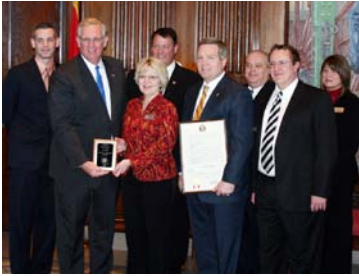




Missouri State Employees of the Month

January 2010, State Employee of the Month

Janice (Jan) Smith - Department of Public Safety



Above Governor Nixon (left of center) awards Jan Smith as the January 2010 State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are friends and co-workers.

As Supervisor of Volunteer Services for the Department of Public Safety's Missouri Veterans' Home in Warrensburg, Ms. Jan Smith is responsible for volunteer services, planning and conducting recruitment campaigns, placement of volunteers in departments, and for the general supervision of volunteers and evaluation of their performance. She also ensures volunteer activities meet program needs and is responsible for public relations. Jan structures her workday to interact not just with the Neighbors [residents] of the Home, but also with staff, donors, and group volunteers. She directs, coaches and supervises over 300 volunteers whose donated hours are the equivalent of 16 additional full-time staff members.

Jan's skill of leadership realized an increase of volunteers and volunteer services. In FY09 a total of 29,042 volunteer hours were given to the Home; total monetary contributions were in excess of \$69,000; the six annual "Run for Freedom" 5K run and walk raised a record

\$8,433 [compared to \$4,322 in 2008]; the "Tree of Stars" Holiday fundraiser earned \$10,562 for Holiday gifts for Veterans; and the six annual "Scramble for Freedom" golf tournament raised just over \$6000.00. Another of Jan's responsibilities is acting as the liaison to the West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League. Jan's work with this group has resulted in their becoming more involved with fundraising for the Home and they recently provided funds for eighteen (18) 37 inch flat screen TV's, two mobile gardens, free internet "wifi" throughout the Home, and many outstanding meals.

No matter the need Jan is one of the brightest shining stars at the Warrensburg Veterans' Home. Jan Smith is to be commended for her high standards of excellence, hard work, passion, and dedication to the Warrensburg Veterans' Home.

February 2010, State Employee of the Month

Eddie Hedrick – Department of Health and Senior Services



Above Governor Nixon (center) awards Eddie Hedrick as the February 2010 State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are family and co-workers.

As a Senior Epidemiology Specialist for the Department of Health and Senior Services, Eddie Hedrick works in the investigation, analysis, prevention, and control of injuries or communicable, chronic, or environmentally induced diseases. Eddie has become known throughout the department as the expert in all aspects of communicable disease. His technical expertise makes him the "go to" throughout the entire department. This article provides just one example of Eddie's quick thinking, problem solving and invaluable knowledge and expertise.

When the H1N1 outbreak began in the spring, Eddie quickly realized that many individuals and health care providers were going to have specimens analyzed to

determine if they had H1N1. At that time, the State Public Health Laboratory was the only laboratory in the state with the capability to conduct such analysis. Eddie suggested and developed an algorithm for determining which specimens the department should accept for analysis. Specimens were accepted based on the individual's likelihood of exposure to H1N1 and their symptoms; most other states did not do this. As a result of Eddie's quick thinking and action, the State Public Health Laboratory was able to keep current on the analysis of samples, while other states were struggling with backlogs.

Eddie continued to provide his expertise to the department as preparation for the second wave of H1N1 began in the fall. He took the lead on developing policies regarding community mitigation techniques, answered innumerable calls from the public and has become a "one man" speakers' bureau. His knowledge and expertise has made him very much in demand and he has an uncanny ability to explain very complicated subject matters to everyone in a way they can understand

Eddie clearly enjoys his work and has technical expertise that is unparalleled in the department. In the past when certain health care providers have been contacted by the department for consultation their response has been, "Why are you calling when you have Eddie Hedrick's expertise in your department?" Not only is Mr. Eddie Hedrick an asset to the Department of Health and Senior Services, he is without question a friend to all Missourians.

