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Dave Vila, contact administration manager, at left, and Bruce Feerer, deputy executive officer, Procurement, present a check representing \$5,600 in savings generated by the P-card program in just 3 months, to CEO Roger Snoble.



PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON

Penny Pinchers: P-Card Program Generates Savings

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Feb. 16, 2005) Dave Vila, contact administration manager in the Office of Procurement and Material, is a penny pincher. He earned the honorary title this quarter by chalking up \$5,600 in rebates for prompt payment for purchases employees make using Purchase Cards.

With EO Lonnie Mitchell in the wings, Vila and Bruce Feerer, deputy executive officer, Procurement, presented a symbolic check for \$5,600 to CEO Roger Snoble, Feb. 10. Snoble, who issued the "Be a Penny Pincher" directive as part of Metro's internal initiatives to crunch diminishing budget numbers, praised the effort as creative.

"It's a good sign things are working when employees can save money even by spending it," he said.

The Purchase Card is actually a VISA card issued to employees in their name. The P-card allows the employees to purchase supplies directly without having to wait for purchase order processing or personal reimbursements.

"It's a fast and convenient method of payment," said Vila, "and paying the credit card bills promptly means we can collect rebates." The rebates are incentive for prompt payment offered by a division of the U.S. National Bank Association that provides purchase card services to the State of California.

"The biggest savings with the P-card are in the field," says Vila. "Over

the past year, we've increased card usage by 30%, to over 1,600 transactions per month. It means getting more work done without costly delays, and it means a bigger rebate."

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