

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 27, 2015

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KDOL Honors Four Outstanding Employees

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) is proud to announce recipients in its Employee Recognition and Award Program. Chastity Dexter, Dennis Burk, Curtis Gregory and Mason Jackson were honored for their outstanding performance. The KDOL Award program is designed to recognize individual's efforts that epitomize excellence. The success as an agency depends on each and every employee providing premier service, working in a team environment, producing results with cost control in mind, creativity and innovation, while serving their community. KDOL rewards employees who embrace these ideals as their own, taking them to the highest personal level possible in job performance.

Recognized for the Distinguished Accomplishment is **Chastity Dexter**, UI Benefits. Chastity was the point person in the agency's transition in its debit card service provider. KDOL has utilized a pre-paid debit card to pay unemployment benefits since 2008. In the spring of 2014, a vendor change became necessary. The task of transitioning to a new pre-paid vendor was a monumental undertaking and Chastity was the linchpin to the entire process. Her dedication to KDOL and the claimants the agency serves was the single most important factor in an almost error-free transition.

Receiving the Volunteerism Award is **Dennis Burk**, Industrial Safety and Health. Dennis is involved with numerous Boy and Girl Scout activities, teaching them camping skills. He gives lectures at historical club meetings, area schools and other organizations. He portrays Ben Franklin for students at the Territorial Capital in Lecompton and at the Bald Eagle Rendezvous with more than 500 students annually. He participated in two educational, historical movies produced by Butler County Community College that were distributed to Kansas schools.

Recognized for Innovation is **Curtis Gregory**, Fiscal Management. In July 2013, the KDOL Mail Center presort machine was upgraded to full service per USPS regulations. With that upgrade KDOL could use the address change service to upgrade our address files. This service forwards the mail piece to the company or claimant that has a change of address on file with the USPS and an electronic file to a website for KDOL to download. Address corrections can then be made to the address file, resulting in both time and postage savings. During the upgrade, Curtis was able to transition easily into the new system and also provide training to other staff to help make their transition easier. Curtis developed a method of downloading those addresses and

identifying the business unit they should go to in order to be updated. In FY 2015 his efforts saved KDOL more than \$50,000 in combined staff hours, office supplies and postage.

Receiving the award for Meritorious Service is **Mason Jackson**, Labor Market Information Services. Mason leads by example in providing analysis that falls under the acronym AORTA. That is: accurate, objective, relevant, timely and accessible. Recently, Mason took the initiative to calculate and report the unemployment rate for the State of Kansas as an employer. The calculation resulted in a savings to the State of approximately \$2 million for FY 2016 compared to prior estimates and this initiative allowed LMIS to report this information to the Secretary and Division of Budget earlier this year.

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Photographs included

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