



## District Hosts STEMulating Expo!



## U. City Schools Host STEMulating Expo

On Nov. 29, The School District of University City held its first, annual district-wide STEM EXPO (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) attracting nearly 400 people into the Brittany Woods Middle School gymnasium. As soon as visitors pulled onto the lot, they could tell that this was not your average school science fair.

The 25 ft., MySci air bus, an Investigation Station supported by Monsanto and Washington University in St. Louis, was parked out front and students filed through for an interactive discussion about insects. The rock star of the display was a foot-long centipede students were able to see and the braver ones could touch.

Inside, families and students of all ages, explored the 75 booths lining the gymnasium. In addition to the MySci exhibit, the lineup

Continued on page 4



*More than 400 students, parents and community members participated in The School District of University City's first STEM EXPO (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) on Nov. 29. Hands-on activities guaranteed that this was not the typical school science fair.*

## The Key Word for the 2018 Strategic Plan is ACTION!

After two major community meetings and core team meetings punctuating months of preparation and planning, The School District of University City's comprehensive Strategic Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Education in February 2018. The District launched the process in October 2017, with the help of University City High School alumnus Alan Spector, an expert in strategic thinking and preparation, along with a dedicated team of stakeholders. The Plan will include targeted actions for long-term academic success and immediate and positive impact for teachers and students.

"The level of engagement of the administration and work groups was positively energizing," Spector said. "We worked to explore existing goals and create new ones. We solicited broad-based feedback from community stakeholders, with whom we reviewed previous improvement plans, searched for best practices in other districts and analyzed our performance data with the intent of developing a renewed strategic direction."

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley said the Plan revolves around two basic tenets: 1) Our students are well-educated, capable and ethical citizens who are prepared to positively impact society and 2) The District provides the highest-quality education to ensure every student graduates college and is career ready.

"Our first step is to fully integrate Learning Reimagined, our customized educational plan, as a framework for success on every level including the goals of our Strategic Plan," she said. "Through the core pillars of Learning Reimagined, we add momentum to on-going priorities reinforced through the planning process."

Hardin-Bartley says the planning teams put high priority on four areas: 1) Attracting and retaining high-quality staff; 2) Fostering a safe, caring

***"Ultimately, everything we do will improve academic achievement across all grade levels."***

**Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD PHR**  
Superintendent of Schools



*Former Board member and UCHS alumnae Linda Jones shared her insights during the Dec. 4 State of the District Community Meeting.*

and diverse school environment; 3) Maintaining state-of-the-art facilities and technology and 4) Continuing to exercise fiscal responsibility and provide strong governance district wide.

"Ultimately," she said, "Everything we do will improve academic achievement across all grade levels."

Between now and reviewing a final version of the Plan with the Board, the Superintendent says the teams will refine strategic choices to make sure they are the best guides for improvement. "We will also develop near-term priority actions; steps that will lead to success of longer term goals. As mom to a kindergartner in the District, I understand that it is imperative that we take steps now to impact the success of students enrolled today," she stated.

Hardin-Bartley and Spector are meeting with administrators and principals to create school-based and departmental strategic action plans.

"As part of our school community and therefore, a part of the District team, you will receive regular updates that will include measures for success, tracking and reporting progress and updates in the various action plans," Harden-Bartley added. "In the meantime, 'action' is the key word. We are in ACTION!"



# From our Superintendent of Schools



Sharonica Hardin-Bartley  
Superintendent

Dear University City Families,

On Dec. 4, I was pleased to see about 170 parents and community members at our annual “State of the District” address where we went over, in detail, results of the prior year’s successes and challenges.

For those in attendance, I thank you for your support and for being active participants in our overall improvement process. Your questions and suggestions are very helpful as we look for ways to more effectively communicate with our community. For those who were unable to attend, you will find the presentation on our website at [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org).

As an overview, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education annually evaluates schools and districts on five standards: Academic Achievement, Sub-Group Achievement, College and Career Readiness, Attendance and Graduation Rate.

We saw gains in three of four elementary schools but, there is significant room for improvement in all five standards. The District earned 70 percent of the total possible points under the state’s scoring system, Missouri School Improvement Program – Fifth Cycle (MSIP 5). This score means the District remains fully accredited.

On Dec. 15, DESE released the second wave of building-level specific data. With the exception of the high school, every school either maintained or increased in total points. All four elementary schools received 100 percent of possible points for attendance. More details are available on the DESE website through [ucityschools.org/DESE-UC](http://ucityschools.org/DESE-UC).

Even before the scores were finalized, we were developing an improvement plan and working to set the stage for this year’s testing cycle. Over the past 18 months, our team has

implemented programs and strategies that are still new and not presently reflected in our scores.

Also, not reflected in the scores are many other factors that impact student success. Today’s students are bombarded by a number of influences and challenges, all of which require a more modern approach to education. Our position is that traditional methods no longer apply.

This is what we mean when we speak of the core pillars of Learning Reimagined, our term for a compilation of proven educational strategies customized to fit the specific needs of staff and students in our district. It’s a game plan based on three core pillars that help ensure a common vision.

We have introduced it to our community and, over time, hope to make it a part of the culture of our district. We aim to 1) Personalize instruction – no two children learn the same way, 2) Humanize our approach to find what outside issues may be impacting success and 3) Problematize or problem-solve – all to educate the WHOLE child.

I also sincerely thank our teachers who are putting in the time, brainstorming ideas and implementing new initiatives – it seems – on a daily basis.

Just consider the success of our STEM EXPO! Coordinator Beverly Velloff, our Curriculum and Instruction team and teachers delivered a district-wide event that attracted a record crowd.

As we work to problematize learning for all students, I am pleased to share that our high school journalists, and their teacher Mary Williams, prepared the center spread of this issue of PRIDE. What an exciting way to authentically expose students to meaningful learning experiences.

Thank you for your support in forwarding these new ideas and concepts and for your partnership year-round. I wish us all a wonderful winter break and a happy and healthy New Year. We have great things to look forward to in 2018!

*Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley*  
Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD PHR

# From our Board of Education



Chelsea Addison  
Board of Education  
Director

Dear University City Families,

This year came with the expectation of new breakthroughs, new discoveries, new partnerships and new goals. While the 2017-2018 school year brought new opportunities, it has also shed light on areas for improvement. Thankfully this year, we launched a three pillar-concept based on a myriad of nationally proven education breakthroughs coined “Learning Reimagined” in The School District of University City. We are using this strategy to promote achievement that involves personalizing instruction, humanizing student interactions to include more socio-emotional support and problematizing learning by targeting real-world issues that can be studied and solved through project-based learning. As the world is changing, we realize we too must shift our approach. Thus, Learning Reimagined is structured to fit the unique characteristics of our district as we work to prepare students for a modern learning experience.

In the weeks after the release of our Annual Performance Report (APR), I am compelled to breakdown one of our pillars of learning; personalizing. After expected delays, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released the scores in early November and we have received the results of standardized tests taken last spring. Please do not be discouraged by the APR scores as they stand today. These scores will be used as baselines from which we will continue to build personalized instructional plans for our

students. I assure you the high yield strategies the District is implementing are intended to directly and positively, impact academic achievement.

We will be leaning on our personalizing pillar to target the specific academic needs of each student. Our tremendous staff members/teams are engaging in professional developments and our academic coordinators have created strategic plans for improvement. This, along with building data, will be used to guide instruction so our students grow and achieve mastery.

Education is a weight that can’t be lifted with two hands. This work will require a collective effort from our village of staff, students and families. We will continue to use our community as a source of advisors, speakers, workshop content, apprenticeships, internships and job co-ops. We must stick together in this time.

In the words of our superintendent, “Each engagement process reveals something new that helps change the course of our informational and education strategies.” With this, we understand the need to actively address our district’s needs using what has been revealed in our data. We will adjust and remain steadfast as we personalize education to ensure the success of all students.

*Chelsea Addison*  
Chelsea Addison, MA  
U. City Board of Education Director

*The personal opinions expressed in this article may not reflect that of the entire school board.*



# Home Works! The Engagement Program That Opens Doors to Student Success and Achievement

Home Works!, the program that coordinates dynamic home visits between parents, teachers and former educators, recently hosted more than 40 families at the first of two family dinners at University City High School for this year’s freshman class.

Karen Kalish, founder and CEO of Home Works! explained, “Throughout the year, our teams create opportunities for meaningful outreach and engagement between parents, students and teachers through scheduled home visits. At the Family Dinners, we celebrate our families’ successes, share information and bring new students and parents into the program.”

Home Works! is presently serving several school districts and thousands of students across the St. Louis region. The University City program is geared specifically toward ninth graders and their families as they learn to navigate the transitional period from middle to high school.

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, who addressed the families at the event, said, “We are excited to partner with Karen and the Home Works! team as we work to increase parental engagement.” She added, “As a parent, I realize that conflicting work schedules may not allow every family to engage in the same ways. Home Works! is a very effective process in which our teachers can personalize each family interaction and build bridges that keep parents connected and students focused on success.”



More than 40 ninth-grade families were represented when “Home Works!” hosted the first of two family dinners at University City High School.

Founded in 2006, Home Works! has expanded to include a vast network of educators, a Community Advisory Board of more than 20 members along with many sponsors, friends and partners.

For more information, visit [teacherhomevisit.org](http://teacherhomevisit.org). Parents of UCHS freshmen are encouraged to reach out to their ninth grader’s teachers for help in scheduling a first home visit or to attend the next family dinner this spring.

## Students in TOP Learn to Tackle Real World Challenges – and Win!

For those sixth graders who will soon be moving up to seventh grade and into the world of the Wyman’s Teen Outreach Program (TOP), eighth-grader Emma Scharff says get ready, “You are in for a world of fun!”



