

THE BEACON

Beacon Technologies Quarterly Newsletter

Employee Success Story

Teresa Holmes, Solution Architect

She is Teresa (Te-reh-sa) Holmes and she says "it's important to use the phonetics because people mispronounce my name." She was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. She graduated from Grambling State University (it's a historically black college/university in LA) where I majored in Computer Information Systems. IT wasn't the plan as she attended a high school with a focus in the Medical/Dental specialty because she wanted to be a doctor. As a college sophomore, she was required to take a computer programming course (Bio/Pre-Med major) where their final exam was a competition and she won. She changed her major to CIS and Economics after that. She initially began her career as a Mainframe Programmer/Analyst for a utility company in Madison. About 2 years after starting that role, the company she was working for offered opportunities to job share various roles for six months or more, so she applied for a PC Programming role outside of IT in their Shareowner Services division. The staff had just received desktop computers because the department was the first launch of an integrated system where they would use mainframe and pc applications. She was able to assist with programming applications and desktop support. That time led to a new role in Desktop Application Training and Support. Years later, she would begin to instruct and lead others on how to install, configure and troubleshoot pc and mainframe technology within the entire company and district service areas across Wisconsin. That eventually led her to several areas of the IT discipline, including Project Management. She has worked in pretty much every area of our industry as a permanent employee and consultant but loves the discipline of leading projects and the more the variety, the merrier. Today, she is assigned to CUNA as the Program Manager for an IT Infrastructure project. They are basically replacing every system they have while adding a ton of new technology. They call the program 'The Beast'!



Teresa
Holmes,
Solution
Architect

Favorite Project of Client

In early 2000, she had a consultant role as a Solution Services Consultant with a firm that had a client who was seeking someone who could assist the sales teams while working with the development and professional service teams in preparation to launch their product in the US - New York City. Those teams were located in Lyon, France. She was able to work some from Manhattan and some in Lyon for about 1.5 years and met some amazing people. She experienced the French way of work, discipline of early to work until 6pm with 2hr mandatory lunch every day. Their way of living was also very different than the US, which included a lot of social time before and during the meal, lots of rich tasting foods and her introduction to fine wines. She has preferred working as a consultant, mostly because she gets to meet so many different people from various places. New York City is now her favorite place to visit.

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Trivia



In our last newsletter we asked for the second consecutive issue "Where is the Beacon Holiday Party held every December in Middleton?" and three people responded correctly with Capital Brewery. The winner chosen at random is Dee Ott. The trivia question this time around is "what two charities did Beacon Technologies contribute to these holidays in lieu of our holiday parties?" Respond to Keegan O'Brien at kobrien@beacontechinc.com and one person with the correct answer will win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

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YEAR END NOTES FROM JEAN BURKE

Verify Information

Please take a moment to verify that your general information (address, SSN, etc.) is accurate in your ADP account. If changes are needed, you can update much of your general information yourself, but it's a good idea to let us know as well because there are places outside of ADP that also need to be updated.

2020 Form W-2 for Employees

You will receive a hard copy of your W-2 in the mail by 1/31/21. You can also obtain an electronic copy in your ADP/Workforce Now account. If you have any questions, please let us know.

2020 Form 1099 for C2C's

Form 1099 will be provided to you by 1/31/2021. If possible, forms will be provided electronically, but it is likely that some will be mailed. Please let me know if you have questions.

Social Security

The social security wage base has been increased to \$142,800 for 2021. There is no limit for Medicare Tax withholdings. Rates remain the same at 6.2% for Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare. Wages in excess of \$200,000 will be subject to an extra .9% Medicare Tax withholding.

401k

The 401k deferral limit for 2021 remains the same -- \$19,500. Catch-up contributions for individuals over age 50 has also remains the same -- \$6,500. Please let us know if you want to adjust your 401k deferral amounts for 2021.

ADP - Mobile App

With the recent change to ADP for time entry, we want to remind you that ADP has a mobile app available as well. The app is user friendly and can be helpful when you want to enter your time and you aren't in front of our computer. Check out the app [here](#).



Referrals

We've got several openings and welcome your referrals. Remember, if you refer a candidate to Beacon, they are hired and stay with us for at least 90 days, Beacon will pay you \$1000 for the referral! We also offer referral bonuses for new business leads.

Keep in Touch

Our recruiting and sales teams are reaching out to you on a consistent basis to stay in touch and connect, but if you ever have any questions, concerns or updates that come up please don't hesitate to reach out to your recruiter or account manager right away and we will be happy to help.

Blog Topics

We are always looking for blog topic ideas for our website. We publish a blog at least once a month. If you have ideas that you think would resonate with our consultants or clients, or if you would like to be a guest author, please let Tenzin Tsephel, our Office/Social Media Assistant know at ttsephel@beacontechinc.com.

Beacon T-Shirts

We hope you are all enjoying your Beacon t-shirts from this past summer and are wearing them with pride! If you weren't on the initial order, we will be doing orders every 6 months to make sure new hires also get one over the course of the year. If you have pictures of you wearing your shirts, please send them to Keegan O'Brien at kobrien@beacontechinc.com to be used on social media and in future newsletters.



