



# SPECIAL EDITION



Issue 2, 2013

## SSD Teacher of the Year Inspires Student Success

To see the positive impact Denise Inman has in the classroom, look no further than the students that surround her each day.

Inman, who teaches at Hazelwood West High School, is SSD's 2013 Teacher of the Year. She earned the honor for her dedication to students and her innovative efforts to help them achieve their full potential.

Karyn Jones, a senior at Hazelwood West, nominated Inman for the award. She credits Inman with helping her develop as a leader among her peers and realize that she wants to become a teacher herself.

"Mrs. Inman has been my case manager for the last three years and in those three years, she has taught me more about myself than I even realized was there," Karyn wrote. "Through all of this she helped me see what it means to be a good teacher. A good teacher is someone who sees what a student cannot see in themselves, and knows how to bring out great qualities in their students."

Inman has taught with SSD for 11 years, and has served for six years as special education department chair at Hazelwood West. She is the sponsor for Hazelwood West's chapter of the Future Educators Association, coordinates a co-op work experience program for students with special needs, and helps lead the Project Walk dropout prevention program.

"Basically it's relationship building and respecting kids," Inman said in describing her philosophy on teaching. "They try, they do what they need to do, and I will always have their back."

Inman was selected as one of SSD's 10 Key to the Classroom Award winners who were among the 45 individuals and organizations honored on March 6 at the annual SSD Salutes banquet. The event recognizes teachers, paraprofessionals, other SSD staff and community members that have gone above and beyond in serving the district and its students.

Inman will represent SSD next year in the statewide competition for Missouri Teacher of the Year, a program sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. ■



"A good teacher is someone who sees what a student cannot see in themselves, and knows how to bring out great qualities in their students."

—KARYN JONES, STUDENT

**Turn the page to see a complete list of this year's SSD staff award honorees and Special Ambassador award winners.**



Go to [youtu.be/8BY\\_14DmDaM](http://youtu.be/8BY_14DmDaM) to watch a short video and hear more about Inman's impact on students.

# SSD SALUTES STAFF, COMMUNITY FOR EXCELLENCE



SSD HAS A WIDE RANGE OF AWARD PROGRAMS TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF SSD STUDENTS. THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ARE:

## Special Ambassador Award Winners

The Special Ambassador Award is the highest recognition given by SSD. The award is presented to organizations and community members who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the district's students and staff.

- **St. Mary's Health Center Employee Training Program**
- **Veterans Affairs Medical Center**
- **Susan Berger**, catering manager with Guckenheimer
- **Terry Briggs**, community volunteer
- **Sherman George**, community volunteer
- **Don Griffin**, director of food services with Parc Provence
- **LaRenda Hutt**, parent volunteer/advocate
- **Teresa Hutti**, science teacher at Holman Middle School, Pattonville School District
- **Terry Martinez**, assistant principal at Parkway West High School, Parkway School District
- **Dr. Jeremy Mitchell**, principal at Parkway West High School, Parkway School District
- **Mark Riley**, health and fitness specialist with MediFit
- **Tim Schutzenhofer**, student at Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- **Dee Wharton**, educational surrogate
- **Dr. Patricia Ziegler**, department coordinator for information reporting technology at St. Louis Community College

Visit [bit.ly/ssdambassadors](http://bit.ly/ssdambassadors) to read profiles of each of the 2013 Special Ambassador honorees.

## Key to the Classroom Award Winners

The Key to the Classroom Award honors the top teachers at SSD. The SSD teacher and location to which he or she is assigned are:

- **Tammy Blust**, Rogers Elementary, Mehlville School District
- **James Craven**, Sorrento Springs Elementary, Parkway School District
- **Ellen Emmons**, Kehrs Mill Elementary, Rockwood School District
- **Brenda Engelhardt**, Litzsinger School, SSD
- **Erin Frein**, Lindbergh High School, Lindbergh School District
- **Denise Inman**, Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- **Molly Klein**, Northeast Middle School, Parkway School District
- **Shannon Koster**, Brentwood High School, Brentwood School District
- **Alexis Moore**, teacher of the visually impaired, SSD
- **Jill Wyatt**, Lawson Elementary, Hazelwood School District

## Building Block Award Winners

The Building Block Award honors SSD's outstanding paraprofessionals for their contributions to the lives of SSD students. The SSD paraprofessional and the location to which he or she is assigned are:

- **Margaret Backus**, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, Ladue School District
- **Donall Brown**, Riverview Gardens High School, Riverview Gardens School District
- **Silke Elam**, Ellisville Elementary, Rockwood School District
- **Jan Franzoi**, Glasgow Elementary, Riverview Gardens School District
- **Linda Johnson**, University City High School, University City School District
- **Wanda Laks**, Conway Elementary, Ladue School District
- **Jason Lange**, Holman Middle School, Pattonville School District
- **Crista Parks**, Normandy High School, Normandy School District
- **LaVerne Sandidge**, University City High School, University City School District
- **Miriam Wegmann**, Rogers Elementary, Mehlville School District
- **Cheryl Williams**, W.G. Elementary Computer School, Webster Groves School District

## Lasting Impression Award Winners

SSD honors other dedicated individuals within the district through the Lasting Impression Award. Created in 2006, it is awarded to SSD support staff who make a difference in the lives of students both within and outside the classroom.

