

**AWARD WINNERS
BREAKING TRADITIONS
2015**



SECONDARY FEMALE

Madeline Harl

Columbia Area Career Center

Civil Engineering Nominated by Brad Mann

Civil Engineering Teacher

Madeline says, “One of the reasons I chose a nontraditional career program was because I wanted to be an example for all girls around me showing that it is wonderful to stand out from the crowd. I wanted to exemplify that success is pursuing the exploration of one’s self-interests allowing for your true passions in life to reveal themselves, even if it means to take the path less traveled. For me, my abilities and passion were for Math and Science in the STEM field of research. Furthering my interests in this area of study, I plan to attend college at the University of Missouri Science and Technology. I hope to break the traditional standard of engineering, and inspire others around me to do what they love. Taking Civil Engineering has impacted my life, and has given me the motivation to take on challenges that may come my way throughout my career. With my major, I hope to be able to work for Engineering Without Borders one day, and spread my knowledge I have gained to build self-sustaining homes and irrigation systems for third world countries. With this I would not only be an impactful role model for others around me, but also make a crucial impact for those outside our country. I am thrilled to have won this award, for it is an honor and gives me confidence that I can carry with me throughout my whole life knowing that I can make a difference, and I can break traditions.” Madeline will receive a scholarship from the Missouri STEM Foundation.



SECONDARY MALE

Daniel Magar

*Jefferson College Area Technical School
Health Services Assistant
Nominated by Jacalyn Eberhart
Health Services Professor*

Daniel tells us, "I am the only man in the nursing program, and it is an awesome experience being able to work with my classmates and compare viewpoints."

He has tutored Advanced Chemistry students, organized a study group, and helped classmates at clinical sites who were having trouble mastering a skill. Daniel works at a restaurant, but still finds time to volunteer with a variety of health care organizations. He says his program has been challenging; however it has been worth it. He laughs that the clinical uniforms favor females, with more pockets than the male version.

Daniel's nominator cites his many strengths: "Masters competencies ahead of his classmates; demonstrates a higher level of critical thinking; nearly perfect attendance in both class and clinical; hard worker, lending a hand to his instructor, classmates and employees at the clinical site." She also tells us, "Daniel is breaking ground at his home high school, encouraging males to apply for this program." His advice includes, "It's important to step out of your comfort zone and strive for what you truly want, rather than settling for what society decides is normal."

Daniel would like to earn his associates degree in nursing, and then look at advanced options. Eventually he would like to own his own clinic and offer free healthcare to those in need. Next fall Daniel will enter the nursing program at Mineral Area College. He will receive Breaking Traditions scholarships from Mineral Area College and the Missouri STEM Foundation.



POSTSECONDARY/ADULT FEMALE

Kellsey Morris

Mineral Area College

Law Enforcement Academy

Nominated by Chris Schmitt

Law Enforcement Academy Director

Kellsey is in the Police Academy program at Mineral Area College. She says that her mom raised her to be a strong independent woman and her mom's advice was: "Whatever you do, be different". Kellsey's own personal goal is to make a difference. When she was young she played being a superhero around the house and now she's proud of pursuing a nontraditional career as a police officer. She believes that every individual has a personal calling unique as a finger print and is excited she has found a love for her career direction and a way to help others.

After she receives her associates degree she plans to receive a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice Administration degree. She is very aware of the importance of being a good role model for her sister and other girls. She found strength by a quote her role model friend Jasmine shared when Kellsey had struggles at the beginning of her program "The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of them all.

Kellsey's advice to others is "do it"! "Life is too short to stand behind traditional gender roles. It's not about how hard of a hit you can give, it's about how many you can take and still keep moving forward"

Kellsey's nominator says that she is extremely energetic, reliable, knowledgeable, a team player and out performs most all the men in her academy class.

Kellsey will receive Breaking Traditions scholarships from Mineral Area College and the Missouri STEM Foundation.



POSTSECONDARY/ADULT MALE

Nathan Thomas

Physical Therapist Assistant

Ozarks Technical Community College

Nominated by Becky Crocker

Director, Physical Therapist Assistant Program

“I have a servant’s heart. Every occupation I have ever held has involved service to others.” From serving customers while in high school to serving his country in the US Navy to serving his community as a police officer for 15 years, Nathan is now choosing to serve his community by pursuing a Physical Therapist Assistant degree. He says that “through the course of my education I have acquired a particular interest in providing therapy services to patients with neurological conditions.”

To those who may be thinking of a “traditional or nontraditional” career path Nathan believes that it should “begin with a passion and transcend gender statistics and perceived norms.” He states “I have found that talents and attributes fall far short when compared to the power of gritty perseverance and focused determination. It is no accident that the words “intent” and “intense” appear related. They share a close etymological history and meaning: “to stretch out.”

Thomas’ nominator shares that his “intelligence, interpersonal skills, and willingness to serve for the greater good, directed the PTA faculty to nominate Nathan for this award.” She also shares that she anticipates he will graduate magna cum laude which is seldom accomplished within the PTA Program. Nathan demonstrates ongoing excellence including the ability to facilitate the understanding of diverse and complex concepts. He spends extra time with peers to help make difficult concepts seem less difficult, and during the most stressful situations, he is known to be a calming force for those around him.



