

RECOGNITION OF STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Consent Item
 Action Item
 Report Item

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Efficiency & Effectiveness

Employees of the Month:

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE’s) July Employee of the Month was Maggie Cimarolli, registered dietitian and food and nutrition manager for Missouri School for the Blind (MSB). She has been with the Department for four years. Her primary duties at MSB include creating daily menus for all three meals, conducting training, handling orders and inventory, and overseeing all production in the kitchen and cafeteria. Along with these duties, Cimarolli coordinates catering events that include MSB’s annual open house and student events such as the Missouri Braille Challenge, White Cane Day Celebration and graduation. Cimarolli also helps tend to MSB’s garden, which provides produce to incorporate in the school’s meal program. In addition, Cimarolli spends extra time with students as MSB’s cheerleading coach. “I am extremely honored!” Cimarolli said. “While I’m not in a classroom with students every day, the two or three times I see them throughout the day always brings a smile to my face.”

The August Employee of the Month was Misty Lawson, program specialist in the Office of Quality Schools. It hasn’t taken Lawson long to make an impact, as she has been with DESE for less than two years. Her primary job responsibility includes providing support for DESE’s area supervisors of instruction. As a result of staff transitions and the COVID-19 pandemic, Lawson had to learn and master not only her role, but also the work of four other positions she had to fill temporarily in recent months. “I certainly feel honored to be named DESE’s Employee of the Month,” Lawson said. “Helping others is the most rewarding part of my job. When I’m able to assist someone with a task or question, it makes me feel great and puts a smile on my face!” Lawson’s nomination in itself was unique. Instead of being submitted by just one individual, her submission was crafted by the entire DESE School Improvement team. “Misty is always thinking of the next steps we need to take to improve the work of our team,” said her section coordinator, Jocelyn Strand. “Her ongoing leadership and willingness to step outside of the box to get work done has kept our staff feeling confident in this time of uncertainty.” Currently a resident of Holts Summit, Lawson spends time outside of work looking for fun adventures with her husband, Logan, and their two-year-old daughter, Raelynn.

The September Employee of the Month was Cindi Walker, senior accounting specialist, in the Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services, Disability Determinations. “It is an honor and very humbling to be chosen for this award from so many wonderful DESE employees,” Walker said. “Our Vocational Rehabilitation/Disability Determination family is very close.” She

has been with the Department for 18 years. She is very familiar with state government, having spent time with the Secretary of State's office, the office of a Missouri Senator, and the Department of Revenue before starting with DESE. In her current role, Walker works to get vendors integrated with the state of Missouri while also assisting coworkers at five district offices. "Cindi routinely displays genuine selfless acts in the way she cares for her coworkers, and she is deeply attentive to the needs of others who reach out to us," said her nominator, Sarah Clardy. "She takes the time, otherwise easily missed in the busy environment, because she values people. Cindi sets the bar high when it comes to leading with a servant heart." Walker's demeanor has allowed her to not only make connections with her coworkers but also with customers who have reached out to the Department with questions. "I love being able to help people, whether that is someone in our agency or a member of the public," Walker said. "I love going beyond the normal paths to get answers to questions if needed, and I have made some very good friends through phone conversations that started with just a simple question." When not operating a trucking business with her husband, Wesley, Walker enjoys spending time with her two children, Cory and Amy, and her six grandchildren. As a lifelong resident of New Bloomfield, Walker is an active member of the Union Hill Baptist Church and takes pride in her involvement with the community of New Bloomfield and their local schools.

5 Years of Service - 39

Jeaneal Alexander, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Zachary Allen, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Susan Anderson, Missouri School for the Severely Disabled
 Andre Anderson, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Julie Bock, Office of Quality Schools*
 Linda Boren, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Deborah Brake, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Marilena Couzens, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Mitchell Cunningham, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR*
 Christopher Daily, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Sherri Diestel, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Montia Dudley-Antoine, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Robert Fitzpatrick, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Jamie Freeman, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Claudia Godat, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Nancy Greeley, Office of Quality Schools
 Kimberly Gritten, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Dixie Grupe, Office of College & Career Readiness*
 Amanda Harvey, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Jennifer Hellmann, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Debbie Jameson, Office of College & Career Readiness*
 Deborah Johnston, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Todd Kopp, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Christie Larson, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Kevin Lee, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Betty Lohmann, Division of Financial & Administrative Services*
 Jodie Meschke, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Heather Miller, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

Linda Moreno Chapman, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Emily Morrison, Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing*
 Chris Neale, Office of Quality Schools*
 Barbara Radford-Kapp, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Ellen Rees, Division of Financial & Administrative Services*
 Sondra Renshaw, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Lynne “Denise” Roe, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Erin Stottler, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Theresa Struempf, Office of College & Career Readiness*
 Dana Welch, Office of Special Education*
 Kelly Young, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

10 Years of Service - 20

Eric Avant, Office of Educator Quality*
 Vickie Branson, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD*
 Angela Bryant, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Todd Carlstrom, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Ali Dibooglu, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Kristen Foltz-Schlegel, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Amy Franklin, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Patty Halter, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Dale Holman, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Tamara Huggins, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Delayne Hunter, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Laurie Johnson, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Jonathan Kraus, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Dennis Lock, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD*
 Amy McCann, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Joshua Merrick, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Linet Osoro, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD*
 Donna Roycraft, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Angela Schindler, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 John Volkerding, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD

15 Years of Service - 13

Deanna Babcock, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Julie Eighmy, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Angela Gannon, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Dolores Kestermont, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Paul Lossman, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Beverly Luetkemeyer, Office of Special Education*
 Deborah McAfee, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Roger McCush, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Claire Mengwasser, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Regina Riley, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

Lisa Sutter, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Virginia Tucker, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Ronald Wilkin, Office of Quality Schools*

20 Years of Service - 18

Amanda Cash, Office of Quality Schools*
 Abigail Cooke, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Christine Cruzen, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Shaughnessy Doyel, Missouri School for the Blind
 Georgetta Fisher, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Shani Greenberg, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Michelle Harrison, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Teresa Hedges, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Debra Jarrell, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Harriet Jones, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Kristy Luebbert, Office of Special Education*
 Robin Pointer, Missouri School for the Blind
 Stephanie Quick, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Diana Salome Tuesday Moresi, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Dianne Scheffing, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Tracey Snyder-Miller, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Leslie Stanley, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Kevin West, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR

25 Years of Service - 9

Kim Gee, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Sandra Hall, Missouri School for the Blind
 Barbara Johnson, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Angela Kinney, Missouri School for the Deaf
 Pamela McCarron, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Janis Miller, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Karen Wallace, Missouri School for the Severely Disabled
 Laura Wallen, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR
 Marva Wright, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR

30 Years of Service - 5

Mark Bernskoetter, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Deena Exler, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD
 Linda Fick, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD*
 Joyce Harrison, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Jocelyn Strand, Office of Quality Schools*

35 Years of Service - 3

Crystal Bertucci, Division of Financial & Administrative Services*

Lina Browner, Office of Special Education*
 Martha Even, Office of Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR*

40 Years of Service - 1

Nancy Baker, Missouri School for the Deaf

45 Years of Service - 1

Constance Billings, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION/OFFICE	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-DD	33
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services-VR	14
College & Career Readiness	3
Educator Quality	1
Financial & Administrative Services	3
Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	1
Missouri School for the Blind	3
Missouri School for the Deaf	10
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	31
Special Education	4
Quality Schools	6
TOTAL	109