March 2010, State Employee of the Month Joe Williams – Office of Administration



Above Governor Nixon (far right) awards Joe Williams as the March 2010 State Employee of the Month. Also pictured (left of center) is Commissioner of Administration Kelvin Simmons and Mr. Williams supervisors (back row).

Among his duties as a Stationary Engineer with the Office of Administration's Division of Facilities Management, Design, and Construction, Joe Williams daily oversees the adjustments and repairs to electrical generators, high pressure steam or high pressure-high temperature water boiler pumps, refrigeration systems and related plumbing equipment and assists in major repair work.

His considerable knowledge of the occupational hazards and safety precautions was put to the test one evening while he was on duty.

While Joe was working the midnight shift at the power plant for the South Central Correctional Center in Licking, Missouri he stepped outside for a bit of fresh and noticed a fire in the propane vaporizer yard. Springing into immediate action Joe grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran to the vaporizer to put out the fire and secure the valves.

The gas vaporizer yard has two 30,000 gallon liquid propane tanks that are always more than half full. To run towards a fire with that much liquid propane in the tanks and lines takes incredible courage and selflessness.

Once he had the situation under control he then notified the institution's personnel and put the system on another fuel source to bring the power plant back to full operation. It is without doubt that it was through his attention and quick action which prevented a catastrophic accident.

Mr. Joe William's heroic and selfless action without question saved not only extensive damage but many lives. Joe Williams is as valuable asset to the Office of Administration and all Missouri citizens.

April 2010, State Employee of the Month Brandy March – Department of Health and Senior Services



Above Governor Nixon (left of center) recognizes Brandy March as the April State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are members of Ms. March's family, co-workers, and friends.

As a Senior Office Support Assistant for the Department of Health and Senior Services' Division of Community and Public Health, Brandy March is responsible for a variety of complex clerical functions including support for the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

During the critical application process for the 2009 Summer Food Service Program Brandy processed 264 applications and prepared, reviewed and mailed contracts during the March to June period; this outstanding accomplishment was a 10% increase over the 2008 period. This is an exceptional accomplishment as the 2009 process was complicated by new requirements of E-Verify and notarized affidavit. Brandy accomplished this in a very timely manner while still staying on top of her regular duties and fielding numerous phone calls and during the active summer months she constantly worked with

the Summer Food Service Program contractors and District Nutritionists regarding site changes, closures, additions and monitoring schedules and findings for the 881 summer feeding sites.

Additionally, when the USDA introduced a new extension of the Summer Food Service Program as an emergency feeding program for schools to use when dismissing for H1N1 virus, Brandy was invaluable in helping bring through the details of the application policies, procedures, and contract amendment requirements.

Not only is Brandy skilled in the working details for the feeding programs she is very creative and used this talent to help create the first SFSP newsletter adding pictures and fun articles highlighting the SFSP success stories; designed an SFSP outreach brochure to be used at conferences to promote the SFSP and designed and set up conference demonstration boards.

Ms. Brandy March is truly an extraordinarily talented and positive asset for the Department of Health and Senior Services and an example for all to emulate.

May 2010, State Employee of the Month

Betty Edison – Department of Public Safety / St. Louis Veterans Home



In her duties as receptionist Betty cheerfully and personally greets over two thousand people on a weekly basis, either in person or on the telephone and is very conscious of all aspects of the front lobby and the traffic that comes through the door while continually answering inquires and ensuring that Veterans and family members are very well treated and cared for.

She not only answers calls but coordinates visitors, volunteer groups, family members, and Veterans and works to continually assure the Home's residents are safe and comfortable. Her genuine desire to care for residents and staff was most recently evidenced in two separate events.

