

2018  
**Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction**

Tina Brooks

Category: Human Relations

Nominated by: Patrick Luebbering

Department of Social Services



**Tina Brooks**

*Eligibility Specialist  
Family Support Division*

Ms. Brooks has made building office morale her mission. Often using her own time and funds she developed innovative ways to encourage her co-workers and make them aware of the impact they have on the lives of others.

After receiving approval, she began leaving anonymous gifts on the desk of co-workers to help them realize their hard work was making a difference. Understanding the impact a good attitude could have on co-workers, she developed the slogan “change your atmosphere.”

As part of this effort, Ms. Brooks also organized “National Gratitude Day” within her office, a day where she offered her co-workers a small gift in recognition of their hard work and dedication. Her kind gesture had an immediate impact, and her idea quickly spread to three additional offices.

She also created “giving trees” for each office, a place where co-workers could make tags to hang from the tree and state what gift they brought to their job, as well as gift bags to place under the tree stating what gift their job gave them.

Ms. Brook’s commitment to creating a positive atmosphere at work reflects the dedication she has to her fellow employees and the clientele they serve. She remains a positive force and practices the grateful atmosphere she has helped create.