

**2017**  
**Missouri Agricultural Extension Professionals**  
**Agriculture Leadership Award Winner**

**Nominee Name: Kristin Perry, J.D., Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Submitted by: Karisha Devlin and Amie Schleicher**

**Describe leadership contributions to Missouri agriculture:**

Since 2001, Kristin Perry has been the Executive Director of Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow (ALOT). ALOT is a two-year adult leadership training program targeted toward rural leaders and agricultural producers who have a passion to promote Missouri agriculture and strengthen their rural communities. The ALOT mission is “to provide advanced leadership experiences that will make a positive impact to the future of agriculture and agribusiness in Missouri and beyond.” The ALOT program includes ten in-state three day sessions, a week long seminar in Washington D.C., and a two week international experience to a country that impacts Missouri agriculture. The program enhances participants’ communication and leadership skills, expands their understanding of agricultural issues, encourages involvement and leadership initiative in their industry and communities, and connects participants to ALOT’s 400 alumni participants across Missouri. Additionally, ALOT introduces them to hundreds more of Missouri’s innovative and involved citizens who offer their personal experiences and insights to help participants become more effective leaders. ALOT alums serve on the boards of almost every agricultural organization in Missouri, fourteen have served in the Missouri legislature, one is a U.S. Congressman, and four have served as Missouri Directors of Agriculture. A number of University of Missouri faculty and staff—including MU Extension faculty—have further developed their leadership skills through participation in the ALOT program. The authors of this award nomination are included in that group.

Kristin served on the Missouri Clean Water Commission for a number of years. Additionally, Kristin is involved in supporting the Bowling Green FFA Chapter, Pike County Young Farmers and Ranchers, and Pike County Farm Bureau. The Perry Family owns and operates Perry Agricultural Lab in Bowling Green, MO. They are all very passionate about agriculture and leadership development for Missouri’s farmers and ranchers.

**Describe leadership contributions to University of Missouri Extension:**

For many years, Kristin has been an active supporter and contributor to the University of Missouri. She has served on the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) since 1992. CARET was created by the deans of agriculture at land-grant universities. The organization works closely with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and is composed of representatives from the 50 states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. In her role at CARET, she advocates for greater national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people. Additionally, Kristin has served as the CAFNR delegate to the For All We Call Mizzou campaign and was the CAFNR Executive in Residence in 2004. She currently serves on the Veterinary School Fundraising Board.

Dr. Tom Payne, retired Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, shared this about Kristin:

*"Kristin Perry is the most dedicated cheerleader for Missouri agriculture I know. Her commitment and leadership are far-reaching. As President of Perry Ag Labs, she, husband Bob and family have been serving Missouri agriculture for decades. In her capacity as chair of the Missouri Clean Water Commission she championed protection of Missouri's river systems in support of agriculture. As an executive member and member of CARET (Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching) she has championed MU and Missouri agricultural issues to our national senators and representatives, and had done the same in Jefferson City with the executive branch and general assembly. And as Executive Director of the ALOT (Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow) Program, she has significantly enhanced the program by leading each class through significant state, national and international contacts and experiences across the broadest spectrum of agriculture. For her dedicated leadership, it is very fitting that she is honored with the Missouri Agriculture Extension Professionals (MAEP) Ag Leadership Award"*

Dave Baker, Assistant Dean Emeritus for MU Ag and Natural Resources Extension, had this to say about Kristin: *"Kristin's passion for Missouri and her commitment to the development of agricultural leadership is deeply rooted in a clear vision so that Missouri agriculture will grow. Agriculture will need 21st Century leadership professionals that are both visionary thinkers and transformational doers. In addition, that same passion drives Kristin to strong leadership roles at state, regional and national levels in support of the Land Grant Mission. As Jeff Boss stated in a Forbes article ([www.Forbes.com](http://www.Forbes.com)) about the 6 Principles of a Leadership Legacy, "A leader's legacy is a by-product of the historical decisions one makes driven by his or her personal values. In other words, a solid legacy plants the seeds from which consistency and expectations sprout that, in turn, become*

*the organizational funnel for future performance.” Nothing I can say describes better the impact that Kristin’s leadership and vision will have on the future of Missouri and Missouri agriculture.”*