutorial nor defense oriented. The pursuit of justice is the only objective and ADFS is limited in this pursuit only by the laws of science and medicine.

Q: What was your first job with the State? Do you remember why you initially decided to seek employment with the State?

A: I began working with the State when I finished graduate school, and began my forensic science career as a Laborer assigned to the Department of Forensic Sciences’ (ADFS) Biology Section. I respectfully declined offers to work in crime lab systems in other States, as I wanted to work for ADFS. I saw the dedication of the staff to serving the people of Alabama firsthand during my graduate school internship.

Q: Could you give a brief overview of the different jobs you have had over the years?

A: I began as a Laborer, and upon successful completion of my training and Moot Court, I was promoted to the Forensic Scientist position. As the years passed, I continued to assume greater responsibility for ADFS and helped build our national leading Forensic DNA testing program, while being promoted and progressing through the Forensic Scientist Classification series. I was ultimately appointed as Director in January 2018.

Q: What in particular has made you want to continue your employment with the State?

A: Public service and helping the citizens of this great State is important to me, and being able to work in one of the nation’s finest government Forensic Science laboratory systems is a privilege I don’t take lightly. We play a critical and independent role in the justice system of Alabama - oftentimes, our forensic test results speak for those unfortunate victims who no longer can speak for themselves.

Q: Now that you are the Director of a State Agency, do you have any advice for employees who are just starting their careers in State government?

A: Be thankful for the opportunity you have been given to work for the State of Alabama, and approach each day with a positive mindset to help and serve others – if you let the body of your work develop your own reputation, opportunities for advancement will present themselves and you will have a rewarding and successful career. Always look for opportunities to separate yourself in a positive way from others, and continue to develop your professional skillset, for when the opportunity to advance presents itself, the time to prepare has passed.

Q: What have you enjoyed most about working for the State over the course of your career?

A: I’ll always treasure the professional relationships and personal friendships I’ve made with other public servants across many of Alabama’s State agencies – people who come to work everyday, ready to serve, and always willing to help in any way they can.
This holiday season, save on your purchases with PerksConnect!

With the holiday season quickly approaching, you can get exclusive offers, discounts and more through the State of Alabama PerksConnect website!

- Be sure to check out the Local Deals section (under the Deals & Discounts tab), which includes everything from restaurants to car dealerships!

- The National Offers section (also under the Deals & Discounts tab) gives you access to a variety of savings. If you are looking to gift or upgrade a phone, tablet, tv, or appliance, use the Samsung discount to save up to 50%. Be sure to click the Travel tab and check out Snazzy Traveler, which allows you to book a family trip and save up to 70% instantly. There are also discounts to access if a rental car or hotel reservation is needed.

- If you are looking for a quick gift idea, take advantage of the discounted Gift Card offering. Savings are tiered based on the purchase amount.

To access these savings, go online to [https://alabama.perksconnection.com/](https://alabama.perksconnection.com/) and log in. If you have not registered an account yet, please click “Activate your account now” above the login boxes to complete the registration form and start saving!

Governor’s Mansion Candlelight Tours

On the next two Mondays, December 9th and December 16th, the Governor’s Mansion will open for candlelight tours from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Visitors can view the Governor’s Mansion holiday decor, enjoy live choir performances and sample Alabama-made goods at the gift shop. During the tours, rooms open to the public, which include the main entrance, dining room, sitting room, sun room and more, feature holiday decor by volunteer designers from around the State. While each room displays a different decorating style, all showcase a classic and charming Christmas look. In addition, the Farley-Hill House, which is located next door to the Governor’s Mansion and is typically used as a meeting space, is also decorated and open for public viewing during the tour. Guests may listen to live music performed by different children’s choirs each night on the staircase of the Governor’s Mansion. Pick up tickets at the Gift Shop across the street. The Gift Shop is located at 30 Finley Avenue, across the street from the side entrance of the Governor’s Mansion.
A Note from Empower – Get Your Fi$cal Checkup!

Just like your physical health, your financial health requires making smart choices and having regular checkups.

When looking at your financial health, it’s important to consider the following:

- Click [here](#) to check your paycheck deductions, as well as your annual itemized statement of compensation. You may have deductions coming out of your check that no longer serve you. Contact your payroll officer to make changes.
- Do a retirement wellness check: are you saving enough to meet your needs? Are your investments appropriate for your needs?
- Check and update your beneficiary on your retirement, pension, and insurance policies.

**Set yourself on a path to success in 2020 by completing your fi$cal checkup today!**

Employees’ Suggestion Incentive Program REMINDER

Don’t forget to submit your cost-saving ideas to the Employees’ Suggestion Incentive Board for the opportunity to earn a CASH AWARD up to $5,000! You can find the rules and submission form on the State Personnel Department website, [www.personnel.alabama.gov](http://www.personnel.alabama.gov), under the “Employees” button, then “Online Options.” **Please remember that your completed submission form must include approval from your appointing authority in order for your suggestion to be considered for an award.**
The Alabama Merit System law created the Personnel Department to be administered by a Personnel Director who answers to an independent board. The Board currently consists of five members who serve staggered six-year terms. Two members are appointed by the Governor, one by the Lieutenant Governor, one by the Speaker of the House, and one member is an elected classified State employee who is subject to all Merit System rules and regulations.

By law, the Board is required to meet once each month. Its principal functions are to:
* adopt and amend rules and regulations;
* adopt and modify classification and pay plans;
* hear the appeals of employees who have been dismissed;
* represent public interest in the improvement of personnel administration in state service; and
* advise and assist the Personnel Director.

The State Personnel Board is scheduled to meet December 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 3rd Floor of the Folsom Administrative Building in Montgomery. The meeting is open to the public.

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State Employee Featured Recipe

**Nikki’s Minty Christmas Cake**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 box of White Cake Mix (I used Betty Crocker Super Moist)
- 1 ¼ cups of water
- 1/3 cup of vegetable oil
- 3 eggs (I used egg whites only)
- ½ teaspoon of Mint Flavoring (adjust as needed to taste)
- *Green Food Coloring (optional)

**Directions:**
1. Beat cake mix, water, oil, egg whites and flavoring in large bowl on low speed 30 seconds, then on medium speed for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally (batter will be lumpy). Heat oven to 350° F for shiny metal or glass pan or 325° F for dark or nonstick pan. Grease bottom only of 13"x9" pan or bottom and sides of all other pans.
2. Pour mixed batter into pan(s). *If you are making layers – 1st layer has no color, 2nd layer has 1 drop of green food coloring, 3rd layer has 3 drops of green food coloring and 4th layer has 5 drops of green food coloring. (I poured the 1st layer, then added 1 drop of color to the entire batter mix and then poured the 2nd layer and then added 2 more drops of color to the entire batter mix and poured the 3rd layer, etc. add more or less for desired effect).
3. Bake as directed on package or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pan. Cool completely before frosting as you desire.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on testing, job announcements and more! Search for “State of Alabama Personnel Department.”

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