

2017

Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction

Rebecca “Beckie” Brietzke

Category: Human Relations

Nominated by: Rudy Nickens

Department of Transportation

Intermediate Diversity and Inclusion

Specialist

Equal Opportunity Division

Beckie is a third generation Veteran who has served this country both in combat and in times of humanitarian crisis in over 16 countries, including Iraq and Haiti. One can see daily how these experiences have formed her values, ethics, and performance.

Since joining MoDOT, she has helped build a bridge to the deaf and hard of hearing community. She has become a certified interpreter of American Sign Language (ASL) and MoDOT is the beneficiary of her skill and commitment in many ways. She is now proficient in written, spoken and signed English. Beckie has used her ability to communicate to lead many efforts at MoDOT. She has developed “A Basics of ASL” class and co-taught a 12 week course for MoDOT Central Office employees. She also developed and led an “Introduction to Deaf Culture” class, which she led in MoDOT districts.

In addition, Beckie has worked directly with the Kansas City and St. Louis districts to train personnel about deaf communication and inclusion. These districts have two deaf employees, and these lessons help to create a more inclusive workplace, and increases employee effectiveness and productivity.

The efforts Beckie is leading help MoDOT have a better relationship with Missourians who are hearing impaired or have partial hearing loss. It will enable MoDOT to better meet their community needs, and help MoDOT recruit and retain a more diverse workforce and be seen as an employer of choice.