



For Immediate Release: January 19, 2024  
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## ***Sheriff Patton Announces Employees of the Year***

Sheriff Jamie Patton has announced the 2023 employees of the year at the Union County Sheriff's Office. The deputy of the year is Sergeant Mike Austin. Sergeant Austin began his career at the Sheriff's Office in 2020, after serving several years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Mike is a graduate of the University of Phoenix with an associate of arts degree in criminal justice. Sergeant Austin also serves as a field training officer and member of the Sheriff's Office Special Response Team. Mike was nominated by his peers for this award for his professionalism, outstanding teamwork, and overall dependability. He remains calm in volatile and hectic situations and is always ready to step in and help his co-workers and the public.

The dispatcher of the year is Communications Officer Rachel Kerr. Communications Officer Kerr began her career at the Sheriff's Office in 2021. She is a graduate of the University of Findlay with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice. Rachel was nominated by her peers for this award for her positive attitude and because she always gives her best effort at work. She is a great communicator, a very committed dispatcher, and is not afraid to take on extra tasks to help her co-workers. She is a consummate team player who strives for excellence in everything she does.

The civilian employee of the year is Investigative Assistant Deb Segner. Investigative Assistant Segner has been a member of the Sheriff's Office since 2014. She is a graduate of Ashland University with a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction. She was nominated for this award by her peers for her unwavering support and loyalty to the Sheriff's Office. In 2023, she worked through tremendous personal challenges and continued to serve the Investigative Division at full speed. She is valued for her character, honesty, trust, positive attitude, and great work ethic. She is always willing to help others and provide input to solve problems and make things better.

"It's a great honor and privilege to work with these three dedicated individuals. They are passionate about their work and strive to serve in a way that positively impacts our community, our staff, and other first responders every day," said Sheriff Jamie Patton.

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Sergeant Mike Austin



Communications Officer Rachel Kerr



Investigative Assistant Deb Segner

