

It Takes a Team | *Highlighting interesting roles at KYTC*



Amanda Dees, Aggregate Section Supervisor

What are some of your job responsibilities?

I oversee the work of the Aggregate Section. We work with any aggregate source wanting approval to supply aggregate to KYTC construction or maintenance projects. We travel to the quarry locations and perform site inspections and collect samples. The samples are then brought to the lab and tested. If the material meets our specifications the quarry may be added to the List of Approved Materials and supply aggregate to KYTC projects. Once testing is complete, we can determine when to use the material. The test data will determine if the aggregate is durable, appropriate for concrete, asphalt, or concrete with freezing and thawing restrictions or as a polish-resistant aggregate for use in higher traffic volume asphalt pavements. We also test aggregate samples sent to us from the districts to verify the quality of the aggregate delivered to KYTC projects.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I enjoy being able to help the people who contact me in need of information or guidance. Commonly I answer questions about specifications, test methods or fix sample issues in SiteManager. It is also rewarding to provide guidance and assistance for adding an aggregate source to the List of Approved Materials. Being able to guide them through the process until they are successfully added to the LAM, allowing their products to be used in Cabinet projects, is very rewarding.

Could you tell me about your most rewarding project/memory at KYTC?

My favorite memories of working at the Division of Materials are of all the mornings working together on mix days. We do mix days a couple times every month. This is where the aggregates needing to be tested for concrete use are mixed into concrete. With each sample we run fresh concrete tests, then make the test specimens to cure for the hardened concrete tests then clean that mix up and start the next. We would normally complete 6-8 sample mixes each mix day. Even though the work is physical, loud and messy we always seemed to have fun and enjoyed working with each other. Being able to work as a team with people I enjoy spending time with provides great memories and the best thing about working at the Division of Materials.



On the left, Secretary Gray poses with Shelby Peel; on the right: Secretary Gray and Terry Sebastian

Transportation Cabinet Receives Multiple Awards for KECC Efforts

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet was recently recognized at the Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign Awards for a successful 2022 campaign! KYTC swept the Large Cabinet, Best Overall Award Categories: Per Capita Giving, Participation and Total Giving. The Cabinet also received the Outstanding Performance Award!

These awards are a testament to your commitment to making a positive impact in the world. Your contributions will undoubtedly make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Special kudos go to Shelby Peel and Terry Sebastian, who have both worked tirelessly to ensure a successful KECC campaign. Shelby Peel was awarded the Leadership Award and Terry received the Spirit of KECC Award!

Great work to all involved! Here's to making an even bigger difference this year! The 2023 KECC will kick off this summer.



Tiffany Johnson Named Driver Licensing Employee of the Month

Tiffany Johnson started with the Division of Driver Licensing as an issuer in our Frankfort Regional Office. She is currently our Fraud Program Coordinator. Tiffany is February 2023 Employee of the month because she keeps the Hearings/Fraud Section running and always steps up to take on additional duties when we have staffing shortages. She is supportive to all Regional Offices that contact her to assist in fixing issues they experience. If anyone comes over from other sections, she is the first one they go to for assistance. If she doesn't have the answer, she will track down someone who can assist. She does her absolute best to provide the best customer service to our public customers as well as our internal customers. Tiffany is a team player and always manages to keep a smile on her face even when things get a little crazy.

Way to go, Tiffany! Congratulations!



Members of the Brent Spence Corridor Project from both KYTC and the Ohio DOT gathered at the conference.

Design Build Institute Conference

The Cabinet was well-represented at the 2023 Design-Build for Transportation/Aviation Conference by six employees learning new tools and best practices that deliver project excellence. [Design-Build](#) is an alternative method of project delivery, in there is a single contract and the designer and contractor work together from the beginning as a team.

During the conference, the 30th anniversary of the Design-Build Institute of America was celebrated. Founders of the organization were recognized - one looking quite familiar!



Secretary Jim Gray was a visionary member of the Design-Build Institute of America in 1993. KYTC is proud to continue advancing alternative delivery efforts under his leadership!



Eye on Safety | Safety Award

Each year one of our highway districts is recognized for going “above and beyond” for safety with the KYTC Excellence of Safety Award.

This award is based on such factors as annual incident rates, number of training completions, number of monthly safety meetings and safety opportunity reports that are submitted – to name but a few.

For the third year in a row, this award was presented to Highway District 6. Congratulations! Your commitment to safety ensures a culture of care and responsibility that benefits everyone!



Learn more about the Secretary's Office of Safety [here](#).