# **Commonwealth Commuter Choice Procedures**

Effective Date of Procedure: April 1, 2010

### **Overview and Purpose**

The University of Mary Washington (UMW) provides the fully paid, tax-free, qualified transportation fringe benefit not to exceed the actual commuting cost. The maximum amount is \$115 per month. The procedures below outline the employee application and enrollment process, as well as, the employer ordering, receiving, and distribution of Smart Benefits Vouchers or SmartBenefits.

On August 23, 2000 the Governor signed an Executive order ((71 (01)) that established a new tax-free fringe benefit program, beginning October 1, 2000, for executive branch state agency employees who commute to work by public transportation or vanpool. The program is known as Commonwealth Commuter Choice.

#### Scope

- Employees
- Finance
- Human Resources

# For Employees Interested in/or Participating in the Commuter Choice Program:

### **Enrollment Procedure Detail**

The employee will contact Human Resources and ask to enroll in Commuter Choice. Human Resources will provide the employee with the following forms:

- Commuter Choice Eligibility Requirements
- Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Enrollment Form
- Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Yearly Certification

The employee should complete the Commuter Choice Eligibility Requirement form first, and send the initialed and signed document to the Human Resource Benefits Administrator. Once the form is approved by Human Resources department, the document is sent to the Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller for approval. The completed Commuter Choice Eligibility Requirements form will serve as verification that the employee is qualified and eligible to participate in the *Commonwealth Commuter Choice Program*. The employee will be notified of their approval.

Once approved, the employee will be required to complete the Employee Enrollment and Yearly Certification forms. The Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Enrollment Form is the agreement between UMW and the employee that states the employee will use the benefits appropriately based upon the requirements set forth in the form. The Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Yearly Certification is completed by the employee annually (each January). The employee certifies that they will use the benefits appropriately based upon the requirements set forth in the Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Enrollment Form. The completed forms should be sent to the Associate Vice President for Finance & Controller for signature.

Once the Commuter Choice Eligibility Requirement form is signed by the Associate Vice President for Finance & Controller, the employee is notified and their information will be entered into the Commuter Direct site. The three forms will be kept in the employee's Commuter Choice file.

Enrolled Employees can receive benefits one of three ways:

- SmartBenefits Vouchers
- Funds directly deposited onto the employee's SmartTrip Card
- Combination of SmartBenefit Vouchers and SmartTrip Card funds

#### NOTE: VRE does not accept SmartTrip Cards.

Employees will receive SmartBenefits Vouchers if the mode of public transportation accepts them, and does not accept SmartTrip Cards. Employees will be required to sign for their monthly installment of vouchers prior to distribution for audit purposes.

Employees will receive funds directly deposited onto their SmartTrip Card if the mode of public transportation accepts SmartTrip Cards. Employees will be able to load their monthly installment of benefits at the nearest SmartTrip kiosk after the first of each month. Employees are required to receive a printed receipt at the kiosk, and send the original receipt to the Assistant Controller – Compliance for audit purposes. Employees will have one month to download the benefit amount. If the employee has not downloaded the benefit within one month, the benefit amount will be refunded to the University. The University will not be responsible for reissuing any unclaimed benefits under any circumstances.

Employees will receive a combination of SmartTrip vouchers and funds directly deposited on their SmartTrip Cards if the employee is using a combination of public transportations. The combination must include one mode of public transportation that accepts only SmartBenefit Vouchers, and one mode of public transportation that accepts only SmartTrip Cards. Employees will be required to sign for their monthly installment of vouchers, and provide the printed receipt provided by the SmartTrip kiosk for audit purposes.

An employee's SmartTrip Card cannot hold more than \$300. The employee may not be able to download the full benefit amount due to the balance already on the card. Employees will have one full month from when the benefit was issued to claim the remaining benefit. Any benefit amount not downloaded to the employee's SmartTrip card will be refunded to the University. The University is not responsible for reissuing any unclaimed or unused benefit amounts.

NOTE: Employees interested in or enrolled in Commuter Choice do not need to read beyond this point.

### For Finance and Human Resource Staff:

#### **Procurement**

As mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, eVA is the procurement system and items/services should be procured before payment. The order for Commuter Choice benefits will be entered in eVA before ordering from Commuter Choice. eVA is to be entered before payment is made to Commuter Choice.

