SSD Teacher of the Year Helps Students Achieve Full Potential

Sometimes the biggest reward a teacher can receive is when her students no longer need her. That’s what Kim Dailey said brings her the most joy.

“When my students aren’t aware of the things that used to separate them, I am reminded of the rewards of teaching,” she said.

Dailey, an SSD special education teacher at Lindbergh High School in the Lindbergh School District, is SSD’s 2014 Teacher of the Year. She earned the honor for her dedication to students and innovative efforts to help them achieve their full potential.

SSD administrative intern Erin Lynch nominated Dailey for the award along with SSD area coordinator Johnicka Turner.

Lynch said Dailey’s ability to bring people together makes her stand out at Lindbergh. “Creating bonds and blending the lines between SSD and general education comes naturally to Kim,” she said.

Dailey has been a teacher for 29 years and has taught with SSD for 23 years. She is the sponsor for Lindbergh’s KEY Club, a community service-based student organization. She also participates in the Special Olympics as a team coach and serves on the character education cadre at Lindbergh.

Dailey works hard to bridge the gap between general education and special education students with programs like the Lunch Club, which pairs students to foster a positive social experience.

“The buddies enjoy spending the lunch period eating, talking and laughing with one another,” said Lynch.

As a result of the success of the Lunch Club initiative, Dailey was invited to Washington, D.C., to be recognized by the Character Education Partnership with a National Promising Practice award for 2013.

Dailey and a colleague were also instrumental in obtaining a grant to create a walking trail at Lindbergh High School. “Kids from my special education class collaborated with students from a general education science class in designing the trail,” said Dailey. “Fears were dissolved and the kids really connected.”

Dailey was selected as one of SSD’s nine 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.

Dailey 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.

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–Kim Dailey

Go to http://bit.ly/kimdailey to watch a short video and hear more about Dailey’s impact on students.

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

- Canterbury Enterprises
- Clayton High School
- Laclede Gas
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis
- Gary & Karen Behlmann, Accessible Play Inc./Special Education Advocates
- James Buchanan, Director of Volunteer Services, Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Julia Burke, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Hazelwood School District
- Mary M. Fava, Director, Salem United Methodist Preschool
- Mark Goldenberg, Teacher/Coach, Parkway Central High School, Parkway School District
- Dr. Jeff Hoese, Teacher, Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- Aaron Jackson, Band Director, Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- Karen Kickham, President, SSD Parent Advisory Council
- Harley Smith & Veronica Hilyard, Educational Surrogates
- Caprice Thomas, Manager, MediFit Wellness Center
- Dr. Grayling Tobias, Superintendent, Hazelwood 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:

- Pamela Bertani, Northview High School, SSD
- Kay Calcaterra, Green Park Residential Center, Vocational Skills Program Zone 1, SSD
- Kimberly Ann Dailey, Lindbergh High School, Lindbergh School District
- Jennifer Kauffman, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, SSD
- Megan Moriarity, Litzsinger School, SSD
- Andrew Nieters, Ladue Middle School, Ladue School District
- Kathleen M. Saunders, South Technical High School, SSD
- Amye Watkins, Southview School, SSD
- Erin Wilson, Hazelwood West High School, 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:

- Christine DeFebo, Lasalle Springs Middle School, Rockwood School District
- Kathleen Duhart, Parkway West Middle School, Parkway School District
- Cindy Fry, Garrett Elementary, Hazelwood School District
- Charles Harris, Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- Laura Hines, Parkway Northeast Middle School, Parkway School District
- Marcie Huelsing, Lindbergh Early Childhood at Dressel, Lindbergh School District
- Ryan Jordan, Litzsinger School, SSD
- Deirdre Petri, Wydown Middle School, Clayton School District
- Deborah Reed, Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Jefferson Barracks, SSD
- Karen Slinkard, Ackerman School, SSD
- Steve Smith, Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School, Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District
- Jeff Wood, Ladue Middle School, Ladue School District
- LaShonda Wood, Normandy Middle School, Normandy 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.

- Kathlene Bextermueller, Interpreter, Bellerive Elementary, Parkway School District
- Deniece Boehm, Transportation Safety Manager, SSD
- Mary Lee Burlemann, Intake Coordinator, SSD
- Cherise Grandison, Social Worker, Normandy High School, Normandy School District
- Alexandra Kavourinos, Speech-Language Pathologist, University City High School, University City School District
- Jeffrey Lehman, Music Therapist, SSD
- Jenifer Majino, Speech-Language Pathologist, Litzsinger School, SSD
- John McCue, Bus Technician, SSD
- Matthew Moellering, SSD Area Coordinator, Hazelwood West High School, Hazelwood School District
- Lori Rehme, SSD Area Coordinator, Ladue School District
- Marilyn Smith, Effective Practice Specialist, Transition, SSD
- Kelli Traxler, Social Worker, Litzsinger School, SSD
- Alan Wheat, SSD Director, Riverview Gardens School District
Neuwoehner Named
STATE SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

SSD’s Neuwoehner High School has been named a State School of Character (SSOC) for excellence in character education by the Character Education Partnership.

Some of the projects that contributed to the high honor include community service projects in each classroom, character words of the month, and bully prevention activities. Neuwoehner will hold this title for three years.

As an SSOC, Neuwoehner will serve as a model within the state of Missouri. School staff will share best practices and develop state-level mentoring networks by hosting visitors at their school and presenting at workshops and conferences.

spotlight on
STUDENT SUCCESS

Students from the Cisco Networking Academy at SSD’s North Technical High School provided technical support for the Midwest Technology Education Conference Feb. 10-12 at the St. Charles Convention Center. They were responsible for 17 rooms, keeping 75 presenters connected, and helping more than 2,000 attendees with network connection issues.

FOR MORE STORIES LIKE THESE, VISIT SSD ON FACEBOOK AT FACEBOOK.COM/SSDSTLCO
Event Offers Families One-Stop Access to Autism Resources

SSD’s Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program will sponsor the North County Autism-Asperger-PDD Resource Fair in April — also Autism Awareness Month — to help parents and community members learn more about autism.

The event is scheduled for 3:30–6 p.m. April 23 at SSD’s Ackerman School, 1550 Derhake Road in Florissant. It 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), 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 314.989.8194 (711 Deaf/HOH).