For the past several years the facility was home to a special roommate pair; a father and son combination. The son had a disease with required his father to serve as advocate and caretaker. This past winter the father passed away leaving the son with a very unique level of grief; that of losing not only a roommate, but father and trusted caretaker. As receptionist Betty is kept aware of expirations to assure that critical and sensitive information flows from a variety of family members to the various staff assisting the grieving family. However Betty went above and beyond in this particular instance by finding the son and providing him with the friendship and companionship from the first moments of his grieving process. She not only offered her personal condolences but made arrangements for her duties to be covered while she remained with the son throughout the day and took him on a reflective walk and lent a friendly ear to the son as he began to experience the process of grief over his father's death.

Above Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Betty Edison as the May State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are members of Ms. Edison's family, and co-workers.

During these tough economic times, some of the staff at the Home is challenged to provide all that they might wish for their loved ones. This was especially true over the past holiday season and Betty again displayed her selfless nature by quietly taking the steps necessary to ensure a joyful holiday season for team members at the Home. She arranged for an anonymous team member meal drawing which allowed staff to confidentially nominate themselves or co-workers to receive holiday meal supplies. Once Betty had determined the need for such services she took the steps needed to obtain donations sufficient to cover the requests and coordinated the distribution of holiday meals and each day she held a drawing from those requesting assistance. This ignited a sense of community among all of the team members of the St. Louis Veterans' Home. As with all of the extra touches Betty gives to Residents and staff no one ever asks "Why is Betty doing this?" or "Did some committee have to meet to get this going?" because the answer is defined by the person taking the initiative and action -- Ms. Betty Edison! Quite simply – when Betty leads, all at Missouri Veterans' Home-St. Louis follow and benefit by the experience.

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June 2010, State Employee of the Month

Don Adams – Department of Public Safety / Mexico Veterans Home



Above Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Don Adams as the June State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are members of Mr. Adams' family, and co-workers.

As a Plant Maintenance Engineer I with the Dept. of Public Safety's Mexico Veterans Home, Don Adams is responsible for the physical properties and the operation of heating, ventilating, air conditioning (HVAC) and related mechanical equipment. During the week of June 22, 2009 temperatures soared near 100 degrees with heat indices around 110 degrees. It was during this period that the Home's chiller went down leaving the facility without air conditioning. Recognizing the importance of keeping the building cool and the Veterans comfortable, Don facilitated obtaining portable air condition units and personally made the trip to Kansas City to pick them up, not getting back to his home until after midnight and still returned to the Home early the next morning to aide in the installation of the units.

As the week progressed the contractor made multiple attempts to repair the

Home's chiller with Don assisting as needed while continually monitored the temperature of the resident's rooms to assure their comfort was maintained; often working well in excess of a normal 8 hour day. On June 27, a portable chiller was brought in and Don was at the facility by 6:30 am to assist with hooking up the chiller and doing whatever was needed to get the unit operating then stayed at the Home until temperatures normalized. That afternoon Don returned to his home for some much needed rest only to be awakened at 2:30 a.m. and informed that the Home was without water. When Don arrived at the Facility he learned that the City of Mexico had a main water line break near the facility and that they would be without water for an indefinite period until repairs were made. Don immediately coordinated with the supply manager and disseminated emergency supplies of drinking water, cooking water and portable water for plumbing purposes; fortunately the water supply was restored by 7:30 a.m. that same morning.

Both of these instances demonstrate the high level of dedication of Mr. Don Adams. When faced with the potential of life threatening situations for the Veterans the Home serves, Don does not rest – he stays on the job working and coordinating activities and doing whatever is necessary to ensure the comfort of the Heroes and staff.

July 2010, State Employee of the Month

Linda Wilson – Department of Transportation



Above Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Linda Wilson as the July State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are members of Ms. Wilson's family, and co-workers.

