



Missouri State Employees of the Month

January 2005 State Employee of the Month **Harvey Beach, Department of Agriculture**



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Mr. Harvey Beach recognized by Lt. Governor Peter Kinder on March 9, 2005.

Harvey Beach, Grain Regulatory Auditor III, was selected for State Employee of the Month for his relentless efforts and ability to coordinate work with multiple attorneys and investigative staff during a recent legal action. His efforts resulted in the Department of Agriculture collecting enough funds through restitution to pay almost 100% of outstanding grain claims and a prison conviction of the offender.

February 2005 State Employee of the Month **Bill Gordon, Department of Health & Senior Services**



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Bill Gordon receiving his award from Governor Matt Blunt on April 13, 2005.

Bill Gordon, Public Information Coordinator, was selected for State Employee of the Month based on his help in coordinating a social marketing campaign to promote breastfeeding during Breastfeed Promotion Month in Missouri. This campaign was to educate expectant mothers on the benefits of breastfeeding and to encourage family, friends, coworkers, employers and the general public to support breastfeed mothers. Mr. Gordon scheduled department spokespersons for interviews with radio and television entities throughout the state and helped to coordinate the production of a public service announcement to promote this important health issue. An increased awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding is a way to reduce childhood obesity and related chronic diseases. A spokesperson with this project said Mr. Gordon's "organization and professional coaching regarding media activities were very helpful. It was truly a pleasure to work with such a talented colleague."

March 2005 State Employee of the Month **Gary Stoll, Department of Corrections**



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Gary Stoll receiving his award from Governor Matt Blunt on April 13, 2005.

Gary Stoll, Executive I, was selected for State Employee of the Month based on his extra efforts to efficiently and effectively operate the Institutional Clothing and Commissary areas at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. Mr. Stoll and his staff continue to reduce spending on clothing and cleaning supplies and save the institution thousands of dollars a year. In addition, the Inmate Canteen has broken all time sales records for the last three years in a row. This benefits the institution as well as the inmate population. Increased profits facilitate the purchase of items for inmate programs such as religion, recreation and education. Mr. Stoll has also set up a computerized canteen fund inventory system and designed a computerized bar code system that reports suicide checks in the Administrative Segregation Unit. Being one of the first employees to relocate to the new Jefferson City Correctional Center, Mr. Stoll was crucial in efforts to achieve the occupancy goal date. The superintendent of the institution said “Mr. Stoll’s ability to think outside the box, his attention to detail and willingness to put in many extra hours working on the opening of the new facility were essential.”

April 2005 State Employee of the Month **Cheryl Clark, Department of Public Safety**



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Cheryl Clark receiving her award from Governor Matt Blunt on May 11, 2005. Standing to the right of Ms. Clark is her husband, Richard Clark.

Cheryl Clark, Activity Therapist, was selected for State Employee of the Month based on her dedication to the veterans at the Mexico Missouri Veterans Home. Ms. Clark voluntarily stays late to assist the residents or their family regardless of whether it relates to her assigned duties. She doesn’t like to take a day off because her thoughts are always on the residents. When she is scheduled off, she makes sure to arrange meaningful activities that are coordinated by the numerous volunteers that she has recruited and trained. In her over 15 years of service, Ms. Clark has always put forth extra effort to care for the veterans, whether she stayed for 10 extra minutes to assist a veteran to eat his favorite dessert or worked on her day off to ensure a facility-wide celebration went smoothly for the veterans residing on her unit. Further, Ms. Clark has become an extension of the family for many of the veterans’ wives who visit. She has been known to take residents’ wives to various appointments when she is not working. Although the Mexico Veterans Home has a full staff in nursing, social services, volunteer services and recreational therapy, Ms. Clark covers all departments in performing a wide array of tasks almost effortlessly.

May 2005 State Employee of the Month
Stacy Skiles, Department of Public Safety



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Sgt. Stacy Skiles receiving her award from Governor Matt Blunt on June 8, 2005.

In January of this year, Sgt. Stacy Skiles and three other Capitol Police Officers responded to a report that a man had collapsed in a parking lot at the Truman Building. Because the victim had no pulse and was not breathing, Sgt. Skiles immediately initiated CPR, and using the department's automated external defibrillator (AED), revived and sustained the individual until he could be transported to the hospital. This individual's life was saved by using the AED that Sgt. Skiles obtained for the Department of Public Safety through a grant. Not only did she obtain the equipment, she also trained all the officers, the Governor's security detail and numerous other emergency response agencies.

Sgt. Skiles has proven to be an extraordinary state employee in her other job duties as well. Of her own initiative, Sgt. Skiles researched federal grants to acquire the Capitol Police Canine and implemented the explosives detection program. This program has literally saved countless dollars when buildings were not evacuated. Along with this comes the responsibility for the training, care, maintenance and performance of the Capitol Police explosives K-9, Abby. Abby and Sgt. Skiles are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They usually work any special events and high security details within the Missouri Capitol Police jurisdiction. In addition, the team is available to assist other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies when requested.

June 2005 State Employee of the Month
Jolene Miller, Department of Corrections



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Governor Matt Blunt presenting Jolene Miller her award on July 13, 2005.

Jolene Miller, Probation & Parole Officer, was selected for State Employee of the Month based on her outstanding service for the citizens of Missouri. Earlier this year, Ms. Miller saw a former inmate, known to her to be a sex offender, in her community. The former inmate was with several children. Ms. Miller knew he was under a special condition from the Parole Board to have no unsupervised contact with children. After observing the former inmate, Ms. Miller determined that he was alone with the children. She contacted the supervising field Probation & Parole Officer to report this serious violation. As a result of Ms. Miller's efforts, this offender is now facing revocation of his parole. Her actions possibly prevented additional victims and promoted public safety.

