



# SPECIAL EDITION



Issue 3, 2016

## CISCO Networking Academy Provides Opportunities for Students

The CISCO Networking Academy at SSD's North Technical and South Technical high schools offers students the opportunity to participate in an academic honors course and work toward a certification that can lead to employment and a head start in post-secondary education.

Senior Jess McClanahan, who attends South Tech and Affton high schools, appreciates the hands-on aspect of working with networks. He plans to attend Fontbonne University and wants to work in cyber or homeland security.

"I will be able to get an entry level networking job this summer with my certification that I am earning through the CISCO Networking Academy," McClanahan said. "Therefore, I'll be able to work while I attend college. I am ahead of the game."

The CISCO Networking Academy is a college-level program that prepares students for networking careers and ends with the CISCO Certified Entry Network Technician (CCENT) exam.

The two-year program allows students to learn networking from the most basic to very involved concepts. The curriculum is online and paired with integrated activities to reinforce the concepts learned in class.

"Hands-on activities allow the students to work on live routers and switches that are used in the industry," said North Tech teacher Jim Elkins. "The students also have access to virtual equipment, allowing them to practice their skills from any computer."

Students in the program take Introduction to Networks as a junior and Routing and Switching Essentials as a senior.

"Students who get their CCENT Certification can go directly into the workforce or continue on at a community college or four-year institution," said South Tech teacher Michele Myers. "Students who like to work with computers, are not afraid to ask questions, and like to look for solutions are a good fit for this class."

Senior Sadia Ali, who attends South Tech and Parkway South high schools, said her interest in the coursework piqued when they began to learn about cyber security and how to help people keep information safe on the Internet.

"The Internet is growing every day and new fields are becoming available," said Ali. "There are all kinds of opportunities for new talent and innovation."

Last fall, Ali attended the annual Washington Leadership Training Institute in Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators and

aides to advocate for career and technical education funds for schools like North Tech and South Tech.

Ali and her SkillsUSA adviser met with senators and legislative aides to educate them about SSD's technical education programs. "I bragged about CISCO and the achievements of South Tech students," said Ali. "I was so proud to advocate for South Tech and describe how technical high schools are helping their communities."

Myers said she finds it very satisfying when she's teaching and the students finally reach the point when it starts to click. "It is also encouraging to see them develop into young adults," she said. "They are just finding their way and to see them have a passion for something and want to make a career out of it is rewarding."

Elkins added that it's a pleasure to see students grow professionally during their two years in the CISCO program.

"Knowing that they are learning skills that will make their lives better and easier motivates me to be better at what I do," Elkins said. "I love it when we are hitting a concept very hard and the light comes on. Seeing how their motivation skyrockets at these 'aha' moments is so rewarding. It makes me work harder at getting them to that point."

Graduates of North Tech and South Tech's CISCO program have been hired by many large companies after graduation including AT&T, Scotttrade, Inc., Charter Communications and Enterprise Holdings.

More than 30 programs in a wide range of technical areas are offered at SSD's two technical high schools.

**For more information about North Tech, visit: [www.northtechnical.org](http://www.northtechnical.org) and to learn about opportunities at South Tech visit: [www.southtechhigh.org](http://www.southtechhigh.org). ■**



CISCO instructor Michele Myers helps a student with classwork at South Technical High School.

# STUDENTS HONORED FOR ACHIEVE

On April 21, 2016, the Special Education Foundation and SSD joined together to recognize the outstanding achievements of local students at the annual Commitment to Kids Banquet. This year, 20 students received the Rosemary Zander Award. Others were honored with financial scholarships for college and summer camps.

The Rosemary Zander Award has long recognized the accomplishments of students receiving services from SSD. Since 1988, students have been honored for success in a variety of categories — academics, arts, athletics, communications, vocational training, employment, independent living skills, community service and extracurricular activities.

Each of the 2016 award recipients has diverse achievements and has had varied challenges to meet and overcome. And they all have demonstrated the central mission of SSD — all students can learn, succeed and make successful contributions to our community.

Read about three of this year's Rosemary Zander Award recipients to the right. To learn more about each award winner's inspiring story, visit <http://bit.ly/zander2016> to read their individual profiles and watch a video featuring the honorees.



## Student Perseveres Through Life's Challenges

**Maria Broyles**, experienced great loss in her childhood and faces her own medical challenges, but she has persevered and flourished.

Maria is a senior at Hazelwood West High School and receives services from SSD. She lost both her parents to cancer and she has been diagnosed with a genetic condition that has created health challenges.

Bridget Hanna, an SSD teacher who nominated Maria for the Rosemary Zander Award, said she is amazed at how Maria faces these challenges with such courage, grace and positivity.

Maria is a member of the Hazelwood West swim and dive team, manager of the boys' swim team and a color guard member. She also participated in the 2015 Fred Saigh Leadership Program, is a member of the National Art Honor Society and is a Visitor Information Personnel (VIP) team member that volunteers during different school events and activities.

"Maria's courage throughout her life has led her to where she is now," said Hanna. "She has taken the challenges she has faced and has grown into a beautiful young lady with the soul of an angel. She not only inspires her peers, but she inspires her teachers as well."



## Student Helps Others and Teaches by Example

Being born with one arm has not stopped **Madelyn Hubbs** from making major accomplishments in her education, or from participating in extracurricular activities and civic volunteer activities.

A senior at Pattonville High School, Madelyn has demonstrated great confidence and skill as a swimmer. In addition to swimming at her high school, she also swims for the Disabled American Sports Association (DASA) and the Bridgeton Swim Club.

