

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**June 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

Lore'e Curtman, an Accounting Specialist in the Guidance and Counseling Section in the Office of College and Career Readiness, is April's Employee of the Month. She has been with the Department for 15 years. "Loree's skills do not end with her office knowledge and ability," said her nominator, Rene' Yoesel. "Her contagious, positive attitude spills over into a warm, cheerful 'I can do it' approach. I have seen her resolve conflicts and tackle stressful situations with remarkable patience and admirable tact. She embodies what it means to be a team player and motivates those she works with to stay positive and focus on what's important." "It means a great deal to me to be recognized as Employee of the Month," said Lore'e. "We have a very wonderful staff here at DESE, and I am very proud to say that I work here." "Lore'e is one of those folks who can see opportunity in chaos. I have been witness to her phenomenal ability to juggle a number of big projects for several sections at the same time and complete them all in record time. She attacks all tasks assigned to her carefully and methodically and can be depended upon to find creative ways for overcoming obstacles," said Yoesel. When she's out of the office, Lore'e says she spends a lot of time with family on her farm in St. Thomas. "We are either fixing a fence or bottle feeding baby calves," she says. "When summer gets here, we all head to the river and spend a day on the water as a family." Her family is growing. "I have two wonderful parents that I spend a lot of time with," said Curtman. She has two daughters, Kortney and Allie. In January, she had a baby boy named Jayden. Next month, she's getting married. "To a wonderful guy," she says, "Jeffrey Libbert from my home town." Lore'e says her coworkers at DESE are like family as well. In 2004, she lost someone special to her, and her coworkers came to the visitations and gave her a meaningful gift. "That was when I realized that not only did I have a wonderful group of friends here at DESE, but I had gained a wonderful new family."

Chris Coffman, a supervisor in DESE's Office of College and Career Readiness Assessment area, was named May's Employee of the Month. He has been with the Department for nearly three years. Coffman serves as the main web manager for the Office of College and Career Readiness, performing a variety of technology-based tasks. The past few months, he has aided the curriculum staff in formatting the new Missouri Learning Standards and its complementary documents. "To say that Chris Coffman is an invaluable member of our team would be an understatement," said his nominators. "We rely on his expertise and can-do spirit to accomplish tasks both creative and mundane. Chris is so helpful to everyone in our department, whether they are new hires or old hands. His patience and good humor make it easy to ask him questions, even if you have to ask him the same computer question multiple times! Even when working on his own tasks, he has dropped everything to help numerous staff members on the floor accomplish goals." "It means a lot that my colleagues approve enough of me and my work to nominate me for Employee of the Month," said Coffman. "I get to work with some of the best and

brightest former educators in the state. With my planned future endeavors as a teacher, it is great to get insight based on their vast wealth of knowledge and experience. It's rewarding knowing that what you do will in some way make a difference in progressing education and society as a whole." "What makes Chris an asset is not only his professionalism, but his cheery disposition and self-deprecating sense of humor," said his nominators. "Those attributes make him an essential stress-reducer for our department and delightful as a friend to everyone. Whether we are working on a project together or sharing some laughs at lunch, Chris is a boost to productivity and morale." Coffman lives in Jefferson City. "In my spare time, I like watching and participating in sports (especially college football), watching movies and TV, spending time with friends, and finally ... sleeping," he said.

Dana Doerhoff, Director, School Nutrition Programs, was selected as the June Employee of the Month. Dana oversees ten Nutrition Program Specialists (NPS) that conduct on-site Federal Administrative Reviews (ARs), in addition to a contracted company also conducting ARs. This is a monumental task since the review cycle has changed from a 5 to 3 year cycle, resulting in approximately 260 reviews per year. In addition to the new 3 year cycle, the entire AR process is a new Federal mandate. The USDA school meal programs have seen many changes since the implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Changes included a new meal pattern which also involved a certification process for all Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Dana led her team in the charge to accomplish this process with all LEAs. Training videos, on-site trainings, and individual technical assistance were provided to complete the certification process. In addition, Dana also oversees the Seamless Summer Feeding Option and the HealthierUS School challenge. "She has shown an extraordinary amount of initiative moving forward on all areas of implementing the USDA regulations and extra projects," said Karen Wooton, Coordinator, Food and Nutrition Services. "Dana is a creative thinker and moves forward to accomplish a job. Dana also served as the lead on a grant project to produce on line learning modules. The modules have been extremely time-consuming, but will prove to be an invaluable training tool when completed. Dana continues to display a positive attitude, knowing the outcome will be very beneficial both for new staff and LEA food service staff," added Wooton. "She is always looking for ways to improve procedures in order to more efficient and effective. She is part of the team and is always willing to help."

5 Years of Service – 6

Jacqueline Foote, Missouri School for the Blind
 Charles Gilpin, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Kara Hecht, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Shelly Kelly, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Candice Kleffner, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Robin Thomas, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

10 Years of Service – 17

Cara Falter, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Danielle Fry, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Sara Hagenhoff, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Dawn Horrell, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Julie Kujath, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Christine Mathews, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Terry Miller, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Tony Moyers, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Joe Oestrich, Missouri School for the Deaf

Mieka Powell, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Jay Reese, Quality Schools*
 Kyla Ressel, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Thea Scott, Special Education*
 Bernadette Shively, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Lindsey Struempf, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Madonna Turner, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Angela White, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

15 Years of Service - 10

Carol Clevenger, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled
 Lore'e Curtman, College and Career Readiness*
 Leann Darby, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Alise Dodds, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Darla Hickey, Financial and Administrative Services*
 Regina Miller, Special Education*
 Beverly Moore, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Heather Northway, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services*
 Patricia Schmutzler, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled*
 Susan Thompson, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

20 Years of Service - 1

Tamara Cress, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

25 Years of Service – 2

Carol Holmes, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services
 Jeffrey Ripley, Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services

* = Jefferson City Based Staff

DIVISION	TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDS
Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services	22
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	2
Missouri School for the Blind	1
Missouri School for the Deaf	1
Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled	6
Quality Schools	1
Special Education	2
TOTAL	36