

State Secondary Female Award –

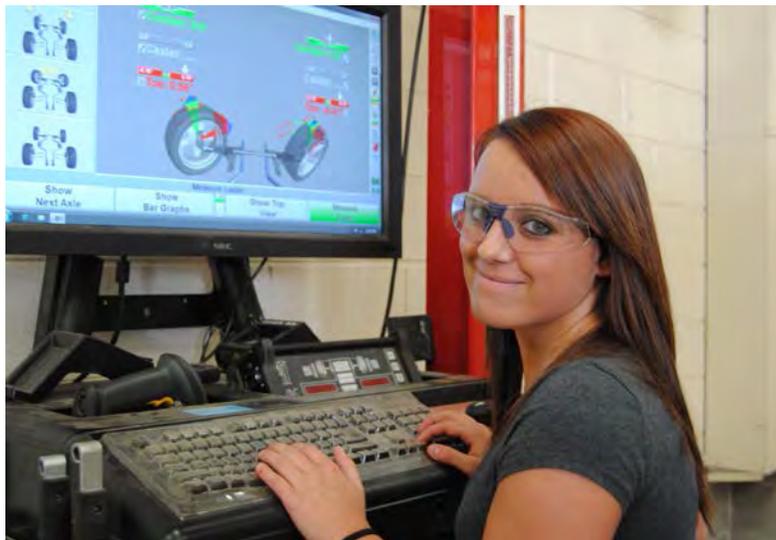
Tara Stewart

Lex-La-Ray Technical Center

Automotive Technology

Nominated by Jennifer Hobbs, Counselor

Tara Stewart is a student from Santa Fe High School who attends Lex La-Ray Technical Center in the automotive technology program. As reported by Mrs. Hobbs, high school counselor, “Tara has excellent communication skills. She is an intent listener who easily grasps what actually needs to be completed on a vehicle to correct the issue. Tara will tackle any job you put in front of her. She’s not afraid of anything!”



Tara has been interested in cars and engines since an early age. Tara wrote, “I have chosen a nontraditional career-technical program because I have always been interested in knowing about cars and engines. How cars and engines function, how they fit together and work intrigues me. When I was little I would watch my brother work on his trucks, and it really got me interested in knowing exactly what he was doing. Cars have always been a part of my life, and I could definitely see them in my future.”

For students considering a nontraditional program, Tara’s advice is to “never second guess yourself and to never give up no matter what others have to say. No matter what you’re doing in life, as long as your heart is dedicated to what you love, you just have to believe in yourself. You have to believe in yourself in order for others to believe in you.”

Tara will attend Ozarks Technical Community College on a Breaking Traditions scholarship. She will also receive a scholarship from the Foundation for Missouri Women.

State Secondary Male Award –

Christopher M. Bummer II

Grand River Technical School

Health Science Technology

Nominated by Sonja Daley

Health Science Instructor

Christopher M. Bummer, II is in his second year of health science technology at Grand River Technical School in Chillicothe, Missouri. Christopher plans to enroll at North Central Missouri College to earn his associate of applied science degree in dental hygiene and then transfer to Northwest Missouri State University to earn his bachelor of applied science degree.



His ultimate goal is to obtain his doctorate of dental science from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and open his own dental practice or become a team member of an existing practice.

Christopher is a member of SkillsUSA serving as the northwest district treasurer and past chapter parliamentarian. He is a member of the opening and closing ceremonies team, placing first in district competition. He is also on the SkillsUSA quiz bowl and health knowledge bowl teams, earning second and third places respectively at the district level.

Christopher is a member of FFA and has held the offices of treasurer, reporter and parliamentarian. He has earned his Greenhand Leadership and Scholarship degrees as well as his Star Greenhand award. Christopher is active in National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, High School Academic Bowl and 4-H. He is a past junior firefighter and currently serves as a pay-per-call firefighter. In addition to these activities, he has participated in clinical rotations and job-shadowing experiences at dental offices and health care facilities.

Christopher's advice to students considering nontraditional programs is to do "something that you love and something that you can look forward to doing for the rest of your life. You should not have to worry about being out of the ordinary. You should think about being extraordinary at what you do."

Christopher will attend North Central Missouri College on a Breaking Traditions scholarship and will also receive a scholarship from the Foundation for Missouri Women.