Madelyn is also a patient ambassador for Shriners Hospital for Children. She has volunteered more than 100 hours working at Shriners events. She gives tours at the hospital, speaks to visitors and works at the Shriners annual circus event. She also raised and donated more than \$5,000 for Shriners Hospital, and each year organizes a toy drive.

"Madelyn goes at life 110 percent," said Tracy Heiland, an SSD orthopedic impairment itinerant teacher and Rosemary Zander Award nominator. "She is always thinking of how to make things better for others. She uses her determination to help others."

Madelyn created 10 YouTube videos showing others how to use one hand to braid hair, tie shoes, juggle, jump rope and more.



## Academic and Social Gains Lead to Student's Success

Slow and steady gains over three years have led fourth-grade student **Ethan Porter** to great success at SSD's Ackerman School.

When Ethan began at Ackerman he and his teachers were addressing a number of learning and behavioral issues. In the last year he has increased his communication skills by 23 percent and has become very conscientious of the quality of work he completes.

"When Ethan returned to school this year, he returned as a leader," said SSD teacher and Rosemary Zander Award nominator Debbie Taylor. "Ethan's newfound confidence, maturity, improved ability to communicate, and the desire to be a leader has made him a different person."

Ethan was elected to serve on the student council to represent his fellow students. His positive attitude is an asset to his peers, Taylor said.

"Ethan shows up for school daily with a smile on his face," said Taylor. "We couldn't be more proud of his accomplishments, determination and dynamic turnaround."

### 2016 ROSEMARY ZANDER AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### **Mya Askew**

Ritenour High School,  
Ritenour School District

#### **Brian Berman**

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

#### **Shannon Broomfield**

North Technical High School,  
Special School District

#### **Maria Broyles**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Cameron Clark**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Jabari Hamilton-Banks**

Nipher Middle School,  
Kirkwood School District

#### **Joseph Hayes**

Fern Ridge High School/  
South Technical High School,  
Parkway School District/  
Special School District

#### **Madelyn Hubbs**

Pattonville High School,  
Pattonville School District

#### **Mina Jackson**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Ayden Kolnik**

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

#### **Ali Kricho**

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

#### **Alec Martinez**

Holy Cross Academy at Annunciation,  
Special Non-Public Access Program,  
Special School District

#### **D'uanice Moore**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Roman Pfeiffer**

Southview School,  
Special School District

#### **Ethan Porter**

Ackerman School,  
Special School District

#### **Tyrone Purham**

Neuwoehner High School,  
Special School District

#### **Cayla Rodell**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Brodie Thornhill**

Ralph Blevins Elementary School,  
Rockwood School District

#### **Nathan Vehige**

Pierremont Elementary School,  
Parkway School District

#### **Colleen Young**

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

#### SAMMY GOLDMAN

#### "LIVING BIG" CAMBERSHIP

#### **Cameron Messex**

McKelvey Elementary School,  
Parkway School District

#### C.J. AUBUCHON CAMBERSHIP

#### **Anastasia Noblett**

Rogers Middle School,  
Afton School District

#### ALLISON M. HAAKE

#### MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Lauren Ayers**

Bayless High School,  
Bayless School District

#### SSD BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Katherine Kemper**

Kirkwood High School,  
Kirkwood School District

#### **Elyse Middlesworth**

South Technical High School,  
Special School District

#### BONHOMME LIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Lauren Ayers**

Bayless High School,  
Bayless School District

#### **Richard Hochecker IV**

Parkway South High School/  
South Technical High School,  
Parkway School District/  
Special School District

#### **Hannah Marie Parham**

Ladue Horton Watkins  
High School,  
Ladue School District

#### **Cayla Rodell**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### DIANNE ARBEITER SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Austin DesRoche**

Eureka High School,  
Rockwood School District

#### **Rachel Ebner**

Parkway West High School,  
Parkway School District

#### **Kevin Mitchell**

Oakville High School,  
Mehlville School District

#### **Hannah Marie Parham**

Ladue Horton Watkins High School,  
Ladue School District

#### **Isaiah Williams**

Parkway West High School,  
Parkway School District

#### LAURA K. SHERMAN LAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Shannon Broomfield**

North Technical High School,  
Special School District

#### DAN MCLAUGHLIN SCHOLARSHIP

#### **Emily McCann**

Parkway Central High School,  
Parkway School District

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Kimberly Buchheit**

Pattonville High School,  
Pattonville School District

#### **Callie Koehr**

Rockwood Summit High School,  
Rockwood School District

#### **Mitchell W. Matthews**

Maplewood-Richmond Heights  
High School,  
Maplewood-Richmond Heights  
School District

#### **Aaron McDaniels**

North Technical High School,  
Special School District

#### **Cayla Rodell**

Hazelwood West High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Alexander Robert Schrichte**

Lafayette High School,  
Rockwood School District

#### **Princess Chyna Shelton**

Hazelwood East High School,  
Hazelwood School District

#### **Theodore Turner**

Ladue Horton Watkins High School,  
Ladue School District

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**MISSION:** In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

**VISION:** Partners for every student's success

**VALUES:** student success • collaboration  
• integrity • stewardship • continuous improvement • equity

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## NEWS FROM SSD



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# Summertime & Self-Determination

Summer is a great time to focus on self-determination and independence. Self-determination skills are critical long-term life skills that allow students to make choices and decisions based on their preferences and interests and to set goals for their own lives.

Get tips and resources about opportunities for promoting your child's self-determination and independence during the summer months at <http://bit.ly/SSDSummerTips> ■

