



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Heroism

2017

Terry Traynor

Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Corrections

Terry Traynor is presented the Award of Distinction for Heroism for assisting a neighbor in pulling a young female neighbor out of her burning house. As the fire progressed, the young lady tried to re-enter the burning structure. Mr. Traynor and the neighbor prevented her from re-entering the home. The fire gutted the home with the young lady receiving only minor burns and smoke inhalation due to the courageousness of Mr. Traynor and his neighbor. Mr. Traynor's lack of regard for his own safety and quick action saved the life of the young lady.



**AWARD OF
DISTINCTION**

Human Relations

2017

Beckie Brietzke

Intermediate Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, Department of Transportation

Beckie is a third generation Veteran who has served this country both in combat and in times of humanitarian crisis in over 16 countries, including Iraq and Haiti. One can see daily how these experiences have formed her values, ethics, and performance. Since joining MoDOT, she has helped build a bridge to the deaf and hard of hearing community. She has become a certified interpreter of American Sign Language (ASL) and MoDOT is the beneficiary of her skill and commitment in many ways. She is now proficient in written, spoken and signed English. Beckie has used her ability to communicate to lead many efforts at MoDOT. She has developed "A Basics of ASL" class and co-taught a 12 week course for MoDOT Central Office employees. She also developed and led an "Introduction to Deaf Culture" class, which she led in MoDOT districts. In addition, Beckie has worked directly with the Kansas City and St. Louis districts to train personnel about deaf communication and inclusion. These districts have two deaf employees, and these lessons help to create a more inclusive workplace, and increases employee effectiveness and productivity. The efforts Beckie is leading help MoDOT have a better relationship with Missourians who are hearing impaired or have partial hearing loss. It will enable MoDOT to better meet their community needs, and help MoDOT recruit and retain a more diverse workforce and be seen as an employer of choice.



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Human Relations

2017

Jacinda Thudium

Risk Manager, Office of Administration

Jacinda Thudium is the State Risk Manager in the Office of Administration, Division of General Services. She manages the Central Accident Reporting Office, which self-insures most State of Missouri employees for workers' compensation purposes. Additionally, she also manages a claims unit that processes claims filed against the State Legal Expense Fund and oversees the state safety, loss control and prevention coordinator. Nominated by her entire team, Jacinda is a leader and teacher who during her first year as Risk Manager has dramatically improved employee morale and increased productivity by empowering and inspiring coworkers. Jacinda increased morale by promoting from within the office, instituting flexible work schedules and increased communication. She instituted creative brainstorming sessions to develop new ideas to improve the work flow. She carefully listens to suggestions, is inclusive, gives everyone the opportunity to share their talents and gives excellent feedback to her team. When working on projects, she reaches out to employees for their input and ideas. Jacinda increased productivity among claims adjusters by reassigning their clerical duties like filing and copying which allowed claims adjusters more time to concentrate on complex claims activities. Jacinda is a strong leader that has transformed the work environment in a very short period of time.



AWARD OF
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Leadership

2017

James Civiello

Hatchery Systems Supervisor, Department of Conservation

James Civiello is a leader whose efforts have improved hatchery operations, and increased fish populations. He has played an integral role in the advancement of trout culture in Missouri. He developed a complex seasonal trout production schedule at Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery, providing oversight for large hatchery renovation projects. He is responsible for developing a computer program to track trout production and feed use in the Department's Coldwater hatchery system, and improving feed contracts to better adjust to fluctuating market costs. He has also coordinated with research staff to improve the nutritional feed content. Serving as the Coldwater and Warm Water Hatchery System manager (nine hatcheries total), he pioneered the culture of Ozark and Eastern Hell Benders developing techniques now used for propagation and culture at the St. Louis Zoo. He has consistently demonstrated true leadership through innovation, dedication, and a "cando" attitude. He willingly takes on difficult tasks and shows professionalism in representing the Department of Conservation and the resources he is dedicated to managing. James is one of the "faces of the Department" in southwest Missouri, working closely with community leaders on a variety of projects. His leadership in national organizations allows for the coordination among other states and has led to the restoration of striped bass. His professional demeanor, creativity, and work ethic are the hallmarks of an excellent public servant.



**AWARD OF
DISTINCTION**

Safety

2017

**Glenda Branson, Zach Ford, Brian McKeage, Kevin Sullivan,
Andy Turner, and Dave Woods**

Equipment Safety Committee, Department of Conservation

These individuals along with Jake Allman, Rich Meade, Phil Pitts, and Kyle Winders are being acknowledged for the exemplary work they accomplished on the Electrofishing and Equipment Safety Committee. This multi-discipline committee drafted, revised, and updated a body of work that has become a national model for other states to follow. Electrofishing is an important method of sampling fish populations. The manual features safety as a top priority and provides links to additional resources for the user to build knowledge. This document is structured in a way that it can be continually revised and updated with the most current information. There have been numerous improvements in electrofishing equipment and safety considerations, these improvements and recommendations have been incorporated into this document and include control units, new research, and the collective experience of Department staff. The result is a set of guidelines that effectively builds on past recommendations to continue to improve the safety and the standardization of the Department of Conservations electrofishing equipment and the knowledge of its staff.