Linda Wilson, a Community Relations Manager for the Department of Transportation, has provided exceptional expertise over the past 18 years in public involvement and public relations positions and has always exhibited exceptional professional performance and willingness to go above and beyond the typical call of duty. Ms. Wilson's skill and expertise were most recently put to the test when she took over the responsibilities as the New I-64 Community Relations Manager and a member of the New I-64 Design Build Team in which she was responsible for all community outreach activities for the I-64 reconstruction project. This responsibility included: working with the media, answering questions from the general public, giving speeches, and status updates for local, state, and federal elected officials. The work of the New I-64 project completely closed five mile stretches of I-64 for two entire years; one section each year and was the Department's first design build contract. At \$524 million, it is MoDOT's largest

contract and first complete interstate reconstruction. Ms. Wilson's proficiency was paramount to the public outreach that provided residents with the knowledge and information to allow them easily move around their community and reduce the impact to their daily lives. In addition to all that is required for a project of this magnitude, Linda also coordinated a public grand opening ceremony – called "Fun on the Freeway" – on December 6, 2009. More than 20,000 people attended the celebration, including Federal Highway Association Administrator, Victor Mendez. Ultimately the New I-64 was a tremendous success due in large part to Ms. Wilson and the success of the overall project was measured by a survey of St. Louis residents. An overview of the project is available at www.thenewi64.org.

On May 17, 2010 Linda was named the 2010 National Association of Government Communication (NAGC) Communicator of the Year for the effective way she handled all facets of communications for the reconstruction of Interstate I-64. According to the head of the awards committee and former NAGC President Gene Rose, "The judges were impressed with Wilson's ability to successfully manage communications with the public before, during, and after the project. With limited financial resources she adopted several traditional and new media relation strategies to keep the area's 2.5 million residents advised on the project. Through the new project website, emails, online chats, media interviews, and an estimated 300 speeches, Wilson provided transparency to the project, as well as the establishment of the 24/7 incident Command Center." Ms. Linda Wilson is without a doubt a valuable resource for the Department of Transportation and a person to emulate.

August 2010, State Employee of the Month

Trooper Donald Doza – Department of Public Safety



Above Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Trooper Doza as the August State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are friends, family member and co-workers.

As a Trooper for the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Donald Doza is assigned to Troop F, Zone 7 and has always been a committed, compassionate employee who continually goes above and beyond to help those in need. This drive to serve the citizens of Missouri was most recently proven on April 28, 2010 when Trooper Doza arrived on the scene of an injury accident on Interstate 70 at the 113 eastbound mile marker in Cooper County.

Upon arriving on the scene Trooper Doza observed that a van pulling a camper trailer had collided with the end of a guardrail and that the camper trailer had jackknifed coming to rest against the van. As Trooper Doza approached the vehicle he noticed extreme damage to the vehicle and that smoke was coming from the camper unit. Trooper Doza also noted the driver, an elderly gentleman, appeared unconscious and his legs were wedged beneath the steering wheel and dashboard. The driver's door and rear passenger doors were heavily damaged and as Trooper Doza was investigating ways to extract the driver he was informed that the

camper was on fire and flames were quickly engulfing the interior of the van and he was also notified that fire trucks were stuck in traffic and had not yet arrived on the scene. Realizing time was running out, Trooper Doza used his baton and broke the driver's side window and attempted to pull the driver from the vehicle. His first attempts were unsuccessful so he tried adjusting the steering wheel to pull the driver free, but was still not successful. Trooper Doza yelled for assistance while the propane tanks from inside the camper began exploding and the smoke and flames increased. With no response to his call for assistance Trooper Doza was still determined to extract the driver so he quickly moved to the front of the vehicle and again used his baton to break the windshield. The thick smoke and heat from the flames prevented Trooper Doza from entering the vehicle at this entrance so he returned to the driver's side window and continued to pull on the drive to free him while calling for help. At this point a bystander was able to hear Trooper Doza's call for help and assisted pulling on the driver. As gasoline was puddling under Trooper Doza's feet and propane tanks exploding behind him, Trooper Doza determination lent him strength and in one quick move he was finally able to pull the driver from the burning vehicle and over the guardrail into the ditch, while the camper exploded again with the van becoming fully engulfed in flames. The driver was transported by helicopter to the University Hospital in Columbia and he continues to recover today. Trooper Doza received cuts on his arms and hands and he also inhaled a large amount of smoke while trying to free the driver; he received treatment for his injuries and continues to serve Missouri citizens today with no ill effects from the accident. Trooper Donald Doza – is without question a hero and Missourians are well served by this outstanding Trooper.

