

2021
Award of Distinction
Winning Nominations

Award Winners

Daniel Shelton
Heroism
Social Services

Jessica Bauer
Leadership
Health and Senior Services

Megan Rogers
Human Relations
Economic Development

Sheri Beezley
Public Service
Mental Health

Kate Bax & Taylor Brune
Innovation
Transportation

Heroism

Daniel Shelton



Youth Specialist
Department of Social Services

A hero is someone who, in the face of danger, combats adversity through feats of ingenuity, courage, or strength. Daniel Shelton exhibited these traits as he chose to run to the scene of a terrible car crash outside the juvenile facility he was working. Daniel immediately called authorities and then went into the freezing January night to provide help until the responders arrived. Daniel faced a dangerous situation, not knowing what he would encounter as he approached the wreckage that January night, yet he chose to stay and saved the badly injured driver from suffering hypothermia by covering him with blankets. Daniel's courage to aid someone in need, not knowing if there would be a danger to himself, are acts of heroism. Providing comfort and care to someone in need are selfless acts deserving of recognition.

Human Relations

Megan Rogers



Cooperative Marketing Manager
Department of Economic Development

Positively impacting relationships, morale, and culture in the workplace are the essence of human relations. Megan Rogers and her team were placed on remote work status as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Megan knew the importance of maintaining relationships and connections with her team and looked for ways to maintain teamwork when faced with remote work. On more than one occasion, Megan personally delivered special treats and care packages – purchased at her own expense – to colleagues, even those living an hour away from her. Megan values engagement and inclusion and championed forming an intra-office group that focuses on these values. The Division’s “Culture Club” makes concerted efforts to express and show appreciation for team members, foster workplace relationships and take care to share resources around mental health. This care is shown to all team members regardless of their role or work location. Megan’s initiative ensured her team remained connected, engaged, appreciated, and knew someone cared.

Innovation

Kate Bax & Taylor Brune



Intermediate Organizational Performance Analyst
Intermediate Communications Specialist
Department of Transportation

Innovation is moving toward a more efficient or productive work process or procedure, including providing a service, improving quality, or saving money. Kate Bax and Taylor Brune led the transformation of MoDOT's performance measure approach, called Tracker. For 15 years, a quarterly Tracker book was published with updates to measurable objectives. While the book was comprehensive, it was not available to all customers. Kate and Taylor took the lead and proposed a solution to improve production, cut costs and make the results more accessible and transparent.

The Tracker Evolution consisted of working with key stakeholders to re-evaluate performance results and align them with MoDOT's core values. Evolving the book into a digital platform that could be navigated easily regardless of the device used, was the goal. Tracker production time was cut in half, allowing results to be shared faster than ever and saving \$12,000 per year in print costs. Additionally, more people than ever viewed this new format. Kate and Taylor's determination to produce a more efficient process that improves MoDOT's quality of service to its team members, customers, and taxpayers is commendable.

Leadership

Jessica Bauer



Lab Manager
Department of Health and Senior Services

Jessica Bauer exemplifies and promotes outstanding leadership qualities and behaviors in herself and others. This was evident more than ever during the height of the COVID-10 pandemic. Jessica and her staff had the sole responsibility as the only COVID-19 testing lab for several weeks. Jessica worked with many stakeholders to communicate what COVID-19 was, how the testing would occur, address and assist with major testing and collection supply shortages as well as keep her staff motivated while working seven days a week. Jessica worked diligently to expand testing capacity and she stayed on the cusp of variant sequencing. Jessica shared past experiences with H1N1, SARS, MERS, Ebola, and Zika to educate laboratory partners on processes, all while operating as a subject matter expert who had not experienced an event of this magnitude before. Jessica worked tirelessly to keep the health and safety of Missouri citizens at the forefront every day.

Public Service Sheri Beezley



Quality Assurance Registered Nurse
Department of Mental Health

Sheri Beezley was selected as the 2021 Public Service Award of Distinction recipient. Sheri is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Missouri which far exceeds her normal job requirements. When asked why she became a nurse, Sheri states that she became a nurse to make things better for herself, the community, and the world... whatever she could do. Sheri's selfless actions are seen in her daily work, she excels in her role and takes on added responsibilities, and assists her team by providing resources to assist with emotional support, finding childcare services, legal guidance, and financial support. It seems natural that Sheri also wanted to help others. Sheri saw the effect COVID-19 had on community businesses, especially restaurants. Sheri would not stand by and watch restaurant workers in her community suffer financially. She created a Facebook page called, Adopt-A-Server, St. Louis, designed to find individuals in need and pair them with someone willing to help. Those in need were asked to make a wish list on Amazon and Sheri would ensure they were matched. Sheri's effort soon became a movement as she appeared on Today and her story was shared with the nation. Sheri is quoted on Today as saying, "It was such an uncertain time and it was scary and this was a way to say, hey there is somebody... who cares about you." Sheri is commended for her selfless actions.