Orders will need to be entered in eVA by fiscal year with changes made to increase or decrease the total due to additions and deletions of persons to the Commuter Choice program. The <u>Total</u> order will include each person's benefit times the number of months <u>plus</u> employee fee times the number of participant's times the number of months <u>plus</u> the shipping fee times the number of months (i.e. \$115 + 110 x12 + 4.50 x 2 x 12 + 12.50 x 12). The individual line items will be broken down as follows: one line item per participant to include the total benefit plus the employee fee times the number of months and one line item for the shipping fee times the number of months. All entries will be made following the guidelines set forth in the eVA eMall Workbook found at the following link.

http://www.umw.edu/tess/finance training/instructional materials/documents/eVA eMall W orkbook.final 000.pdf

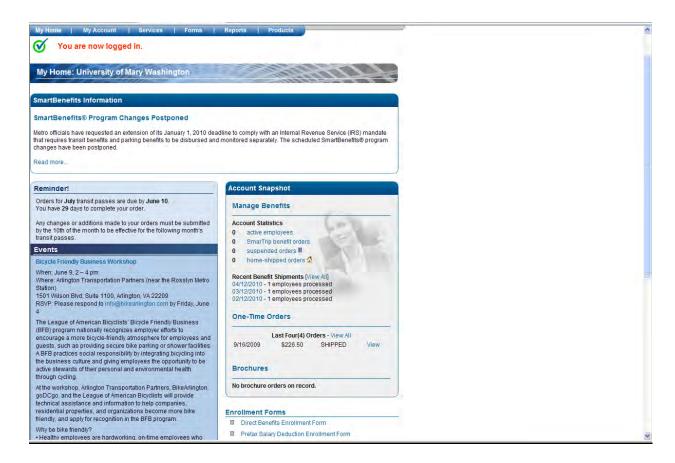
# Adding a New Employee Procedure Detail

To begin the online enrollment process, log into the Commuter Direct homepage: <a href="https://www.commuterpage.com/">https://www.commuterpage.com/</a>



Enter the Username and Password

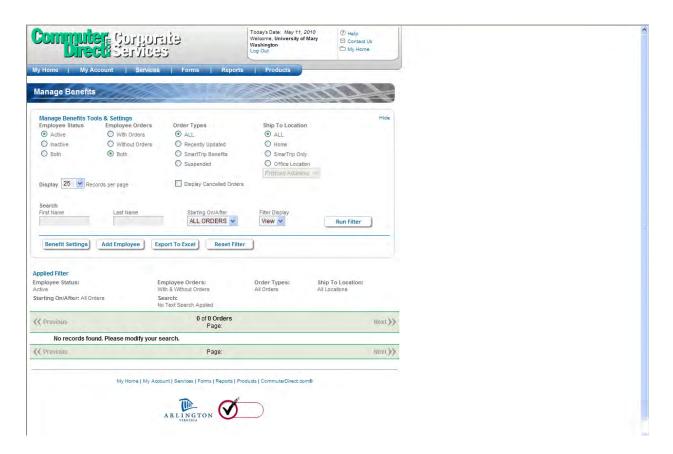
Click Go



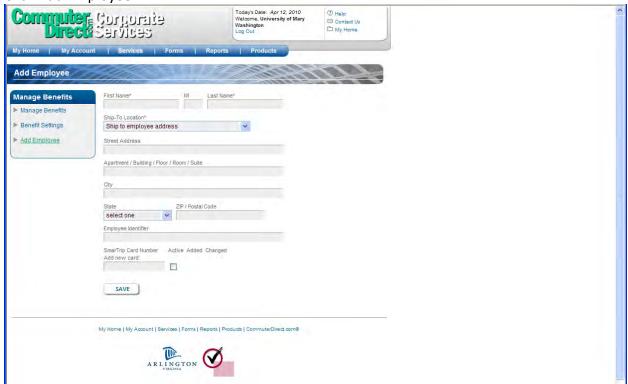
After logging in, you will be brought to the account's homepage (shown above).



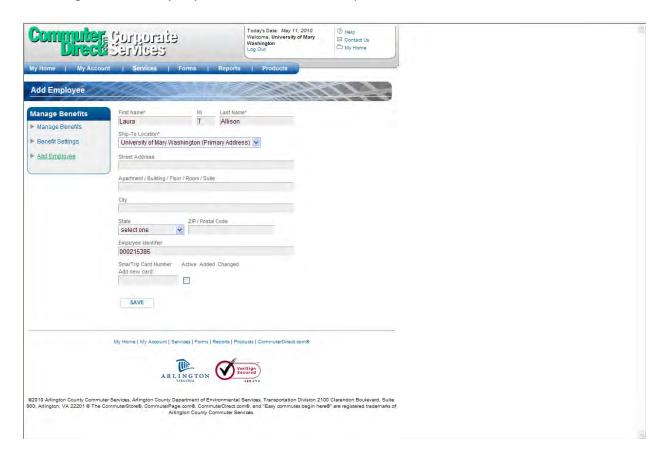
Hover the mouse over Services until the drop down menu appears. Select Manage Benefits.



