

## Alumna Monique Goris wins Hazelwood School District Social Worker of the Year



Monique Goris was enjoying a day off work when her phone rang. Jazell Thomas, coordinator of counseling and social work services for the [Hazelwood School District](#), was on the other end of the line, calling to ask Goris if she was on campus. The question seemed a bit odd, but Goris informed Thomas that she was out of the office.

When Thomas asked if she'd checked her inbox, Goris suspected something was up. "That prompted me to go and peek," Goris said. "When I did, I had seen that I received an email from the director of human resources with a letter saying, 'Congratulations, well deserved.' That's when I texted my coordinator and was like, 'Are you serious?'"

That's how Goris, a graduate of the School of Social Work at the [University of Missouri–St. Louis](#) and social worker for three elementary schools in the district, learned she had been named the [2021-2022 Hazelwood School District Social Worker of the Year](#) by her peers.

"It came at a very good time in my life because I felt like I needed that boost of confidence, reassurance that I was doing the best that I could for the students," she said of the accolade. "Oftentimes, when you have three buildings, it feels like it's hard to make a difference. So I honestly felt honored."

Goris' social work career began as a family advocate and educator with [Youth In Need](#) before completing [UMSL's MSW program](#) and joining HSD as a social worker in 2019. However, growing up in [Weslaco, Texas](#), a small town 15 minutes from the Mexican border, she didn't know what career path she'd take or if she'd ever leave the Rio Grande Valley.

That changed toward the end of high school. Despite her diminutive 4'11" frame, Goris was a skilled high school wrestler, and she attracted the attention of a recruiter from [Lindenwood University](#). He regularly attended Goris' meets and talked to her about the possibility of competing in college and receiving an education.

She remained uncertain about leaving Texas until senior year when the recruiter offered her an athletic scholarship. She seized the opportunity, but it took time for her to find her footing in college.

Initially, due to her interest in sports, Goris entered the bachelor's program in athletic training. She quickly realized the field wasn't for her and switched her major to nursing. Something was still missing, though.

Goris turned to her family for advice.

# Lincoln News *Now!*

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## Judith Lawson



Twelve minutes past midnight in St. Charles, Missouri, the 1938 4th of July had just begun, and so did the life of Judith Kaye McCoy. A Fourth of July birthday was always a double celebration for Judy. She was the daughter of Helen Ricks McCoy and David Wayne McCoy of Troy, Missouri.

Upon reaching school age, Judy attended the schools of Troy, graduating from Troy Buchanan High School with the class of 1956. She continued her education at the University of Missouri and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa where she received a Bachelor's of Science in 1959. Her graduate degree was earned at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois.

Judy became a teacher par excellence, teaching first for the Hazelwood schools in Hazelwood, Missouri, and then in the public schools of River Forest, Illinois. She then taught thirty two years for the Scottsdale Unified School District in Arizona, of which twenty four years were spent at her beloved Hopi Elementary School. Judy retired in 2000.

On September 11, 1965, Judy married Lowell B. Lawson in Troy, Missouri and soon afterward moved to Phoenix, Arizona where they maintained their residence ever since. They shared a life together for fifty seven years.

To this union were born two children: a son, Marc Modisett Lawson, and a daughter, Kaye Ricks Lawson.

Judy was a member of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) all of her life. She was an active member of the Alpha Phi social sorority, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of the Mayflower Descendants, PEO, Alpha Delta Kappa (education group), and the Arizona and National Education Associations.

[https://www.lincolnnewsnow.com/obituaries/judith-lawson/article\\_c7f1bdd4-b128-11ec-a328-6ffe45d58acf.html](https://www.lincolnnewsnow.com/obituaries/judith-lawson/article_c7f1bdd4-b128-11ec-a328-6ffe45d58acf.html)

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# All-Metro girls basketball player of the year: Incarnate Word's Tyler thrives during crunch time



Incarnate Word senior Saniah Tyler lived up to her moniker early March 18 in the Class 6 girls basketball state championship game. Tyler likes to be called "Big Game," and she came through with a pair of baskets in the first 55 seconds to get the Red Knights off and running toward a 67-50 win over Kickapoo.

That was the easy part. Kickapoo called a timeout after enduring Incarnate Word's early 5-0 blitz. Tyler then ran over to her bench to be greeted by coach Dan Rolfes, who was surprisingly exuberant.

Rolfes leaned forward and gave his point guard a rare high five. It was a particularly aggressive celebratory move by the veteran coach, who is usually not excitable. "I thought he was going to break one of my fingers," Tyler recalled. "It was my shooting hand. It really hurt. I looked down and my hand was red."

But even Rolfes couldn't slow down the 5-foot-6 playmaker on this afternoon.

Tyler discovered her love for the game almost by accident. While shooting at a basket during recess of her third-grade year at St. Angela Merici in Florissant, she quickly realized that she was making almost every shot.

She went to her mother, Kamilah, and expressed an interest to play against real competition.

Mom initially put her foot down. "To me, it was kind of a boys dominated sport and I wanted her to dance and do girls stuff," Kamilah said. "She just stayed on me and I finally said, 'OK.'"

Tyler's advanced skills forced her to play up a grade or two, and when she entered Hazelwood West Middle School she already was as talented as most of the boys. "I knew right then that basketball was for me," Tyler said.

## Understanding Student Rights in the Media

New Jersey recently became the 15th state to pass the “New Voices” law which protects the free speech of students. John Tagliareni, who played a large role in getting the legislation passed, visited NJCU yesterday to talk to students about the protections that it offers.

Governor Phil Murphy signed the New Voices bill into law late last year.

According to the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), New Voices was first introduced in New Jersey in 2015.

The purpose of the law is to “protect student rights and teacher’s rights,” as explained by Tagliareni.

Tagliareni pointed out a few instances in NJ where students were censored and had to get legal help from the SPLC. In one famous case from 1994, for example, school administrators removed student articles about R-rated films (NJ Supreme Court case *Desilets v. Clearview Regional Board of Education*). He said the New Voices act would help minimize the need for students to get lawyers involved.

Tagliareni is an NJCU alum, earning both his BA and MA from the university. He advised a student newspaper for 39 years at Bergenfield High School in New Jersey. He has a background in English and journalism.

### How the New Voices Act Came to NJ

The censoring of student journalists is what led to the push for the new legislation. Tagliareni said there was also a “need to protect teachers in NJ” who were punished for siding with students.

A particular case decided in January 1988 by the Supreme Court inspired the New Voices movement. It was known as **Hazelwood School District** v. Kuhlmeir.

The case was notable because the principal of **Hazelwood East High School** removed two articles from the student publication deeming them “inappropriate” for covering pregnancy. The principal argued that he was doing so to protect the pregnant students’ identities. A Supreme Court ruling on the case indicated that schools had the right to make policies to essentially censor student media. Students would be unable to fully exercise their First Amendment right under this.