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It started with a love for math as a young girl, followed by a love for accounting at Alvarado High School. Kristina Johnson said she knew “from that point on that accounting would be my career.” The pursuit of that goal led her to the City of Burleson’s finance department and her success earned her the 2013 Administration Employee of the Year (internal services) honor. The award was presented at the City’s annual awards luncheon Dec. 10.

“Over the course of the past year Kristina went above and beyond her normal high level of service again and again,” Rhett Clark, director of finance, said. “The year began with the department being short-handed and facing our busiest time of the year - the annual audit. Kristina assumed a much larger role than in past years and, in many cases, learned as she went along.”

The award winner earned a degree at Tarrant County College. She started with the City’s finance department in February 1999 as a secretary. At the time her sister, Laura Nichols, worked for the City and told her about the job in finance. “Being only 21, I thought it was a great opportunity to get started in accounting.”

Johnson was promoted to staff accountant, then to her current position as senior accountant.

“At each level she has demonstrated exceptional ability, a passion for learning and an eagerness to help anyone in any way possible,” Clark said. “She is an expert on our computer system and she is the go-to person for payroll and human resources processing issues. After she helped finish the audit, she created a customized report of benefits for each City employee at a time when there were major changes in the City’s health insurance plans.”

Johnson’s job includes reconciling, accounts receivable, credit card issues, franchise and hotel payments and she serves as a backup to her co-worker who handles payroll. She helps train new employees and assists with closing the fiscal year, the audit, and other reports but “most of my time is spent providing support to the other departments in the City.”

Clark called Johnson “the prototype for what an internal services employee should be – dedicated to providing friendly service to our customer departments but mindful of our larger obligation to the taxpayer. She will help and support

anyone who presents a problem or question and she provides information with a smile and a kind word.”

The honoree is one of three children in her family. Her father retired from General Motors, then died in 2002. Her mother is also retired. Now 36, Johnson is a mother of two – 15-year-old Ariel and 9-year-old Alayna. Ariel is a member of the Joshua Sweethearts Dance Team and Alayna is a member of the Texas Girls Choir. The family attends St. Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church.