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# Whitney Horton Named 2020 Educator of the Year!

MARCH 08TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter, MO - The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards ceremony on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at The Gathering. A reception, tasty finger foods and a delicious cake bar was held along with the 2020 awards ceremony.

Missouri State Representative for the 151st District Mr. Herman Morse and Missouri State Senator for the 25th District, Mr. Jason Bean, presented proclamations to the winners along with Alisha Trammell, Dexter Chamber of Commerce Executive who handed out the awards.

### **Whitney Horton named 2020 Educator of the Year!**

"The Educator of the Year award is one of the hardest awards for us to choose. It is true, our educators go above and beyond for their students and last year, we saw some rock star teachers," commented Maddie Guethle, Chamber Director. "Our 2020 recipient stood out because she not only excelled last year, but from day one of her teaching career. Mrs. Whitney Horton is a kindergarten teacher at Southwest Elementary."

"Mrs. Horton has a true talent by being able to take a class of 20 students and meet each students' individual needs. She gives everyone of her students a unique kindergarten experience that will help instill a love for learning. Mrs. Horton has a vibrant personality and creates an energetic learning environment. When we showed up unannounced to surprise her with the award, it was the 100th day of school. You could tell Mrs. Hortons level of dedication as she too dressed up in celebration and her students were busy crafting."

Pictured from left are Senator Jason Bean, Whitney Horton and Representative Herman Morse.

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# Dexter Public Schools Named 2020 Organization of the Year.

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**Dexter Public Schools named 2020 Organization of the Year.**

2020 made the education world jump through many hoops.

"This past year, the Dexter Public Schools faced a lot of uncertainty. This did not stop the administration from focusing on the student's education," commented 2nd Vice President of the Chamber, Tara Barks. "When the school year abruptly ended in March the school district was able to continue providing breakfast, lunch, and snacks to students. In August of 2020, the district was faced with another challenge; to go virtual or conduct in person learning. The administration and board elected to keep our students in the classroom."

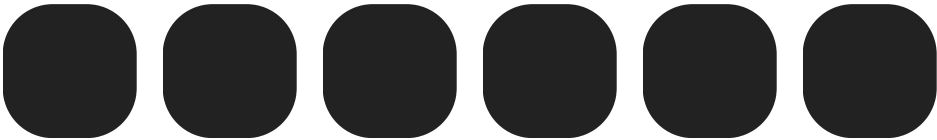
"Each school within the district worked together to provide a safe environment for the staff and students. This 'student first' mind set will allow our students to continue to succeed. Even outside the classroom walls, the School District is a positive part of our community. The Dexter Public Schools went above the call of duty in 2020."

Pictured from left are: Senator Jason Bean, School Board Members Nancy Mayer, Rick Williams, Representative Herman Morse, School Board President Jim Reiker, School Board Vice President Ben Worley and Assistant Superintendent Gavin Miller.

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## Tyson Foods Named 2020 Industry of the Year

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#### **Tyson Foods was named the 2020 Industry of the Year.**

"Over the years their industry operations have grown significantly, all the way from the chicken egg to the table. They currently have 686 team members and have always been very employee oriented. This past year was no different," commented Directory Tiffany Wright.

"We saw other plants throughout the U.S. shut down, but not our Tyson Foods. They were proactive when it came to keeping their employees safe. They hired a COVID nurse, installed barriers in their break room and training center, they provide masks for all employees, and conduct temperature checks. Furthermore, they do random weekly COVID testing. Tyson Foods has a long- standing relationship with the community. Mark Avery and team are always willing to help our organizations and community events."

Tyson Foods came to Dexter in 1997.

Pictured are: Senator Jason Bean, Representative Herman Morse, Tyson Foods Representative Mark Avery, Debbie Soloman, Brian Cato, Kelly Schaefer, Caleb Shafer, Reginald Griffin, Rhonda Arnold and Cathy Smart.

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## SoutheastHEALTH of Stoddard County Named 2020 Business of the Year

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### **SoutheastHEALTH of Stoddard County was named the 2020 Business of the Year.**

"SoutheastHEALTH Center of Stoddard County has been predominantly active in our Dexter community. They not only care about our citizens health, but the community they live and work.

In 2020, they were faced with a challenge like none other - the COVID-19 pandemic.

They worked closely with the Stoddard County Health Department and emergency response agencies regarding testing and distribution of public health information.

Even a global pandemic could not stop SoutheastHEALTH. They continued to invest in our community in 2020. They opened an Occupational Medicine clinic to serve our region. The Occupational Medicine team is dedicated to helping employees return to work rapidly and safely and they have already enrolled more than 20 companies in the program.

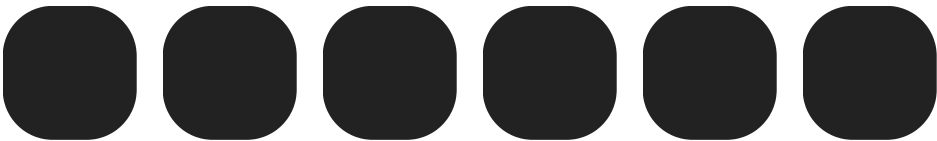
They established an Orthopedics and Sports Medicine clinic in Dexter. The clinic staff is skilled in the treatment of more than two dozen sports- related conditions and they became the official Orthopedic Medicine provider for the Dexter Bearcats."

Pictured are several employees of SoutheastHEALTH: CEO of SoutheastHEALTH of Stoddard County Sue Ann Williams, Dr. Drew Satterfield, Dr. Raza Jalal, Dr. Mayur Ramesh, Kim Essner PA, Region Vice President SoutheastHEALTH Kathy Vickery, Amy Ellinghouse, SoutheastHEALTH COO Maria Sudak, Senator Jason Bean and Representative Herman Morse both holding the resolutions.

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2021 Dexter Chamber Directors Introduced at

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Cecil Haley, current Chamber President recognized the retiring directors as well as introduced the 2021 Board of Directors for the Chamber.

Pictured from left to right are Chamber President Cecil Haley, first Vice President Dustin Mayer, Secretary/Treasurer Maddie Guethle, Second Vice President Tara Barker, Tiffany Wright, Mark Whitehead and Matt Looney. Not pictured are directors Misti McBride and Linda Ulm.

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