



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Samantha Foster Named Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri- Samantha Foster has been named deputy director of the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), effective Monday, Aug. 28.

"Emergency management is truly my passion, and I am honored to serve OEM and my community in this position. Greene County is among the most resilient communities in America, and it's my goal to further cement that reputation." Foster said.

Foster holds a bachelor's degree in geography with a minor in political science from Missouri State University (MSU). She is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration from Walden University.

First introduced to OEM operations in 2013 as an intern, Foster parlayed her role into that of an independent contractor in 2014, updating the county's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. She was then promoted to the full-time position of municipality planning specialist in 2015 and training and exercise specialist in 2016. While in her latest role, Foster was instrumental in enhancing the county's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), overseeing a group of 100 volunteers who are called upon to assist OEM in both planned and disaster-related events throughout the year.

"Samantha's incredible work ethic, combined with her passion for the field of emergency management makes her an ideal deputy director," said Larry Woods, OEM director. "She began her career with OEM as an intern, and her dedication to this office and the continued development of her craft serves as an example of what is possible when you find a career you love, you work hard and you commit yourself to excellence."

Foster is the Greene County CERT Branch Director and is a member of the Southwest Missouri Incident Support Team and the Greene County Community Organizations Active in Disaster. She is actively involved in the Southwest Missouri Emergency Support Organization and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

A proud MSU alum, Foster sponsors the university's Emergency Management Student Association and oversees OEM's intern, volunteer and reservist program.

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For more information, contact Erin Hedlun, OEM Public Information Officer at 417-869-6040 (office), 417-860-0903 (cell) or ehedlun@greencountymo.gov.