



2016 MISSOURI STATE EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2016

BRYAN COURTNEY

Interoperability Communications Director
Office of the Director
Department of Public Safety



Bryan received this award for his dedication and work on the Missouri Statewide Interoperable Radio Network often used by first responders in emergency situations. Bryan is always available to help with problems, and constantly monitors the system to be alert to any potential trouble signs. The nature of public safety communications requires a reliable, always ready system that first responders are able to depend on. Bryan uses the resources at his disposal to make sure both technical and operational support is provided to the extent resources allow. He makes sure systems work with each other so first responders can move across jurisdictions and still maintain radio communications with others. This is an essential component of public safety, and one that serves all Missouri citizens.

FEBRUARY 2016

OFC. CHARLES GERHART

Missouri Capitol Police
Department of Public Safety



Officer Gerhart was chosen for this award because of his unselfish actions in rescuing a citizen from a burning vehicle caused by an automobile accident, as he was traveling off duty with his family to a water amusement park. Officer Gerhart could have kept his distance by just calling in the accident, but he did what he was trained to do which is to protect and serve. Officer Gerhart's instinctive response clearly demonstrates his leadership qualities and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

MARCH 2016

MEGAN SIDEBOTTOM

Dietitian
Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center
Department of Mental Health



Megan stepped in when the Director of Dietary Services had to leave suddenly for several months, while continuing in her role as Dietitian. Megan proved to be a confident leader and very capable of taking on this added responsibility. She didn't hesitate to make important decisions, handled herself professionally at all times – even in sometime chaotic circumstances – and kept the Dietary Department employees working together as a team. While Megan has said she would not want the Director position permanently, she has proven that she is a hard-working, dedicated and resourceful person. Megan's co-workers feel fortunate to have her as a member of the Dietary staff.

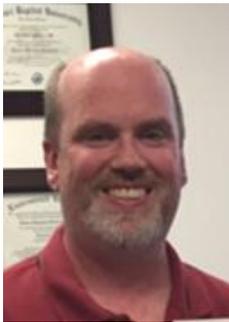
APRIL 2016
MATT RAYMOND



Recreation officer
Southeast Correctional Center
Department of Corrections

Matt went far beyond his normal duties by creating and implementing The Learning Center at SECC – a classroom that allows offenders to access various video-based courses to assist them in attaining their high school equivalency. The program is also used for mandatory program delivery for offenders with assaultive/aggressive and behavioral issues. Because the programs are all independent study, The Learning Center has also eased the workload of staff that would otherwise need to deliver these programs. This has all been implemented at no cost to Missouri taxpayers, as all expenses have been paid for utilizing the Offender Canteen fund. Matt's attention to detail, his ability to accept a variety of job assignments, and perform them at high level benefits SECC, and the Department as a whole.

MAY 2016
CHRISTOPHER WHITENER



Program Development Specialist
Family Support Division
Department of Social Services

Chris spends hours developing forms, reports, search engines, and more to ensure DSS staff and vendors have the resources they need to do their work, and make the processing of information more efficient. Chris battles his way through one challenge after another to create "magical solutions" that allow others to merely "click here" to get the information they need. Many people likely have no idea how diligently Chris works, sometimes late into the evening, to tweak a report, redesign a form, or upload information to ensure his co-workers are ready to go the next day. If anyone deserves recognition for going the extra mile, it's Chris who "walks those miles" each day for DSS employees and the many citizens that benefit from his work.

JUNE 2016
SGT. ROBERT MCGINNIS
SGT. GREGORY D. PRIMM



Troop A SEIZ Unit
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Department of Public Safety



Sgt. McGinnis and Sgt. Primm make up Troop A SEIZ Unit of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and are responsible for interdicting drug couriers traveling through Missouri. Sgt. McGinnis and Sgt. Primm were jointly selected because of their invaluable service to the State, and for their level of assistance and dedication to other officers in accomplishing the mission of ridding Missouri's roadways of drug traffickers. In 2015, Sgt. McGinnis and Sgt. Primm together conducted 671 traffic stops, of which 159 involved searches that resulted in contraband being located in 126 of those searches. This computes to an outstanding "hit rate" of 79%. Sgt. McGinnis and Sgt. Primm routinely work long hours to assist officers with vehicle stops, searches, arrests, and follow-up investigations. With contagious work ethics and demonstrated leadership qualities, Sgt. McGinnis and Sgt. Primm directly influence the success of other officers who in turn ultimately make Missouri a safer place to live.



