

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**April 2016**

RECOGNITION OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Consent Item Action Item Report Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 4:

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will improve departmental efficiency and operational effectiveness.

Employees of the Month

Kevin Miller, a Quality Assurance Specialist serving Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation (MVR) clients, was selected as the February 2016 Employee of the Month. Kevin has been with the Department for 17 years. "I create and disseminate VR data reports and do other data mining and statistical analysis. I think the best description is data wrangler," said Miller. "We serve individuals with disabilities who wish to obtain or maintain employment. One of MVR's listening tools is a customer satisfaction survey. Kevin created a process that efficiently and effectively allows our clients' voices to be heard. Gathering and analyzing feedback from MVR's clients is a top priority as that information guides decision-making. Kevin plays a key role in this process," said his nominator. "I feel humble that people took the trouble to write about me and fill out forms. That takes more effort than saying, 'Thank you,' and it is special because it came from people I respect," said Miller. "Kevin Miller is an asset to MVR," said his nominator. "He has a complicated job and has proven that he is willing to take on more complex projects for the benefit of our agency and the individuals we serve."

Donna Cash, a Federal Programs Supervisor in the Office of Quality Schools, has been named Employee of the Month for March, 2016. Donna has been with the Department for 22 years, "which have gone by way too fast," she said. In addition to supporting and monitoring federal programs for charter schools, Donna also serves as the Department's coordinator of homeless students. Homelessness is usually a crisis situation which requires immediate options and resolutions. "Donna's passion for ensuring that the disruptions in these students' lives do not affect their education is extraordinary," said her nominator, Rene Yoesel. "She will spend hours working with local officials to ensure that no student gets lost in the system during this turbulent time in their lives." "Throughout the Department, we work daily with other staff members who do great things for school districts in Missouri, which in turn affects students," said Donna. "I cannot do my job without the support of my fellow DESE employees. I believe it is not just me but everyone who makes what we do important." "Department personnel are used to having multiple assignments," said Rene. "Donna is no different in working with two highly complex (federal and homeless) programs. She does this with a smile and passion to ensure student success." What does Cash like most about her job? "Helping people," she said. "That really sounds simplistic, but at the end of the day, I feel a great pride in my work when someone tells me I have helped them by listening and answering their questions."

5 Years of Service – 6

Mildred Baker, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Karen Carroll, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Ellen Jessup, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Barbara Mitchell, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Mary Pace, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jessica Wright, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

10 Years of Service – 13

Lashawn Barner-Gordon, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Mary Cooper-Brown, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Carol Frank, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled*
 DeShawna Galbreath, Missouri Schools for the Deaf
 Michael Kendall, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Joseph Kettwig, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Rebecca McDowell, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Karen Miller, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Heather Murphy, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Pam Schroeder, Special Education*
 Rachel Shelley, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Carla Wiley, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jenny Yinger, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

15 Years of Service - 14

Kimberly Brewner, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Abigail Carwile, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Lisa Evans, College and Career Readiness*
 Alma Frankhouser, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Angela Gergs, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Katherine Hack, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Christy Huff, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Kimberly Hutchison, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Sarah Jones, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Lisa Koehler, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Lisa Masek, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Brenda Miller, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Amy Swain, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Crystal Thele, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

20 Years of Service - 5

Robert Adams, Jr., Missouri School for the Deaf
 Laura Johnson-Sumowski, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Rebecca Largent, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Rebekah Mitchell, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Pamela Starnes, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

25 Years of Service – 7

Tammy Crismon, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Sheila Dannenmueller, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Cindy Heislen, Quality Schools*
 Carla Howard-Owens, Missouri School for the Blind
 Urszula Kedzierski, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Sherrie Payne, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Laura Roberson, Missouri School for the Deaf

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services	15
College and Career Readiness	1
Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	0
Commissioner	0
Data System Management	0
Educator Quality	0
Financial & Administrative Services	1
Missouri School for the Blind	1
Missouri School for the Deaf	6
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	19
Quality Schools	1
Special Education	1
TOTAL	45