State Postsecondary/Adult Female Award – Brianna Becker
Ozarks Technical Community College, Fire Science Technology
Nominated by Danny Whisler, Fire Science Instructor

"I have been in the fire service for six years and have taken many classes but wanted a more formalized education. I joined the fire science technology program at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) because I wanted to improve my knowledge and skills to enable me to be more successful as a career firefighter and share my knowledge and training with other firefighters."

Brianna's nominator says that she "has been able to overcome the challenge of being one of only a very few females in a program dominated by males. Through her persistent pursuit of excellence at both the academic and practical level, she has been able to gain the respect of her male counterparts and serve as an example for the other female students in the program. Unfortunately, as with most any female in the fire service, she has had to prove herself capable to be taken seriously."

She has been mentored by a few female firefighters who saw her passion and potential. She now wants to 'pay it forward' and create and implement educational programs for firefighters and the community; programs that will ensure the training and knowledge necessary to enable young firefighters to be successful and to teach fire and life safety to all ages in the community. Her long term goal is to teach at the regional and national level, including at the National Fire Academy.

Brianna will continue her education at OTC with Breaking Traditions scholarships from OTC and the Foundation for Missouri Women.



State Postsecondary/Adult Award – Timothy Fast

Kirkville Area Career Center, Practical Nursing

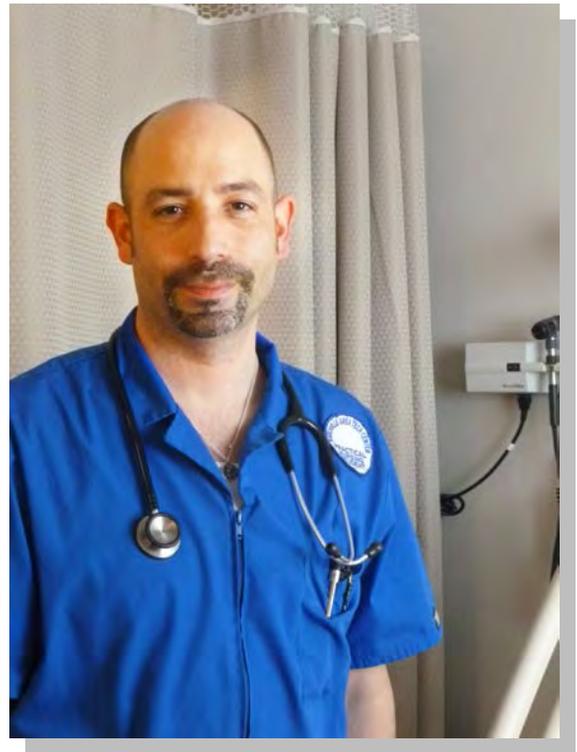
Nominated by Deb Slattery, PN Administrator

Timothy (Tim) Fast demonstrates his leadership ability continuously as class reporter, chairperson of the calendar committee, president of the National Technical Honor Society, and by assisting his instructors during eight career fair sessions for sophomores.

Tim has a wonderful rapport with others and continuously participates in study sessions and class fundraisers. He is flexible, a good listener and supports his classmates with open-mindedness. During clinicals, Tim asks questions that other students are unwilling to ask, which helps him and other students improve their critical-thinking skills. He always looks deeper than the basic information.

Tim views nursing as his calling, and Deb Slattery, his nominator, agrees with him. Tim encourages others to follow their hearts toward their career goals. He hopes he will be a role model for other males interested in nursing and for his children.

Tim is a single full-time father of two children and looks to his Christian faith for guidance and support. Tim says, “He (Jesus) helps me maintain a positive outlook in life and motivates my very being. I am blessed with what God has given me and would like the opportunity to share him with others through holistic treatment.” Tim served in the United States Air Force. He plans to pursue a bachelor of science in nursing, but has not yet selected a college. Tim's goal is to work as a surgical nurse and eventually a flight nurse.

