



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Heroism

2022

Zim Schwartz

Capitol Police Chief, Department of Public Safety

A hero is someone who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage, or strength. Zim Schwartz exhibited these traits as she chose to stop at the scene of a residential structure fire on her way home from a dental appointment. When Zim arrived on scene she faced a dangerous situation; not knowing if there were people inside the residence, she willingly entered and began searching. She found and successfully escorted the resident out of the home along with five dogs. Zim's courage to aid someone in need, not knowing if there would be a danger to herself is an act of heroism. Providing comfort and care to someone in need are selfless acts deserving of recognition.



**AWARD OF
DISTINCTION**

Human Relations

2022

Elizabeth Page

Social Services Unit Supervisor, Department of Social Services

Positively impacting relationships, morale, and culture in the workplace are the essence of human relations. Elizabeth Page displayed these traits and many more while assisting a fellow team member and her family while she struggled with COVID. While the team member was seeking treatment in the hospital for her condition, Elizabeth went out of her way to ensure her children were provided and cared for. Elizabeth also took on the team member's work responsibilities to guarantee there were no gaps in service to the citizens of Missouri. As the condition of the team member worsened, Elizabeth coordinated with her out-of-state family to make arrangements to come and take legal guardianship of her children. Elizabeth successfully brought many people together during an incredibly difficult time to assist her fellow teammate. She has unparalleled commitment to fellow team members, the department, and the State.



AWARD OF
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Innovation

2022

Aaron Szapa

Geologist, Department of Natural Resources

Innovation is moving toward a more efficient or productive work process or procedure, including providing a service, improving quality, or saving money. Aaron Szapa led the Well Information Management System redesign project beginning in 2020 and ending in 2022. This was one of the first projects where the State of Missouri used the SCRUM framework. Aaron was able to successfully create a user acceptance testing technique to expedite sharing results across both ITSD and DNR teams. The process improvements that Aaron was able to implement has set the stage for all future IT projects that use SCRUM. Because of the hard work to initiate new processes, Aaron and another team member were able to discover several inactive oil wells with construction deficiencies that were causing environmental concerns. He presented the findings to the management team and was able to quickly find a resolution that benefited all parties involved. Aaron always keeps a positive attitude while striving for continuous improvement and is known for saying, “simplify until it hurts, then complicate until it works.”

Elizabeth successfully brought many people together during an incredibly difficult time to assist her fellow teammate. She has unparalleled commitment to fellow team members, the department, and the State.



**AWARD OF
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Leadership

2022

Virginia Beatty

Senior Program Specialist, Department of Health and Senior Services

Virginia Beatty exemplifies and promote outstanding leadership qualities and behaviors in herself and others. Virginia performs exemplary supervisory and administrative functions to ensure that the Missouri Organ and Tissue Donor Program is available to all Missouri citizens. This complicated process requires constant effort and collaboration because it must meet the needs of Missouri citizens and also be in compliance with all Missouri statutes. Among the many accomplishments Virginia has had, she has developed a comprehensive Donor Registry System, expanded the education efforts focusing on organ donation, created the Keep Hope Alive free online training video, and transformed the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee to be in statutory compliance. Virginia never hesitates to share ideas on developing process improvement strategies, educational resources, and program updates. She consistently volunteers to assist others both inside and outside of work and is a tremendous asset to the State of Missouri.



**AWARD OF
DISTINCTION**

Leadership

2022

Leslie St. Clair

Social Services Unit Supervisor, Department of Social Services

Leslie St. Clair exemplifies and promotes outstanding leadership qualities and behaviors in herself and others. Leslie responded to the needs of two children who were left without a caregiver as a result of a tragedy on New Year's Day in Greene County. Leslie took quick action to ensure that the children were placed with family members and that their puppies were picked up from Animal Rescue and reunited with them. Even after volunteering to be reassigned to a new program area, Leslie volunteers to continue coordinating the critical events in Green County. She responds to calls day and night that relate to child fatalities to assist law enforcement and ensure child safety. Leslie also volunteers to be part of the High Risk Victim Task Force, which looks at human trafficking cases and children who are at high risk. She does all of this in addition to her regular full-time duties as a Resource Development Supervisor. Leslie is an instrumental part of our team and is a shining example of a state team member who embodies the true meaning of leadership.



**AWARD OF
DISTINCTION**

Public Service

2022

Glenn Konersmann

Senior Highway Designer, Department of Transportation

Glenn Konersmann was selected as the 2022 Public Service Award of Distinction recipient. Glenn discovered an opportunity for Missouri to receive up to \$100 million in additional federal funding. MoDOT was able to take advantage of this program because Glenn has worked so diligently to identify eligible projects and create an efficient method to analyze and apply for this funding. Glenn also assisted in the development and delivery of an impactful presentation which educated MoDOT's district project manager, design and planning staff, and statewide program delivery leaders on the process. Because of the system Glenn put in place, planning staff can move newly developed projects quickly through the processes to submit them to the Federal Highway Administration to seek additional funds. Glenn is a tremendous example of someone who takes incredible initiative outside normal job duties while working with a high level of professionalism. He has found a great way to maximize state funds and provide more value to taxpayers.