



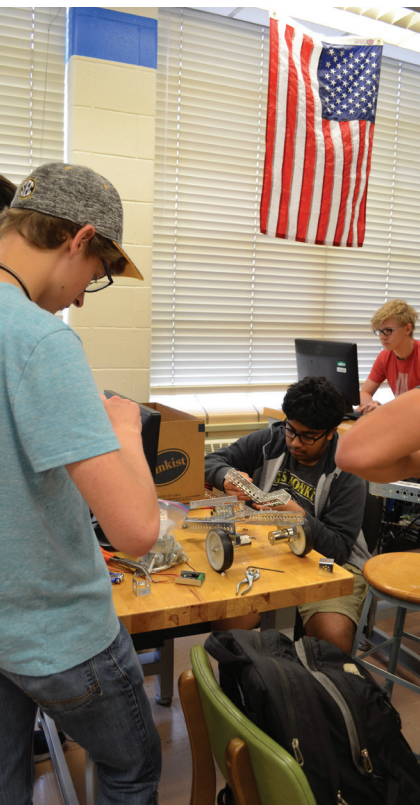
Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY CONNECTION

WINTER 2017

SPRING



SUMMER



FALL



CPSF announces latest grant for Family Welcome Center



The Columbia Public Schools Foundation announced its latest 2017 grant for a Family Welcome Center for the Columbia Public Schools with a ribbon cutting and tours of the new center.

The \$22,793 foundation grant is for the Family Welcome Center, located inside the CPS Aslin Administration Building at 1818 W. Worley. Grant funds went to renovating the area and providing new furniture to create a more welcoming space for families to gather. Any family can use the center to enroll in school, fill out paperwork, seek assistance and gather information for their children. The center also will be used to provide services to English Language Learner students and families.

“The Columbia Public Schools Foundation is pleased to provide funding to assist in creating a center where families feel welcome and comfortable as they access various

services for their children,” said Lynn Barnett, president of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

The center also includes office space for school district departments whose primary purpose is working directly with families, which could include Student and Family Advocacy, District Registrar and Summer School. In addition, the center will have flexible space available for the ELL staff to provide parent education classes.

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation is a private foundation established by community volunteers dedicated to the enrichment of public education through community giving. The Foundation has funded projects in every school, allocating more than \$1 million to enhance education in Columbia Public Schools over the last 20 years. For more information, visit **cpsf.org**.

Newly-revamped Douglass High School re-opens for 2017-2018 school year



The 101-year-old building underwent major renovations in last year.

Students, parents, CPS faculty and Columbia community members gathered around the limestone steps in front of Frederick Douglass High School on Sept. 7 to celebrate the completion of a major renovation project approved by bond voters in 2014.

Construction began during the summer of 2016, and while the exterior of the historic 101-year-old building looked familiar to students and alumni, the building's interior was completely restored, including new electrical wiring, heating and air conditioning systems, pipes and flooring.

The \$6.7 million project was completed on time. The modifications were necessary to assure the century-old building met new standards for students and faculty, and had facilities and resources comparable to other district high schools.

"Because of our community, our students have access to the resources they need to be successful, including space for music, practical arts, new science labs, a beautiful gymnasium and much more," said Columbia Board of Education President Darin Preis.

The school district discussed needed repairs about five years ago, but tearing up the building and starting from scratch was never

an option. When board member and former board president James Whitt first visited Douglass High School, it was immediately apparent that renovations were overdue. Whitt stressed the importance of completing the project in one phase, rather than multiple cycles, so Douglass students could have the space and facilities they deserve to learn in.



"This school has historically been and continues to be a place sought by students and families who have overcome tremendous circumstances so they too may secure their piece of the American dream," said Dr. Eryca Neville, director of Douglass High School. "This school is about more than education, it's about family and as family we do whatever it takes so members will reach their full potential."

From 1885 to 1967, Columbia's black students attended school at Douglass, with its permanent home built on site in 1916. After Brown V. Board of Education forced U.S. schools to integrate in 1954, Douglass

students were bussed to Hickman High School instead of vice versa. The school was eventually closed in 1967, although the school board voted to allow the building to stay open; Eliot Battle used the building for continuing education students (those who had dropped out or become pregnant). Douglass became the independent Secondary Learning Center in 1985, which gave students more individualized attention, and in 1992 Douglass rejoined the school district as Frederick Douglass High School.