September 2010, State Employee of the Month

Douglas Krister “Kris” Sandgren – Department of Transportation



Douglas Krister “Kris” Sandgren is recognized by Governor Nixon as the September State Employee of the Month. Also pictured are Mr. Sandgren’s family, co-workers and friends.

As a Maintenance Crew Leader for the Department of Transportation (MoDOT), Mr. Douglas Krister “Kris” Sandgren has proven to be a valuable employee. During his more than 10 years with MoDOT he has received several accolades: Honorable Mention in 2007 in the statewide Tool and Equipment Challenge for his fabrication of a breakaway sign tool, and in 2010 Kris was again recognized for his innovative fabrication techniques as a district winner for creating a rolling sander stand. However, perhaps none of Kris’ innovative creations will have near the impact than those of his actions during the summer of 2010.

On June 21, Kris left for the state of Washington to begin a cross-country bicycle ride to raise awareness and funding for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial, which is an honor to the lives and contributions of the 128 MoDOT workers

that have been killed while working on Missouri’s roads, bridges, and highways since 1946. Kris began his arduous journey full of hope; that the weather would cooperate, that his body would comply through the month-long ride and that his hard work, tenacity, and time would raise the awareness needed to complete the Memorial. Kris often spent up to 12 hours a day on his bike, resting in state parks and spent most nights at campsites and city parks along his route or at the home of gracious families who had heard about his journey.

Despite the many challenges of this type of journey – the mountains in the Northwest, Washington and Idaho and the expansive landscape of the Dakotas, where at times he felt like he was going hundreds of miles nowhere, Kris said the beauty of his surroundings and the knowledge he was doing something worthwhile outweighed any of the hardships he encountered. After a 30-day, 2,600 mile journey across the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, Kris arrived at Transportation’s Central Office in Jefferson City, and was credited with raising more than \$5,000 for the Memorial which will be erected in Jefferson City. In the end, Kris says he just one piece of a puzzle to honor his fallen co-workers. It is without doubt that Kris Sandgren is an accomplished, respectful, and good-hearted employee and the Department of Transportation and Missouri citizens are fortunate to have him as an employee and a fellow Missourian. Information about the Fallen Workers Memorial is available at www.moshea.org.

October 2010, State Employee of the Month

Cassie Lewis – Department of Health and Senior Services



Above center, Cassie Lewis is recognized by Governor Nixon as the October State Employee of the Month. Also pictured is Margaret Donnelly (right of Governor Nixon), Director of the Dept. of Health and Senior Services, family members, co-workers and friends.

As an Adult Protective and Community Worker for the Department of Health and Senior Services, Cassie Lewis diligently works to protect the clients entrusted to her care. Daily duties include performing reports, investigating reports of abuse, and monitoring the living conditions and physical capabilities, cognitive abilities, medical requirements and financial resources of clients. However, one particular case stands out as a shining example of Ms. Lewis’ commitment to service excellence.

Cassie spent two (2) years working to assist an elderly illiterate couple, who were unable to understand their medical and care needs and were living in deplorable conditions. In one instance Cassie has to call the local fire department to the couple’s home to explain that the boxes that were piled to the ceiling next to the wood stove were a very real hazard, but when volunteers arrived to assist with the clean up, the elderly gentleman turned them away. In-Home services were

Authorized but many times the husband would turn away help and refused to assist his wife, or allow others to assist with her medications. This elderly woman was limited in understanding how to take her medications properly and was hospitalized many times. After numerous reports of elder abuse were reported the couple voluntarily went to the same care facility, but the elderly gentleman then became very difficult for the staff to manage. The gentleman began having behavioral problems and physically assaulting staff, and was then hospitalized for evaluation. Doctor’s confirmed he lacked decisional capacity and required a legal Guardian/Conservator. After several days and many, many phone calls placement, Cassie was able to place him in another area of the state.

