

### **State Secondary Female Award – Alex Wiedmaier**

*Northwest Technical School, Agricultural Education*

*Nominated by Jackie Lacy, Instructor*

Alex Wiedmaier is in her fourth year of agricultural education at Northwest Technical School. She serves as chapter president of 127 FFA members, is the Area I FFA historian, serves as an A+ mentor in agricultural science II and has received recognition at the Soils Career Development Event. Alex plans to attend the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and major in agronomy. She hopes to start her own project or join a team of researchers and study the genetics of common field crops. In addition, she wants to study ways to utilize land designated as not farmable due to drought, heavy rain or rocky soil.

Upon graduation from college, Alex would like to join a company to continue doing research to share her knowledge and awareness of agriculture throughout the world. According to Jackie Lacy, agricultural education instructor, Alex “has blazed her path in the agriculture program and succeeded above and beyond.” Alex’s supervised agricultural experience program focuses on sheep production, and she exhibits sheep at local and state levels.

Alex is active outside the agriculture arena. She serves as chapter vice president of Leo Club; is a member of National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes; has earned recognition for her academic achievements, poetry and Girl Scouts involvement; participates in soccer and basketball; and works part-time. Alex will receive the Foundation for Missouri Women scholarship.



### **State Secondary Male Award – Brandon Medlock**

*Northland Career Center, Culinary Arts*

*Nominated by Chef Paul Santaularia, Instructor*

Brandon Medlock is a Smithville High School senior who participates in the culinary arts programs at the Northland Career Center. “Food has always appealed to me and is a vital industry for society. As a sophomore student I shadowed the culinary program because I had an inkling that I might like it,” Brandon said. “Now, as a senior, reflecting over my last two years, I have never been happier with my choice. These two years have been incredible, I have learned many new culinary techniques, obtained opportunities to practice and sharpened my culinary craft, met fantastic new friends, and benefitted from real-world culinary experiences that make sense of text-book knowledge. Personally, enrolling in the culinary arts program has motivated me to excel, to create, to help others and gave me career direction. There is no class I would rather be in.”

Brandon believes his instructor, Chef Paul Santaularia, has been the best mentor he could ask for. “Chef Paul has many good values, from his positive discipline approach to the way he has high expectations for all his students, yet he finds the time to individualize what he teaches in the area he knows best,” Brandon said. Brandon will receive Breaking Traditions scholarships from Metropolitan Community College and the Foundation for Missouri Women.



## **State Postsecondary/Adult Female Award –**

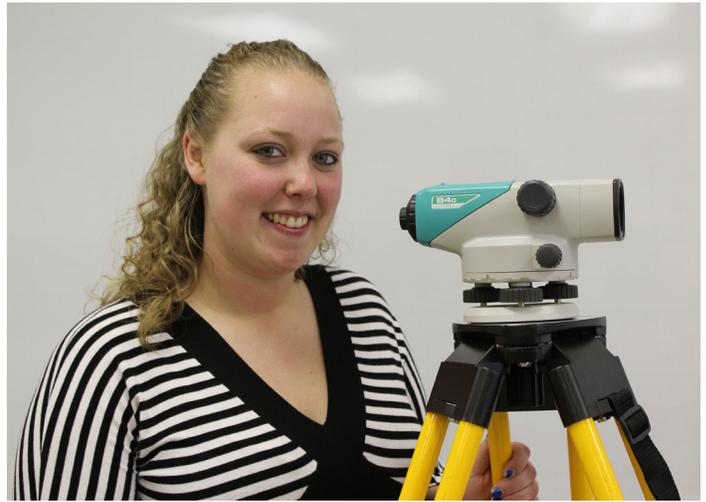
### **Jennifer Goodman**

*Linn State Technical College*

*Design Drafting/Construction and Civil Technology*

*Nominated by Diane Heckemeyer, Department Chair*

Jennifer Goodman is obtaining two associate of applied science degrees in two years and has taken as many as 25 credit hours in one semester to make that happen. Jennifer was nominated by her advisor and instructor, Diane Heckemeyer, because “she has outstanding technical skills in both the construction and civil technology program and the design drafting program, and the grade point average to prove it. In addition she is very active on campus and is an officer in a number of student organizations. She is a very positive person and is well liked and respected by both her peers and instructors.” Jennifer was exposed to drafting in high school and took an interest in architecture, but after starting the drafting program decided she wanted to broaden her skills to have a variety of career options from which to choose.



“The programs have prepared me to use skills like critical thinking, listening and organization. Both programs have applied mathematics into designs or construction methods. I feel more prepared for field work than I thought I would two years ago. Through school, I have also learned more leadership and responsibility skills,” Jennifer said. She credits her father for teaching her “to always look at the positive side, to never give up, to stand up for myself, and to be kind and honest to each and every person.” She has taken that advice to heart and serves as a role model and mentor to many students at Linn State Technical College.

After graduation, Jennifer will work at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City. She also plans to continue her education. Jennifer will receive Breaking Traditions scholarships from Linn State Technical College and the Foundation for Missouri Women.

## **State Postsecondary/Adult Male Award – Trevor Cavness**

*Columbia Area Career Center*

*Practical Nursing*

*Nominated by Paula Fox, Practical Nursing Coordinator*

Trevor Cavness is a conscientious and thoughtful student who plans to further his education in the field of nursing. He recognizes opportunities for promoting the nursing profession and supporting males in nursing. Trevor was nominated by Paula Fox, practical nursing coordinator at the Columbia Area Career Center, who said Trevor thinks critically, performs the nursing process effectively, works well with others and has mastered the skills required of the practical nurse. He is an excellent role model and will be an asset to the nursing profession.

Trevor said he believes that through nursing, he can make a positive impact in people’s lives. He plans a career where he can provide nursing care to underinsured and underserved communities, with a focus on education and preventive care. Pursuing an education and career in nursing has allowed him to break down perceived stereotypes while actively promoting client care. By becoming a nurse, he hopes to demonstrate that clients can receive exceptional care without regard to a nurse’s gender. He believes female and males nurses are equally capable of providing compassionate, holistic and quality care.



Receiving this award will allow Trevor to continue his education and career to further diversify the field of nursing while making a difference in the lives of others. Trevor will receive the Foundation for Missouri Women scholarship.

## **Secondary Spirit Award – Brittany Thomas**

*Nevada Regional Technical Center*

*Construction Technology*

*Nominated by Andy Williams, Instructor*

Brittany Thomas is a senior at Hume High School. She began studying construction technology I at Nevada Regional Technical Center in August 2011. A special meeting took place between Brittany, her mother, her nurse and doctor, and Nevada Regional Technical Center's construction teacher, counselor and director before classes started to ensure that everyone understood Brittany's health concerns. Brittany has hemophilia.



According to instructor Andy Williams, Brittany's first year in construction technology was a huge success, and she immediately became a student leader. Brittany is responsible, smart and reliable. As the only girl in the program, she instantly earned the respect of her male peers. When Brittany returned to take construction technology II in August 2012, she met her new instructor in the construction technology program and quickly earned his respect for her leadership qualities, skills and eagerness to learn. Brittany is a role model and team leader among her peers.

Brittany plans to continue her education at Fort Scott Community College this fall. She will major in construction management/business and minor in creative writing. Brittany will receive the Foundation for Missouri Women scholarship.

## **Postsecondary Spirit Award – Malee Alway**

*St. Charles Community College*

*Computer Aided Drafting*

*Nominated by David Niermann*

Malee Alway is a "triple" nontraditional student – she's a woman and a returning learner and was born outside of the United States. She came to the United States from Thailand when she was 19 years old.

In the spring of 2011, Malee enrolled in the computer aided drafting (CAD) program at St. Charles Community College. Malee's grade point average is 3.85 – 4.0, and she is one of just seven St. Charles Community College students who passed the certified solid works associate examination. Her instructor, David Niermann, said, "Her dedication, high work ethic and thoroughness greatly exceed the typical student performance in our program." Malee received the overall second place award in the annual CAD student exhibit this year.



Malee is already working on an externship with Schnieder Electric IT. Her supervisor commented that he is "not surprised about Malee's Breaking Traditions Award. We have seen her tenacity for perfection, neatness and a desire to get the most of any task that she touches. I am very impressed with the skills she has in SolidWorks." Malee's future plan is to complete the CAD program and receive an associate of applied science degree by the end of 2014 at St. Charles Community College.

Malee's advice to anyone considering a nontraditional career program is: "Not to worry and to have faith in yourself. There is no substitute for hard work to be successful." Malee will receive scholarships from St. Charles Community College and the Foundation for Missouri Women.

## **Educator Award – Laura Estabrooks**

*Columbia Area Career Center, Geospatial and Information Technologies  
Nominated by Kate Harline, Student*

Laura Estabrooks is an instructor in two program at the Columbia Area Career Center. She teaches A+ computers, networking 1 and 2, geospatial technology and geospatial analysis. In the geospatial information systems and information technology programs, female students and educators are considered nontraditional since the programs have a male population of 75 percent or more. Laura was nominated by Kate Harline, a senior studying geospatial technology.

Laura involves her students in real-world projects including GIS projects for the community such as best management practices for waste water, the Hinkson Creek Recovery Project, and a “technovation” challenge that involves developing an android application that will update cancellations for field sports sponsored by the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department.

Laura works hard to recruit and support females in nontraditional fields of technology in both of the programs that she instructs. She enjoys working hands-on and her methods of teaching make learning fun. “Laura’s many years of success in nontraditional fields give her an insight that other instructors may not possess,” Kate said. “Her students benefit from the knowledge they gain and the confidence that she instills in them.”



## **Employer Award – Courtney Pennel**

*Monarch Children’s Academy  
Ozarks Technical Community College, Middle College Program  
Nominated by Amy Wood*

Monarch Children’s Academy and its owner/director, Courtney Pennel, is an employee partner with Ozarks Technical Community College’s Middle College Program. This program offers an alternative educational setting for juniors and seniors. A crucial part of the program is the internships offered through career technical education programs, including early childhood development.

Courtney has high expectations and looks for interns and employees who best fit the needs of early childhood development and the young people served at her academy.

Courtney’s philosophy is best stated in her own words: “Men are not often thought of as victims of stereotypes or prejudice. This is untrue in many areas, but maybe none more so than child care. We don’t hire men or women to fill any quota or meet any requirement. We simply hire good people. We also try to realize the difference in classroom dynamics that a male teacher offers as opposed to a female. With the majority of single-parent households being run by mothers, a positive male influence is something that an unfortunately high number of children miss out on at an early, impressionable age. We have two full-time male teachers who have very real, strong and loving connections with the children in their classes. We also host male interns from area schools, and we try to reach out to men in the area with the proper training and background, encouraging them to step up and fearlessly share their gifts.”