Click Add Employee



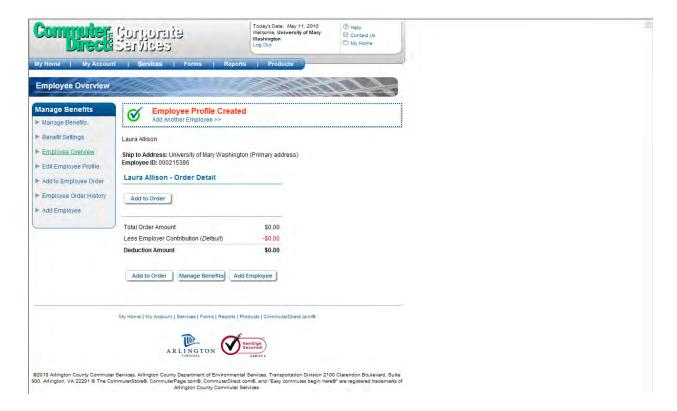
Enter in the Employee's first name, middle initial, and last name. If the employee will be receiving funds directly deposited to their SmartTrip Card, enter it here.



Select the drop down menu for Ship to Location\*. Select University of Mary Washington (Primary Address)

Enter the Employee Identification number

Click Save



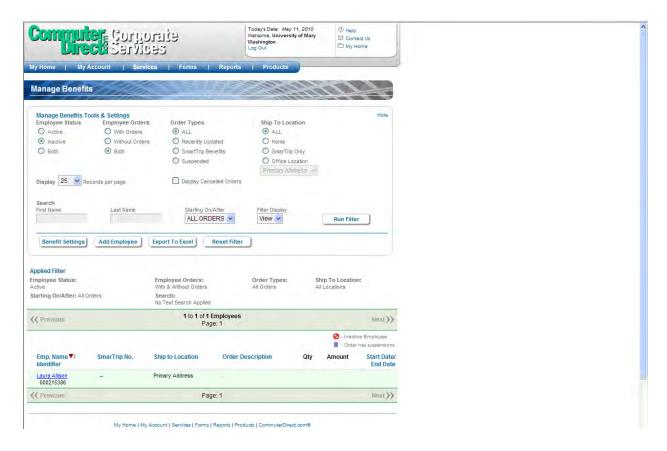
The employee profile has been created

# **Smart Benefits Voucher Order Procedure Detail**

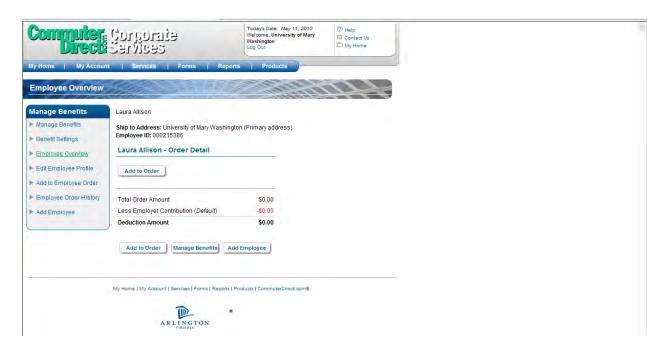
To order SmartBenefits Vouchers immediately after adding a new employee, click Add to Order (see the screen shot above)

OR

# From the Manage Benefits Screen:



Click the employee name (highlighted in blue) for which you are ordering vouchers.



Click Add to Order



Click SmarTrip® and SmartBenefits® for SmartBenefit Vouchers OR Metrobus and Metrorail for SmartTrip Card benefits



For SmartBenefit Vouchers: from the drop down menu -Select A Product-, select the amount of SmartBenefits Vouchers to be ordered by selecting the voucher amount and increasing the quantity accordingly.

For SmartTrip Card benefits: from the drop down menu – Select A Product-, select SmartTrip Benefit (\$1) (\$1.00). Increase the Quantity amount by using the +/- button as needed.

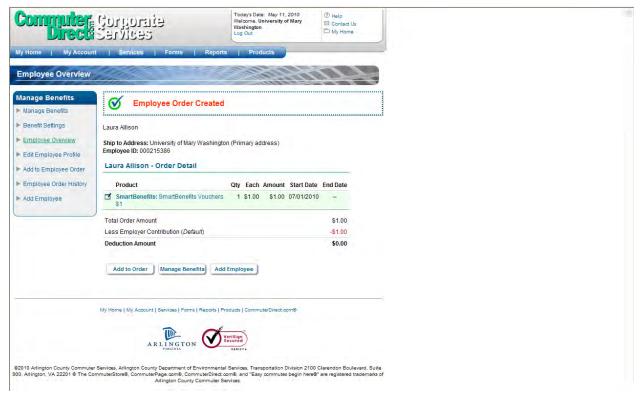
Select a Start Date

Select an End Date if applicable



Leave the Suspended Benefit dropdown screen as Do Not Suspend

The Total field will self calculate based upon the amounts/quantity added. If the amount in the total field is correct, click Save.

