

Young Leader Profile: Johnnica Bolden



St. Louis

Hazelwood Central High School **2012 CHS Alum**

Harris-Stowe State University, BBA, (emphasis entrepreneurship)

Webster University (MBA – In process)

RBC Young Professionals

In short, what do you do?

I own a construction company based in St. Louis, MO. This construction company specializes in dump trucks (hauling materials to and from job sites). I also work for a startup tech company called iJustOrder as the Chief Operating Officer. iJustOrder is a software application company where you can attend a live event and order concession stand food from your phone and have it delivered directly to your seat.

Have you had any mentors or participated in any programs that were especially helpful in your industry?

My mentor in this industry was my grandfather, Willie Jefferson. He has been in the industry for 60+ years (age: 82 now). Since I was in grade school, I've been riding in semi-trucks, dump trucks and tractor trailers. He showed me the basics and from there I took my college knowledge and grew his construction company.

You started your own construction company, J. Star Construction. What are the biggest lessons you've learned as an entrepreneur?

Learning how significant employees are. There have been times where I didn't have any employees or I had several employees, but they would never show up for work. There have been times where I had to sub out a lot of my work just to get the job done. Biggest lesson I learned was hiring unfit employees can leave a bad representation of your company.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hazelwood School District recognizes teachers and support staff at Annual Founders Day celebration



The Hazelwood PTA Council held its annual Founders Day celebration on Feb. 6, recognizing the district's Teacher and Support Staff of the Year award winners.

Trent Crenshaw, sixth grade reading and English language arts teacher at Hazelwood Northwest Middle School, was honored as the 2019-

2020 Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Tiffany Fane, instructional coach at Hazelwood East Middle School, was recognized as first runner-up; Ashley Smith, P.E. and driver's education teacher at Hazelwood Central High School, was recognized as second runner-up.

As part of the evening, each school's PTA chapter donated money to the HSD PTA Council Scholarship Program.

When combined with proceeds from the Hazelwood 70th Anniversary celebration in December, more than \$24,000 was contributed to scholarships for graduating HSD seniors.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New academic readiness program provides a free, fast jump start to college

Character.org, a national advocate and leader for character in schools, families, sports teams, and the workplace designated 81 schools and seven districts as State Schools of Character for 2020. Among those recognized in Missouri were Brown Elementary and Cold Water Elementary schools in the Hazelwood School District.

"I could not be more proud of this accomplishment and district recognition," said Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of the Hazelwood School District. "To have both Brown Elementary and Cold Water Elementary schools named as State Schools of Character demonstrates the hard work and focus on academic achievement, student behavior, and school climate.

"Our students, faculty, and staff are to be commended for being recognized at the national level for developing a culture of high expectations and excellence every day in their schools," said Collins-Hart.

Since its inception, Character.org's Schools of Character program has positively impacted nearly three million students, staff, parents, and other community members. Each year, Character.org certifies schools and districts at the state level that demonstrate a dedicated focus on character development which has a positive effect on academic achievement, student behav-

ior, and school climate. Schools and districts announced today will be considered for Character.org's highest distinction – National School of Character.

"We are pleased to announce today the 2020 State Schools and Districts of Character," said Dr. Arthur Schwartz, Character.org's Board Chair and Interim CEO. "These schools' representatives, including educators, parents, and students, are working together to create stronger communities that exemplify the character strengths of honesty, caring, and responsibility. We are honored to be validating their efforts and sharing their inspiring work with schools and school districts throughout the United States."

To learn more about the schools chosen today and those in the midst of their five-year certification as State Schools of Character, please visit Character.org. Criteria for selection are based on Character.org's 11 Principles of Character which includes providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership, and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

The 2020 National Schools of Character will be announced in May 2020. Character.org will honor these schools and districts at the 2020 National Forum to be held Oct. 1-3 in Washington, DC.