



Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SUMMER 2018

SPRING



FALL



WINTER



CPS Honors Seven Elite Educators

Columbia Fund For Academic Excellence Awards



Riley Groves

Jenifer Smith

Heather Bruns

Marla Crowe

Isaiah Cummings

Andrew Barnes

Helen Porter

Seven Columbia Public Schools educators were recognized by the Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence for their outstanding work this year. Each year, educators are selected from nominations submitted by parents and peers as exceptional teachers, counselors and administrators.

Riley Groves

Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades PreK-2
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School second grade teacher

Jenifer Smith

Outstanding Elementary Educator, Grades 3-5
Russell Boulevard Elementary School fifth grade teacher

Heather Bruns

Outstanding Middle School Educator
West Middle School social studies teacher

Marla Clowe

Outstanding High School Educator
Rock Bridge High School mathematics teacher

Isaiah Cummings

Outstanding Educator in a Specialized Area
Hickman High School outreach counselor

Andrew Barnes

Outstanding Beginning Teacher
Jefferson Middle School science teacher

Helen Porter

Outstanding Administrator
Oakland Middle School principal

"It feels amazing to be honored for the work teachers do. I realized that people do notice what we do every day even if they don't say it," said Jenifer Smith, a fifth-grade teacher at Russell Boulevard Elementary.

Honorees receive a \$1,500 cash award and an engraved silver tray. The Columbia Fund for Academic Excellence was established during the 1979-80 school year through the tireless work of Ray and Jeanne Lewis, who had served Columbia as a Board of Education member and a former teacher, respectively.

Partners in Education

Over the course of 34 years, Columbia Public Schools has seen tremendous achievements by local youth because of the involvement and dedication of partnering businesses. The original nine charter partnerships have multiplied to a remarkable 150 Partners in Education and more than 100 Partnership Friends. These partners include banks, hospitals, architects, veterinarians, grocery stores, media outlets, non-profits, insurance companies and many more. Partners in Education joins a local business with an individual school, curriculum department or grade level. Each partnership establishes a mission statement, objectives and activities specific to the business' and schools' needs and abilities.

The overall goal of Columbia's Partners in Education program is to build bridges between the worlds of business and education. It seeks to create a better understanding of the public-school system within the community; strengthen and enhance the district's programs; create a climate of involvement and interaction between organizations, businesses and schools; and provide students opportunities to develop attitudes and skills that enhance their success in the world of work.

Some notable partnership anniversaries were recognized at a celebration breakfast in early May.

MU Division of Operations and Columbia Area Career Center

The University of Missouri Division of Operations celebrates 30 years as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Area Career Center, which provides career and technical education, personal enrichment and workforce development to students. MU Operations and CACC have worked to give students experiential learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Additionally, they have partnered to host the "I Can" breakfasts, the Outstanding Student Ceremony and the Skill Expo.

Amanda Brown, CACC strategic communication manager, said MU Operations goes above and beyond expectations and always prioritizes students.

"If it wasn't for the work and support of Mizzou Operations, we would be unable to host these ceremonies," she said. "They provide incredible support through donations and encouragement."

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital and Douglass High School

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital is celebrating 20 years as a Partner in Education with Douglass High School. When the "industry-based" partnership was originally initiated, the hospital established a classroom within its facility. Douglass High School students spend three hours per day in the classroom and three hours per day in a paid job within the hospital. These jobs include sterile processing, food service, accounting, supply, nursing support, logistics, clerical support, housekeeping and grounds crew. The program also allows students to learn traditional school subjects and earn college credits needed to graduate, while also building important career skills like timeliness, attendance, dependability, cooperation and technical skills.

Additionally, Truman VA helps with job development for Douglass students by holding mock interviews and career fairs to assist in job

placement after graduation and provides scholarships to qualified students.

Heather Brown, strategic partnership officer at Truman VA, says the partnership fosters permanent employment opportunities to fill entry-level jobs at the hospital. She says the real-world environment the students are exposed to is vital and helps them develop important occupational skills.