- **Wendy Addis**, Title 1 reading specialist at Northview High School, SSD
- **Cindy Aubuchon**, physical therapist at Lindbergh Early Childhood Center, Lindbergh School District
- **Beckie Baum**, social worker in Ferguson-Florissant School District
- **Laura Hammock**, speech-language pathologist at Neuwoehner High School, SSD
- **Kathy Lalk**, computer access facilitator, SSD
- **Chris Mataya**, speech-language pathologist at Affton Early Childhood Center, Affton School District
- **Wendi Pendergrass**, principal of SSD's Bridges program
- **Michelle Turner**, speech-language pathologist at Spoeed Elementary, Ladue School District
- **Cyndy Vincent**, speech-language pathologist at Lindbergh High School, Lindbergh School District
- **Tia Wilson**, social worker at Lucas Crossing Elementary and Normandy Middle School, Normandy School District

# EVENT OFFERS FAMILIES ONE-STOP ACCESS TO AUTISM RESOURCES

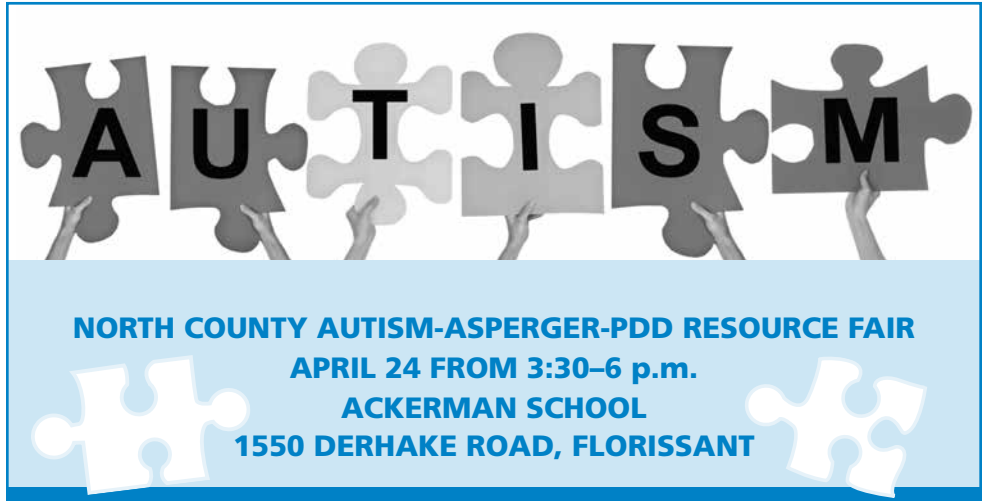
April is Autism Awareness Month, and SSD's Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program is launching a new event to help parents and community members learn more about autism.

The North County Autism-Asperger-PDD Resource Fair is scheduled for April 24 at SSD's Ackerman School in Florissant. The event, which will be held annually in the spring, seeks to expand on the success of the autism resource fair held each fall at SSD's Central Office in Town & Country.

The fair will feature information about programs and resources from SSD and other community agencies, including the Department of Mental Health St. Louis Regional Office, Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment (MOFEAT), TouchPoint Autism Services/Life Skills, Missouri Parents Act (MPACT), the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis and St. Louis ARC.

Participants will have the chance to learn more about topics such as respite care, recreation opportunities, community summer programs, behavior support and planning for the future.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required to attend. For more information, call 314.989.8108 (711 Deaf/HOH). ■



**NORTH COUNTY AUTISM-ASPERGER-PDD RESOURCE FAIR**  
**APRIL 24 FROM 3:30-6 p.m.**  
**ACKERMAN SCHOOL**  
**1550 DERHAKE ROAD, FLORISSANT**

## spotlight on **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Fran Abbate is an Affton School District student who participates in SSD's Vocational Skills Employment Training Pilot Program. She works in an entry-level position in the environmental services department at St. Mary's Health Center. Fran and her mentor, Deborah (pictured on the left), were recently recognized by the hospital for their excellent patient care when cleaning patient rooms. ■

**FOR MORE STORIES LIKE THESE, VISIT SSD ON FACEBOOK AT  
[FACEBOOK.COM/SSDSTLCO](https://www.facebook.com/ssdstlco)**



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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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of St. Louis County**  
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## COMING UP @ SSD

### The Art of Effective Advocacy May 6, 6-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Room 61

If you are a parent of or work with a child with a disability, this training is for you. Learn the importance of keeping and organizing your child's records, as well as what information needs to be in your child's file. Participants will also learn about how to communicate more effectively with their child's school district and the importance of working collaboratively to solve problems.

### Orientation for Parents to Special Education and the IEP Process

May 30, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Room 57

Is special education sounding like alphabet soup? OTs, PTs, IEPs? This orientation will provide parents with an overview of special education services and how they are provided through SSD. Participants will receive a parent handbook, including the "IEP Guide for Parents," and take a tour of SSD's Family & Community Resource Center.

For more information about these events or to register, visit [www.ssdmo.org/cool\\_tools/workshops.html](http://www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/workshops.html) or call 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HOH).

## Are You Ready for Summer?

SSD's Family and Community Resource Center publishes a resource guide about summer educational and recreational opportunities. To receive a copy of the 2013 "Tutoring and Summer Recreation" packet, contact Rachel Myers at 314.989.8431 or via email

at [rdmyers@ssdmo.org](mailto:rdmyers@ssdmo.org). Copies of this guide, as well as copies of the Recreation Council's Summer Guide and the Early Childhood Summer Guide, are also available for download at [bit.ly/ssdresources](http://bit.ly/ssdresources) (scroll to the bottom of the page for the documents). ■