This elderly man continually told staff that he was going home, and Cassie suspected that he would find some well intentioned family member or friend to assist him, so she took the initiative to plan ahead. She prepared a court summary, contacted the Office of General Counsel to pursue emergency guardianship and contacted local law enforcement to coordinate and assist with a 96 hour civil commitment in advance. On a late Friday afternoon, this man found a cab company to transport him, over 100 miles, back to his unsafe home. He was met by law enforcement and was taken into protective custody and placed at a mental health facility for his own safety pending the court hearing. Within 3 days the Court agreed he was not competent to provide for his own safety and ordered Guardianship/Conservatorship be given to the Public Administrator. Through this 2 year struggle Cassie was also able to get the assistance needed secure the Guardianship/Conservatorship of the elderly woman and she was also placed in a safe residential care facility. Cassie’s efforts to protect this elderly couple from an unsafe environment and self neglect are a sample of the many contributions she has made to protect Missouri citizens.

November 2010, State Employee of the Month Betty Burnett – Department of Public Safety



Above, Governor Nixon (center) recognizes Betty Burnett as the November State Employee of the Month. Also pictured is Superintendent of the Highway Patrol, Colonel Ron Replogle (right of Governor Nixon), family and co-workers.

Ms. Betty Burnett is employed as a Food Service Manager for the Dept. of Public Safety's Highway Patrol Academy. On a regular basis Ms. Burnett directs and supervises food service staff, determines what products need to be prepared; plans menus, orders food items and oversees the general functions of the kitchen. Ms. Burnett began working for the Highway Patrol in 1983 and has continually proven to be a valuable employee.

In addition to being a deeply dedicated person to her staff and kitchen, Betty is frequently concerned about the amount of uneaten food that was just being thrown away. Betty's concern and care for the less fortunate of the community let her to seek permission for the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol to organize a trial period in which leftover food items could be donated to the Jefferson City Salvation Army.

Ms. Burnett and her staff packaged all donated food items, kept a donation list and a driver from the Salvation Army picked up the donations weekly. In the six month trial period, which ended August 26, 2010, the Patrol's donations amounted to more than 750 entrée servings, 21 gallons of vegetables and side dishes, and 22 gallons of soup. The donation program conceived by Betty has been approved to become a permanent practice for the Academy kitchen due to civic benefits to those who may otherwise be without a good meal.

Betty Burnett not only is a model employee who takes pride in the quality work and service provide by the Highway Patrol Academy kitchen, she is also a caring citizen we all should strive to emulate.

December 2010, State Employee of the Month Sharon Hogue – Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Above Sharon Hogue is recognized by Governor Nixon as the December State Employee of the Month. Also pictured is Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Dr. Chris Nicastro [right of Governor Nixon], and co-workers.

As the Director of Curriculum for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of College and Career Readiness, Sharon Hogue consistently manages to stay on top of details for the programs and projects she manages.

She was an instrumental composer for the high-profile Race to the Top Grant and worked hours and hours of overtime; which at times included weekends and holidays. During this time she also was responsible for the new nationwide Common Core Standards and the initiative for the Model Curriculum. Staying on top of these was no easy feat, Sharon often participated in lengthy conference calls, meetings, and hours of reading, digesting, analyzing, and commenting on the Common Core Standards. In addition to these time consuming duties when the Coordinator for the Curriculum and Assessment Unit was pulled away to work directly on other top priority projects, Sharon willingly took on some of this work load as well.

It was during this same timeframe, the Director of Assessment was seeking other employment and accepted another position outside the Department. This person was away from the office frequently during this time, and up until the position was filled, Sharon inherited some of these job responsibilities as well; adding more meetings and correspondence upkeep to her already overflowing schedule.

Sharon's learning curve, work load, and ability to manage in a dwindling work force was intense. Yet in spite of a burgeoning workload, Sharon met each day and every person with a sincere smile and her ability to meet hectic demands, schedules and maintain a cool demeanor is truly impressive.

Sharon Hogue is without question an employee others should strive to emulate and a true asset to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education --- and Missouri citizens.

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