Law Enforcement Instructor Named SSD’s 2019 Teacher of the Year

When students walk into the Law Enforcement Program classroom at SSD’s North Technical High School, they are met with an instructor who has a passion for teaching and a love of mentoring.

Clarence Hines develops relationships with his students and encourages them to meet high expectations.

“Mr. Hines is a mentor and leader,” said Nehemiah Anderson, a senior in the Law Enforcement Program. “He leads by example. He loves his job and would do it even if he didn’t get paid. He’s passionate and really cares for people.”

Hines has been named SSD’s 2019 Teacher of the Year for his dedication to students and his innovative efforts to help inspire them to achieve their full potential.

For the past seven years, Hines has taught Law Enforcement at North Tech. He previously worked for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department for 21 years in high profile units, including the Intelligence Division, Narcotics Division and Violent Crime Task Force.

Hines continues to serve the citizens of St. Louis as a volunteer police chaplain in addition to being a pastor and author.

Students in the Law Enforcement Program are introduced to an array of training exercises, crime scenarios, and self-defense and fitness training. They learn about conflict mediation and resolution, investigation techniques, and are trained in the use of advanced security-related equipment, including vehicles.

Hines believes when students know teachers care, great things can happen. “I want to teach and inspire to ensure that students are prepared for the next steps in their lives,” he said.

Hines is the North Tech co-sponsor for the annual Constitution Project competition, a statewide contest in which students travel across the state and compete in areas related to the Constitution including law enforcement, court trials and the media. His students have been participating since 2014, and have earned numerous awards and student scholarships.

Ronda Wallace, assistant principal at North Tech, said Hines’ wealth of knowledge and his excitement benefits students as he creates a fun and innovative learning environment. “Not only does he integrate continuous classroom improvement principles into his teaching practice, but he also has a classroom learning system that is completely driven by his students,” she said.

“If your students believe that you actually care about them — not just being able to pass a test or a quiz — that you actually care about them — not only will they allow you to teach them, but some transformative things can actually happen in the life of the classroom,” said Hines.

Hines was selected in February as one of SSD’s 10 Key to the Classroom Award winners. The Key to the Classroom Award honors SSD’s top teachers for their creative approaches to student learning, innovative programming and commitment to student success.

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

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

Visit www.vimeo.com/ssdstlco/toy2019 to watch a short video and hear more about Hines’ impact on students.
Special Ambassador Award Winners
The Special Ambassador Award is the highest recognition given by SSD. The award is presented to community members who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the students and/or staff of SSD.

GROUPS
- Construction Careers Development Initiative
- Ladue Horton Watkins High School
- Pattonville High School Leadership Team
- Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens with Developmental Disabilities
- Project Hug
- St. Louis Metro Police Department

INDIVIDUALS
- Matt Bailey, Principal, Valley Park High School
- Molly Benson, Physical Education Teacher, Parkway West Middle School
- Heather Cowan, Center for Specialized Services
- Stacey Elster, Lafayette Industries
- Veronica Leach, Former President, SSD Parent Advisory Council
- Rick Wolf, Mednik-Riverbend

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

- Laura Burcke, Green Pines Elementary School, Rockwood School District
- Tamara Cushman, Maplewood Richmond Heights Middle School, Maplewood Richmond Heights School District
- Aaron Delbruegge, Parkway West Middle School, Parkway Schools
- Christopher Eggers, Neuwoehner High School, SSD
- Krysteen Euson, Early Childhood Special Education, SSD
- Amanda Holbrook, Normandy 7th-8th Grade Center, Normandy Schools Collaborative
- Sharon McGuirk, Neuwoehner High School, SSD
- Fonda Moser, Stanton Elementary School, Rockwood School District
- Devon Newcombe, Brown Elementary School, Hazelwood School District
- Jessica Quest, Neuwoehner High School, SSD
- Jacob Roux, Brentwood High School, Brentwood School District

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:

- Nicole Bruce, Ladue Early Childhood Center, Ladue Schools
- Julie David, Vocational Skills Program, SSD
- Kim Fallert, Vocational Skills Program, SSD
- Dana Givens, Normandy 7th-8th Grade Center, Normandy Schools Collaborative
- Katie Goelz, North Glendale Elementary School, Kirkwood School District
- Clarence Hines, North Technical High School, SSD
- Marcie Huelser, Lindbergh Early Childhood West, Lindbergh Schools
- Terri Lyell, Parkwood Elementary School, Pattonville School District
- Kathryn O’Rourke, Litzsinger School, SSD
- Amy Wassman, Brentwood Middle School, Brentwood 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.

