

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:		January 2020	
RECOGNITION OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS			
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:		<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Item
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report Item	
STRATEGIC PRIORITY			
Efficiency and Effectiveness – Create an internal environment of continuous improvement, effective programming, and efficient business operations.			
Employees of the Month:			
<p>The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE’s) October Employee of the Month was Robin Barbour, executive assistant for the Division of Learning Services. She has been with the Department almost 38 years. “My main job responsibility is to provide support to the State Board of Education and its members,” said Barbour. “This includes assembling and distributing board agendas and materials and taking minutes for the meetings. I also arrange logistics for their meetings, which includes one out of town meeting each year.” Working with the State Board of Education is what Barbour enjoys most about her job. “DESE is so very fortunate to have Board members who are so caring and passionate about the education of all children in our state,” said Barbour. “They make my job very easy.” This is Barbour’s first time receiving this honor. “I think Robin should have been named Employee of the Month 100 times over just for the work she does on the Annual Cooperative Conference for School Administrators,” said Tam Ewers, DESE graphic communications specialist and Barbour’s nominator. “During the Administrators Conference process, I get to work closely with the communications staff and each the offices of the department,” Barbour said. “The agency is fortunate to have an excellent and talented communications team that makes working this conference so much easier.” “Robin is always friendly and pleasant to work with,” said Ewers. “She has strong organization skills, is extremely detail oriented, and juggles many tasks at once. She just makes it all look easy. She deserves this recognition and a huge thank you for a job well done.” Barbour has three children – Cody, 31; Alex, 26; and Shelby, 26. Her first grandchild will be arriving in January. “We are very anxiously awaiting his arrival, and I cannot wait to begin spoiling him,” said Barbour. When not serving the department, Barbour takes family trips to Branson and attends as many festivals at Silver Dollar City as possible.</p> <p>The November Employee of the Month was Stacy Morse, virtual learning administrator with educational support services in the Office of Quality Schools. She has been with the Department for nearly three years “In the last year, we rebuilt the virtual education program and changed nearly every aspect of how it was managed,” said Morse. “Virtual education touches on so many sections at DESE, including curriculum, counseling, data, IT, finance, accountability and certification. I work with DESE staff to set up systems which ensure compliance,” she said. “Being named DESE Employee of the Month is a huge honor,” said Morse. “It is fascinating to work in an industry with daily advancements that bring new challenges to be solved, as well as new educational opportunities we didn’t know were possible when I was a teacher,” said Morse.</p>			

Morse was chief of staff to a number of state senators for over a decade before coming to DESE, serving under the Minority Floor Leader for two years. “I was also an elementary school teacher, adjunct professor, policy director and recruiter at an IT firm, all of which helped prepare me for my current role,” she said. “Stacy is a tireless, dedicated professional who demonstrates her passion by going above and beyond on a daily basis,” said her nominator. “She does this to provide all students access to a broad range of high-quality educational opportunities.” Stacy was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. When not serving the Department, she enjoys working in her yard, cooking and spending time with family and friends.

The December Employee of the Month was Lori Brewer, director of business, marketing and information technology in the Office of College and Career Readiness. She has been with the Department for 13 years. She previously worked in the private sector and was a fourth grade teacher for six years. In her role, Brewer guides and supports Missouri schools in preparing success-ready students by overseeing programs and services for Missouri business and marketing teachers and students, like the mentoring program for new business and marketing teachers and DECA and Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. (FBLA-PBL) conference support and assistance. Brewer enjoys her work at the Department because she gets to interact with great students and teachers across the state. “The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the spark in students’ eyes when they make it to the stage at a DECA or FBLA conference.” Her nominators, Chris Dzurick and Cindy Shannon, said that Lori’s motivation is based on the needs of others. Chris and Cindy should know what to look for, since they are both recent employees of the month themselves. “Over the past year, she has led many of the efforts on new computer science standards,” said Chris and Cindy. “Lori quickly gained the respect of our educators thanks to her calm and approachable demeanor, willingness to schedule online or in person trainings, and helpful nature when guiding educators to resources online and through Department communications.” Brewer was born in Jefferson City and graduated from St. Elizabeth R-IV School. Her daughter, Madyson Niekamp, attends Moberly Area Community College and plans to pursue a nursing degree. Her son, Rylee Niekamp, attends Blair Oaks High School. When not at work, she and her fiancé, Bobby Brown, enjoy watching Rylee play nose guard for the Blair Oaks football team. They also enjoy dancing and listening to live music.

5 Years of Service – 13

Johnny Collins, Missouri School for the Severely Disabled
 Nickie Cunningham, Missouri School for the Severely Disabled
 Jennifer Hoogveld, Missouri School for the Severely Disabled
 Victoria Hudson-Brooks, Missouri Schools for the Deaf
 Gina Lascuola, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Andrea Mason, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Desiree Oestrick, Missouri School for the Blind
 Rashelle Riney, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Stephanie Simmons, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Michele Stumbaugh, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Larissa Tackett, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Deanna Tate, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled*
 Delpha Whittle, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

10 Years of Service – 4

Brenda Boyer, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Leigh Emmendorfer, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 James Johns, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Lisa Peterson, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR

15 Years of Service – 14

Kristi Barchers, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Kathleen Blanchard, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Michele Delgado, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Jennifer Dunlap, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD*
 Bernadette Humphrey, Missouri School for the Blind
 Paul Katnik, Office of Educator Quality*
 Amy Kotlin, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Michelle Perkins, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Stacy Pittmon, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Angela Reynolds, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Mary Ross, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Kelly Smith, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Victor Washburn, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Jayne Young, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR

20 Years of Service - 9

Yaya Badji, Office of Quality Schools
 Elizabeth Bax, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD*
 Kimberly Brown, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Sarah Clardy, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Julia Cowell, Office of Quality Schools*
 Judy Gibson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Amy Libbert, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Tamra McSorley, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Heather Platt, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD*

25 Years of Service - 13

Gretchen Berhorst, Office of Quality Schools*
 Lana Brooks, Office of Quality Schools*
 Cheryl Fleischmann, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD*
 Karan Godley, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Richard Michael Griggs, Office of College and Career Readiness*
 Teresa King, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Janet McLelland, Office of Quality Schools*
 Regina Rathert, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR
 Stephanie Riley, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD
 Kevan Rutledge, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR

Lisa Sone, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR*
 Margery Tanner, Office of Educator Quality*
 Karen Wilson, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – VR

30 Years of Service - 2

Ronald Danuser, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Loretta Price, Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services – DD

40 Years of Service - 1

Ernestine Gathing, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION/OFFICE	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services	25
College & Career Readiness	1
Educator Quality	2
Missouri School for the Blind	2
Missouri School for the Deaf	4
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	17
Quality Schools	5
TOTAL	56