



## Electrical Connection's Sylvester Taylor Earns Diversity Award from the St. Louis Business Journal

The *St. Louis Business Journal* has named the Electrical Connection's Sylvester Taylor one of its "Champions for Diversity and Inclusion." Taylor is director of diversity, equity and inclusion for the Electrical Connection, a partnership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1 and St. Louis Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

According to the *St. Louis Business Journal*, the "Champions for Diversity and Inclusion" showcases "individuals who, through their work, are truly championing the cause of making St. Louis a more inclusive place to live and work." In saluting Taylor, the business publication noted that he "works to chart a path for more minorities in the electrical industry. When Taylor entered the IBEW/NECA Electrical Industry Training Program in 1990 as an apprentice, only two women and two African Americans were selected yearly for apprentices. Today, approximately a third of apprentices at the training center are minorities and it has sustained that number for the past 10 years."

Taylor is recording secretary for IBEW and for the past 17 years has been the voice of minority workers as the co-founder and current president of IBEW's Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. He has used that voice to help shape the Electrical Connection's diversity goals, leveraging the modernization of infrastructure as a recruitment tool in underserved communities. This includes engineering and installing renewable energy, smart infrastructure, EV charging stations, integrated communications along with tradition electrical and communication needs.

For the last six years, Taylor has served as a mentor for the Missouri Division of Youth Services, providing guidance for those the agency serves and encouraging young people to consider a career in the trades. This year, a coat drive initiative launch by Taylor when he co-founded the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus in 2004 will present its 18,000th coat to youth in need.

Outside of the electrical industry, Taylor serves as treasurer on the Hazelwood School Board, is chairman of the St. Louis County Fire Safety and Standards Commission and has served on the board of the Black Jack Fire Protection District. From 2010 to 2014, Taylor also served as the representative for 80th District in the Missouri House of Representative.

Taylor and other honorees will be saluted at a Sept. 9, 2021 luncheon at the Chase Park Plaza. Learn more about the *St. Louis Business Journal's* "Champions for Diversity and Inclusion" program and all of its honorees at

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2021/08/05/meet-2021-champions-diversity-inclusion-honorees.html>

# Ameren Missouri helps school districts improve energy efficiency through BizSavers program



Through its BizSavers Program, Ameren Missouri has made cost-saving energy efficiency upgrades to several St. Louis area school districts.

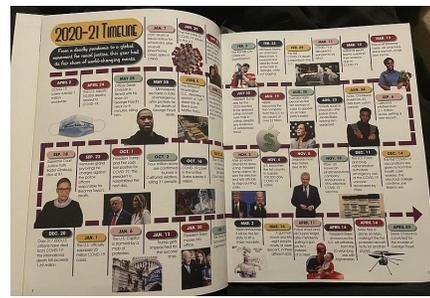
The upgrades, which include brighter classrooms and more efficient heating and cooling systems, will result in significant cost savings for the schools. Since 2018, Missouri schools have saved more than \$7.9 million on their energy statements and conserved more than 91 million kWh of electricity as a direct result of energy efficiency upgrades. Ameren Missouri helped the districts offset costs by providing more than \$12.5 million in incentives as part of its BizSavers program. Through this program, Ameren Missouri provides cash incentives for energy efficiency upgrades, such as LED lighting, high efficiency HVAC and refrigeration systems, commercial-grade cooking equipment, motor controls/variable frequency drives, and much more.

Also, the **Hazelwood School District** earned \$840,000 in cash incentives to upgrade LED lights at 33 buildings, saving the district \$685,000 in annual energy costs and reducing energy use by 8.5 million kWh. In addition, the St. Roch Catholic School will save more than \$26,000 in electricity costs annually, thanks to lighting and HVAC upgrades made possible from earnings more than \$37,000 in incentives.

“We’re proud to help schools save money on their energy statements so they can devote even more resources to provide their students the best education possible,” Rich Wright, manager of energy efficiency at Ameren Missouri, said. “Working with schools of all sizes that are taking advantage of Ameren Missouri’s cash incentives and the annual energy cost savings, we’re able to identify numerous projects that pay for themselves quickly and provide ongoing savings for years to come.”