Bill Gross, Senior Software Engineering Consultant

Employee Anniversaries

January

Denise Olson - 13 years
David Wanta - 7 years
Delight Oelerich - 4 years
Adam Gruszynski - 4 years
Srujan Reddy Pindi - 2 years
Kimberly Suchla - 2 years
Thomas Nelson - 1 year

February

William Sweeney - 5 years
William Neill - 4 years
Chris Shouts - 3 years
Greene Sinha - 3 years
Kevin Brey - 2 years
Paul Collen - 1 year
Uday Kamal Gundavaram - 1 year
Matthew Moorehead - 1 year
Sai Sindhuja Reddy Pannala - 1 year

March

Shakeel Mohammed - 8 years
Mark Schilling - 6 years
Thomas Rupe - 3 years
Matthew Nelson - 3 years
Mat Gutschow - 3 years
Angelito Dominguez - 2 years
Robert Anderson - 1 year
David Bryant - 1 year
Kark Koenig - 1 year
Sreenath Pillai - 1 year
Aaron Rosenthal - 1 year
Pooja Yeruva - 1 year

Let's Kick off the New Year Right - Here Are 55 New Year's Resolution Ideas for 2021

- 1 - Focus on a passion, not the way you look.
- 2 - Work out to feel good, not be thinner.
- 3 - Stop gossiping.
- 4 - Give one compliment a day.
- 5 - Go a whole day without checking your email.
- 6 - Do random acts of kindness.
- 7 - Read a book a month.
- 8 - Go someplace you've never been.
- 9 - Clear out the clutter.
- 10 - Turn off your phone one night a week.
- 11 - Reduce your waste.
- 12 - Volunteer.
- 13 - Travel on a small budget.
- 14 - Write down one thing you're grateful for every night.
- 15 - Drink more water.
- 16 - Take some of your paychecks and put it in savings or investment.
- 17 - Stop multi-tasking.
- 18 - Talk to yourself with kindness.
- 19 - Call a friend instead of texting them.
- 20 - Don't buy things you don't need.
- 21 - Keep a journal.
- 22 - Clean out your car.
- 23 - Put your bills on autopay.
- 24 - Take the stairs.
- 25 - Go to the dentist when you're supposed to.
- 26 - Be kind on social media.
- 27 - Let go of grudges.
- 28 - Stay in touch with people who matter.
- 29 - Try a totally new restaurant.
- 30 - Start a new hobby.
- 31 - Travel somewhere without posting about it on social media.
- 32 - Bring a plant into your home.
- 33 - Sanitize your personal belongings.
- 34 - Start cooking!
- 35 - Buy less plastic.
- 36 - Send handwritten letters.
- 37 - Donate clothes you never wear.
- 38 - Pay off your credit card every month.
- 39 - Avoid people who complain a lot.
- 40 - Remove negativity or anything that makes you feel lousy.
- 41 - Travel somewhere with no map.
- 42 - Wear sunscreen.
- 43 - Cook more.
- 44 - Get a real haircut.
- 45 - Do something that scares you.
- 46 - Make your bed every morning.
- 47 - Stay on top of your inbox.
- 48 - Try guided meditation.
- 49 - Stretch it out.
- 50 - Craft something yourself.
- 51 - Go to bed happy each night.
- 52 - Spot clean as you go.
- 53 - Pay it forward.
- 54 - Talk less, listen more.
- 55 - Whatever your goals are, write them down.

[From Parade.com](https://www.parade.com)

Teresa Holmes, Solution Architect (continued from Page 1)

Family

She is the oldest of three children now, as she lost one of her brothers in May during the Covid-19 pandemic. Most of her family resides in Milwaukee or several areas of Texas as she comes from a long history of ranchers. Some of her relatives are beef suppliers to high-end restaurants such as Ruth Chris Steakhouse. She is single for now but awaiting her prince charming. She considers her church community her closest kin family. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, she led mission trip teams to various countries: Africa, Spain, Israel and Mexico are a few. She loves doing this and has learned to use her PM skills in a different way serving people. She hopes to return to that after we're able to travel outside the US again.

Interesting Fact

She is a professional Dream Interpreter. She has a team of people who've done dream interpretations for people and at events such as the Mifflin Street Block Party, Madison Children's Theatre annual fundraiser and the Oregon Rotary. On client assignments, leading teams as a Program or Project Manager often creates opportunities to lead meetings or do the icebreaker at a meeting which she has used as an opportunity to do a dream interpretation. People love it and have amazing things going on in their dreams they want to understand.

Hobbies/Interests

She loves to travel but does not like driving or the crowds of flying. It is the only part of the Covid-19 restrictions she has appreciated. She had to fly a few months ago and loved that the plane was half full as a 'norm'. Sometimes she plans trips using other means of transportation, especially by train. She likes navigating to and through new places and meeting new people. Three years ago, she was a contestant on the Let's Make A Deal Show! She was celebrating a momentous birthday and a friend got them passes to the show. She was selected as a contestant and won the 3rd largest prize, a trip to San Diego, which is now her second favorite place to travel. She collects refrigerator magnets from every place she has been and sometimes re-gift them as trinkets for birthdays or Christmas. She plays the piano and loves hanging out with friends who like to do 'sets' - music gatherings where we just do music and enjoy one another. At the time of this newsletter reading, she will have celebrated her favorite holiday - Christmas and really misses the Beacon Holiday Party. She says, "It is honestly one of the best parties I attend yearly!"

