

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:		October 2016	
RECOGNITION OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS			
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:		<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Item
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report Item
<p>DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 4:</p> <p>The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.</p> <p>Employees of the Month</p> <p>Lydia Mitchell, district supervisor in the Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation’s St. Louis North Office, has been named the Department’s July 2016 Employee of the Month and the September 2016 State Employee of the Month. “The St. Louis North Office is just blocks from the destruction related to the Ferguson unrest. During that time, there was much devastation close by and even a bomb threat to the building. Some VR staff were blockaded in their neighborhoods, and both clients and staff were burdened with stress of living in neighborhoods that were unpredictable. These are the times that true leaders show their stuff,” said her nominator. “My job duties include day-to-day management and leadership of eight full time employees as well as representing Vocational Rehabilitation on a number of boards and committees,” said Mitchell. “My role with the agency allows me to partner with other stakeholders in the disability community. This collaborative approach affords me the privilege of positively impacting the lives of Missourians with disabilities.” “In 2015, the St. Louis North Office assisted 135 individuals to successful employment — 20 more successes than the previous year — despite the increased difficulties of the Ferguson unrest. These are attributes that I believe exemplify a champion Employee of the Month, perhaps of the year,” said her nominator. “Lydia embraces a vision to do better in a part of town that faces many barriers.” “Our participants face many barriers that stand in the way of their success,” said Mitchell. “It can be very challenging to help them figure out ways to overcome barriers that are beyond the nature and scope of services that Vocational Rehabilitation can provide. It is very rewarding to see our participants not give up when the odds are against them and accomplish the goals they set.” Mitchell has been with the Department for 16 years. “I am honored to be named DESE’s Employee of the Month. My success would not exist without the support of my colleagues at Vocational Rehabilitation,” said Mitchell.</p> <p>The Department’s August Employee of the Month was Andrea Beck, Chief Operations Officer, Division of Financial and Administrative Services. “Andrea Beck’s dignified approach to her interactions with others has given her a reputation of integrity, a status of respect and the genuine affection of those she works with,” said her nominators. “We believe that Andrea will try very hard not to take credit for this accomplishment but rather will say that the whole team deserves this honor. We don’t argue this point, but wish to note that the team benefitted greatly from a true and effective leader.” “It is a great honor to be Employee of the Month. There are so many deserving folks who do a wonderful job here at DESE, so I am in good company,” said Andrea.</p>			

While there is much to praise in Andrea's work, the trigger for this nomination was the announcement that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has just had its third consecutive state audit free from any findings," said her nominator. "Andrea's background in auditing has served the agency very well in the multi-year process to establish absolutely transparent records and operations that meet the requirements of law, regulation and rule." Andrea has been with the Department for 21 years.

5 Years of Service – 30

Bonnie Aaron, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled*
 Lisa Arl, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Geoffrey Barney, Missouri School for the Blind
 Saundra Beasley, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Mary Bonderer, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Cynthia Bradley-Sias, Missouri School for the Blind
 Patricia Crowder, Missouri School for the Blind
 Michael Dierking, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Andy Dudenhoefter, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Linda Dutton, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 John Dzurick, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Patricia Edwards, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jill Erlandsen, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Ernest Garrett, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Dan Gier, Special Education*
 Barbara Griffin, Missouri School for the Blind
 Jessica Harper, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Teresa Johnson, Missouri School for the Blind
 Judy Kraft, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Lori Krawitz, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Donna Martin, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Frank Mawby, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Gela McNair, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Vernon McNece, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Gwenlyn Midgyett, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Tracy Parks, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Gloria Richmond, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Daniel Samit, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Pamela Stump, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Robert Swann, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

10 Years of Service – 18

Leon Busdieker, College and Career Readiness*
 Joseph Clifford, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jamie Danuser, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Roger Dorson, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Mary Dowling, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Charles Exline, Missouri Assistive Technology

Mary Faaborg, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Barb Gilpin, Special Education*
 Judy Goans, Special Education*
 Ted Johnson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Mari Jones, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Ken Kerns, College and Career Readiness*
 Kimberly Miller, Educator Quality*
 Jennifer Morales, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Kristine Roof, Missouri Assistive Technology
 Thomas Schlimpert, College and Career Readiness*
 Laura Smith, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Brenda Whitlock, Missouri Assistive Technology

15 Years of Service – 23

Melba Board, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Geraldine Boeger, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Vernetta Burgess, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Judith Christiansen, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Danna Clay, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Catherine Cochran, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Shawn Cockrum, Quality Schools*
 Robert Colopy, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Susan Henry, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Daniel Isaac, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Evelyn Knapp, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Angie Koetting, Quality Schools*
 Rebecca LaMar, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Regina Luedloff, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Sheila Oligschlaeger, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Christy Parker, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Christina Rantz, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Bert Schulte, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Starla Starke, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Reva Stone, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Esther Wagoner, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Shirley Watts, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Margaret Wimer, Special Education*

20 Years of Service - 10

Sandra Camden, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Tonnelle Ford, Missouri School for the Blind
 Kenneth Hartman, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Ning He, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Jennifer Jordan, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Lynn Navy, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Patrice Proehl-Burnett, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Sanders, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Robyn Smith, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Greg Turner, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*

25 Years of Service - 10

Kenneth Anderson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jane Boone, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Esther Huyck, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Shannon Mason, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jennifer Massey, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Tina Pike, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Rosemary Reed, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Terraine Robinson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled*
 Glenda Wagner, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Donna Wolfe, Missouri School for the Deaf

30 Years of Service – 2

Hattie Terry, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Melinda Trovillion, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

35 Years of Service – 6

Nancy Arnold, Missouri School for the Blind
 Donna Davis, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Barbara LePage, Data System Management*
 Nancy Robinson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Brenda Rush, Quality Schools*
 Yvonne Young, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services	28
College and Career Readiness	3
Data System Management	1
Educator Quality	1
Financial & Administrative Services	5
Missouri School for the Blind	7
Missouri School for the Deaf	14
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	30
Quality Schools	3
Special Education	7
TOTAL	99