SECONDARY SPIRIT

Catherine Ball

Scott Regional Technology Center

Construction Technology

Nominated by Brian Prewitt

Construction Technology Instructor

Persevering through family tragedy, Catherine Ball lives by the advice given to her by her family mentors, “hold your head up, put your heart and soul into everything you do, and don’t give up.” She is easy to work with and is always willing to try something new. With each construction skill Catherine has learned, she has also gained self-confidence. She is a student that strives to do better each and every time she tackles a job. She serves as a class leader, always leading by example and willing to offer support and guidance to any classmate. Catherine is not only the first girl, but the first student from her sending school to enroll in and complete Construction Technology. With her enthusiasm and encouragement she knows other students are certain to follow. Even though she does not plan to pursue a degree in construction, she knows the skills and self-confidence she has developed in Construction Technology will be used throughout her life. Catherine plans to attend Crowder College and will receive a scholarship from the Missouri STEM Foundation.



POSTSECONDARY/ADULT SPIRIT

Kelly Krieger

Mineral Area College

Electronics Technology

Nominated by Paul Fritch

Professor and Department of Technology Chair

Kelly works as an Inmate Labor Supervisor in the Maintenance Department at the Bonne Terre prison and is surrounded by 40 male coworkers. She hopes to change her position there to an Electronics Technician in the near future. Kelly is older than many of her classmates at the college and often helps them with career information about working in the prison system along with questions they have about technology.

Her mom was her role model. Kelly says her mom wanted her to follow her dreams and encouraged her to be a strong, independent woman, and giving her great values by leading Kelly by example. Kelly took care of her mom during her mom's last few years of life.

Being a cancer survivor, Kelly helps groups and individual cancer patients by sharing her story and listening to the patients' struggles. She says there is a lot of stress attending college when there is much going on with her family, work and bills, but it's all worth it.

Kelly's nominator says that Kelly has a "go get it attitude" and her willingness to learn is relentless. She's an extravert, students like to be around her and she genuinely cares about life.

Kelly will receive Breaking Traditions scholarships from Mineral Area College and the Missouri STEM Foundation.



SECONDARY EDUCATOR

Brian Prewitt

Scott Regional Technology Center

Construction Technology Instructor

Nominated by students Leona Evans & Catherine Ball

Mr. Brian Prewitt is described by his students as a motivator, encourager, supporter, listener, and their biggest fan. Mr. Prewitt sets the same high expectations for each student in his class and encourages them to do well in all of their other classes. He makes certain every student understands each step in the construction process and that all students can successfully complete each construction skill. He brings in guest speakers to reinforce the information taught during class, places students in internships within their local community, and provides opportunities for students to network and meet future employers. A huge supporter of SkillsUSA, Mr. Prewitt not only encourages his students to participate, but spends countless hours outside of class time so that his students have the necessary skills to compete. He teaches his students how to work as a team and creates a supportive environment where all students are respected and honored for their contributions to the construction process. His students value his strong work ethic and his dedication to volunteering in the community. Mr. Prewitt is a great role model both in the classroom and in life. He is more than a teacher, he is our friend.



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATOR

Linda Franchini

State Technical College of Missouri

Electronics Engineering Technology Instructor

Nominated by student Elizabeth Boyd

Teaching electronics engineering technology for twenty- six years has given Linda not only a feeling of pride in her work, but also pride in herself as a woman in a nontraditional field. Linda is no stranger to stepping outside of the stereotypical “woman’s role” in society. Beginning her journey in the military, Linda made a name for herself from the start. During her time at State Technical College of Missouri she has been awarded *Who’s Who Among America’s Teacher* numerous times. She has also been awarded The *Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching*, been designated a Master Teacher twice, and won the *Outstanding Technical Teacher Award* in 2000 for a five state region. She served as Faculty Senate President for three years and is currently the faculty representative for the State Technical College of Missouri Foundation. In her spare time Linda enjoys volunteering at local retirement centers with her therapy cat Howard. For the past two decades she has had the rare pleasure of teaching with her husband, sharing all of the joys, triumphs and victories with her soul mate.

Linda's student nominator says, “Mrs. Franchini is an excellent role model. She takes extra time outside of class to help students understand the material, helps students find internships to learn more about the field, and encourages students to participate in activities and organizations that will help her students in their future career.” Linda says nothing makes her happier than seeing her students succeed by getting their dream jobs!



EMPLOYER

Rick Hughlett

Rick's Automotive

Nominated by Gabe McLaughlin

Automotive Technology Instructor

Ozarks Technical Community College

It was his dream to own his own shop. Through hard work and perseverance Rick Hughlett, the owner of Rick's Automotive, one of Springfield's top Independent Automotive centers was born.

Rick has been active with Ozarks Technical Community College since before its conception. In fact, he is a 1975 Automotive Technology graduate of Graff VoTech, the original Career & Technical School from which OTC was formed. Rick also continues to stay active with OTC in various capacities. He serves on the OTC Transportation/Automotive Advisory board and has since its beginning (approximately 25 years). He also serves on the OTC Foundation Board where he and his wife provide an endowment with the Foundation for automotive scholarships.

Rick's Automotive has built community partnerships where Rick and his employees are actively involved with more than 30 organizations and charities. In fact, he currently employs 5 OTC graduates including one female. This female just happens to be the 2014 Secondary Breaking Traditions Award Competition winner, Tara Stewart.

Rick has always been supportive of all students, no matter the gender. Where students are concerned, his goal is to encourage them in what they want to do and then to become their best. Through his community work, his goal is to improve the hiring pool in Springfield and the surrounding areas including placing and retaining the top technicians and employees in the automotive field.