

Breaking Traditions honors

Secondary State Winner

*Micah
Fisher*

Early Childhood Careers
Rolla Technical Institute/Center



Micah Fisher

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Micah Fisher says that the reason he chose the non-traditional career program of early childhood education is because he loves the experiences he gets from being in the preschool classroom. He is excited to be a part of a program and future career that allows him to make a difference in a young child's life. He loves the opportunities he gets everyday to watch young children grow and develop. Micah was nominated by his instructor, Ruth Diaz, because of his hard work, determination, and enthusiasm to make a difference in the early childhood education field. He is a great role model to other classmates as well as in the preschool classroom with young children. Micah clearly understands that young children need to make connections with others and he works to build those relationships with as many kids as he can. Micah has competed at the SkillsUSA state competition both years of the program and finished in 3rd place in the technical skills competition in April 2019.

Micah's future plans are to go to Evangel University and double major in Early Childhood Education and Missions. He hopes to become a full time missionary that specifically works with children. He wants to teach as many kids as he possibly can, no matter who or where they are.

Breaking Traditions honors

Secondary State Winner

*Genesis
Llamas*

Engineering/PLTW
Frontier STEM High School



Genesis Llamas

Genesis Llamas joined the engineering program in her freshman year at high school and has been in it ever since. Although it was due to her passion for math that sparked Genesis' interest in engineering, it is mostly exposure to hands-on nature of activities that helped develop strong ties with engineering.

Genesis enjoys problem solving. She gets excited about how one solution of a problem would lead to another. This is how math opened up the door for engineering where problem solving is essential. Gradually, Genesis found herself presenting her science projects at the science fair and winning prizes. Despite the fact that Genesis is the only female student in her entire class, she did not have time to give it a thought. Quite on the contrary, according to Mr. Kilic, Genesis' science and engineering teacher, Genesis would frequently help her male peers out complete engineering projects. Moving forward, Genesis is planning to become a civil engineer, possibly earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in five years. Ultimately, Genesis dreams about opening her own engineering company and be at its helm.

Breaking Traditions honors

Postsecondary State Winner

*Jorgie
Teaster*

Agriculture

Ozarks Technical Community College



Jorgie Teaster

Jorgie Teaster is an agriculture student at Ozarks Technical Community College. When asked about her future plans, Jorgie said: “I hope to have a career that will preserve the integrity of farming and the environment. Ideally, I would love to be able to build my own interactive greenhouses and farm where I can teach people, in a hands-on environment, to grow their own sustainable food and medicine.”

She was nominated by her instructor, Danelle Maxwell. Instructor Maxwell stated that Jorgie has overcome the challenges of a nontraditional program through hard work, determination, organization and a positive attitude. At the same time, she is balancing her school time with both family responsibilities and a part-time job.

In spite of having a busy schedule of her own, Jorgie takes time to help others. For example, she recently met a new student who did not know anyone on campus. Jorgie walked the student across our campus and introduced her to some key instructors and other students in the Agriculture program. The student was very appreciative and relieved to meet others with similar interests. Jorgie is also the first student to volunteer for extra-curricular activities outside of the regular classroom expectations. She is the president of our local student organization, the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP), and has volunteered for several community service projects.

Breaking Traditions honors

Postsecondary State Winner

*Brendan
Owsley*

Physical Therapy Assistant
State Technical College of Missouri



Brendan Owsley

Brendan Owsley is in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at State Technical College of Missouri. He has chosen a nontraditional career path because he experienced therapy after an injury in high school that he was told would end his sports career. After his surgery, the therapy he received changed his life. He was able to not only play sports but compete at a high level, even playing in college. The difference the therapy made in his life motivated him to want to provide the same opportunities for others. Brendan wants to see the difference in patients' lives and be part of getting them back to what they love.

