



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Heroism

2020

# Jerry Shafer

*Corrections Supervisor I, Department of Corrections*

Chosen for putting the lives of others ahead of his own Captain Jerry Shafer is the 2020 Heroism Award of Distinction recipient. Captain Shafer placed an emergency call to report a vehicle off the road and observed a male chasing a female around the vehicle. Captain Shafer exited his vehicle and entered what turned out to be a volatile domestic situation where both the man and woman involved were extremely intoxicated. The female was partially clothed and showed obvious physical abuse injuries and she stated that the man intended to kill her. Captain Shafer placed himself between the individuals, protecting the woman from further physical harm. He informed the individuals that law enforcement was in route, causing the male to flee the scene on foot. Captain Shafer stayed with the female until law enforcement arrived, ensuring her safety. Captain Shafer is commended for his bravery, placing himself in harm's way to ensure the safety of another.



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Human Relations

2020

# Dane Hughes

*Public Information Administrator, Department of Commerce and Insurance*

Positively impacting the culture and morale of his fellow team members at the Department of Commerce and Insurance is one of the reasons Mr. Dane Hughes was selected as the 2020 Human Relations Award of Distinction recipient. Embracing the fact that many team members felt disconnected and did not understand the roles of others, Dane focused his talents to capture the stories and share the important work being done throughout the department. Dane played a pivotal role in redesigning the internal department newsletter – CONNECT. His photography and video skills captured a behind the scenes look at the valuable work being done and helped to create a bridge that connects team members to their work and the work of others in the department. Dane is always willing to assist other departments and he is often requested by name to help convey a story digitally. His natural gift is to ensure the stories and images he records provide a positive experience for all involved. He evokes trust and truly cares that he communicates the right message for every photo, video and story he shares.



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Innovation

2020

# Ashley Wells

*Institutional Activities Coordinator, Department of Corrections*

A vision to better prepare offenders and children for the parent's reentry back into their family and community was the innovative idea of Ms. Ashley Coffelt. This vision earned Ashley a 2020 Innovation Award of Distinction. Ashley approached department administration with an idea for the program "Empowering Dads". This program provides positive effects for the offenders, their children, caregivers and their community upon the offender's release. Ashley selected activities that promote parental participation, often being the first time the child enjoyed interaction with their parent. She ensured the interaction would take place in a safe, controlled environment. Ashley's desire to ensure the success of the program included volunteering her own time on days schools were not in session to increase the opportunity for children to participate. Ashley's innovative idea has positively impacted offenders, their children and ultimately their communities.



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Innovation

2020

# Hayley Joyce

*Corrections Case Manager II, Department of Corrections*

Selected for her role in the development and implementation of the Empowering Dads Program, Ms. Hayley Joyce is a 2020 Innovation Award of Distinction recipient. Designed to better prepare offenders and children for the parent's re-entry back into the family and community. Hayley worked tirelessly with outside agencies to secure materials and food for the event without costs to the institutions or the offenders. Hayley is also the Boonville Correctional Center "Puppies for Parole" coordinator and has worked to incorporate this program and "Empowering Dads". Selected dogs are brought to the visits to play and interact with the children and their parent. Hayley is always willing to help with any project that will help the staff or the offenders. She has not only spent hours planning, discussing and working with administration, she has also volunteered her own time to ensure the success of this program.



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Leadership

2020

# Jeremiah Jackson

*Environmental Assistance Unit Chief, Department of Natural Resources*

Commitment to drive positive cultural change, improve customer service, increase efficiency and empowers his team to be leaders are a few behaviors that exemplify a true leader. Mr. Jeremiah Jackson not only practices these behaviors but lives the values behind them. Jeremiah is the 2020 Award of Distinction recipient. Jeremiah has taken initiative by coordinating with management and maintenance to update the break room, making it an inviting space that fosters a sense of community and improves workplace culture. Jeremiah strives to optimize productivity; leading the campaign to improve the performance of GeoEDGE which streamlined the application process. Jeremiah is a champion for his team; empowering them to be better. He invests in his team, helping them improve habits and mindsets. Jeremiah motivates his team by encouraging professional development and by asking ‘Why?’ “Why do we follow that process”, “why did something succeed or fail?” By encouraging question, Jeremiah has empowered his team to identify and improve processes and systems. Jeremiah is recognized and respected as a leader throughout DNR.



**AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION**

**Public Service**

**2020**

# Stephen McLane

*Environmental Specialist, Department of Natural Resources*

Chosen as the 2020 Public Service Award of Distinction recipient, Stephen McLane exemplifies the role of servant leadership every day. Stephen's day-to-day responsibilities include responding to environmental emergencies involving petroleum, chemicals, and other hazardous materials; and ensuring appropriate measures are taken to mitigate spills of hazardous substances. Stephen serves during normal work hours, after hours, on weekends and holidays providing technical assistance on hazardous substances and cleanup. He coordinates with spillers, contractors, industry representatives, local officials, fire departments, law enforcement officials, hazardous materials teams, local emergency planning committees, and other state and federal agencies to foster emergency response planning, preparedness, training, and exercising. Outside the Department, Stephen's public service record is extraordinary. He was an initial member of Missouri Task Force One as well as serving on the Boone County Fire Protection District for over 20 years where he is a captain, firefighter, and emergency medical technician. He further serves his community by being on the Board of Alderman for the City of Hallsville. For years, Stephen has willingly shared his unique skill set, knowledge, and experience through instruction with the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute in Columbia and the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Stephen's entire career has been about public service in one capacity or another and often in multiple capacities at the same time. His public service speaks volumes regarding his caring nature, dedication, and service to the citizens of Missouri, the Department of Natural Resources, and to his community in which he lives and work.



AWARD OF  
DISTINCTION

Safety

2020

# Robin Pendleton

*Training Technician, Department of Health and Senior Services*

Commitment to the safety and wellbeing of not only his own team and department, but to other state agencies as well resulted in the selection of Mr. Robin Pendleton as the 2020 Safety Award of Distinction recipient. Responsible for designing, developing, coordinating, and delivering instructional programs for Adult Protective Services staff Robin assesses the availability of training resources, he leads and mentors lower level trainers by planning, assigning, and approving work. Additionally, he evaluates the effectiveness of training programs, ensuring the training aligns with department strategic goals, as well as the needs of our staff in the environments in which they work. Robin has increased the frequency of trainings; updating the topics of trainings provided to staff that focuses on expressed training needs identified by field staff while he shadowed them; establishing a mentor program; as well as making the division a trauma informed organization. As a result, the frequency of training sessions and variety of curriculum provided to staff more than doubled from 21 classes in 2018 to 53 in 2019. In addition, following two traumatic incidents that impacted staff safety (including a homicide of one staff at the hands of her husband), Robin was instrumental in providing staff needed crisis incident debriefing. As a result, the DHSS HR Director requested Robin create a policy for supervisors/managers throughout the department to utilize. He has developed a Critical Incident Response program to support DSDS staff, focusing on their well-being and trauma responses as much as we do for those we serve in the community. Through his commitment to staff, his take-action responsiveness and use of his expertise in training, our staff's safety and well-being is in the forefront.