"Today I believe our family has gotten even bigger. Today the entire Columbia community is showing their love and commitment to developing the potential of the wonderful students we get to serve," Neville told the community before the ceremonial ribbon cutting. "Douglass is us. These are our kids. Thank you so much for investing in all of us."

Other building renovations include upgraded technology, new lockers, an improved kitchen and cafeteria space, tools and space for wood and metal shop, culinary arts and extra classrooms. The preschool areas for the school's daycare facility were expanded, and chairlifts were added on all staircases to make the school more accessible. The school also has extra storage areas for food, bath supplies, toiletries and clothing to be sent home with students when their families are in need.

Foundation Inducts New Class into Hall of Leaders

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation unveiled its 2017 Hall of Leaders class at a circus-themed reception at Stephens College's Kimball Ballroom in mid-October.

Honorees include Outstanding Alumni: **Jeff Harris, Jon McRoberts** and **Sara Parker Pauley**; Outstanding Retired Educators: **Linda D. Coutts, Darlene Huff, Carolyn Roof** and **Jim King** (posthumous); and Outstanding Volunteer: **Carol Almony**.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Jeff Harris is a Columbia Public Schools graduate who has served in all three branches of Missouri government. Jeff was appointed to the 13th Circuit Court in 2016 and elected later that same year. Prior to his appointment to the court, Jeff served as the policy director for Gov. Jay Nixon. He was also a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 2003-09, serving Columbia's 23rd District, and served as both House Minority Leader and House Minority Whip.

Jon McRoberts is a Columbia Public Schools graduate who is serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Missouri. There, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Jon coordinates a large-scale white-tailed deer research project. He has conducted wildlife research on giant pandas in western China for the Smithsonian Institute, radio-tracked leopards in South Africa and conducted a multiyear wildlife investigation on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Sara Parker Pauley is a Columbia Public Schools graduate who was appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon in 2016 as the director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, making her the first female director in the department's 80-year history. Sara previously served as the director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. A lifelong conservationist and avid hunter, Sara has been an executive committee and board member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OUTSTANDING RETIRED EDUCATORS

Linda Coutts began her career as a third-grade teacher in St. Louis County in 1970. After completing her degree in

mathematics education, she was recruited to be the elementary mathematics supervisor for Columbia Public Schools, a position she served in for 32 years. Since retiring from CPS, Linda has taught elementary and early childhood mathematics at MU.

Darlene Huff began her career with Columbia Public Schools in 1980 as a school nurse, ultimately becoming the coordinator of the Health Services program in 1990 until her retirement in 2004. Under her leadership, a Comprehensive School Health Policy and Procedure Manual was developed for CPS and eventually shared with other Missouri school districts.

Carolyn Roof has spent her professional career helping countless students and families as a counselor. She served as an elementary school counselor at Columbia Public Schools and as the district school counseling coordinator until 2010. As counselor, Carolyn developed and implemented the use of many career education materials and organized valuable career fairs.

Dr. Jim King (posthumous) served as principal of Rock Bridge High School (RBHS) from 1993-98 and as assistant principal there from 1978-92. As principal, Jim enlisted teachers to examine the possibility of various schedules to enhance learning. After much research and input, the block schedule was implemented at RBHS; it has since been expanded to all three CPS high schools.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Carol Almony taught kindergarten through fourth grade in Columbia Public Schools from 1984 until her retirement from teaching in 2007. Since then, Carol has volunteered her time and talents to benefit even more generations of Columbia's students—assisting kindergarten through third-grade students every day at Fairview Elementary since 2013. There, she works with students on academic and literacy skills, helps at-risk students, and provides enrichment and extension activities such as nonfiction research.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Local FFA members help rebuild fire-devastated rural communities

CPS’ Columbia Area Career Center Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter voluntarily traveled 520 miles to Gate, Oklahoma, to help rebuild farming communities devastated by wildfire that consumed thousands of acres, displaced families and took lives last spring.