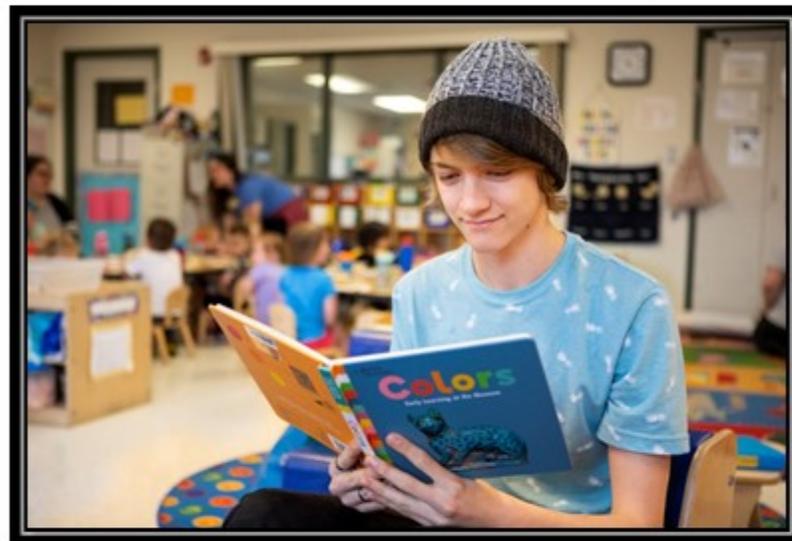
According to his instructor Katherine Berrey, Brendan is a go-to guy. He is quiet and unassuming, but truly a natural at working with others. Teamwork is one of his highest attributes and because of his easy-going nature and grasp of the content, he is a great lab or group partner. He is the guy you can count on for so many things. When a few of Brendan's classmates were struggling last semester, he offered to help the students study and learn the material. He even came to the extra study sessions just to help them. He is such a natural at working with others that his help and advice is often sought by others. I can't think of anyone in our recent past that has had this much of an effect on those he works with at putting them at ease. All of his instructors feel strongly that he is going to be an excellent physical therapist assistant and one we would be very willing to work with in the clinical setting. Brendan has a very bright future ahead as a physical therapist assistant.

Breaking Traditions honors

Secondary Spirit Winner

*Kelley
Stone*

Early Childhood Development
Ozarks Technical Community College



Kelley Stone

Kelley Stone, an Early Childhood Development student at Ozarks Technical Community College, was nominated by his teacher, Stephanie Blake.

While overcoming personal obstacles in his own life, Kelley said he became personally aware of the need for good social workers to help families. When asked about advice for students considering non-traditional fields Kelley said, “Don’t let gender bias stop you. See what the world needs and do something you love to change it.”

He has always wanted to help people and his time in Early Childhood Development (ECD) has helped him develop a plan to accomplish that.

“ECD taught me that helping underprivileged children can bring positive reinforcement for the mental health of the next generation... My new beliefs brought me to social work. After much research into child advocacy, I became firmly set on pursuing social work following my associate’s degree in Early Childhood Development,” Kelley said.

Breaking Traditions honors

Postsecondary Spirit Winner

*Joshua
Scott*

Associate Degree Nursing
Moberly Area Community College



Joshua Scott

Joshua attended the University of Missouri – Columbia, where he competed as a sprinter on the Track and Field team. It was during that time that Joshua had a very close friend who suffered a 60-foot fall, ultimately resulting in him being hospitalized in the Intensive Care setting. This was Joshua's first exposure to the hospital setting, ultimately setting the tone for his interest in Intensive Care. Joshua began working as a CNA at University of Missouri Hospital up until his graduation in 2014. Joshua ultimately graduated with a degree in Health Sciences, opting to begin working for Cerner Corporation in 2015.

While at Cerner, Joshua worked with Nurses, Physicians and Hospital Executives to design and build the electronic charting systems. His greatest achievement was designing and building the charting system for Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, a section of the Department of Health Services that had been on paper since its' conception. Working with the nurses at LA County taught Joshua how impactful the role of the Nurse and Nurse Executive is on the care patients receive.

