

2018

Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction

Heather Suerig

Category: Public Service

Nominated by: Julie O'Hern

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Heather Suerig

Special Education Teacher

Teacher in Charge

Heather Suerig was selected for the time she invests as a volunteer in her community with her local fire department. Throughout the year she responds day or night to hundreds of calls including basic medical assistance, vehicle accidents, vehicle fires, and house fires. Some calls she responds to are in neighboring districts. She has also left family events to respond to the needs of her community.

Following training, Heather completed her Emergency Medical Technician certification. She organizes and leads the Fill the Boot Campaign in her community to support Muscular Dystrophy. The funds she helps raise send children to summer camp that would otherwise not be able to attend. She also assists with the coordination of the rental of the Department dunking booth. The booth is used by many nonprofit groups at fundraising events.

Heather works to better the safety of her community members by installing donated smoke detectors in homes. Every year she participates in many public relations activities. She especially enjoys going to elementary schools during fire prevention week where she teaches younger students how to deal with fire in their homes.

Providing a positive female role model, she was one of the first females in a department that now has five female members -- one of them being her daughter. Inspired by her mother's acts of selflessness, her daughter chose to join the day she turned 16.

Ms. Suerig's long term commitment to ensuring the safety of those in her community reflect her commitment to public service and proves that one person really can make a difference.