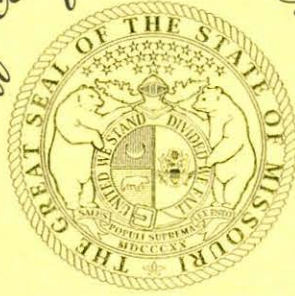


*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

*Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Missouri values all of its citizens living safe, healthy, and productive lives as members of our state and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri empowers individuals who are blind or visually impaired to engage in meaningful, sustainable, competitive, and integrated employment; economic self-sufficiency; independence; and inclusion in the community and economic life of Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri values a workforce that reflects the rich diversity of the citizens of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Social Services, Family Support Division, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, a partner of the Missouri Workforce Development System, provides Vocational Rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired so that they may obtain and engage in competitive integrated employment consistent with their unique strengths, talents, abilities, capabilities, and interests; and

**WHEREAS**, in Federal Program Year 2018, the national employment retention rate, six months after case closure, for individuals successfully employed after receiving vocational rehabilitation services is 38.8 percent for blind agencies and 49.2 percent for general agencies including blind services; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration recognized Rehabilitation Services for the Blind as the top performing blind agency in Federal Program Year 2018 with a 68.5 percent employment retention rate six months after case closure; and

**WHEREAS**, program achievements of excellence are recognized and federal recognition exemplifies the ultimate accomplishment.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby recognize

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION,  
REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE BLIND**

for being the nation's top performing blind agency and leading the nation in individual employment retention rates for Federal Program Year 2018.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE