

State Senator Brian Williams presented with Individual Alumni Award at Hazelwood HOF celebration

State Senator **Brian Williams** was presented with the Individual Alumni Award during the Hazelwood School District's 70th Anniversary Hall of Fame Celebration. A Democrat from Ferguson, he represents Missouri's 14th Senatorial District and is a proud graduate of Hazelwood Central High School. He was the first African-American male to be elected to the Missouri Senate in over 20 years.



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HSD Hall of Fame



The Hazelwood School District celebrated a milestone at the HSD 70th Anniversary Hall of Fame Awards Gala and Dance at the Renaissance Hotel. Pictured left to right: HSD Board Member Cheryl Latham, Hall of Fame Honoree Carey Davis, and HSD Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart

Hazelwood School District Celebrates 70th Anniversary Honors several educators

The Hazelwood School District (HSD) celebrated a milestone on Dec. 14 at the HSD 70th Anniversary Hall of Fame Awards Gala and Dance at the Renaissance Hotel.

More than 300 people attended the event which recognized the nine individuals and organizations that were inducted into the Hazelwood School District Hall of Fame.

"In our 70 year history, there are so many who have given their time and talents to the Hazelwood School District in an effort to provide quality education for our children," HSD Superintendent Nettie Collins-Hart said.

"We are grateful for the contributions our Hall of Fame inductees have made to our schools, and are honored they will forever represent the Hazelwood School District and our mission of providing high expectations, excellence, and equity for all."

5 on Your Side Meteorologist and 2003 Hazelwood East High School alumnus Anthony Slaughter served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and all proceeds from the event will go toward HSD student scholarships.

The evening was made possible by numerous sponsors, including title sponsors Lifetouch, Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe, 5 on Your Side, Stifel, Brown & Brown Attorneys at Law, Alive & Well Communities, Marco, Christian Hospital, Florissant Rotary Club, Hazelwood NEA Teachers' Union, and Friends of Florissant. The Hall of Fame honorees include:

Individual Alumni Athletic Award

- Carey Davis, Hazelwood Central High School Class of 1999, member of Super Bowl XLIII winning Pittsburgh Steelers, current head football coach at Central High School

Team Alumni Award

- 1995 Hazelwood East High School Football Team, Missouri Class 5A State Champions

Individual Alumni Award

- Missouri State Senator Brian Williams, Hazelwood Central High School Class of 2001, Missouri State Senate District 14

- Charles "Ed" Brown and Dan Brown, Hazelwood East High School Class of 1977 and 1980, respectively, Brown & Brown Attorneys at Law

Distinguished Retired Educator Award

- Chris (Wright) Nicastro, former HSD Superintendent and retired Missouri DESE Commissioner of Education

Lifetime Humanitarian Award

- Ann Gibbons, former HSD Board of Education Director and 40-year District volunteer

Community Partnership Award

- Hazelwood PTA Council, for raising almost \$3.5 million in student scholarships, impacting more than 3,500 students

- Ameren, for a long history of community partnership, scholarships, and offering utility assistance to District families in need

Superintendent's Hall of Fame Award

- Lottie Wade, serves on the Board of Directors for Spanish Lake Community Association and a longtime volunteer and advocate for HSD



Missouri State Senator and HSD Hall of Fame honoree Brian Williams (left) with U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay



(L to R) Hall of Fame honorees Dan Brown, Ed Brown, and HSD Board Vice President Dr. Brenda Youngblood



Master of Ceremonies Anthony Slaughter of KSDK is recognized by HSD Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart



Members of the 1995 Hazelwood East High School football team accept their Hall of Fame Award.

Christian Hospital Foundation Presents Awards at MLK Celebration Luncheon

The Christian Hospital Foundation hosted its third annual "Embracing the Dream" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The presenting sponsor was Centene Charitable Foundation and the Inspiration Partner sponsors were Christ the King United Church of Christ and St. Louis Community College Foundation.

The event was a celebration of inspiration, hope and healing. The Hon. Michael A. Battle, D. Min., was the keynote speaker; and Evangelist Mary Tillman, "Your" Radio Angel 95.5 FM, served as mistress of ceremonies. Scholarships were awarded at the celebration to the following students, who were selected by their school districts; and one nursing student selected from St. Louis Community College:

- Taylor Allen, Normandy Schools Collaborative
- Jasmine Bibby, Lutheran High School North
- Kennady Carter, Hazelwood School District
- Fatouma Sam, Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School
- Jayden Keys, Riverview Gardens School District
- Erynn McLemore Incarnate Word Academy
- Joe Oliverires, Trinity Catholic High School
- Serenatee Simpson, Jennings School District
- Kenila Webb, Ferguson-Florissant School District
- Ronnesha "Ronne" Smith, St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley

The Drum Major for Service Award was also presented at the celebration to honor the following unsung individuals who have given their time, talents and treasure in service of justice and equality:

- Lynn Beckwith Jr., ED.D.; Chair, Riverview Gardens School District Special Administrative Board; President, Saint Louis County Library Board of Trustees
- Rosemary Hanley; Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder The Little Bit Foundation
- Honorable Rev. Tommie Pierson Sr.; Mayor, Bellefontaine Neighbors; Pastor, Greater St. Mark Family Church; Former State Representative
- Honorable Betty Thompson; Former State Representative; Civil Rights Activist
- The Empowerment Network; Resource center for patients & families affected by prostate cancer

The award is inspired by words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. describing what he called the "Drum Major Instinct":

"If you want to say I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice; say that I was a drum major for peace; I was a drum major for righteousness ... We all have the drum major instinct."

TRAGIC!!! Man Book With Murder Charges After 3 Autistic Children Were Killed In A Fire Set Up By Him

A man identified as **Bobby Copass** now faces charges of murder after police and official said he set a Florissant house on fire, which killed a 16-year-old boy who has autism.

Incident

After investigation, the man **Copass**, 39, was arrested and charged with first-degree torching on Friday.

The two-alarm fire began at home on the 1900 block of Curtis Court about 3 a.m. Friday. Florissant police and official noticed the house was fully covered in flames, but were unable to get inside the house.

Florissant Valley firefighters were successful in pulling out the boy, **Dustin Baggett**, from home. Unfortunately, the boy died at a hospital from his injuries. The boy was studying at Hazelwood West High School.

Charges

The man is now being held at the St. Louis County Jail. Police and officials said he also lived on Curtis Court but has not stated whether he lived with the family or with others. Police did not explain a possible motive for torching the home.

Copass earlier spent more than ten years in prison for an earlier incident.

In 2004, Copass declared guilty and was sentenced for felony abduction, first-degree attack, first-degree robbery, and three counts of armed wrongful action, according to court documents. He was freed from prison in August 2018.