- Rachel Bromberg, School Psychologist, University City High School, The School District of University City
- Beth Broome, Secretary, Early Childhood Special Education, SSD
- Jessica Givens, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, SSD
- Nancy Grossnickle, Nurse, Litzsinger School, SSD
- Tracy Kroenlein, Occupational Therapist, Early Childhood Education West, Lindbergh Schools
- Michelle Levi Perez, Administrator, Parent Education and Diversity Awareness, SSD
- Maria Lindsay, Facilitator, Early Childhood Special Education, Parkway Schools
- Michelle Miletic, Social Worker, Pattonville High School, Pattonville School District
- Tammy Moore, Bus Aide, SSD
- Kirstin Muran, Physical Therapist, Parkway Schools
- Elizabeth Murray, Sign Language Interpreter, Bellerive Elementary School, Parkway Schools
- Michael Sieckmann, Bus Driver, SSD
- Larry Thompson, Director of Facilities and Operations, SSD
- Jennifer Van Horn, Speech-Language Pathologist, Early Childhood Education West, Lindbergh Schools
- Erin Wallace, Speech-Language Pathologist, Brentwood Middle School, Brentwood School District

Visit www.bit.ly/SSD2019Awards to read more about each of this year’s Special Ambassador Award honorees.
SSD’s Parent Leadership Institute (PLI) continues to be a great source of information for parents of students with disabilities.

Participants are chosen through an application process and attend three full days of training on Saturdays once a month for three months during the fall.

Melissa Karge, whose child receives services from SSD, attended the 2018 PLI. She said she is always looking for learning opportunities and ways to better advocate for her son, but also discovered the added benefit of forming friendships and building relationships with other parents.

“I always find it interesting how fast I connect with other parents who have children with special needs,” said Karge. “There is almost an instant bond knowing that we have many of the same struggles and challenges, that we’ve been through many similar experiences when it comes to our kids, and that they’re familiar with the complications of navigating your child’s school district along with SSD.”

Karge said she hopes to incorporate the new strategies she learned into her son’s school day and at home. Additionally, she said she learned tips that can be helpful at individualized education program (IEP) meetings, as well as improved ways to communicate with paraprofessionals and other staff.

Karge said she highly recommends the PLI to other parents. “It’s a great way to connect with other parents and learn strategies that can help your child.”

Allison Edler, a 2018 PLI participant and parent of a child who receives services from SSD, applied for the PLI in order to better understand some of the processes involved with IEPs and to learn more about advocating for her child. She also hopes to teach children how to advocate for themselves.

Edler said she has gained strength from being a part of the PLI. “I’ve learned what to push for and what to let go,” she said. “I’ve learned to not feel guilty for letting go when it is not in your child’s best interest.”

Edler said she also learned to ask more questions. “The more you know, the more you can help,” she said. “I will continue to make myself available to other parents, to help encourage them in their journey, and to lead them to answers or to other people that might be able to help.”

The PLI is accepting applications for its 2019 program. There is no cost to participate. Applications are due May 1. ■

SSD Parent Leadership Institute – Apply by May 1

The Parent Leadership Institute (PLI) is accepting applications for its 2019 program to be held in three sessions on Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2.

There is no cost to participate. Applications are due May 1.

Parents from St. Louis County whose children receive special education or 504 services, First Steps and early childhood services are encouraged to apply.

Download the application at [www.bit.ly/PLI_application](http://www.bit.ly/PLI_application) or contact Debra Fiasco by phone at 314.989.8108 or by email at dmfiasco@ssdmo.org.
SSD Parent Advisory Council

The SSD Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of families advising and collaborating to improve the education, confidence and social outcomes of each student served by SSD.

The PAC consists of five parents or guardians — one member and four alternates — from each of the 22 St. Louis County school districts and from each of the five SSD special education schools. The parents or guardians of students receiving special education services in that district or school elect SSD PAC members.

For more information, visit the PAC’s website at tinyurl.com/SSDPAC, email pac@ssdmo.org or call 314.989.8448 ext. 6650.