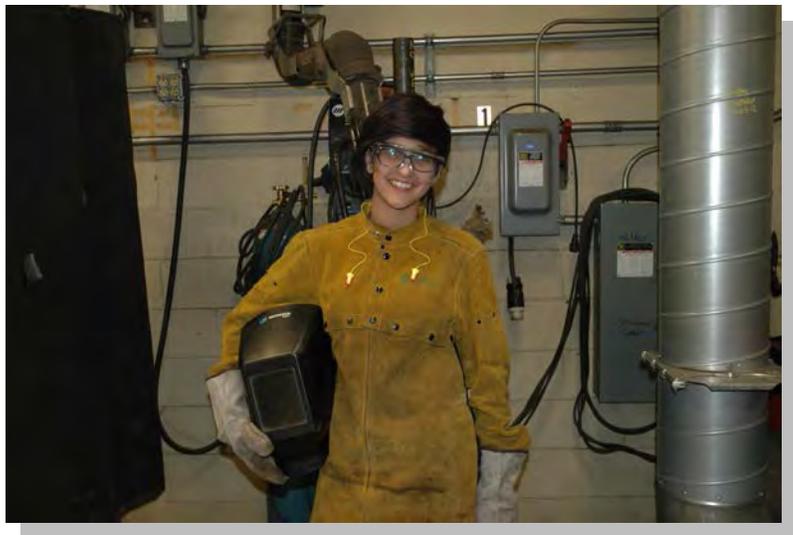


State Secondary Spirit Award – Sadiya Braid

Columbia Area Career Center, Certified Welding

Nominated by William Irvin, Welding Instructor

Sadiya Braid is a hard-working individual with a great personality and attitude. She set her goals high and has never given up on them. She has not only grown in the field of welding but has become successful in developing professional welding techniques. She works well with others, and over the last three years, she has become an excellent leader. Regardless of being a non-traditional student, her leadership skills have crossed the gender gap, and her classmates clearly admire her. Her skill competency level is very high, and her work has earned her the respect of her peers. She is an exemplary student, and her work is often used as a model for the other students. She has volunteered her time as a student teacher to help assist beginner-level welding students and has become a role model for them, as well. She has overcome obstacles in welding as well as in her personal life; in doing so, she has become an independent young woman focused on her future. She has become financially independent and has worked hard to provide for herself as well as to receive her education. Sadiya has an “I can” attitude that has prevailed throughout her training and will continue throughout her life.



Sadiya will attend Linn State Technical College on a Breaking Traditions scholarship. She will also receive a scholarship from the Foundation for Missouri Women.

State Postsecondary/Adult Spirit Award – Lucinda Poe

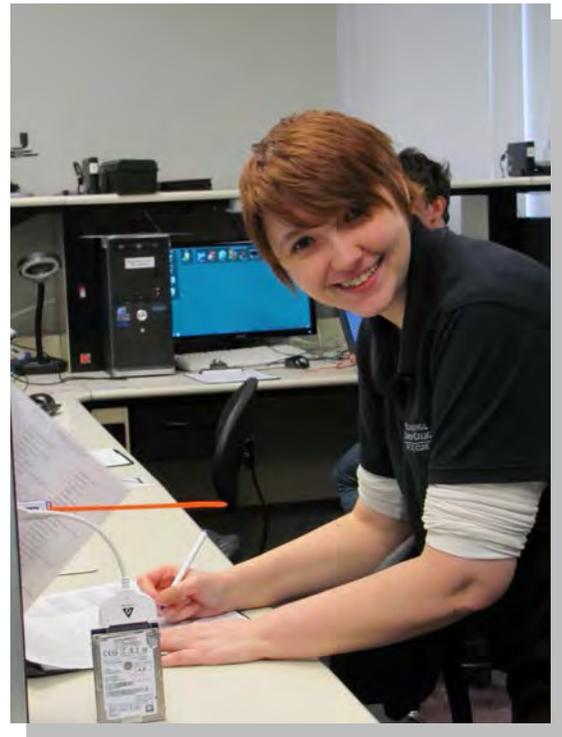
*Ozarks Technical Community College, Networking Technology
Nominated by George Gibeau, Department Chair*

Lucinda is an inspiration. Coming from a background of poverty that includes no financial and little educational support, Lucinda has attained her goals and aspirations by working full time while completing high school, being accepted into and completing the Networking Technology program, and making the Chancellor's honor roll every semester.

