

**BUSINESS**

# 'I could have been Michael Brown,' new head of St. Louis County NAACP



You graduated in 2011 from Ladue Horton Watkins High School, where your mother was your Spanish teacher (**and is now a principal in the Hazelwood School District**). In 2016, the Post-Dispatch wrote about a school board meeting where African-American students from the high school [shared stories of racial incidents](#). In that story you said: "I do believe it's a few students that are making Ladue, which is an inclusive and tolerant district and high school, look really bad." How was it for you as a black student going to school there?

I was a pretty well known student. I played football and got along with a lot of people. There were a couple of instances where remarks were made to me or I overheard in the locker room. It does not shock me at all what (students have said) happened there.

But you would say your overall high school experience was a good one?

I was Ladue's first black commencement speaker. I was chosen after writing a speech and auditioning before a committee. My friends urged me to do it, said I was a good speaker. When I got through auditioning, not to toot my own horn, but when I was finished, every member on the committee was in tears.

So what did you talk about?

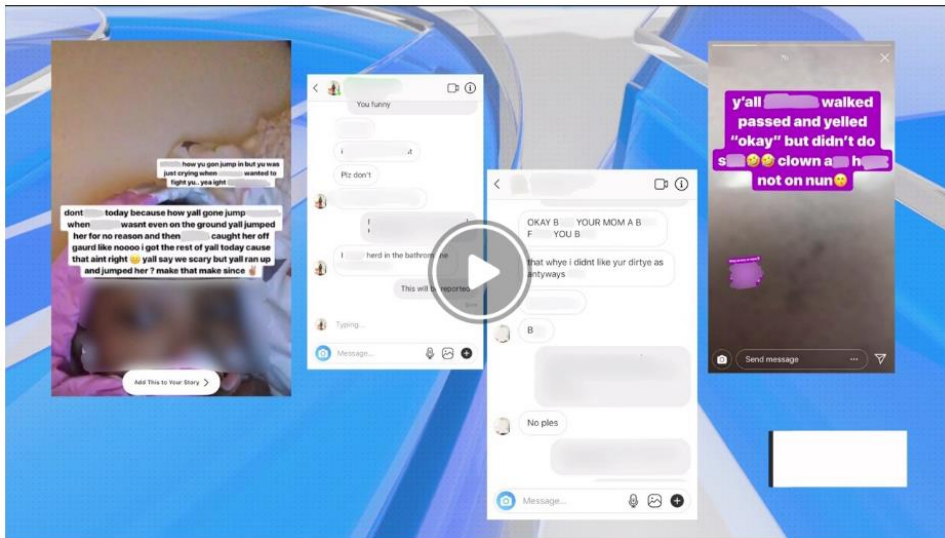
My speech was centered around the fact that the district was going through budget cuts and ended up laying off teachers. It became a big issue, and students spoke up on it. The superintendent made a statement at a town hall meeting that with budget issues, students shouldn't have anything to do with it. It's an adult issue. I said that any time it affects day-to-day lives, it is our business. Young people aren't the leaders of tomorrow. They are the leaders of today. Turns out I'm living that speech, I guess. (*referencing Angela Haywood-Gaskin*)

[https://www.stltoday.com/business/local/i-could-have-been-michael-brown-new-head-of-st/article\\_71a7a604-527f-559b-8f62-9e0407c5c534.html](https://www.stltoday.com/business/local/i-could-have-been-michael-brown-new-head-of-st/article_71a7a604-527f-559b-8f62-9e0407c5c534.html)

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## Mother says she's considering pressing charges if local school doesn't address cyber-bullying



HAZELWOOD (KMOV.com) - Lynn Brady says every day since last Friday, her daughter has been involved in incidents stemming from violent social media messages.

"I shouldn't have to send my kids child upstairs to go to class and then they want to jump on her," said Brady. Brady says she doesn't know why a group of kids at her daughter's school, Hazelwood Northwest Middle, are targeting her daughter. "Sending threatening text messages, harassing texts, you sending threats," said Brady. Brady says the messages vary in threats from physical violence to sexual, and one even puts a direct threat on the girl's life.

"I'm scared, not just for my child but for any child out here because no child deserves to have to go through that," said Brady. The Hazelwood School District sent the following statement:

"The Hazelwood School District does not condone fights and has established guidelines for redirecting students, including disciplinary consequences. In this particular matter, school administrators and the Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools have addressed Ms. Brady's concerns. Students involved in this matter have been disciplined according to our student code of conduct. We are asking parents to speak with their children about the importance of using social media responsibly and the behavior that is expected of our students."

[https://www.kmov.com/news/mother-says-she-s-considering-pressing-charges-if-local-school/article\\_435b74ca-1946-11e9-a369-7b2218750548.html](https://www.kmov.com/news/mother-says-she-s-considering-pressing-charges-if-local-school/article_435b74ca-1946-11e9-a369-7b2218750548.html)

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