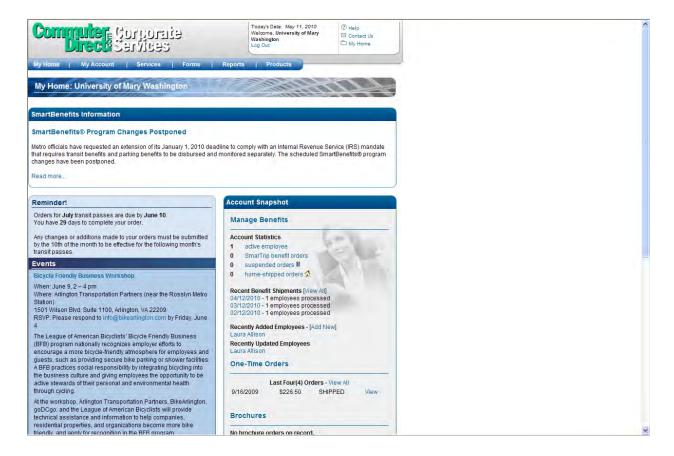


The order has been created.

Employees are enrolled to participate in the Commuter Choice Program for one calendar year at a time; therefore, UMW does not place "One Time Orders" though Commuter Direct. If the employee receives vouchers, the vouchers are automatically sent via FedEx each month. If the employee has their benefits (or a portion of their benefits) placed on their SmartTrip card, this is automatically done the first of each month.

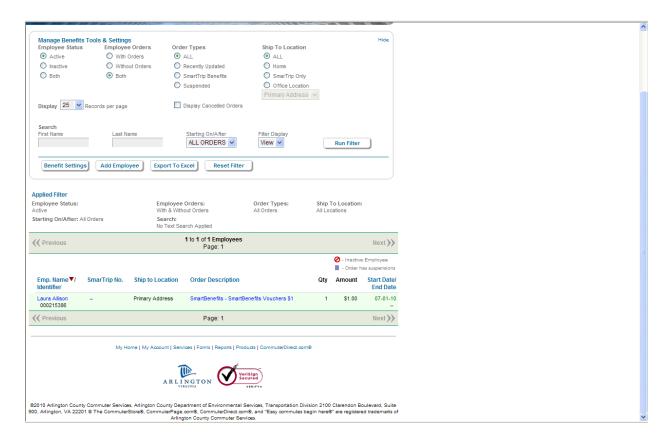
### **SmartBenefits Voucher Order Cancelation Procedure Detail**

#### From the Home Screen





Hover the mouse over Services and Select Manage Benefits.



Click the name of the employee whose order you will be canceling (highlighted in blue).



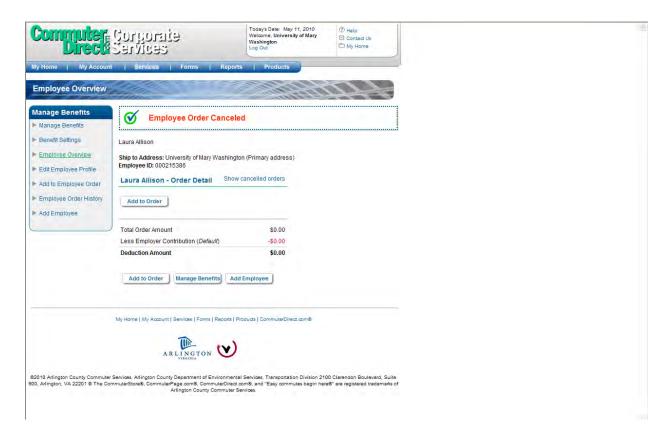
Under Product, click the order you'd like to cancel.



#### Click Cancel Order



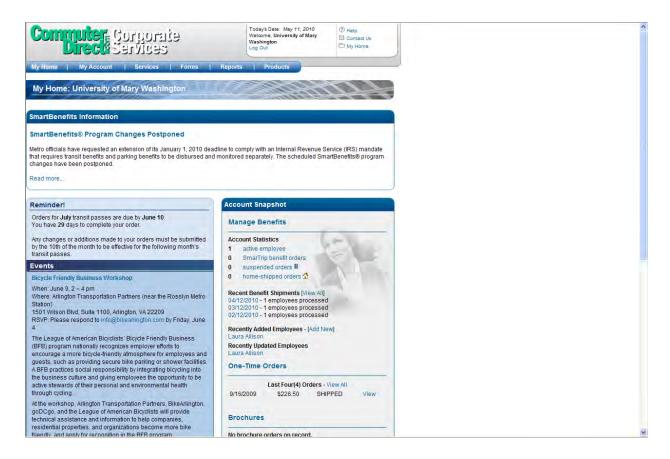
When prompted "Are you sure you want to cancel the order?" select OK

