



Safety, service make winning combo for ODOT employee

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For Laura Prater, working hard to improve worker safety at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is a family affair.

Prater, who is the safety officer for ODOT's eight-county Division 1, was recently named Employee of the Quarter. Two years ago, her husband, Kenneth, who works in the department's Muskogee construction residency, received the same award in part for his attention to work zone safety issues.

Now it is Laura's turn. She works in the Division 1 headquarters, also in Muskogee. As safety officer, she works to eliminate safety hazards from work zones throughout Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah and Wagoner counties.

An anonymous coworker who nominated Laura for the award praised both her accuracy and her attitude.

"Laura maintains a good working relationship with coworkers, consultants and employees at various ODOT branches," the coworker wrote. "She takes a proactive approach to all of her job duties.

"Laura is always trying to learn more about her job and other ODOT functions. She is very experienced with and knowledgeable of construction documentation requirements and processes. She is courteous and helpful to the public and her coworkers. Laura is capable of handling any task assigned to her."

Laura enjoys riding four-wheelers, cake decorating and working with Kenneth on their farm. The couple lives in Checotah.

The Praters are believed to be the first husband and wife to win the award. The couple has been married nine years but combined have more than 50 years of service at ODOT.

The Division One Employee of the Quarter Award recognizes exceptional employees for their dedication, hard work and for consistently exhibiting the highest standard in job performance.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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