



## Purchasing Agent achieves milestone with lifetime certification

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### FOR RELEASE AT WILL

Thomas W. Sawyer, York County's Purchasing Agent, recently achieved a professional milestone within the public purchasing profession.

Sawyer has received lifetime status as a Certified Public Purchasing Buyer and as a Certified Public Purchasing Officer. These credentials are globally recognized and can only be obtained from the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council. Earning either of these certifications requires extensive training, experience and both written and oral examinations.

Sawyer is one of only 416 certificate holders worldwide who has earned both purchasing buyer and purchasing officer certification.

According to their Web site, Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council certification is "highly regarded and respected among procurement professionals and employers involved in the public sector."

The council has certified over 10,000 purchasers and buyers since its inception in 1978 and has over 5,100 current certificate holders.

Only 739 current holders have lifetime status, Sawyer included. The council requires that a purchaser apply for recertification every five years. In order to achieve a 'lifetime' status of certification a candidate must have held prior certification for at least 15 years and be either formally retired or be at least 62 years old. In Sawyer's case, he has been in the purchasing profession for 43 years, held certification for over 25 years, and just celebrated his 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

"York County is fortunate to have had Tom Sawyer as its Purchasing Agent for the past 25 years," said Carol White, Director of Financial & Management Services. "He is dedicated to his profession and has maintained the highest standards for procurement in both the county and the school division."



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