

DPS Employee Recognition Awards

December 14, 2023 | St. Paul Event Center

Breakfast: 8:30-9 a.m.
Opening remarks: 9-9:10 a.m.
Awards presentation: 9:10-10 a.m.

Team Player Award

Nathan Le – State Fire Marshal

Honorable Mentions:

Chris Anderson – Office of Justice Programs

Zachary Hunt – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Resiliency Award

Human Resources Division – Human Resources (Dama

Abuta, Brandon Beguhl, Dawn Cooper, Jordan Groebner, Christine Johnson, Kara Kreutzer, Janel Lane, Angela Longworth, Megan Lund, Sara Luther, Madi Markgraf, Nicole Miner, Tracy Peterson, Marcia Reding, Kate Rios, Victoria Schwab, Alysha Schyma, Jonathan Stacke and Doug Thies)

Honorable Mentions:

BCA Calibration Laboratory – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (Joseph Fetzik, Karin Kierzek, Brent Nelson, Jody Nelson, Shauna Richardson and Hannah Sipple)

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office – Office of Justice Programs (Ana Negrete, Juliet Rudie, Kayley Sansom, Amber Schindeldecker and Tawny Smith Savage)

Mentorship Award

Adam Bazama – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Honorable Mentions:

Sarah Johnson – Minnesota State Patrol

Aida Tosca – Office of Justice Programs

Keeping Us Safe Award

BCA Crime Scene Team Leaders – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (McKenzie Anderson, Jessica Hunt, Melissa Loren, Brent Matzke, Vanessa Perez, Sarah Pfeiffer, Kathryn Roche, Steven Swenson, Ross Thomas and Patrick Warrick)

Honorable Mentions:

Minnesota State Patrol Canine Unit – Minnesota State Patrol (Patrick Beuning, Jacob Bredsten, Anthony Butler, Austin Christensen, Matthew Holden, Anthony Mains, Chad Mills, Aaron Myren, Jarid Nacey, Nicholas Otterson, Douglas Rauenhorst, Jacob Ristau, Jacob Ruppert and Todd Winters)

Minnesota State Patrol Toward Zero Deaths

Lieutenants – Minnesota State Patrol (Charles Backes, Karla Bearce, Abigail Burch, Gabe Cornish, Michael Eck, John Fritz, Brett Hayes, Kelly Mager, Brad Norland, Joe Norstrom and Aaron Struntz)

Customer Service Award

Rachel Albien – Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Linda Ohr – Driver and Vehicle Services
Randy Johnson – Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Jonathan Wolfgram – Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety
Ashley Johnson – Minnesota State Patrol
Jourdan Cochran – Office of Communications
Chris Anderson – Office of Justice Programs
John Ray – State Fire Marshal

Living By Our Values Award

Lori Cotton – Driver and Vehicle Services
Honorable Mentions:
Casey Cashman – Office of Justice Programs
Theresa Celis – Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Promoter of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award - Individual

Jody-Kay Peterson – Driver and Vehicle Services
Honorable Mentions:
Terese Duncan – Driver and Vehicle Services
Michael Mendiola – Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety

Promoter of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award – Team

Driver's License for All Communications Team – Driver and Vehicle Services, Office of Communications and Commissioner's Office (Tony Anderson, Nicole Archbold, Carrie Buchholz, Jessica Cook, Jacquelyn Eiffler, Erin Johnson, Mark Karstedt, Todd Oseby and Oliver Schuster)
Honorable Mention:
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office – Office of Justice Programs (Ana Negrete, Juliet Rudie, Kayley Sansom, Amber Schindeldecker and Tawny Smith Savage)

Always Growing Award

Nicole Neft – Driver and Vehicle Services
Honorable Mentions:
Greg Herzog – Office of Justice Programs
Tyler Milless – Minnesota State Patrol

Rookie of the Year Award

Dan Kerwin – Driver and Vehicle Services
Honorable Mentions:
Vincent Wren – Minnesota State Patrol
Shayna Bauer – Emergency Communication Networks

Distinguished Service Award

Bob Lahr – Office of Communications
Honorable Mentions:
Mary Boyer – Driver and Vehicle Services
Jacquelyn Eiffler – Driver and Vehicle Services

Employee of the Year Award

Rita Strafelda – Fiscal and Administrative Services
Honorable Mentions:
Jonathan Wolfgram – Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety
Angela Packer – Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Kudos to the many other employees, listed below, nominated for one or more 2023 DPS Awards!

Individuals:

Amanda Swenson
Amy Sommers
Andy Voyer
Brian Coy
Brianna Hraban
Brittany Wilber
Brooke Seekins
Byron Bynum
Cassandra Booker
Cassie Denardo
Catherine O'Bryan
Cathy Schaefer
Christine Johnson-Smalley
Claire Cambridge
Claire Thomas
Dan Beeson
Dana Wahlberg
Daniel Nowaki
Darline Elliott
David Denton
Dawn Lind
Douglas L. Johnson
Edvard Aspnes
Elizabeth Lauder
Emily Schimke
Jacob Beauregard
Jake Miller
Jared Rozeboom
Jen Longaecker
Jennifer Lindberg
Jennifer Miller
Jessica Zimmer
Jon Kahnke
Joseph Hauger
Joshua Magner
Joshua Neumann
Joshua Wagner

Joshua Young
Kailyn Reed
Kara Behr
Katherine Casalenda
Katie Madigan
Kaylee Gilbertson
Kevin Reed
Kyle Christy
Lexie Anderson
Machelle Klomp
Maureen McGough-Pose
Megan Gallagher
Melanie Hundt
Morgan Martinsen
Nathan Lind
Nelly Martinez
Nolan Pasell
Parker Shelgren
Patrick Wagner
Rachel Brustad
Raymond Shimmin
Rebecca Kutty
Robert Zak
Sam Kunjummen
Sam Miller
Sara Salava
Sheila Simons
Susan Perzichilli
Thomas Coffman
Thomas Trandahl
Timothy Gilbertson
Tom Jenson
Tony Clifton
Tony Stango
Travis Ahrens
Tricia Montbriand
Vai Vang

Teams:

BCA Drug Chemistry Section
Technical Leaders
DVS Escalated Unit Team
DVS Exam Station Program
Managers
DVS Mail Registration Team
DVS Public Information Center
Team
DVS West Metro Exam Station
Team
HSEM Disaster Recovery Team
HSEM School Safety Center
Statewide Training Program
Team
Minnesota Office of Pipeline
Safety Team
SFM Healthcare Team

