



## Faces of Workforce - October 2016

<p><b>Belinda Ames</b></p> 	<p>Belinda has been the Supervisor at the Kirksville Job Center for over a year and a half. She worked for 12 years with the JTPA program and began working for the state in 2000 with Vocational Rehabilitation before moving to workforce development. She has 14 grandchildren, two foster granddaughters, and one great grandson. Her hobbies include camping, fishing, reading, and gardening.</p>
<p><b>Lori Caldwell</b></p> 	<p>Previously Lori Nichols, Lori is the Supervisor at the Sikeston Job Center. She has been with the State of Missouri for almost 13 years and loves what she does. She previously worked in the mortgage and banking industry and finds this work much more personally fulfilling.</p>
<p><b>Connie Epperson</b></p> 	<p>Connie has been employed by the State of Missouri for 28 years and currently serves as the Supervisor at the Chillicothe Job Center. She enjoys working with employers and job seekers and feels this has been a very rewarding career. Outside of the Job Center, she and her husband enjoy spending lots of time with their four grandchildren.</p>
<p><b>Kelly Fender</b></p> 	<p>Kelly started as a Specialist I in 2009 in Springfield then transferred to Branson where she became a Supervisor I. After five years in that office, she returned to Springfield where she has supervised state staff and been on the leadership team for over a year. In her free time she volunteers with Rescue One, fostering 26 dogs and placing them in permanent homes.</p>



<p><b>Michael Fooks</b></p> 	<p>Michael has been the Functional Leader at the Jefferson City Job Center for just over three months after spending over 11 years at the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He is a graduate of William Woods University with a Bachelor's in Business Management.</p>
<p><b>Courtney Hall</b></p> 	<p>Courtney serves as the WIOA Youth Program Coordinator for the Central Region with Preferred Family Healthcare. She supports a team of individuals who promote innovative and individualized services to youth across 19 counties. She has worked in DWD programs as a service provider for 13 years.</p>
<p><b>Leanna Holden</b></p> 	<p>Leanna has been the Functional Leader at the Kirksville Job Center for almost two years. She has a background in mental health and started out in employment services working with individuals with disabilities while working at Learning Opportunities Quality Works, Inc. After that she served as a case manager and later as an Autism Navigator with the Department of Mental Health. She enjoys her work and hopes to do it for another 10 years.</p>
<p><b>Ashleigh Hope</b></p> 	<p>Ashleigh is the DWD Supervisor and Jobs Team Lead in Cape Girardeau. She has worked for the state for 41 years in Trade, Unemployment, On-the-Job Training. She has three children and seven grandchildren.</p>



<p><b>Denise Jackson</b></p> 	<p>Denise has been in a variety of workforce development roles over the last seven and a half years. She has been a Specialist I in Reemployment Services, a Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist, a Local Veterans Employment Representative, and currently serves as the Functional Leader Supervisor II at the Florissant Job Center in St. Louis County.</p>
<p><b>Charlie Johnson</b></p> 	<p>Charlie has served as a Supervisor at the Kansas City Northland Maplewood Job Center for one year. He previously served eight years as the Supervisor of the Nevada Job Center. He enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, making wooden toys, drinking rye whiskey, and smoking fine cigars.</p>
<p><b>Lincoln Johnson Sr.</b></p> 	<p>Lincoln is the Workforce Development Supervisor II at the Kansas City Full Employment Council. He has served in this role since September of 2006.</p>
<p><b>Mende Lewis</b></p> 	<p>Mende has been in workforce development at the West Central Missouri Community Action and the Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri, Inc for over 12 years. She attended Missouri Western State University where she studied Healthcare Administration. She previously worked in a manufacturing plant but it did not fit with her need to serve others so she went to work for WMCAA with TANF customers. She currently serves as the Employment and Training Program Manager for WCMCAA and is responsible for a nine county area serving MWA and WIOA customers residing in Cass County.</p>



<p><b>David W. Scholz</b></p> 	<p>David has been in workforce development for nearly 10 years. Prior to that, he worked in the meat industry, serving in positions ranging from production to Purchasing Manager. David has an MBA from Northwest Missouri State and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Missouri Western State College. He has been a Supervisor at the St. Joseph Job Center for nearly three years.</p>
<p><b>Jennifer Taylor</b></p> 	<p>Jennifer works out of the Rolla Job Center and serves as the Regional Manager for the Central and Southern Regions, excluding the Columbia Job Center. She has worked for the state for 20 years, 15 in workforce development.</p>
<p><b>Wanda Wallace</b></p> 	<p>Wanda has worked for the Poplar Bluff Job Center for 13 years and has been the DWD Supervisor there for three and a half years.</p>
<p><b>Tom Whitehead</b></p> 	<p>Tom is a Supervisor II at the Arnold Job Center. He earned a Masters degree in Human Resources and is married with two children. Tom lives in Arnold where he was raised and enjoys fishing, golf, and dancing.</p>



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