"We have a vested interest in these students graduating, as they can go on to accomplish other things in their lives and become productive members of our society," she said. "Moreover, we hope that by working in the hospital, they might just become interested in the health care field, and if not, then they have the skills to find other employment in the community."

Gentry teacher nominated for national history award

Gentry Middle School teacher **Gretchen Trower** has been nominated for the Harris History Teacher Award by the State Historical Society of Missouri, administrator of the National History Day program in Missouri. The Harris History Teacher of the Year award is sponsored by James F. Harris and is annually awarded to one middle and high school teacher in the country. Trower is the middle school nominee from Missouri.

District receives environmental stewardship award

The City of Columbia Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Awards has recognized the Columbia Public Schools' Science Department with a 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award for surpassing its goal of removing one million invasive bush honeysuckle plants from Missouri and collecting long-term plant diversity data. The CPS Science curriculum has increased the number of school gardens, field trips and projects, giving students a hands-on approach to learning. The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Awards recognizes local organizations who demonstrate excellence in sustainable practices while promoting a culture of environmental responsibility.

Students shine at National High School Chess Championship

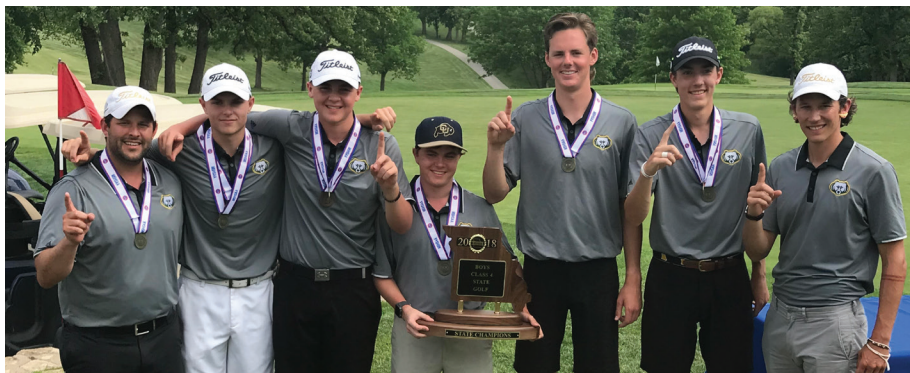
Three students earned honors at the recent National High School Chess Championship in Columbus, Ohio.

Hickman High School student **Isaac Stiepleman** earned 15th place in the under 1200 division. This is Isaac's second consecutive national trophy and follows a third-place finish in the Missouri High School Tournament of Champions invitational competition.

Rock Bridge High School student **Vignesh Kumar** earned the 26th place trophy in the under 1200 division.

Gentry Middle School student **Shenice Watkins** finished 170th in the under 800 division. This follows her 28th place finish in the under 16 division of the All Girls National Chess Championship in Chicago.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Left to Right: Head Coach Austin Reed, Hudson Dubinski, Sean Minor, Keith Schaezler, Sam Rentschler, Ross Steelman, Assistant Coach Stuart Smith.

RBHS boys' golf team breaks state record

Rock Bridge High School Boys' Golf won the MSHSAA Class 4 State Championship on May 15 at Swope Memorial Golf Course in Kansas City. The team shot a two-day score of 582, which set a new All-Class MSHSAA state record for a 36-hole round on a par 72 course. The previous record was 596 set in 2005.

Ross Steelman earned the individual state championship by shooting an

eight-under-par 136. He also set a new All-Class MSHSAA state record for an individual 36-hole round on a par 72 course. The previous record was 140 set in 2015.

Additionally, Hudson Dubinski finished 4th overall after shooting a 145 and Sean Minor finished 7th overall after shooting a 148. Both earned all-state recognition for their performances.



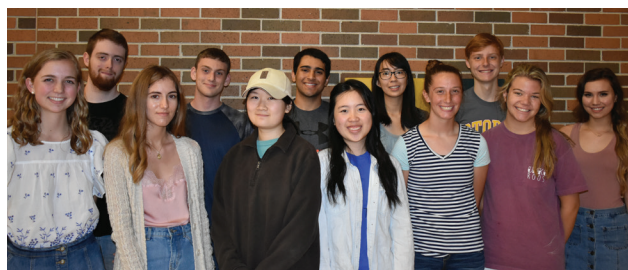
Superintendent Peter Stiepleman was among eight Missouri superintendents nominated this year for the prestigious Robert L. Pearce Award, which is presented annually by the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA).

