



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Heroism

2019

Lloyd McCurdy

Stationary Engineer, Department of Transportation

Lloyd McCurdy was chosen for saving the life of a child. On his way home from work one morning, Mr. McCurdy spotted a very small child running by himself near Highway 54. Mr. McCurdy quickly circled around the block and intercepted the child before it reached the highway. Mr. McCurdy's quick action ensured the child did not end up on the highway and being struck by an oncoming semi-truck.



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Human Relations

2019

Jesse May

Custody Supervisor, Department of Corrections

Greg Hancock and Jesse May were chosen due to their impact on the culture of the Southeast Correctional Center in Charleston. Embracing “The Corrections Way,” they have worked tirelessly outside their normal work schedules to mentor, coach and train staff by providing new techniques on how to improve communication, morale, and productivity. “The Corrections Way” is a Department of Corrections professional growth initiative designed to better train, coach, teach and mentor individual staff members. The focused approach of Mr. Hancock and Mr. May in encouraging the professional development of all supervisors, especially Sergeants, who serve in one of the most challenging frontline supervisory positions at correctional institutions has had a transformative effect on the work environment of the Southeast Correctional Center. Together they developed workshops, and coordinated monthly meetings for supervisors on all three shifts to practice “The Corrections Way” techniques together. These workshops assisted supervisors with de-escalation techniques and the use of social styles and techniques for dealing with difficult conversations. They also followed up with supervisors to offer one-on-one guidance and address issues and concerns.



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Innovation

2019

Kellen Burns

Senior Communications Specialist, Department of Transportation

Kellen Burns was selected for his impact on MoDOT's web presence. Embracing the challenge to transform MoDOT's website, he led a team of dedicated co-workers from the Information Systems, Communications, and Motor Carrier Services Divisions who were committed to greatly improving the site's look and feel. Mr. Burns also served as the contractor liaison and along with a small team helped train close to 100 MoDOT content contributors to the site who are now able to create and edit pages far more efficiently than before. Today the site is far more effective at meeting customers' needs. Since the new site went live, mobile use has risen from 43% to 53% of MoDOT's web traffic.



AWARD OF
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Leadership

2019

Gregory Hancock

Custody Supervisor, Department of Corrections

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Leadership

2019

Allen Hughes

Corrections Training Officer, Department of Corrections

Working to improve prison culture, Allan Hughes brought the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) to Southeast Correctional Center (SECC), a first for a Missouri Prison. The GLS is a live telecast in which proven leaders from around the world gather and take time to share the “Leadership Tools” they have developed and utilized in their journeys to success with millions of viewers around the world. In 2015, SECC was one of only 11 prisons across the country to be a GLS host site. In 2018, 67 prisons across the county hosted the GLS. A set of pre-requisites were developed that offenders had to achieve in order to attend. In 2015, 33 offenders attended. By 2018 the number of offenders was up to 126, with 33 staff members also attending. Since 2015, there had been a dramatic drop in uses of force at SECC. In 2015, there were 576 uses of force, by 2018 that number had dropped to an institution low of 198. Other statistics at SECC are also favorable, including drops in grievances filed, physical violence and conduct violations.



AWARD OF
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Public Service

2019

Andy Barnes

Conservation Agent, Department of Conservation

Andy Barnes was chosen for the leadership role he played in shutting down Operation Geronimo, an international poaching ring based in Southwest Missouri. A tenacious investigator, Mr. Barnes obtained numerous search warrants for homes and vehicles, along with the arrest warrants for the three main suspects. He also helped coordinate the massive suspect interview operation involving 100 officers from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Canada. The investigation uncovered hundreds of wildlife violations. The suspects pled guilty to 142 charges, and paid over \$51,000 in fines and court costs. The violations led to the lifetime revocation of the hunting privileges of both David Berry Jr. and David Berry Sr., who during the investigation also intimidated witnesses, threatened to burn down Mr. Barnes' home, and kill his children's livestock. While Mr. Barnes is being recognized for closing down one of the worst poaching rings in Missouri history, he is best known for his professional and courteous manner and his ability to work with the citizens of Lawrence County.



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Public Service

2019

David Nykodym

GIS Analyst, Office of Administration

David Nykodym has a child with a rare genetic condition that keeps her in diapers. David's family had difficulty traveling due to the lack of information regarding restrooms that met their child's changing needs. David realized families like his needed a website they could turn to for information in Missouri. Missouri Disability Empowerment (MoDE), a non-profit disability advocacy group David helped start embraced his idea of developing an online map to crowdsource and display accessible restrooms. Using his skills working with geospatial technology, David created an online map, where individuals could submit locations of accessible restrooms and view them in a web browser. The website was launched on August 6, 2018, within four weeks, the map had over 200,000 views and 64 restroom locations across Missouri that had been verified and pinned on it. This map quickly captured national attention, the Associated Press ran a story about MoDE's restroom reporter map. Families from across the country contacted MoDE and requested the map be expanded. David modified the application, and on September 4, 2018, MoDE launched RestroomMap.com to serve all 50 states. The site now hosts over 400 accessible restroom locations across the United States.



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Safety

2019

Bret Hicks

Maintenance Superintendent, Department of Transportation

Bret Hicks was selected for his commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the 90 employees he supervises and the driving public. Responsible for road maintenance activities in six Southwest Missouri counties, Mr. Hicks makes decisions regarding snow removal, asphalt road repair, resurfacing, and miscellaneous bridge repair. Throughout the year, day and night, often in inclement weather, crews of his employees are on the roadways of Missouri frequently working in construction zones. Embracing Gear Up, a MoDOT initiative that ensures new employees receive as much training as possible before going into the field, Mr. Hicks is committed to giving employees as much hands on training as possible before going into the field. Safety is such a high priority, he has empowered all his employees to stop an operation that is in progress if they determine it is unsafe. Mr. Hick's commitment to safety is due to his desire to ensure employees return home from work after their shift, and from the experience of losing a co-worker, Will Crain, who was killed in a work zone accident years ago. Through his commitment to the wellbeing of his employees, everyday Bret Hicks honors a fallen co-worker and the memory of his friend Will Crain.