JULY 2016

PATRICIA NETTLETON

Children's Service Worker
Children's Division
Department of Social Services

Patricia worked diligently on finding a facility that would accept an autistic child. The facility she found was three hours away. The day the child was to go to the facility, inclement weather and poor road conditions prevented the facility from coming to transport the child. Realizing that there was nowhere else for the child to go, Patricia along with a co-worker, took it upon themselves to make sure the child arrived safely at the facility. Patricia's selflessness and dedication to the citizens of Missouri make her a role model for her office and other State employees.



AUGUST 2016

MICHAEL MCGILL

Investigator I
Southeast Correctional Center
Department of Corrections

Michael went above and beyond his normal work duties by developing intelligence through the offender telephone system that offenders at Southeast Correctional Center were conspiring with a federal parolee in Iowa to commit check fraud. By monitoring offender phone calls, reviewing their correspondence, identifying those involved from aliases, and more, Michael was able to uncover a significant fraud operation by a parolee in Iowa and offenders in Missouri. Michael provided Iowa Police Department and federal Probation Officers with the results of his investigation; and as a result, a home visit was conducted at the residence of the federal parolee which led to the confiscation of credit cards, check writing software, computer and hard drives. The federal parolee was also arrested. Michael's diligence, attention to detail, verification of information, and a willingness to work with authorities across state lines, allowed him to prevent further victimization by the federal parolee and the offenders in Missouri.



SEPTEMBER 2016

LYDIA MITCHELL

District Supervisor
Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Lydia is the supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation's St. Louis North office, just blocks from the destruction related to the Ferguson unrest. During that time there was much devastation close by and both clients and staff were burdened with the stress of living in neighborhoods that were unpredictable. Lydia developed a plan that allowed all of her staff to feel safe and connected. She collaborated with the other agencies in her building to coordinate a means to communicate potential threats or concerns; and provided justification that allowed for additional security guard presence. Because Lydia embraces a vision to do better in a part of town that faces many barriers, she and her staff also developed a partnership with Metrobus so that clients who need assistance with transportation could receive that service quickly and efficiently. While Lydia looked for other ways to remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from being employed, she did not neglect the core mission of VR - putting people with disabilities to work. In 2015, the St. Louis North office assisted 135 individuals to successful employment, 20 more successes than the previous year—all this despite the difficulties in Ferguson.



OCTOBER 2016

TROOPER JAMES E. THUSS

Troop A
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Department of Public Safety

Trooper Thuss was chosen as the Employee of the Month because of his heroic actions at the scene of a two vehicle crash in Cass County. Trooper Thuss was performing his routine law enforcement duties when he came upon a horrific motor vehicle crash, in which one of vehicles was on fire and the driver was trapped inside. Without hesitation and regard for his own safety, Trooper Thuss entered the burning vehicle to secure the driver. While extracting the driver from the vehicle, Trooper Thuss was giving verbal information and commands to bystanders and fellow responding law enforcement officers. Without a doubt, Trooper Thuss' quick actions, bravery, and dedication saved the driver's life.



NOVEMBER 2016

TROOPER ADAM MILLER

Troop E
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Department of Public Safety

Trooper Miller was chosen as the Employee of the Month because of his heroic actions at the scene of a residential fire in Sikeston. While performing his typical duties, Trooper Miller overheard and responded to radio traffic regarding a nearby house fire. Upon arrival at the fire, and without regard to his own safety, Trooper Miller entered the smoke filled residence and was unable to see. To assist in the search for occupants, Trooper Miller remained low, crawled and felt his way through the residence and discovered an individual sitting in a chair. As no response was given from the person, Trooper Miller grabbed the individual and dragged him to the doorway, where he received further assistance from other law enforcement personnel on the scene. Trooper Miller and the subject, who was later identified as a disabled individual that could not walk or talk, were both transported for medical treatment. Trooper Miller's actions demonstrate the highest and utmost regard for the citizens of Missouri. Trooper Miller's quick actions, bravery, and dedication attributed to saving the individual's life.



DECEMBER 2016

TROOPER SHAYNE TALBURT TROOPER LOGAN MONAHAN

Troop E
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Department of Public Safety



Trooper Shayne Talburt and Trooper Logan Monahan were selected as the Employees of the Month for their heroic actions in rescuing an elder driver trapped inside a crashed vehicle which was partially submerged in flooded waters. Troopers Talburt and Monahan fearlessly entered the contaminated flooded waterway of up to six feet in depth, applied sound safety medical procedures and navigated the flooded waterway to safely remove the driver from the vehicle, transport him to the bank; and ultimately save the drivers life.