

Forward Through Ferguson tackles segregation, inequity in education ‘Still Separate, Still Unequal’ addresses root causes, calls for action



“While I am pleased that this significant work is being done, it saddens me that we are still addressing many of the same issues that we thought had been long resolved,” said Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of Hazelwood School District.

“While I am pleased that this significant work is being done, it saddens me that we are still addressing many of the same issues that we thought had been long resolved,” said Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of Hazelwood School District. “In many regards, we appear to be worse off than we were when I was a student in the ‘70s. I witnessed and benefited from the fights for school desegregation and racial equity in schools. However, I am encouraged that awareness, advocacy, and action are again at the forefront, and this time, we must take measures to ensure that 30 years from now, my grandchildren and other school children are not having this same conversation and fighting these same battles in our schools, and in our nation.” In addition to partnering and building capacity, Forward Through Ferguson is calling on education advocates, public officials, and business leaders to join in several next steps, including:

- Continue to grow understanding and tell the story of structural inequities in the St. Louis regional landscape
- Collaboratively redefine regional indicators of a quality education, and
- Establish the Education Design and Finance task force as recommended by the Ferguson Commission to grow a community-wide mandate for policy and system action on education in the St. Louis region and state of Missouri.

“The Brentwood School District is committed to partnering with Forward Through Ferguson and regional school districts in efforts to re-design systems to equitably support all students,” said Brian Lane, superintendent of Brentwood School District.

FOLLOW THIS LINK FOR THE ENTIRE STORY http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/forward-through-ferguson-tackles-segregation-inequity-in-education-still-separate-still-unequal-addresses-root-causes/article_d2a8ba90-0b23-11eb-b958-37c6bd2cd33d.html

October 10, 2020

Devin Williams named MLB Relief Pitcher of the Year

Congratulations go out to a pair of St. Louis area professional athletes who received postseason honors after having stellar seasons in 2020.

Former Hazelwood West baseball standout Devin Williams of the Milwaukee Brewers was named the Baseball Digest/eBay Major League Baseball Relief Pitcher of the Year.



News 4 wants to salute the local teachers who have been going above and beyond to help guide students through the virtual and in-person learning during this pandemic. Savannah Green in the Hazelwood School District got a shout-out from the parent of one her students, Melissa Henke, she has been extremely organized and extremely helpful and has made virtual learning an amazing experience.

Lawson Elementary 5th Grade Teacher

Concert Black’s passion for classical music shines through on self-titled EP



When music educator Blake Hernton released his debut project recently under the stage name Concert Black, he anxiously anticipated how it would be received. It’s a self-titled instrumental EP, led by violinist Hernton, streaming on major platforms. He wasn’t sure how the project would be received in St. Louis, where instrumental projects aren’t in abundance. “I really battled with the sound engineer Tom Pini over that,” he says. “I went back and forth over whether to incorporate lyrics. I was wondering if the music would fall on deaf ears.” Pini said the music was engaging enough to stand on its own, and Hernton agreed. “I wanted to be introduced as an instrumentalist first,” he says. “Strings and classical music is my first passion. I figured it would be better to have that introduction to speak for itself rather than oversaturate it with vocals and lyrics from the outset.” Since releasing the album, the Black Jack native has been able to breathe a little easier. “People definitely responded positively,” he says. “Everyone has their favorite track, and they like to share what that is and comment on how different the project is.” He considers his music “new-age instrumental,” incorporating elements of classical, jazz and hip-hop.

FOLLOW THIS LINK FOR THE FULL STORY https://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/music/kevin-johnson/concert-black-s-passion-for-classical-music-shines-through-on-self-titled-ep/article_395877f9-3fc4-545e-a66c-d051f41dbda6.html