



## BREAKING TRADITIONS STUDENT AWARD NOMINATION

### INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION

Breaking Traditions invites outstanding career and technical students and the adults who support them to participate in Missouri's annual statewide award program for nontraditional students. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Breaking Traditions Awards are an excellent opportunity for students, career-technical programs, schools, and employers to receive recognition and statewide publicity.

Nominating schools will retain a paper copy of all completed Breaking Traditions nomination forms and submit an electronic copy as an email attachment from the school contact person to your regional College and Career Consultants (CCC) no later than February 1. The electronic forms serve as the official application. Sending via email indicates that all proper signatures have been secured.

This activity is supported by funds from the DESE, authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. All applicants will be judged on the merits of their experience, contributions, and written responses as described in this application.

#### Nomination Information

Fill out this form digitally by downloading the document and then emailing it as an attachment to your regional CCC. Original signed copies of the nomination packet, including the photo permission form, should be retained by the school.

#### Nomination Packet Checklist:

- Student Nominee Information
- Student Nominee Essay Questions
- Nominator Information & Questions
- Award Information
- Designated Contact Person Information
- Administrator & Career Consultant Information
- Photo Permission Form

**Send your nomination packet as an  
Email attachment to your College  
and Career Consultant.**

Submission Deadline: Completed nomination materials must be emailed as an attachment to your CCC by February 1. Award winners will be notified in March.

#### Who can be nominated?

- Secondary students (12<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY)
- Postsecondary students
- Adult students
- Educators (career and technical)
- Employers (nontraditional employment)

#### Who cannot be nominated?

- Students participating in short “exploratory” career and technical courses.
- Previous state winners.

#### Nomination guidelines

- Each school may submit: One secondary student (12<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY) and one postsecondary/adult student for each career-technical education program.  
For example, an institution may have as many as 20 different career-technical education programs, resulting in the nominations of 40 students – two per program, one secondary and one postsecondary.
- Students may not nominate themselves. Only school officials can nominate students for the awards.
- If a nominator does not wish to choose between two students in the same career-technical program, have both students fill out the awards materials. Then have the appropriate school official(s) choose a winner.

#### Enrollment requirements

- Students must attend a state-funded public high school, area career center, public community college, or state technical college.
- Students must currently be enrolled in a state approved, preparatory, career-technical education program that is nontraditional for his/her gender.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by person with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator - Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email [civilrights@dese.mo.gov](mailto:civilrights@dese.mo.gov)

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION (continued)

### What does nontraditional mean?

- Nontraditional students are defined as those studying for careers that are traditionally chosen by the opposite gender. The phrase does not refer to older students returning to school.
- A nontraditional female student is enrolled in a career-technical program that has a male population of 75 percent or more.
- A nontraditional male student is enrolled in a career-technical program that has a female population of 75 percent or more. The list of careers and programs that are considered "nontraditional" for both genders is available on the DESE Website at [Perkins Non-Traditional List](#). Contact your CCC for assistance.

### State Winners

- One secondary female
- One secondary male
- One postsecondary or adult female
- One postsecondary or adult male

### Regional Winners

Up to 36 regional winners will be chosen. Missouri is divided into nine regions.

- Nine secondary females
- Nine secondary males
- Nine postsecondary or adult females
- Nine postsecondary or adult males

### Honorable Mentions

- Honorable mentions will be made at the judges' discretion.

### Daphna Jones Spirit Award

Determination and hard work are important skills for students, especially nontraditional students. One student who epitomized these qualities is Daphna Jones. Daphna, an architectural drafting student at Jefferson College and a 2004 Breaking Traditions state award winner, died on October 4, 2004. Daphna attended school despite suffering a stroke in February of 2002 and a heart attack in the summer of 2003. She was a single mother who worked full time and still found time to pursue her degree.

