



June 8, 2017

Originally sent via email to Agency HR Contacts and Employee Recognition Coordinators

It's no secret that State employees work diligently every day to make Missouri a better place to live and raise a family. Employees serve their fellow citizens courageously and compassionately, sometimes in extremely difficult circumstances; and they deserve our thanks.

Over the last few months, we've received inquiries about how best to recognize State employees. Some have asked if there would be a "statewide" event this year in Jefferson City; and if so, how that could possibly be all-inclusive—while many other inquiries were simply from agency staff wanting to know when or if they could schedule their own internal recognition events that worked better for them and their organizational structure.

After careful consideration, we believe that the best course of action is to encourage each State agency to recognize the employees working within their agency in their own way. Doing this affords each agency the opportunity to plan events and activities that allow employees, regardless of geographic work location, to receive a "thank you" for a job well done.

In doing this, our wish is that State executives, managers and supervisors will do something that they are hopefully doing every day – show their appreciation in special ways to co-workers and colleagues for their dedication; and share stories of service excellence with others, both inside and outside State government. This can be the catalyst to help us listen more to each other, encourage change and innovation within our work teams, and celebrate success in small ways throughout the year as it occurs.

Governor Greitens feels strongly about this type of involvement, and demonstrates his commitment to it by participating in town hall events, meeting State employees whenever possible, and accepting suggestions from employees via the governor.mo.gov/bettergovernment website.

We also understand that finding the best way to celebrate success and recognize employees for their dedication isn't always clear. That's why the Division of Personnel will be reaching out to each agency in the next few weeks to solicit "best practice" recognition ideas and strategies that can be utilized by all state agencies as needed in the future.

We can all be proud of the work that is accomplished every day for our great State. Please take time to ensure that employees in your agency know how much their efforts are appreciated.

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