

# THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

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## Salute to Young Leaders Networking Awards Reception

*Last week, nearly 300 attended the St. Louis American Foundation's 10th annual Salute to Young Leaders Networking Awards Reception at the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis. Twenty outstanding African-American professionals, under age 40, were honored at the special recognition event. St. Louis-based #MLS4THELOU served as the Champion Sponsor of the event and Partner sponsors were Edward Jones, the Regional Business Council, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and Webster University. It was an evening of celebration that was energized by an appreciative audience that was inspired by the accomplishments and service of these honorees.*



The 2020 Class of Young Leaders just after receiving their awards at the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis.



2020 honoree Aunya McElroy was supported by her siblings Wesley and Tasha during the 10th Annual Salute to Young Leaders Thursday evening @ The Four Seasons

## Healthcare Careers

### Desiree' N. Williams Project Coordinator



**Where do you work?** I am a project coordinator and strategic finance and certified passenger safety technician.

**Where did you go to school?** I graduated from Hazelwood East High School, and I then majored in biology at the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

**What does a project coordinator do?** As the Project Coordinator of Finance, I help to make sure donations received are properly given to each department to make sure donor gifts are used to its best ability. Lucky for me, as a Certified Safety Tech, I get to see those dollars go to work! I make sure all infants and children that leave the hospital are kept safe while traveling in the car and while they are at home. Injury and death prevention is the number one focus.

**Why did you choose this career?** Several years ago, my son was a patient of St. Louis Children's Hospital. The care he received was phenomenal, so working here is like my way of giving back. (It made me become a donor myself.) Every department in which I award funds to, my son was able to benefit from such dollars. It's pretty neat to see it come full circle.

**What is your favorite part of the job you have?** I don't think I can pick just one. The teams I work on are amazing and they make being at work enjoyable. Seeing the smile on a patient's face, receiving a thank you email, or just knowing I am building the confidence of caretakers are worthwhile. St. Louis Children's Hospital is a truly special place!

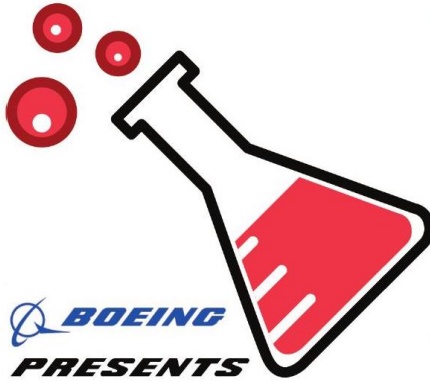
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## ASPIRING SCIENTISTS



**Michael M.**

**Grade 6**

**Hazelwood North  
Middle School**

**Hazelwood School District**

"Outside of learning new things,  
the Summer Science Academy  
was a lot of fun.

Canoeing, fishing and robot  
building were some of my  
favorite things to do."

- Michael M.

The St. Louis American's Summer Science Academy was held at Little Creek Nature area this past June. Twenty-five exceptional young scientists attended two full weeks of intensive science lessons, research, hands-on experiments and guest speakers. This weekly series will recognize these aspiring scientists!



## St. Louis County filings

In St. Louis County, County Executive Sam Page filed to retain the seat he was selected to by the County Council in April after the resignation of Steve Stenger. As expected, he drew two opponents in the Democratic primary: County Assessor Jake Zimmerman and retired marketing executive Mark Mantovani.

Paul Berry III, who lost to Stenger by 20 points in the general election in 2018, filed as a Republican. Theo "Ted" Brown Sr. of Riverview also filed to run on the Libertarian Party ticket.

Three County Council seats are up for grabs, and incumbents Kelli Dunaway, D-2nd District, Rochelle Walton Gray, D-4th District, and Ernie Trakas, R-6th District, each filed for reelection.

Walton Gray faces a challenge in Democrat Mark Behlmann, president of the Hazelwood School District board of education.

Two Democrats filed in the 6th District: Alex Lange, a union representative for United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 655 from south St. Louis County, and state Rep. Bob Burns, of Affton, who's facing a term limit in his fourth term representing the 93rd District.

## UMSL alumni among 2020 Salute to Young Leaders honorees



The St. Louis American Foundation selected (from left) UMSL alumni Aunyã McElroy, Christian E. Shelton, Brittae Gray-Ross and Marcel Scaife (not pictured) to be honored at the 10th Annual Salute to Young Leaders. They were selected based on their professional achievements and community involvement. (Photos courtesy of Aunyã McElroy, Christian E. Shelton and Brittae Gray-Ross)

The St. Louis American Foundation selected (from left) UMSL alumni Aunyã McElroy, Christian E. Shelton, Brittae Gray-Ross and Marcel Scaife (not pictured) to be honored at the 10th Annual Salute to Young Leaders. They were selected based on their professional achievements and community involvement. (Photos courtesy of Aunyã McElroy, Christian E. Shelton and Brittae Gray-Ross)

The University of Missouri–St. Louis was well represented at the [10th Annual Salute to Young Leaders](#), with four UMSL alumni among the 20 honorees.

[The St. Louis American Foundation](#) recognized high-performing African Americans for their professional excellence, achievements and community involvement. All of the 20 [recognized professionals](#) are under the age of 40. “It was an honor and privilege to be one of the recipients of the 2020 Salute to Young Leaders Award,” said Brittae Gray-Ross, a liberal studies graduate. “It’s a reminder that I stand on the shoulders of giants and that what I’ve done and continue to do is because of the people that sacrificed their lives for me to be here.” Aunyã McElroy, an education graduate, was equally flattered.

“I am extremely honored to be selected as one of the St. Louis American Foundation’s 2020 Young Leaders,” she said. The foundation celebrated the honorees at a reception Feb. 20 at the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis. Below is a list of all the UMSL alumni who were among the 2020 Salute to Young Leaders honorees with links to their Q&As with [The St. Louis American](#):

[Brittae Gray-Ross](#), BA liberal studies (with emphasis in Information Systems), is an application developer with the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

[Aunyã McElroy](#), MEd counseling, is a school counselor in the Hazelwood School District.

[Marcel Scaife](#), BA liberal studies, is the manager of Safe and Thriving Communities.

[Christan E. Shelton](#), MEd secondary education, is an educator in the Riverview Gardens School District through Teach for America.

<https://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2020/02/26/salute-young-leaders-2020/>

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