



By The Office of Equal Opportunity

We want to embrace the differences that help make us better together. The OEO believes diversity and inclusion are everyone's responsibility and we hope all State team members carry such responsibility with honor, courage, and passion. Check us out [here](#)!

In 1987, Congress declared March as Women's History Month. We celebrate Women's History Month to honor the many roles women have played in society and to acknowledge their contributions. Here in Missouri, alongside the State's MBE, the Supplier Diversity Program includes the State's WBE certification that aims to increase the participation of WBE firms in State agency procurement. In fiscal year 2022, the State of Missouri had 1,442 active certifications. Of those certifications, 775 were WBEs and 293 were both MBEs/WBEs.

Women continue to make history all over the world. In 2022, Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe established the Women of Achievement Award to recognize and honor the diverse accomplishments of Missouri women.

"I was raised by a single mother of six, which greatly impacted my life, and I wanted to create a way to honor the incredible work women do in Missouri," said Lt. Gov. Kehoe. "These 10 recipients are diverse in talent, from agriculture to entrepreneurship, and community service to not-for-profit work. They are also a direct representation of the high achievement this award is intended to represent."

For more information regarding this award and its recipients [click here](#).

"Women should be celebrated every day, but a month dedicated to female empowerment is extremely special. It doesn't just honor the iconic women who have changed history, but encourages new generations to dream big and know that anything is possible."

— Molly McCook, in Forbes

Take some time this month to celebrate the women in your life and their accomplishments. Contact us if you have ideas on diverse groups to celebrate at CelebrateDiversity@oa.mo.gov.