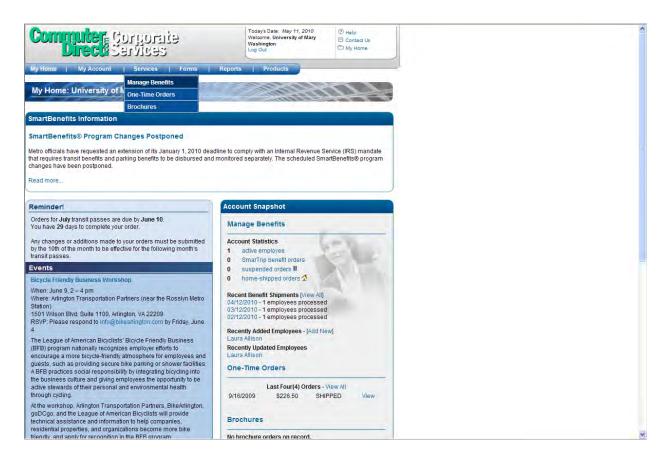


The order will be canceled

### Making an Active Employee "Inactive"

### From the Home Screen

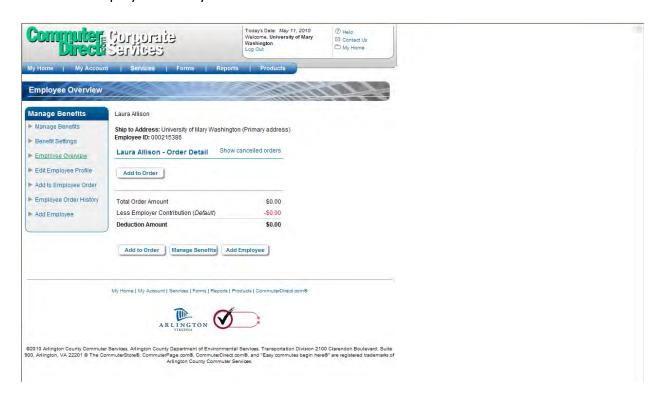




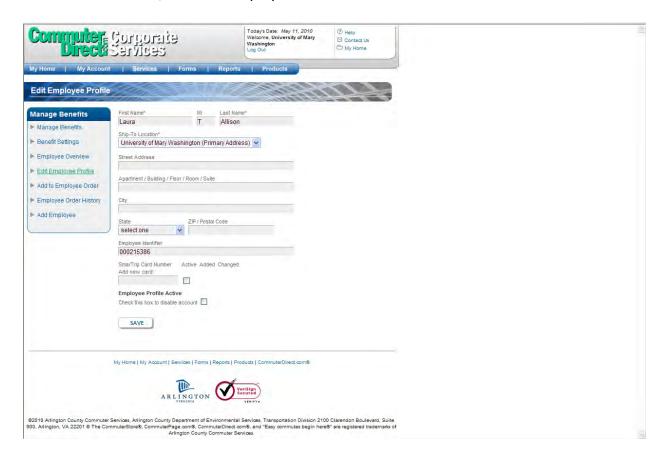
Hover the mouse over Services and Select Manage Benefits



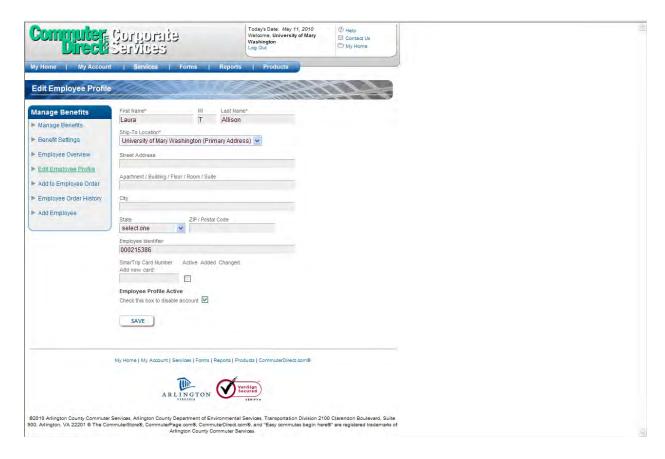
# Select the Employee which you'd like to inactivate



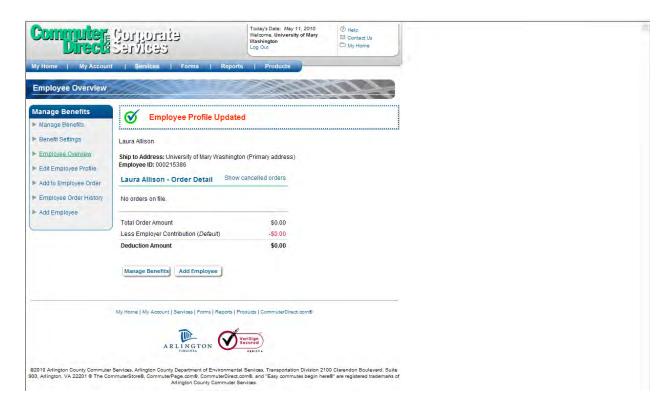
On the left hand side, Click Edit Employee Profile.



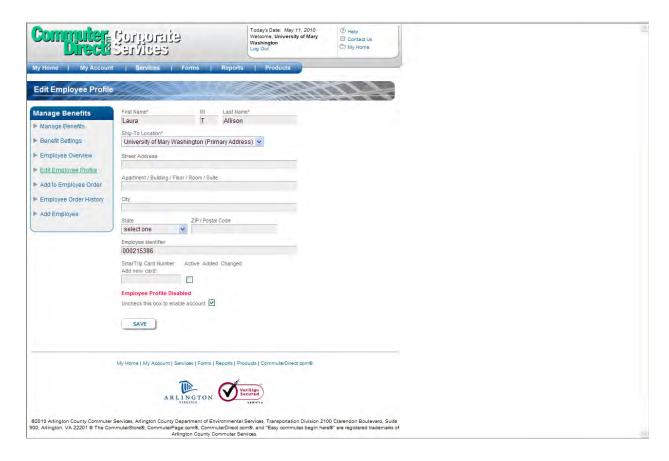
At the bottom, see Employee Profile Active. Tick the box that says Check the box to disable account.



## Click Save



To double check that the Employee's account is inactive, from the screen above, select Edit Employee Profile.

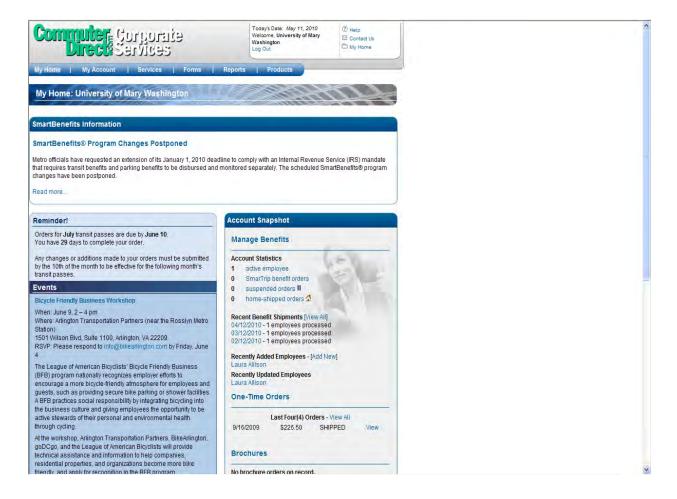


You will see in bolded red Employee Profile Disabled

The "Check this box to disable account box" will be selected.

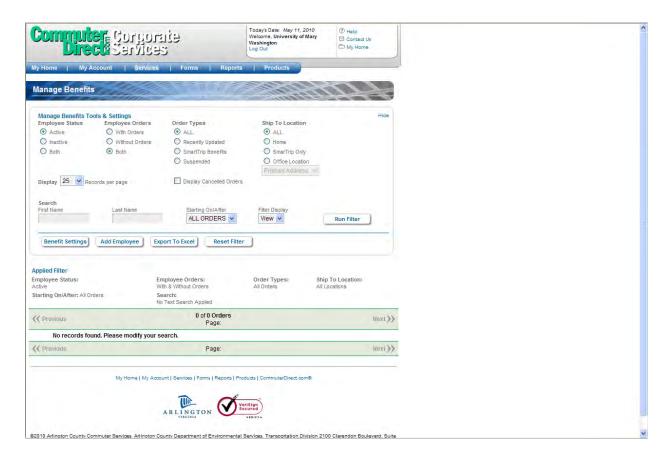
# "Reactive" Disabled Employee Account

#### From the Home Screen

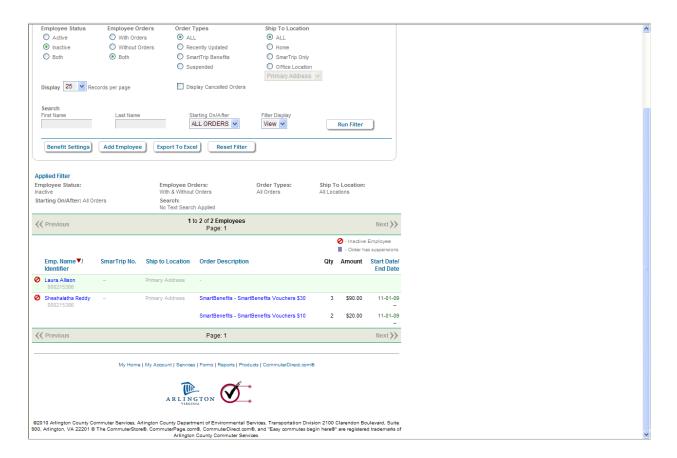




Hover the mouse over Services and select Manage Benefits.

