



Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Honors Alumni, Board Members, Community Partners & Staff At Annual Recognition Event

ST. LOUIS – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) is proud to announce the 2021 Annual Recognition event honorees and Alumni Hall of Honor inductees! Each year the staff, board members, volunteers and supporters are acknowledged and celebrated for their commitment to the Boys & Girls Clubs as well as the kids and teens that we serve.

The 2021 BGCSTL Alumni Hall of Honor inductees are Brandon Bosley, Paris Thompson, Sharita Davis, Steve Vasser, Gerald Fulton, Marsha Walls and Kayla Jackson-Williams. The Hall of Honor recognizes outstanding alumni for achievements in their respective fields, commitment to leadership, serving our community's youth, contributions to the St. Louis community and for living out the mission of the Boys & Girls Club. Additional categories and honorees for the evening were as follows (award descriptions below):

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. BGCSTL provides after-school, teen, sports and summer programs to youth across the Bi-State Region while also providing a safe place for them to learn and grow. The Clubs serve youth across the region at twelve locations, including (Adams Park Club, Boys & Girls Club of Bethalto, Boys & Girls Club of Lovejoy, Hazelwood Elementary School Club, Herbert Hoover Club, Mathews-Dickey Club, Normandy High School, O'Fallon Park Club, Riverview Gardens Club, Roosevelt High School, Hazelwood Southeast Middle School Club and the Teen Center of Excellence). We also operate Mentor St. Louis and the St. Louis Internship Program.

STL.works First Responders' Career Pathway Initiative increasing positive engagements



Public safety and excellent first responders are essential for our communities, corporations, citizens and country to thrive. Yet, with 36.1 million plus Coronavirus cases and more than 616,500 deaths in the U.S. as of this month, according to the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboard, public safety has many new dimensions. Amid increasingly dangerous variants and worker shortages, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, rescue units and police have responded to increasing numbers of suicide attempts, abuse cases, fires, COVID-19 cases, deaths and more. To enhance St. Louis public safety workforce support, the Regional Business Council established a STL.works public safety subcommittee comprised of a dozen regional and state first responder leaders. The subcommittee has met biweekly since January to increase positive engagement with youth and public safety workforce diversity, inclusion and equity. Its leaders created the St. Louis Region First Responders' Career Pathways Initiative, including Careers and Pathways in Law Enforcement (CAPLE). "CAPLE provides us a modern method to attract our youth towards careers in public safety. Traditional methods of recruiting, such as job postings and attending career fairs, fall short of reaching younger generations who are more hands-on and visual learners," explained Capt. Norman Mann, with the St. Louis County Police Department Bureau of Community Engagement.

"CAPLE gives future leaders the opportunity to 'kick the tires' and experience these professions through non-hazardous but educational activities. "Public safety agencies will greatly benefit from applicants who have taken the initiative to complete job readiness programs such as this. The St. Louis County Police Department is proud to be a partner of this First Responders' Career Pathways Initiative of STL.works, as we value community engagement to welcome people to our work family." Subsequently, 10 St. Louis area school districts partnered with the initiative, sharing information with educators and students. In June and July, more than 50 high schoolers were selected from Hazelwood, Jennings, Pattonville, University City and beyond to join with first responders and cadets for three half-days of job shadowing, training activities and career exposure as firefighters, EMTs, inspectors, and law enforcement officers at the St. Louis County Fire and Police Academy. During August, a select group of over 35 youth participated in a 5-day First Responders Camp at the BSA Beaumont Reservation, providing firsthand public safety pre-cadet experiences to a diverse population of potential leaders (age 14 to 18). Year-long mentors have been assigned to youth to maintain positive engagement, promote great relationships and recruit potential new cadets (18+) and public safety professionals. STL.works public safety subcommittee members, Robertson Fire Protection District (RFPD) Captain Paul Peebles and St. Louis County Police Department Community Outreach Officer Brandon McCrary explained that such opportunities helped them become first responders