In addition, the Lincoln County School District earned more than \$350,000 in cash incentives from Ameren Missouri by completing 51 projects at 10 school buildings. They updated thousands of fluorescent fixtures to LED lighting, installed advanced HVAC systems to reduce energy waste, and put in new water loop heat pumps and water heaters that use 15 percent less energy.

“By working with Ameren Missouri, we were able to make energy efficiency upgrades that will reduce our energy bill by about \$294,000 a year,” Todd Culbertson, assistant superintendent of facilities and operations at Lincoln County, said. “Those savings give us the opportunity to reallocate funding to other areas that can have a significant impact on our students and their education.”



## Bigelow school committed 'cancel culture' by censoring yearbook pages, says student media advocate

A two-page timeline that was "ripped" from many Bigelow High School yearbooks should be reprinted and distributed to everyone at the high school, according to the Student Press Law Center, which condemned the action as "an unlawful and insulting display of censorship."

Superintendent Heidi Wilson should include a "formal, public written apology" with the reprinted pages, according to an email that Hadar Harris, executive director of the national organization, sent to Wilson on Friday.

Based in Washington, D.C., the Student Press Law Center promotes and defends the First Amendment rights of student journalists, and their advisers, at the high school and college levels.

The timeline's title was "From a deadly pandemic to a global movement for racial justice, this year had its fair share of world-changing events." The timeline included the U.S. Capitol riot and the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Daunte Wright.

The timeline and letter to Wilson can be seen at <https://bit.ly/3k9cmou>.

"As we understand it, school officials made the ill-conceived decision to remove a two-page spread in the yearbook following publication," wrote Harris. "The spread outlined important world events that took place during the 2020-2021 academic year, including the 2020 election, the impact of covid-19, the death of George Floyd, and more. The reason cited for the removal of the already-published content was that school officials were at the receiving end of 'community backlash' over the yearbook spread."

When asked for documentation regarding the community backlash, the superintendent couldn't produce any, according to Harris. The center submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for "A copy of any document (including, but not limited to, any letters, emails, social media messages, voicemail recordings, or voicemail transcripts) reflecting the 'community backlash' against the 2020-2021 Bigelow High School yearbook."

Student journalists have First Amendment rights that their schools cannot lawfully override, Harris wrote in her letter to Superintendent Wilson.

"The U.S. Supreme Court set a 'floor' for the legal protection of student journalism in its 1988 ruling, **Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier**, and said that school officials have to demonstrate that their censorship is 'reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns,'" wrote Harris. "Although the Court did not specifically define every reason that could qualify as a 'legitimate pedagogical concern,' lower courts have clarified that schools may not use their authority over student publications to deny information to the public purely for purposes of public-relations image control."

# Dorothy A. Gorman



Dorothy A. Gorman, 91 of Alton, IL and formerly of Berkley, MO, Highland and Keysport, IL passed away on August 17, 2021 at Edwardsville Care Center.

Dorothy was born on July 8, 1931 in St. Louis, MO; the daughter of the late Robert and Annis (Brooks) Ozment Rayfield. Dorothy gave over 40 dedicated years as a **teacher in the Hazelwood School District** where she retired. In her free time Dorothy enjoyed her days of sewing and reading, but most of all Dorothy loved to spend time with her family. She will be remembered for the love of her family and all the special times they shared together.

Dorothy is survived by and will be missed by her daughter; Susan and Chuck Keller of Alton, IL; sons, John and Kathy Gorman of Budda, TX, Jason St. Lee; grandchildren, Jim and Angie Gorman, Charlie and Marlie Keller, Susanne Keller, Matt and Jamie Gorman; 9 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mary Jane and Larry Black, Sue Ellen and Jay Disman and many other close family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Gorman, whom she married in 1951 and her brother, John Ozment.

According to Dorothy's wishes she will be cremated and family services are at a later date.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Dorothy A. Gorman please visit our Tribute Store.