In class, Daphna worked with persistence, willpower, and tenacity. She ranked in the top five percent of her class and served as a mentor and role model for the other students. Despite her health problems, Daphna did not ask for special treatment or help. The pursuit of her dream of being able to build things to give back to her community was why she continued attending classes despite the setbacks. All her life, she loved building things and it was her ultimate goal to use her talents to help others. While attending Jefferson College, Daphna had very high medical expenses. This forced her to sell her home and her car, but she continued to work toward her dream.

Daphna was rewarded for her hard work with a Breaking Traditions state award. The recognition served as more motivation for her to succeed and boosted morale for both her and her family.

Despite all her struggles, Daphna had a delightful personality. Her instructors, counselors, and fellow students agreed that she was very likable. She showed incredible courage and was always willing to help anyone who needed it. In honor of Daphna, an award was added to the Breaking Traditions contest. It is called the Daphna Jones Spirit Award. This award will be presented to a person who exemplifies the unbreakable spirit of Daphna, someone who has overcome undue hardships, braved harsh obstacles, stood courageously against troubles, and has had the tenacity to surpass all the odds.

All Breaking Traditions applicants will be considered for the award. No special application is necessary.

### Prizes

The four state winners and two spirit winners will be recognized publicly along with this year's educator and employer award recipients. State and spirit winners will also receive:

- Statewide publicity;
- Award plaques;
- Scholarship offers from Missouri community colleges and the State Technical College of Missouri;
- Regional winners will receive award plaques and scholarship offers. All winners will receive award certificates. All nominators will receive award certificates that can be displayed in their training area. Awards will be distributed by the regional CCC; and
- Winners will be notified in March.

### Photos and Publicity

Please **do not** send photos with the nomination packet. The school contact person for state winners will be contacted about publicity photos.

Breaking Traditions is an important marketing tool for schools and nontraditional programs. State winners will be featured on posters to be disseminated statewide. Sample news releases will be sent to each participating school's contact person and can be personalized for local media. Send your nomination packet as an email attachment to your CCC.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

STUDENT NAME

COUNTY-DISTRICT CODE

NAME OF SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

NAME OF NONTRADITIONAL PROGRAM

STUDENT HOME ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

STUDENT EMAIL

STUDENT PHONE

STUDENT GENDER

MALE  FEMALE

IS THE STUDENT NOMINEE UNDER 18? IF YES, MAKE SURE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN HAS SIGNED THE CONSENT STATEMENT ON THE STUDENT NOMINEE FORM. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ALSO SIGN THE CONSENT PORTION OF THE FORM.

YES  NO

HAVE YOU RECEIVED SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE FROM A COLLEGE AND CAREER CONSULTANT?

YES  NO

IF YES, PLEASE LIST THE TYPES OF SERVICES (FINANCIAL AID, CAREER COUNSELING, ETC.)

## STUDENT NOMINEE ESSAY QUESTIONS

ATTENTION STUDENTS! REMEMBER: THE JUDGES LOOK CAREFULLY AT THIS PORTION OF YOUR PACKET. YOUR COMMENTS ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHICH STUDENTS ARE CHOSEN AS WINNERS!

ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN 200 WORDS OR LESS.

1. DESCRIBE YOUR REASONS FOR CHOOSING A NONTRADITIONAL CAREER-TECHNICAL PROGRAM. (10 POINTS)

2. WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE CAREER PLANS? (10 POINTS)

**STUDENT NOMINEE ESSAY QUESTIONS (continued)**

3. DESCRIBE HOW YOU HAVE ACTED AS A MENTOR OR ROLE MODEL FOR ANOTHER STUDENT. (5 POINTS)

4. WHO HAS BEEN A ROLE MODEL OR MENTOR FOR YOU AND HOW HAS THIS PERSON AFFECTED YOUR LIFE? (5 POINTS)

5. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING NONTRADITIONAL PROGRAMS? (10 POINTS)

## STUDENT NOMINEE ESSAY QUESTIONS (continued)

6. LIST ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC SCHOOL OR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU BELIEVE THE JUDGES SHOULD KNOW. ONLY LIST RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS YOU HAVE HAD DURING THE LAST 2 TO 3 YEARS. (10 POINTS)