As a postsecondary student at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC), Lucinda has proven herself to be a model student in the networking technology program, according to her nominator. She will soon be graduating with her associate of applied science degree. Her goals after graduation include finding employment as a personal computer technician to gain experience while continuing to earn such certifications as CCNA, Security +, MCITP, and the LICP. These certifications will assist her in acquiring a position as a network architect where she can focus "on green initiatives and technologies that will combat global climate change."

Lucinda says, "I've learned how far I can go, how much I can accomplish when I set my mind to it, and I feel confident that my skills will pay off in the real world. I always thought I worked well under pressure, but I had no *idea* what I was made of. I cannot wait to tackle the bigger challenges the world has waiting for me while using the skills I've gained to make it a better place."

Lucinda will continue her education at OTC with a Breaking Traditions scholarship and a scholarship from the Foundation for Missouri Women.



State Secondary Educator Award – Gary Hicks

*Manual Career & Technical Center
Construction Technology Teacher
Nominated by Deisy Zapata
Construction Technology Student*

According to his nontraditional students, "Mr. Hicks doesn't let us quit, and he doesn't let us down. For example, if we are building something and it goes wrong, he will keep a positive attitude and assist us in problem-solving it. We value the hard work and effort he has invested in each of us. We also realize that each one of us nominating Mr. Hicks comes from a different high school and a different walk of life, yet in our construction program we unanimously agree that we wanted to nominate Mr. Hicks as a great teacher; he is uniquely special and an outstanding teacher who supports both traditional and nontraditional students. We learn through hands-on activities and that makes a difference. Mr. Hicks has made a difference in our lives."



"Mr. Hicks treats us equals, he doesn't look at us like, 'I don't think you can do this.' He encourages us and checks on us, we have the same experience as the boys. Our instructor expects us to master the same skills as the boys, and he allows us to work on our own projects. In construction the only difference we see is the boys are physically stronger, but in the classroom and shop the girls find a way to get it done."

State Postsecondary Educator Award – Diane Heckemeyer

Linn State Technical College, Department Chair for Civil Engineering

Technology & Design Drafting Technology

Nominated by Nicole Martin, Civil & Construction Technology Student

Diane Heckemeyer is the department chair of civil engineering technology and design drafting technology at Linn State Technical College. She has her civil engineering degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. She teaches construction estimating, engineering documents, safety and surveying. The civil engineering technology program is made up of an average of 92% male and 8% female students. Female students and educators are considered nontraditional since the program has a male population of 75% or more. Diane was nominated by Nicole Martin, who is a student majoring in both civil engineering technology and design drafting technology.

Diane involves her students in organizations such as the National Association for Women in Construction (NAWIC), American Public Works Association (APWA), and the Associated General Contractors (AGC). She feels it is very important for her students to connect with people in industry.

Diane believes that female students have a great opportunity in a nontraditional field. She has hosted a number of events on campus to expose young females to nontraditional careers. Diane's many years of experience in the field is a huge benefit to her students. Nicole said, "She is an excellent educator and an even better role model for each of her students."



State Employer Award –

Justin Arnett, RN, MSN

Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center

Nominated by Teri Douglas, RN, MSN

Director of Allied Health, Mineral Area College

Justin Arnett is the Chief Nurse Executive at Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center (SMMHC) in Farmington. He was nominated by Teri Douglas, director of Allied Health at Mineral Area College.

When Mrs. Douglas was asked why she was nominating this employer, she said, "Justin not only recruits our non-traditional students for SMMHC, but he also recruits for our nursing programs. He takes time to meet with our students who are getting ready to graduate, which many employers in our area do, but he also meets with our first-year students. He is a long-time supporter of the MAC Blood Drive and has not missed donating since he was in our nursing program. He has always been a patient advocate and goes above and beyond to help patients and students!"

Justin was a non-traditional student in the MAC nursing program. He is very aware that there are passionate males as well as females who do well as caring nurses in mental health facilities and other health facilities.

Justin has helped the relationship between SMMHC and MAC to be a Win-Win! He hires our deserving students, and our students have a fulfilling job. He and his team continue to help decrease the stigma of mental illness in our area. When people tell Justin they are afraid to work with mentally ill patients at SMMHC, he explains that they will see mentally ill patients in the hospitals, long-term health care facilities, and anywhere they work.

Justin is a big part of why MAC and SMMHC have a Win/Win relationship!