“The agriculture community is about helping your neighbor; it doesn’t

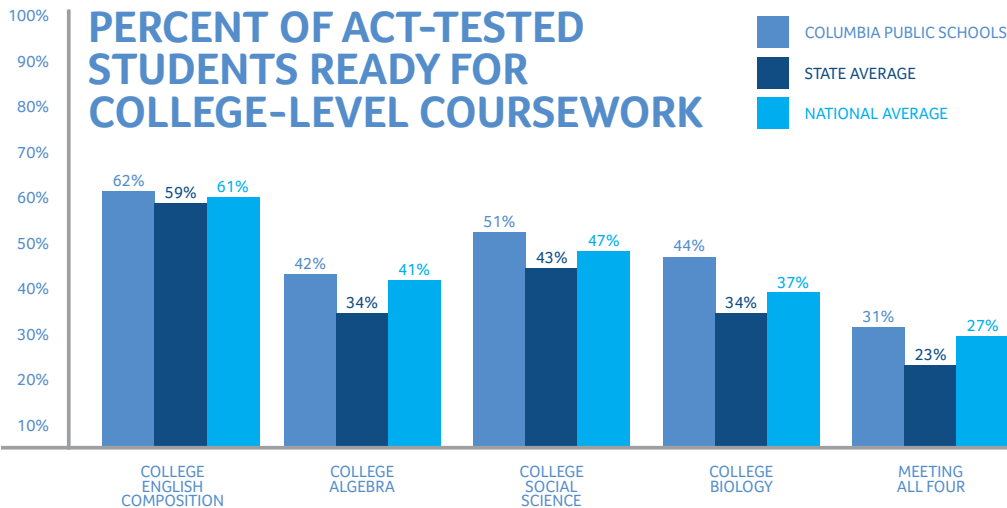
matter how far away that neighbor may live,” said Mike Kilfoil, FFA advisor and agriculture instructor. “Our FFA student leaders were excited to get involved and help a community that was devastated by a natural disaster. I couldn’t be more proud of how well they represented our program, school, community and their generation. It was an honor to work alongside them.”

To read more News You Can Use items, visit cpsk12.org

Average ACT scores for 2017

CPS students continue to exceed state and national averages in terms of ACT scores and benchmark-readiness for college-level coursework.

	ENGLISH	MATH	READING	SCIENCE	COMPOSITE
CPS	20.7	21.1	21.9	21.6	21.5
STATE	19.8	19.9	20.8	20.5	20.4
NATIONAL	20.3	20.7	21.4	21	21



Hickman teacher named Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction

Hickman High School science teacher **Noelle Gilzow** has been selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Gilzow was selected after being nominated by a student for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence.

Each year, student members of the NSHSS are invited to nominate an educator who has made the most significant contribution to their academic career. The honor recognizes exemplary educators who inspire students to grow and develop as scholars, leaders and citizens.

CPS schools support Houston area schools

Fifteen CPS elementary schools are working together to collect supplies to help Houston area elementary schools recover from Hurricane Harvey. The participating schools are **Battle, Benton, Beulah Ralph, Cedar Ridge, Fairview, Grant, Lee, Mill Creek, Paxton Keeley, Ridgeway, Rock Bridge, Russell Boulevard, Shepard Boulevard, and West Boulevard** elementary schools, and the **Center for Early Learning - North**.

Hickman and Rock Bridge High Schools collected spirit T-shirts to donate to flood victims, while all six middle schools held a donation drive for school supplies and monetary donations to send to Houston-area schools.

Gene Huff Scholarship Winners

Leigh Spence and Krista Armentrout were recently named the 2017 Dr. Gene E. Huff Scholarship for Education award recipients. Spence, Director of Counseling at Battle High School, was awarded the Career Advancement Scholarship, and Armentrout, a second-grade teacher at Paxton Keeley Elementary, received the Fellowship in Teaching Scholarship. Both women said they will be using their \$1,000 scholarship toward advancing their education.

The late Gene Huff worked in a variety of roles within Columbia Public Schools from 1965 to 1998, including principal at Oakland Junior High School



(From left to right): **Leigh Spence, Darlene Huff** and **Krista Armentrout** pictured at the CPS Aslin Administration Building.

and director of human resources for the school district. His widow, Darlene Huff, and the school district established the scholarship fund in his name after his death.

WHEN IT SNOWS

School will be cancelled or a 2-hour delayed start will be implemented only after roads are tested. Should cancellation, a 2-hour delayed start or altered bus routes be necessary, efforts will be made to notify radio and television stations by 6 a.m. Information also will be sent to parents via the district's parent messaging system, posted on the district's website (cpsk12.org) and on CPS-TV.

Parents may make the final decision regarding a child's attendance. If the parent views the weather too severe or the road conditions too dangerous, absences will be excused. Difficulty in contacting parents usually prevents early dismissals, but under appropriate circumstances the district may dismiss early. On inclement weather days, please listen to local radio and television stations for news of early dismissal. Additionally, information will be sent via the district's messaging system.

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