

1. Name of Alumnus-Deidre Anderson-Barbee
 2. How many years have you had your MPP/MPA? MPA, 15+ years
 3. Where are you currently working? What is your job title? State Government
 4. What is your proudest accomplishment in your public service career? The recent selection to be the Assistant Commissioner of Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Childhood was the culmination of many years of advocating for children, families and a strong and vibrant early education system. I am humbled that my skills are valued and that my varied experience is going to be useful in this critical role within state government
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5. What do you love about what you do as a public servant? I am a servant leader so being able to serve the public is fulfilling in so many ways. It has never been about making money or being notable, it is about being a part of creating the world I want to see. Knowing that my voice matters and that others are willing to listen to me speak on behalf of those who often overlooked allows me to feel like I have spent my time wisely.
 6. What are you excited for about your future as a public servant? Being proximate to decision makers at the Missouri state capitol and being afforded the opportunity to elevate the voices of the countless educators, early childhood providers, parents and children. These are the people who are often forgotten and being able to impact public policy on their behalf is incredibly exciting. Also being able to bridge divides and forge collaborations so innovative solutions can be created is exhilarating.
 7. How has your education been vital to your career and in your accomplishments? My liberal arts education at Simpson College and graduate studies program at UMKC stimulated my thinking beyond what my individual mind could have imagined. The Quaker boarding school I attended also brought a global perspective to my mindset because I went to school with people from all over the world. My education is the fuel that feeds my soul and gives me the energy I need to remain hopeful. I thrive when I'm in an academic setting.
 8. What advice would you give to persons interested in a career in public service? There is nothing more rewarding than serving the public and I cannot imagine doing anything else. Other things may come and go, but our society relies on public servants. Though our work may not always be visible, we are the glue that keeps communities together. Do you want to know your work has impact and meaning? Then public service is for you!