

COLUMBIA AREA CAREER CENTER

Columbia Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEADLINE: Columbia Public Schools recognized with Breaking Traditions Awards at Columbia Area Career Center

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, April 10, 2017 — The Breaking Traditions Awards are sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize outstanding nontraditional career and technical students and the adults who support them. This activity is supported by funds from DESE, authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. All applicants are judged on the merits of their experience, contributions and written responses. Columbia Public Schools was the recipient of two of these recognitions at Columbia Area Career Center.

Ms. Emerson McNamee won the Student Regional Award for Region IV (out of 16 counties). “Many female students struggle to be the only one (girl) present in their class. However, Emerson has not let that issue define her,” states Mr. Anthony Kindwall, nominating instructor for Emerson. “I have rarely had a student, non-traditional or not, who has exhibited such a personal quest for excellence within her craft.”

“Digital Electronics, Independent Study Electronics, and Laboratory Foundations (courses at CACC) have all taught me that the practical application of theories can be really exciting,” reflects Emerson. “My overall career goal includes developing sustainable and inexpensive materials.”

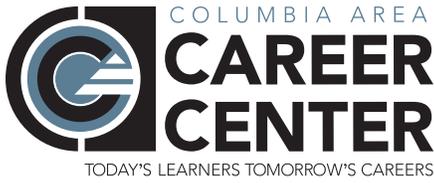
Emerson will be attending the University of Washington in the fall and plans to pursue materials science and engineering.

CACC nominated their Partner In Education, Big O Tires of Missouri/Arkansas/Oklahoma for the Breaking Traditions Employer Award and Big O Tires won the recognition. More than 70 percent of their customers are women, and Big O Tires makes an extra effort to recruit female technicians and salespersons. “We feel it is important to provide support to our nontraditional employees with training, promotions, team building and recognition at our annual award banquet,” states Rusty and Melanie Coats, Big O Tires representatives. “We have designed our uniforms to be gender specific, so our female technicians



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have comfortable shirts and jackets that are not a male cut. As a company we do not base on gender—it is skills.”

“Big O Tires has been instrumental in bringing our schools and community, together and sharing resources, strengthening our programs and enhancing Columbia economic growth,” states Mrs. Ellen Buechler, CACC Career Planning Specialist. “They have hired several of our students, providing them with additional training and starting their careers. They have further increased placement of students in the automotive field through job shadowing and interning opportunities.”

Additionally, Ms. Riley Jones, a graphic design and desktop publishing student of Mrs. Sandy Morrow, won the Breaking Traditions poster design contest. Students were to create a poster that celebrates the annual Breaking Traditions Award competition winners. The design challenge was to be motivational and inspire students to discover nontraditional careers. Submissions were to show understanding and interpretation of Breaking Traditions, basic design concepts, originality, creativity and a keen eye for design. There were 56 entries, and two of the top five were from Riley.

Missouri’s 24th annual statewide Breaking Traditions Award Program will be Wed., April 26, 2017 in Jefferson City. The program will recognize and provide statewide publicity for the selected nontraditional students, career-technical programs, schools and employers. CACC would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Janet Bagby, DESE College and Career Consultant-Region IV Central, for her work with our students, staff, faculty and employers.

CACC is a part of CPS and serves the community by providing the following education programs to a variety of ages including, but not limited to, career and technical education, personal enrichment, literacy advancement, workforce development and summer camps. For more information, visit www.career-center.org or www.cpsk12.org.

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Photo 1 [Left to Right] Dr. Janet Bagby, Ms. Riley Jones and Mrs. Sandy Morrow

Photo 2 [Rusty and Melanie Coats, Big O Tires]

Photo 3 [Left to Right] Dr. Rebecca Pisano, Mr. Anthony Kindwall, Ms. Emerson McNamee, Dr. Janet Bagby and Mrs. Ellen Buechler



As a district accredited with distinction by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Columbia Public Schools is a reflection of the community. The vision is to be the best school district in the state, and the mission is to provide an excellent education for all students—from preschool to adult career education.



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Breaking Traditions
Presents
Riley Jones
Poster Award-Region IV
Graphic Design and Desktop Publishing
Columbia Area Career Center
Sponsored by the
Missouri Department of Education and Columbia College
2017





Various posters and notices are pinned to the wall in the background, including a blue one at the top left and a pink one below it.

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