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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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spotlight on  
**STUDENT SUCCESS**

Nadja Basic is a 2012 graduate of the dental science program at SSD's South Technical High School. Nadja brings a unique set of skills to Orthocare Systems Orthodontics, where she works as a receptionist and orthodontic assistant. She is fluent in both English and Bosnian and along with her typical dental duties, she serves as a translator for several Bosnian-speaking patients. ■

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SPECIAL  
**EDITION**

## Talented Dancer Seeing Dreams Come True

Hard work and dedication are paying off for Dontel Pattman. Dontel, a senior at University City High School who receives services from SSD, is the recipient of the 2013 Dance Career Award. The award was designed to identify and honor local students who are exceptionally motivated and talented in dance, and display potential for a professional dance career.

The 2013 Dance Career Award winners are selected from hundreds of students participating in Dance St. Louis' Monsanto Dance Education Residency Program. Every season, Dance St. Louis conducts two intensive three-week education programs in urban schools. They fly in two teaching artists and the program allows for the students to work with dancers from some of the best dance companies in the world. This prestigious award is given to only five students each year.

Dontel received the award in January and doors have been opening for him as he pursues his dream of becoming a professional dancer. Dontel was in class when he received word that the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater wanted him to audition. Dance St. Louis was proud to provide coaching for his audition piece and travel expenses for him to travel to Chicago for the audition.

While in Chicago, through introductions provided by Dance St. Louis, Dontel met and received encouragement from dance studio heads and company directors. Many have admired his talent.



Dontel was offered a \$1,500 scholarship to one of the summer intensive programs on the spot. He has also been accepted to two other summer dance intensive programs, and has not yet decided which one to attend.

"Dancing is my passion and something I love doing," says Dontel. "Dancing not only allows me to express myself in many different ways, but it is also a stress reliever for me."

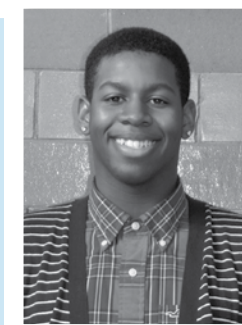
"Dontel has a great zest and a wonderful openness to every style of dance," says Michael Uthoff, artistic and executive director of Dance St. Louis.

Dontel has also received financial support to take ballet and jazz dance classes at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA).

In January, he participated in the Regional Summer Dance Intensive Auditions for the St. Louis area. COCA welcomes leading dance programs from around the country to hold auditions for their respective summer intensive programs.

He has now set a goal of working and training in St. Louis while saving up to move to Chicago, continuing his dance studies there, and beginning to audition for professional work.

"Dontel is someone who is driven," says SSD teacher Julie Dee. "He has a strong determination to succeed in spite of his learning disability and in addition to other challenging obstacles. I truly believe we have not heard the last of Dontel Pattman. The best is yet to come for this young man." ■



"Dancing not only allows me to express myself in many different ways, but it is also a stress reliever for me."

— DONTTEL PATTMAN, STUDENT



# STUDENTS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In May, 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, 22 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 2013 award recipients has diverse achievements and has had varied challenges to meet and overcome. And they all have demonstrated SSD's central mission – that all students can learn, succeed and make a successful contribution to our community.

Read about three of this year's Rosemary Zander Award recipients below. To learn more about each award winner's inspiring story, visit <http://bit.ly/Yz3qKl> to read their individual profiles and watch a video featuring the honorees.

## Awakening

Max Shengelia has made amazing strides and overcome many challenges for such a young man. Max is a fourth-grader at Bellerive Elementary in the Parkway School District. He receives deaf and hard-of-hearing, speech and counseling services from SSD.



Max Shengelia

“Listening to Max speak, I can't help but smile at the language that is coming from him, because I have to remind myself that Max is many things, including profoundly deaf,” says Caren Lochmann, the SSD teacher who nominated Max for the Rosemary Zander Award. “I hear an extremely bright student, an empathetic, inquisitive, thoughtful, impressive human being whose name will be known by many along his successful life path.”

Because his deafness isolated Max from his peers, he began to feel frustrated and left out of discussions. It was easier for him to be absorbed in reading a book than exhaust himself trying to figure out what was being said around him, according to Lochmann. In January 2012, Max began a program that better fits his needs, and his journey has covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time.

“Reflecting back to where Max was then compared to now, just a year later, it is heartwarming to see how he has burst out of his shell,” says Lochmann. “It has brought him out of the darkness and into the light.” ■

## Prevailing Through Challenges

Overcoming disabilities is an understatement for Leah Kauffman, a senior at Lindbergh High School. During her four years at Lindbergh, she has received speech and language, resource and vision services from SSD.

Not only did Leah successfully compensate for and overcome speech and language disabilities, but she also faced an unthinkable vision loss due to surgical complications. Vicki Everding, the SSD speech-language pathologist who nominated Leah for the Rosemary Zander Award, says Leah faced these challenges with grace, poise and determination.