July 2005 State Employee of the Month
Cynthia Kothe, Department of Health and Senior Services



Photo: Denise Luetkemeyer, Division of Personnel

Ms. Kothe receives her award from Treasurer Sarah Steelman on December 14, 2005

Cynthia Kothe, Social Service Worker II, was selected for State Employee of the Month based on her commitment to protecting the rights of all Missouri citizens, especially the elderly. Her diligence and unyielding dedication to the services the Department of Health and Senior Service provides generated sufficient evidence to convict a man who had severely abused his grandmother. Ms. Kothe worked several hours of overtime in assisting the sheriff's department in gathering evidence and doing interviews. As a result, the accused was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

Ms. Kothe's supervisor reports that "Cynthia is an excellent example of a diligent, thorough person who truly cares for our elderly population."

August 2005 State Employee of the Month
Don Vance, Department of Corrections



Photo: Susan Nichols, Division of Personnel

Governor Matt Blunt presenting Don Vance his award on September 21, 2005.

Earlier this year while traveling to work at the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center, Don Vance noticed a family with young children pushing their vehicle out of the traffic flow. Mr. Vance pulled over to offer assistance and realized the adults spoke absolutely no English. One of the family's young children was able to translate for her parents. The family was traveling through Missouri on their way to Chicago and the parents had only a few dollars to cover the cost of gas and meals. It was apparent to Mr. Vance that this family was in trouble and he offered his assistance. The vehicle was towed to a nearby automotive service center; however, the service center refused to proceed with the repairs unless a form of payment could be guaranteed. Mr. Vance used his own credit card and told the service center to proceed with the repairs. When Mr. Vance returned to the service center later in the day, he discovered a bill for \$685. He was prepared to pay the entire bill, but the owners of the service center, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Price, were also affected by Mr. Vance's generosity and they donated the labor portion of the bill, which was \$385.

September 2005 State Employee of the Month
Tom Judge, Department of Natural Resources



Photo Denise Luetkemeyer, Division of Personnel

Mr. Judge is recognized by State Treasurer Sarah Steelman on December 14, 2005.

Tom Judge, Environmental Specialist III, was selected for the State Employee of the Month based on his outstanding work on a major cleanup effort undertaken by Burlington Northern Railroad in Crawford County. Under a Consent Judgment filed with the Crawford County Court in 1999, Burlington Northern recently finished cleaning up railcar waste with high levels of lead and cadmium at 20 sites scattered around the country. Mr. Judge was responsible for oversight of the cleanup and capably managed the investigation and numerous reports of other contaminated sites. Mr. Judge devoted extensive mounts of his time to manage this investigation—over six years often under difficult and challenging circumstances—and deserves recognition for his exemplary work on this case.

October 2005 State Employee of the Month
Glenna DeWesplore and Tammy Allee,
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Photo Denise Luetkemeyer, Division of Personnel

Ms. DeWesplore and Ms. Allee receiving their awards from State Treasurer Sarah Steelman on December 14, 2005.

Glenna DeWesplore and Tammy Allee, Conduct and Investigation Administrative Assistants, were selected for State Employees of the Month for their hard work and industrious attitudes in processing the fingerprint/background checks that are required for all licensed educators and new school employees in the State of Missouri. Recently, the highway Patrol changed the fingerprinting process from a paper-based system to an electronic system; however, some of the school districts are slow to change but want speedy results. Ms. DeWesplore and Ms. Allee have seen their workload more than double since 2003. In addition, they have worked closely with the school districts in utilizing the electronic system while still maintaining the paper-based system. These employees come to work every day with a positive attitude, work hard, and go home concerned that they may not have done enough to help Missouri's educators and students. Ms. DeWesplore and Ms. Allee are prime examples of Missouri's outstanding state employees.

November 2005 State Employee of the Month

Neva Carrel, Department of Health and Senior Services



Photo Denise Luetkemeyer, Division of Personnel

Neva Carrel receiving her award from State Treasurer Sarah Steelman on December 14, 2005.

Neva Carrel, Child Care Specialist II, was selected for State Employee of the Month for her positive, helpful and always caring attitude in the thirty plus years she has worked in child care licensing. Ms. Carrel recently agreed to serve on a team to attend the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants in order to bring their curriculum back to Missouri. This effort meant an incredible amount of study, preparation, travel and training time to offer this material to health consultants in Missouri. Ms. Carrel readily accepted leadership on this team in the areas of safety and quality in child care and created materials to support the training on these topics. Ms. Carrel has a “can-do” attitude and a great sense of humor which she shares with everyone.

December 2005, State Employee of the Month

Jay Hoffman and Don Brinkley

Department of Economic Development, Public Service Commission



Photo Denise Luetkemeyer, Division of Personnel
Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Brinkley received their award from Governor Blunt on February 8, 2006

December State Employees of the Month Jay Hoffman and Don Brinkley designed and implemented the Data Backup Schedule for Fiscal Year 2006 through Fiscal Year 2010. The implementation of new technology and gaining efficiencies will lower the cost of performing backup and recovery processes on the Public Service Commission information systems. This required a high-level of expertise, a great attention to detail and a desire to successfully implement a solution that provides better service at a lower cost.

There is an estimated savings of over \$64,000 during the first year’s implementation, and over the 5 year life cycle of this schedule, there is an estimated savings of well over \$400,000. This is a tremendous accomplishment!

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