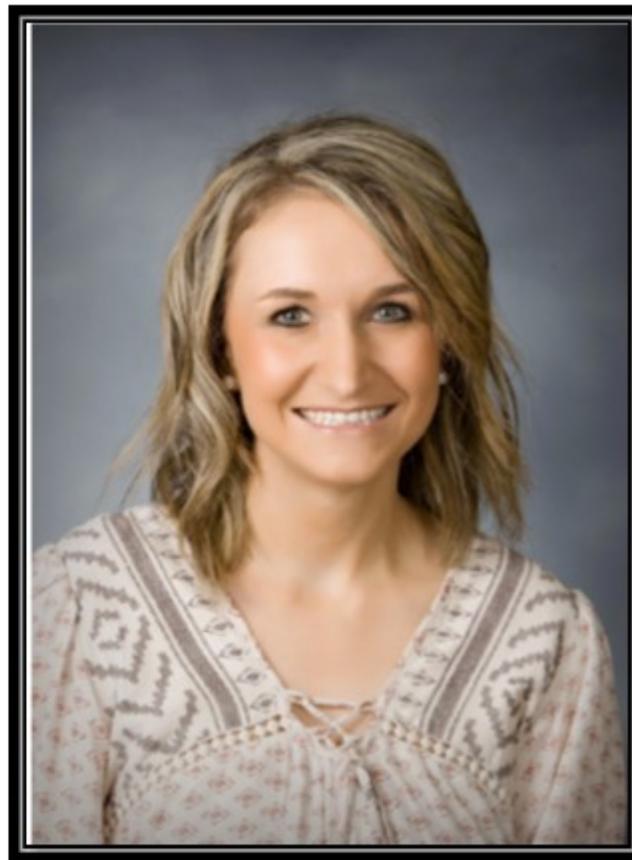
Joshua left Cerner and began to work toward his Nursing degree in the Fall of 2018, where he plans to graduate in Spring 2020. He currently works multiple jobs as a Tutor for MACC, Nurse Tech for the University of Kansas Medical Center, and Nurse Tech for Moberly Regional Medical Center.

Breaking Traditions honors

Educator Winner

*Cara
Dirnberger*

Computer Coding and Programming
Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center



Cara Dirnberger

“Mrs. Dirnberger is a true professional and is a positive role model for her students. She creates a work environment within her classroom and is constantly striving to build relationships with business and industry partners to strengthen her program,” says secondary assistant director, Kristy Unger. Coding and Programming student, Celena Looman, says, “Mrs. Dirnberger has a passion for teaching and uses project-based learning activities to help us develop and improve our coding skills.” Another student, Elijah Trunzo, states, “I really appreciate how Mrs. Dirnberger adapted her classroom into a workspace. She is the “boss” and appoints “project managers” to assign tasks to the 3-4 students they are in charge of. This is getting us ready for the real world. We also have flexible seating, dry erase tables, and an open space to do our work. She set it up similar to how it is in a real work environment.”

Mrs. Dirnberger also teaches at Codefi during the summer. She is currently conducting coding camps for students 14-17 years old to help gain knowledge of a variety of coding languages and skills. This camp provides opportunities for students who want to gain knowledge of coding and increase interest in Computer Science related fields. Her class has also partnered with the Codefi Youth Coding League, which consists of 17 surrounding middle schools who compete by creating block based projects. Her students will be responsible for analyzing code and providing feedback for these middle school students.

Breaking Traditions honors

Educator Winner

*Betsy
Anderson*

Culinary Arts

Scott Regional Technology Center



Betsy Anderson

Ms. Betsy Anderson is the Culinary Arts Instructor at Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett.

Ms. Anderson holds a B.S. in Hospitality and Restaurant Administration from Missouri State University and a Masters in Career and Technical Education from CMSU.

She has been teaching Culinary Arts at Scott Tech for 6 years and previous to her teaching career, she worked in hotels, restaurants, catering and management for 11 years. At SRTC she is the SkillsUSA Lead Advisor and the NTHS co-advisor. She has also has worked on the National Education Team for National SkillsUSA Conference. She resides in Carthage with her husband Josh and is a dog mom to Zoey.

Breaking Traditions honors

Employer Winner

*Larry
Chasteen*

North Scott County Ambulance
Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center



North Scott County Ambulance District

North Scott County Ambulance District is very involved with the EMS program at the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center. Charity Huff, EMS instructor, says, “Larry Chasteen and North Scott County have been outstanding to work with and are dedicated to supporting our EMS program. Over the course of five years, NSCAD has hired 30 students from the CTC EMS program, 95% of whom are non-traditional employees.” Kristy Unger, assistant secondary director, states, “We are so fortunate to have NSCAD on our team. They are an outstanding example of a dedicated business partnership. They are always willing to help our students in any way possible, whether it is providing guest speakers, giving tours, serving as an intern site, assisting with testing, serving on the advisory board, and many other ways. The success of our EMS program is in large part due to the partnership we have with NSCAD.”

NSCAD also takes an active interest in seeing that their employees receive continuing education and supports those who are advancing their knowledge base into more advanced medical fields. NSCAD allows employees flexibility with their scheduling to accommodate personal needs and family events. They also accommodate employee’s school schedules in order to allow them to continue to pursue their education. NSCAD provide mentoring on a daily basis to both their employees and to the students who are completing their internships.