“She had to learn to do everything differently — and in only a matter of months. In addition, she has had to come to terms with significant loss, never being able to complete her fourth year in a marching band that has meant so much to her, or never being able to drive with her license that she just received prior to surgery,” says Everding. “I believe Leah represents the way the system is supposed to work — a multi-disciplinary team working together for the benefit of the student. Leah is an outstanding student doing remarkable things.” ■



Leah Kauffman

## Believe in Yourself!

Inspiring others and transforming their lives are qualities found in the Rosemary Zander Award winners. So true is the case with Danielle “Dani” Healey, a senior at Hazelwood West High School who receives resource services through SSD.

Dani's home life and early school years have been more than challenging; however, her turnaround and empowerment have not only prevailed and put her on the path to success and college, but have also inspired her teachers and other students.

Dani seemed to change before the first semester of her sophomore year ended, said SSD teacher Jessica Brown. Dani has gone on to pass every other class she has taken during her high school career. She also set a goal to play soccer for her school and went on to play sophomore, junior and senior years.

“Dani has proven that with the right supports, you can overcome anything life throws at you,” says Brown. “She has shown me that some students simply have never been told or believed that they can do better, but with a little bit of support, they can.” ■



Dani Healey

## 2013 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Sammy Goldman “Living Big” Campership

SHANNON O'GRADY  
Early Childhood Program,  
Pattonville School District

### Allison M. Haake Memorial Scholarship

KARYN JONES  
Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### SSD Board of Education Scholarships

EMILY BUBLITZ  
Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### LEAH KAUFFMAN

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

### Bonhomme Lions Scholarships

EMILY BUBLITZ  
Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### PAUL HAZAN

Kirkwood High School,  
Kirkwood School District

### KARYN JONES

Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### TESSA LAPLANT

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

### Dianne Arbeiter Scholarships

KYLE LAUBACKER  
Eureka High School,  
Rockwood School District

### Special Education Foundation Scholarships

WILLIAM BRAHAN  
Dan McLaughlin  
Scholarship  
Bayless High School,  
Bayless School District

### BASIA CZAJKOWSKI

Notre Dame High School,  
Special School District  
(SNAP Program)

### KARYN JONES Women Leaders Scholarship

Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### CRAIG MILLER JR.

McCluer High School,  
Ferguson-Florissant School  
District

### JACQUELINE REINERI

Laura K. Sherman  
Laughlin Scholarship  
& Women Leaders  
Scholarship  
Marquette High School,  
Rockwood School District

### BRETT RULO

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

### JENIAH SMITH

North Technical High  
School, Special School  
District

### MITCHELL SODEN

Lindbergh High School,  
Lindbergh School District

### CLAIRE SOLOMON

Ladue Horton Watkins  
High School, Ladue School  
District

### KAYLA THORNLEY

Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School  
District

### ALEXANDRIA WATSON

Rockwood Summit High  
School, Rockwood School  
District

## 2013 ROSEMARY ZANDER AWARD RECIPIENTS

**BRENDAN BRASEL** – South Technical High  
School / Southview School, Special School  
District

**MICHAEL BROCKMAN** – Bayless High  
School / South Technical High School,  
Bayless School District / Special School  
District

**TAYLOR COMBS** – Marquette High School,  
Rockwood School District

**ERSKE COOK** – Parkway South High  
School, Parkway School District

**DANIEL CRUM** – Affton High School,  
Affton School District

**MALIK DORSEY** – Ackerman School,  
Special School District

**DERRICK FRANKLIN** – Neuwoehner High  
School, Special School District

**JOSHUA GARDINER** – Marquette High  
School, Rockwood School District

**DANIELLE HEALEY** – Hazelwood West  
High School, Hazelwood School District

**ERICA HONIGFORT** – Kirkwood High  
School, Kirkwood School District

**LEAH KAUFFMAN** – Lindbergh High  
School, Lindbergh School District

**D'MARCO KENNEDY** – Litzinger School,  
Special School District

**KEENYN MAPP** – Normandy High School,  
Normandy School District

**SEAN OWENS** – Hazelwood West High  
School, Hazelwood School District

**MARCOS RENDON** – Maplewood-  
Richmond Heights High School,  
Maplewood-Richmond Heights School  
District

**BRETT RULO** – Bayless High School / South  
Technical High School, Bayless School  
District / Special School District

**MATTHEW SCHNEIER** – Northview High  
School, Special School District

**MAX SHENGELIA** – Bellerive Elementary,  
Parkway School District

**ALLISON STOCKHAUSEN** – Parkway South  
High School / South Technical High School,  
Parkway School District / Special School  
District

**BLAKE VOLLER** – Kirkwood High School,  
Kirkwood School District

**KERRY WILSON** – Oakville High School /  
South Technical High School, Mehlville  
School District / Special School District

**TOMMY YOUNG** – Christian Brothers  
College High School, Special School District  
(SNAP Program)