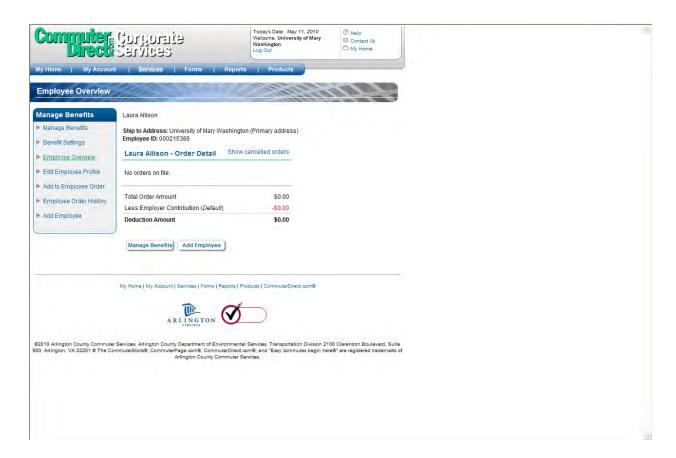


Under Employee Status, click Inactive and then Run Filter.

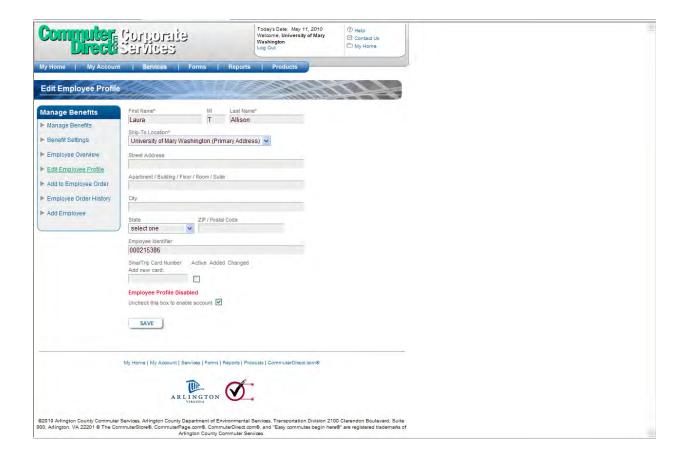


All inactive employees will appear highlighted in blue.

Select the employee whose account you'd like to activate.



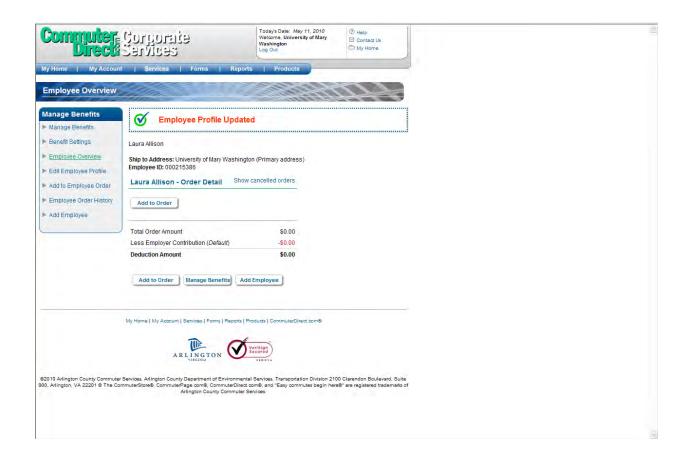
On the left, select Edit Employee Profile



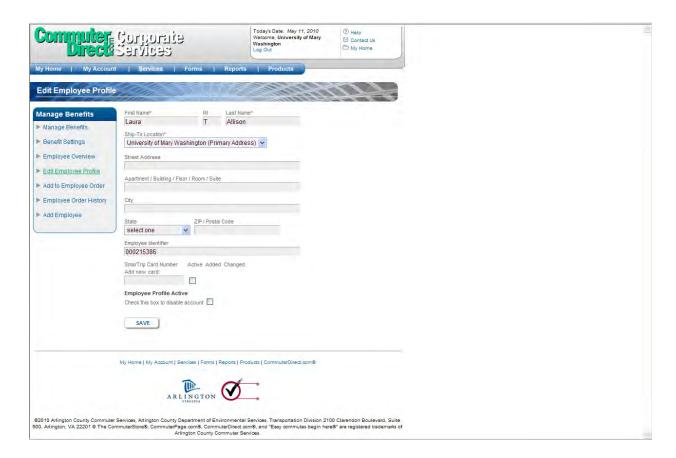
# See Employee Profile Disabled

Uncheck the box that says "Uncheck the box to enable account".

