

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

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Page 18

Salute to Young Leaders

February 20 – 26, 2020

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated[®]
OMICRON THETA OMEGA CHAPTER



CONGRATULATES

Portia J. Britt & Aunyā McElroy

ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
ST. LOUIS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

SCHOOL COUNSELOR
JURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT



RECIPIENTS OF
THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN FOUNDATION'S
2020 SALUTE TO YOUNG LEADERS AWARD

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

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Hazelwood
School
District

"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"

The Hazelwood School District
Salutes **Aunya L. McElroy**



Jury Elementary School Counselor

We salute you for being recognized as a Young Leader by the St. Louis American Foundation. The Hazelwood School District wishes to thank you for setting a culture of high expectations and excellence in our schools.

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Aunya McElroy, M.Ed.

School Counselor

Jury Elementary School, Hazelwood School District

What does a typical day look like for you as a school counselor?

As a school counselor, every day is a new adventure. In the mornings, I greet the students as they enter the school or in passing as they head to class. During the lunch periods, I sit with different groups of students and engage in meaningful conversations. I facilitate age appropriate guidance lessons and facilitate IEP or CARE Team meetings. There are times that I meet with students individually to help students gain an increased awareness of self-confidence, realization of self-discipline, improved relationships with others, and character development. My primary role is to respond to the needs of the students, parents, and the community on a daily basis.

What drew you to a career in school



counseling and education?

Even as an elementary student, I volunteered to be in a mentorship-type role. I knew I wanted to help others, specifically students. I wanted to be a person students felt comfortable talking to about their feelings without any judgement. A student needs to see someone who is authentic, makes them feel they matter and are heard. Ultimately, a career field in school counseling and education would give me more time to have the impact of building solid relationships with students, which is why I am a school counselor today!

What is your philosophy in working with children?

My personal philosophy of working with students is focused on advocating for each individual student and supporting

them through a positive growth process using unconditional positive regard. I believe in creating safe spaces for students to grow and heal. My main focus is on building authentic relationships. Although students may have similar concerns, their personal experiences and trauma varies. Overall I believe everyone has potential to do what it takes to become someone important in society. My sole reason for choosing this career is to help students improve their narrative and help bring out their potential to be their best selves in school and in society. By doing this, it encourages them to positively view themselves as having hope, direction, and purpose.

Describe an experience or student success story that makes you especially proud.

During my time at Hazelwood East High School, one of my students did not want to come to school and was on the verge of dropping out without a plan. I met with the student on a consistent basis to build a relationship and to develop interventions that would encourage them to come to school each day. The student ultimately decided to drop out and I told the student to make sure they kept me updated with their life plans. I received an email from the student over that summer stating that they were pursuing

Born:
St. Louis, MO

Education:
High School:
McCluer North High

College & Degree:
• SIUE, BS, Psychology
• University of Missouri-St. Louis, Masters in School Counseling (K-12)

Member of the following:
National Board for Certified Counselors
• American School Counselor Association
• St. Louis Suburban School Counselor Association
• Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
• SistaKeeper Empowerment Center

their GED and was now looking into a technical career. I am a firm believer that college is not the only way to a successful future. I am extremely proud of the student and glad they were able to overcome their fears and stay focused.

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Johnnica Bolden

Chief Operating Officer

iJustOrder

CEO

J Star Construction

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.

You've undertaken some large-scale



contract projects. What's your project management style?

My project management style varies based on the project. If I'm working on a smaller scope project, my management style is more deadline-driven. Working on a detailed project with a large scope such as BJC, my management style shifts because their focus is more quality and budget driven.

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.

What advice can you share with women and women of color who are considering a career in construction?

Research. Make sure this is the industry you want to be in because construction comes with an expensive price tag. After researching, just do it! Construction is a male dominated industry, so you will not be welcomed with open arms. You will have to fight your way there; networking is a creative way to get there. Lastly, never take no for an answer. If someone else is already doing it, you can do it too!

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

Born:
St. Louis, MO

Education:
High School:
Hazelwood Central High

College:
• Harris-Stowe State University, BBA, (emphasis entrepreneurship)

• Webster University (MBA – In process)

Member of the following:
• RBC Young Professionals

me the basics and from there I took my college knowledge and grew his construction company.

What are your favorite St. Louis destinations for weekend fun?

MX Movies downtown St. Louis, they deliver food to your seat and I love watching new movies!

2012 CHS Alum



Tamia Coleman-Hawkins, founder and CEO of Mia's Treats Delight and seventh-grader at Hazelwood Northwest Middle School. During the workshop, she spoke to the girls about being a young entrepreneur and girl boss.

Jury School Girls Participate In Girl Boss Entrepreneur Workshop

Aunya McElroy, Jury Elementary School counselor, recently invited 18-year-old entrepreneur, Kaniya Slusher to Jury Elementary, in the Hazelwood School District, to facilitate a workshop for girls, "Design Me a Donut: An Entrepreneur Workshop" on Jan. 30.