POSSIBLE INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH THE JUDGES:

- CURRENT AWARDS OR ACHIEVEMENTS (PROVIDE DATES)
- ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS JOB-SHADOWING, WORK OR CLUB AFFILIATION, THAT ESTABLISH YOURSELF IN YOUR CAREER
- FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES YOU HAVE HAD WHILE IN SCHOOL
- RECENT SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- OBSTACLES YOU HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME TO ATTEND SCHOOL

7. WRITE AN ESSAY OF 500 WORDS OR LESS ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC. HOW HAS YOUR NONTRADITIONAL PROGRAM AFFECTED YOUR LIFE? (THIS ESSAY IS WORTH 25 POINTS.)

## NOMINATOR INFORMATION

NOMINATOR NAME		TITLE	
NAME OF SCHOOL OR COLLEGE			
SCHOOL ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
NOMINATOR EMAIL		NOMINATOR PHONE	
IN WHAT CAPACITY DO YOU KNOW THE STUDENT NOMINEE?			
CATEGORY <input type="checkbox"/> SECONDARY PROGRAM (12TH GRADE <b>ONLY</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> POSTSECONDARY / ADULT PROGRAM			
NAME OF STUDENT'S PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR(S)			
NONTRADITIONAL CAREER TECHNICAL PROGRAM			
NUMBER OF YEARS STUDENT HAS BEEN IN PROGRAM			
NAME OF SCHOOL OR COLLEGE			
NAME OF DIRECTOR / DEAN			

## NOMINATOR QUESTIONS

ATTENTION NOMINATORS! REMEMBER: THE JUDGES LOOK CAREFULLY AT THIS PORTION OF YOUR PACKET. YOUR COMMENTS ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHICH STUDENTS ARE CHOSEN AS WINNERS! ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN 200 WORDS OR LESS.

1. HOW DOES THE STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE EXCEED THE NORMAL CRITERIA OF YOUR PROGRAM? (5 POINTS)

2. DESCRIBE THE STUDENT'S SKILLS IN TERMS OF HIS/HER ABILITY TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE SUCCESSFULLY. (5 POINTS)

**NOMINATOR QUESTIONS (continued)**

3. WHAT INTERPERSONAL SKILLS DOES THE STUDENT SHOW WHEN ENGAGING WITH CLASSMATES AND INSTRUCTORS? (5 POINTS)

4. HOW HAS THE STUDENT OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES (ACADEMIC/PERSONAL) OF BEING IN A NONTRADITIONAL PROGRAM? (5 POINTS)

5. EXPLAIN WHY YOU BELIEVE THE STUDENT SHOULD BE NOMINATED FOR THE BREAKING TRADITIONS AWARD. (5 POINTS)

**AWARD INFORMATION**

NAME OF SCHOOL THAT SHOULD APPEAR ON WINNER'S CERTIFICATE

**DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION**

DESIGNATE ONE CONTACT PERSON PER SCHOOL FOR ALL NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED. BREAKING TRADITIONS DOES NOT SEND AWARDS DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT WINNER(S).

NAME OF DESIGNATOR CONTACT PERSON

SCHOOL ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

DESIGNATOR EMAIL

DESIGNATOR PHONE

DESIGNATOR SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINT DESIGNATOR NAME

DESIGNATOR TITLE

**ADMINISTRATOR**

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE (DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL, DEAN, ETC)

DATE

PRINT ADMINISTRATOR NAME

TITLE

**COLLEGE AND CAREER CONSULTANT**

NAME OF COLLEGE AND CAREER CONSULTANT FOR YOUR REGION

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

CATEGORY

 Postsecondary/Adult (Male)  Postsecondary/Adult (Female)  Secondary (Male)  Secondary (Female)

REGION

 I  II  III  IV  V  VI  VII  VIII  IX

NAME OF SCHOOL

SCORE