Click Save.



To double check that the employee's account is active, from the screen above, select Edit Employee Profile.



The "Check this box to disable account box" will not be selected.

#### **SmartBenefits Voucher Receiving Procedure Detail**

#### SmartTrip Card

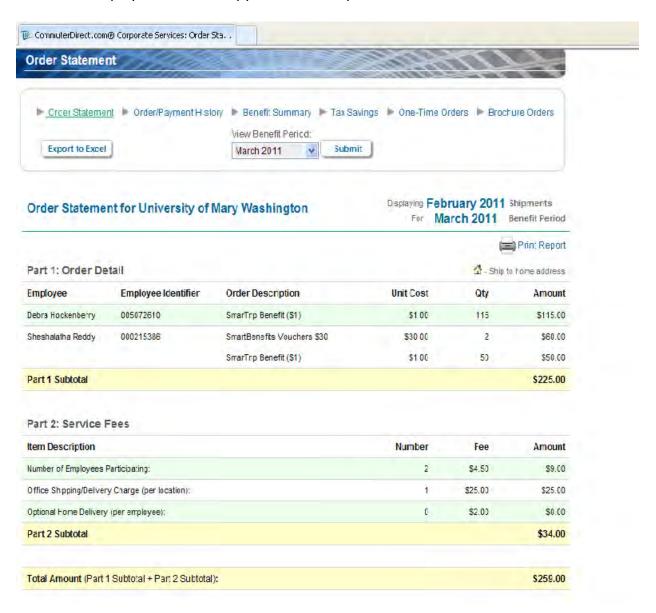
Benefits applied to an employee's SmartTrip cards are automatically updated the first of each month. In order to access their monthly benefit, the employee must download their benefits at a SmartTrip kiosk located at the majority of Metro Stations. The employee will scan their SmartTrip card, and enter the dollar amount they receive in their monthly benefit. At this point, the money has successfully loaded onto the SmartTrip card. The employee will receive a receipt confirming the download. The original receipt will be turned into the Finance department each month by the employee as proof that the benefit was downloaded to their SmartTrip card.

### **SmartBenefits Vouchers**

SmartBenefits Vouchers are delivered by FedEx to GW 111 monthly (unless vouchers are not ordered due to inactive accounts). A signature is required for the vouchers to be released to UMW. Once the vouchers are received and signed for:

 The vouchers are reviewed to ensure that the correct dollar amounts of vouchers are received

- The Distribution List (which is included with the vouchers) is reviewed, and then sent to the Small Purchase Charge Card Cardholder (whose account is being charged for the benefits) to be kept with the cardholder's purchase log. A copy will be kept in the Commuter Choice file.
- An invoice is printed off of the Commuter Choice Website by going to Reports, and selecting Order Reports, and then the benefit period. The report shows additional fees such as shipping, and participation fees. A copy will be provided to the Small Purchase Charge Card Cardholder for their records. This will show the actual amount charged to the employee's SPCC. A copy will also be kept in the Commuter Choice file.



### **SmartBenefits Voucher Distribution Procedure Detail**

The employee is notified via email that their monthly stipend of vouchers is ready for pick up. When the employee comes to pick up their SmartBenefits Vouchers, they must sign the Commuter Choice Log Sheet.

The distributor should:

- Date the log in the "Date" field
- Note the total voucher amount in the "Total Voucher Amount to be Distributed" field
- Print their name in the "Provided by" field

The employee should:

- Print their first and last name in the "Employee Name (Printed)" field
- Sign their first and last name in the "Employee Signature" field

The log sheet should be kept with the employees Commuter Choice file.

### **Commuter Choice Employee Yearly Certification**

During the month of January, Commonwealth Commuter Choice Employee Yearly Certification forms should be distributed to each participating employee. Participants will be required to complete this certification each year they participate in the Commuter Choice program regardless of the months participated or amounts received. This document will be distributed to all participating employees when the University reopens after winter break, completed, and returned back to the Finance Department no later than January 31. The annual certification document will be kept in the participating employee's Commuter Choice file.

### **Creation and Approvals**

This procedure is issued by the Finance Department and approved by the Associate Vice President for Finance and Controller, August 25, 2010.

#### Revision

- 0. Laura Tabler-Allison, Assistant Controller Compliance, April 29, 2010
- Laura Tabler-Allison, Assistant Controller Compliance, March 7, 2011