"I hosted the event to showcase young entrepreneurs in the St. Louis community so that my students at Jury could interact with them," said McElroy. "I also wanted to encourage them to start to build their brand and open their minds to the idea of entrepreneurship."

The selection process for attending the event was on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first 50 girls from Jury who turned in a permission slip was given a VIP ticket for admission.

Slusher's workshop encouraged 3rd-5th grade girls at Jury to explore business ideas and manifest their wildest dreams.

The workshop featured three breakout

sessions: fashion design, headband design, and logo design. Through open discussion and mentorship, Slusher was able to connect and build relationships with the girls at Jury, inspiring them to take something they enjoy and make it into a business opportunity.

The workshop also showcased Tamia Coleman-Hawkins, founder and CEO of Mia's Treats Delight and seventh-grader at Hazelwood Northwest Middle School. During the workshop, she spoke to the girls about being a young entrepreneur and girl boss. Coleman-Hawkins also serves on the Kids Board of Directors for the national online retailer KIDBOX, an organization that donates new clothes to children in need for each box that purchasers keep. At the culmination of the event, Coleman-Hawkins shared items from KIDBOX that the girls were able to take home. "After this event, it is my hope that the girls will continue to think about their interests/hobbies and how they can turn them into a business," said McElroy.

Hazelwood School District Recognizes Support Staff at Annual Founders Day

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.

HSD Support Staff of the Year

Amy Jezik, Child Nutrition – McNair Elementary

Andrea Caldwell, Clerical – Lusher Elementary

Brandon Williams, Custodial – Jury Elementary School

Brenda Henson, Professional/Technical – Human Resources

Brian Briethaupt, Maintenance – District
Carol Heil, Nurse – Hazelwood West High School

Debra Cazer-Harrell, Child Nutrition – Hazelwood East High School

Debra Johnson, Teacher Assistant – Arrowpoint Elementary

Elaine Chambers, Custodial – Lawson Elementary

Heidi Walker-Morris, Social Worker – Hazelwood Opportunity Center

Kelly Eagan, Clerical – McNair Elementary

Laurie VanHorn, Clerical – Business Office

Miles Hogan, Security – Hazelwood East Middle School

Robert Kennedy, Jr., Teacher Assistant – Hazelwood Northwest Middle School

Shinta Cannamore, Transportation – Hazelwood Central High School/East Early Childhood

Hazelwood Students Advance in DECA Competition at UMSL

More than 40 Hazelwood School District students took part in a regional DECA competition Feb. 4 at UMSL. DECA is an international association of high school students studying marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Nine students from Hazelwood Central High School and 35 from Hazelwood East High School competed, and several placed high enough to advance to the Missouri DECA State Career Development Conference in Kansas City in March.

Students had the opportunity to participate in several different events at the competition, including principles of business administration, marketing, advertising, leadership academies, and entrepreneurship projects. During the competition, students are evaluated by business and industry professionals as they problem-solve realistic workplace topics and case studies through one-on-one interaction with an executive or community member. The following students placed in the top three of their events and will advance to the state competition:

East High School

Iyinoluwa Aruwajoye, 1st place, Principles of Finance

Sydneh Holmes, 1st place, Marketing Communications

Krysta Utley, 2nd place, Principles of Finance

Alijah Holmes, 2nd place, Automotive Services Marketing

Maryjean Taylor-Hutt, 3rd place, Leadership Delegate and 3rd place in Hotel and Lodging Management

Angelique Wilson, 3rd place, Apparel and Accessories Marketing

Brandon Thomas, 3rd place, Business Finance

Shaniya McGhee, 3rd place, Restaurant and Food Service Management

Central High School

Jada Williams, 1st place, Marketing Communications

Sebastian Dellrud, 2nd place, Business Services Marketing

Jordan Brathwatte, 2nd place, Human Resources Management

Taylor Davidson, 3rd place, Apparel and Accessories Marketing

India Harris, 3rd place, Restaurant and Food Service Management



Florissant Rotary Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Rotary Club of Florissant announced they will fund a scholarship program for five senior students in the Rotary area, which includes the boundaries of the Hazelwood and Ferguson-Florissant School Districts.

Each of the five scholarships will be worth \$2000 and will be paid for one year to the accredited college, university, or vocational school the student chooses to attend. Students in private, parochial, vocational, or public schools are invited to apply.

The scholarship has a minimum 2.5 GPA requirement for eligibility. It is not primarily an academic scholarship, nor does the criterion for selection include financial need. The scholarships are targeted at students who have demonstrated excellence in service to their school and their community. For more info, visit www.florissantrotary.org Applications must be mailed to Rotary Club of Florissant, P.O. Box 1188, Florissant, Mo. 63031-0188. They must be postmarked no later than March 15.



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