Superintendent Stiepleman honored by school administrators association

Stiepleman was nominated for the honor by his colleagues in the Northeast. The Pearce award program is a long-standing tradition of the association honoring excellence in education and community leadership among Missouri superintendents.

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' 2017-2018 VALEDICTORIANS

ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



Back row (from left to right): Joseph Anderson, Austin Spratt, Laith Almashharawi, Sonya Hu, Kevin Kiehne, Elizabeth Curtright
Front row (from left to right): Macy Knorr, Nikol Slatinska, Tracey Singer, Ruth Wu, Kaelyn Kovarik, Jennifer Allen

HICKMAN HIGH SCHOOL



(From left to right): Veronica Fritz, Nancy Diallo, Veer Sangha, Jenna Rogers

BATTLE HIGH SCHOOL



(From left to right): Rory Dinkins, TJ Brooks, Shelby Anderson

2018 DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS



CPS Grows Future Teachers at Home

As the school year ends, three Columbia Public Schools seniors will embark on a new journey: a free college education and a path toward becoming a teacher at the very school they attended.

On May 10th, Battle High School Senior **Fernando Jimenez**, Hickman High School Senior **Serenity Washington** and Rock Bridge High School Senior **Olivia Zacharias** signed their letters of intent to continue teaching as part of the district's Educational Experience program, or EdX. Jimenez will attend Central Methodist University, Washington will attend the University of Missouri and Zacharias will attend Columbia College.

CPS' EdX program is in the second year of its relaunch and Monica Naylor, retired director of multicultural education and student mentor, said it continues to grow "by leaps and bounds." The program is part of a larger district initiative called Grow Our Own, which aims to establish a pipeline of locally educated and highly effective teachers while diversifying CPS' teaching force.

EdX interns begin their experience by working in local classrooms while in high school.

During their time in college, they must

work at least 10 hours a week in CPS classrooms. If students fulfill all requirements, they are guaranteed a teaching position at CPS after graduation.

"The impact on the students who have been enrolled in the program is outstanding. For many students, this is the first job experience they have had," Naylor said.

All three students selected this year are interested in studying elementary education, Nicolle Adair, supervisor of EdX said.

"I'm really lucky to watch their growth in areas of confidence, developing critical thinking skills ... and perhaps, most importantly, fulfilling their lifelong dreams to become educators," Adair said.

The future of the program is bright. Adair hopes to continue slowly developing partnerships with more colleges and universities while maintaining high retention rates for those already signed on. This is the first year that CMU and MU have participated in the program.

"We know when we are surrounded by different types of educators with various backgrounds and cultures, we all learn and grow from each other," Adair said. "Because the program has such strong bones, it can only be enhanced."

Thank you to our voters for supporting the \$30-million, no-tax-rate-increase April bond issue!

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

MONDAY, AUGUST 13
Jump Start Day (Grades 6 & 9)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14
Opening Day of School
(Grades 1-12)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16
First Day for Kindergarten

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
Labor Day; school not in session

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
Teacher Work Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5
Teacher Work Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Election Day; school not in session

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Teacher Work Day; school not in session
Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

NOVEMBER 21 - 23
Thanksgiving Break;
school not in session

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1
Winter Break; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2
Teacher Work Day; school not in session

MONDAY, JANUARY 21
MLK Day; school not in session

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Teacher Work Day; school not in session

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Presidents' Day; school not in session

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
Teacher Work Day;
school not in session
Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Elementary and Middle Schools)

MARCH 25-29
Spring Break; school not in session

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

MAY 21-29
Built-in snow days

MONDAY, MAY 27
Memorial Day; school not in session

TUESDAY, MAY 29
Teacher collaboration;
2.5 hour early dismissal

JUNE 3 - 27
Summer School

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