

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Greater North County Chamber announces 2021 Scholarship Award Winners



Submitted photo

(From left) 2021 GNCC Chair Rick Dorsey stands with Lauren Swindle, Morgan McKenzie, Lozell Stiles III, Ja'Nya Hill and GNCC President Venus Martz

The Greater North County Chamber has announced the 2021 Scholarship Award Winners. The chamber awarded three \$1,000 Merit Scholarships, a \$1,000 Perseverance Scholarship, a \$1,000 Humanitarian Scholarship, and a \$1,000 scholarship from the Florissant Jaycees. The scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who reside or go to school within the chamber's service area. The chamber's Partner in Education Committee recognizes graduating seniors who have shown a commitment to building a better community and have demonstrated a record of community service in the area.

The Partners in Education Committee of the chamber selected the following students for Merit Scholarships:

- Morgan McKenzie – Hazelwood Central High School
- Emily Yn – Villa Duchesne High School
- Jayce Barnes – Trinity Catholic High School

The \$1,000 Perseverance Scholarship is given to a student who has persevered in his or her studies despite facing some tough obstacles. The Partners

in Education Committee has selected Ja'Nya Hill, Riverview Gardens High School for this scholarship.

The \$1,000 Humanitarian Scholarship was given to a student that was exemplary in both his or her studies and community service despite challenges they faced. This scholarship was donated by anonymous donors from the Partners in Education Committee. The Partners in Education Committee has selected Lozell Stiles III – Hazelwood Central High for this scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship from the Florissant Jaycees is given to a student who demonstrated above and beyond community service. The Partners in Education Committee has selected Lauren Swindle, Trinity Catholic High School for this scholarship.

The scholarship may be used for post-high school continuing education expenses including college or university tuition, room and board, books, fees, or for expenses associated with a trade or technical school program.

The Scholarship Fund was established with donations from

chamber members and an Annual Bowl-A-Thon. This year's Scholarship Bowl will be held on Aug. 5 at Crest Bowl in Florissant. With these recipients, the chamber has awarded almost \$100,000 in scholarships.

Co

Grace Chapel

The rash of killings in our stop and this 501-c-3 minist in existence since 1981, has problem forever. "Respec must be restored so that pe to taking a life to solve a pro pute. The biblical "Golden R very much these days, but i this process. "Do unto other them do unto you."

Young people need to know port in our community and ti to their leadership as they be fore, Grace Chapel wishes t process to insure the proper to give every high school seni says " I'M ALIVE. LET ME S connect these young peopl organizations that can help their families might be expe people will also be encourage describe how they plan to pa making the community grow The more times the slog

STL native Danielle Belton named Leader at HuffPost

BuzzFeed Founder and CEO Jonah Peretti announced that Danielle Belton is the new Editor-in-Chief of HuffPost. She will lead the HuffPost newsroom of more than 100 journalists. Belton has been editor-in-chief of The Root for the last five years. She has written and edited for publications including theGrio, Essence, The Washington Post and The New York Times. She also created the award-winning blog The Black Snob. She has contributed to programming at NPR, PBS, CNN, ABC, and BET.



Belton grew up in Black Jack and Florissant, and is a graduate of Hazelwood Central High School and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

THE DAILY UNIVERSE

Opinion: Prioritizing high school journalism

Last week the Supreme Court heard its most important student speech case in nearly a half-century. The case took into question whether schools can punish students for speech that occurred off campus or online. The case has the ability to transform student speech rights in every public school nationwide. No matter what decision is made in the case, the state of Utah ought to make a statement to the nation by passing legislation in defense of student speech.

To begin to understand student speech rights nationwide, you must first look at the case of *Tinker versus the Des Moines Independent Community School District*. A woman named Mary Beth Tinker made one choice that revolutionized how the government views student rights nationwide. Motivated by strong emotions and wanting to express her First Amendment rights, she wore a black armband to school, an action which escalated to the suspension of five children and a 7-2 decision in the United States Supreme Court. It was decided that "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

Despite this monumental decision, the courts have quickly regressed over time and passed a substantial number of cases restricting student rights. In the 1980s, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* appeared before the United States Supreme Court and it was decided that schools did not need to sponsor speech that was "inconsistent with 'the shared values of a civilized social order.'" It also allowed administrators to censor student speech, specifically when it came to the student publications. This case began an overwhelming slew of cases and laws restricting students' freedoms in schools. Despite this new cloud of restrictions hovering over schools, there is hope. States across the nation have been passing legislation such as the *New Voices Act* which overturns *Hazelwood* and returns the *Tinker* precedent.

We are facing a crisis in our public schools. As more pressure is being placed on students nationwide to succeed, why are we restricting students from the very freedoms needed to actively participate in a free society? In 1988 the Supreme Court decided in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* that administrators can justify censorship of legitimate student speech in schools. This standard of restricted speech has created a cloud over our nation's schools; it is time to prioritize the constitutional rights of every citizen, including every student.