Folake Adewale (left) and Emma Scharff (right)

“We do exciting activities like ‘Brittany-Helping-Brittany’ (see related story on page 11) and caring for needy families,” she said. “We make blankets and, as an eighth grader, you help plan and execute Family Night. It’s a big party where eighth graders sign up to volunteer. This year, the theme was Carnival and there was a face painting station run by eighth graders – not adults.”

Classmate Folake Adewale added, “There were carnival games and a nacho stand!”

Emma explained, “TOP helps us learn to organize an event, teaches community service learning and we learn about the

struggles in the environment and the ways we can help.”

“Our program tries to impact healthy relationships and to teach the importance of community service and giving back” Emily Jonesberg, TOP program manager, said. “We also help students build up social emotional learning, or interacting honestly and positively with a group, which is key at the middle school level.” Jonesberg heads up a team of three full-time staff TOP specialists and a volunteer who work together to advance the program, including working with classroom activities and identifying outside community service learning opportunities.

“This fall our eighth graders worked on projects with Helping Hand-Me-Downs, St. Louis Animal Care and Control, World Bird Sanctuary, the Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area, the Humane Society and with the day care programs of Youth In Need, the Jewish Community Center and Grace Hill,” Jonesberg added.

Emily and Folake were part of the environmental service learning group. “My group’s trip was to go to Forest Park and work with an organization called (Missouri) Stream Team,” Folake said.

Emma added, “...the group cleaned up above the River Des Peres and around The Boathouse at Forest Park. We were picking up trash and anything left behind.”

Back in the classroom, the girls explained how the team engages in discussions about broader societal struggles. Folake quickly added, “When talking about personal things (in class) and things you don’t want others



Brittany Woods Middle School students bond during Wyman’s Teen Outreach Program’s team building exercise.

to know, (both girls said), ‘Whatever we say in TOP, stays in TOP.’”

Emma continued, “You don’t have to participate if it’s too personal for you. You can opt out. But it’s a way of learning about each other, about the human experiences we don’t get to have personally and we create a good bond with our classmates.”

## UCHS Offers New Early College and Associate’s Degree Program

How would you like to earn college credit while still in high school? University City High School sophomores ending the year with a qualifying GPA, will soon have that chance. Identified rising juniors will receive a personalized invitation and application to participate in the new Early College Program. Thanks to the generosity of UCHS partners and donors, the ECP is offered FREE to all students who enroll (limit 20 students).

As juniors, students take classes at UCHS and as seniors they finish the course on the Forest Park Community College campus. Students will also take summer courses at St. Louis Community College before their junior and senior years. Successful candidates graduate with not only a UCHS diploma, but also an associate’s degree in general studies.



STEM EXPO From page 1

included a host of community initiatives and contributions from Ameren, Global Hack, Little Medical School, National Society of Black Engineers, STEMpact, Stormwater STL, St. Louis Science Center, The Green Center, U. City in Bloom, University City Public Library and more. Students participated in activities hosted by school LEGO Clubs, First LEGO League robotic clubs including Hydra Lions (middle school) and Robo-Lions (high school), Barnes & Noble along with District Project Lead the Way in the areas of engineering, biomedical and computer science along with many more.

According to Math and Science Curriculum Coordinator Beverly Velloff, teachers on all grade levels and representing each of the targeted disciplines, were a large part of the event’s success. “Our teaching teams pulled together an amazing array of activities that highlighted state-of-the-art, innovative and breakthrough teachings in STEM categories.”

“The aim of the EXPO was to bring together community and school partners in vertical exploration; prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students came together and were able to see what happens before, after and during their grade levels. They were also able to connect with community partners to see what potential is out there for real world exploration connected to STEM,” Velloff added.

“As a district, our interpretation is that STEM is not isolated,” Velloff said. “STEM is everywhere you look in the world around you, in problem-solving and personal discovery...rather than being isolated content that is taught to you or shown to you. STEM, through our district’s lens, is an integration of context, complex thinking, problem-solving and discovery. We really push for learning experiences that reinforce that mind set.”

Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley agreed, “I cannot be more pleased at the way our parents and community supported our first annual EXPO. It was the perfect opportunity for them to see, first hand, what their children are being taught and what is being learned in our schools.” She added, “Beverly and the teaching team did an amazing job of creating an air of excitement around STEM, which we hope will lead to more students choosing these career paths and, in particular, helping address the existing and predicted shortage of women in math and science.”

An added benefit, Velloff said, is that the EXPO gave teachers an “authentic community” in which to share information and receive feedback on project-based learning ideas, like the cardboard arcade games being created by Jackson Park robotics teacher Amanda Hill and her students. “I was excited by the interactions happening at the EXPO; everywhere you turned, there was energy around conversations and discussions of thinking and learning. There wasn’t one table where someone wasn’t engaged,” she said.

Already planning for the next annual event, Velloff noted she would do one thing differently next time around, “I wouldn’t place the slime table so close to the high school robotics team!”



Families and other community members made the Nov. 29 University City STEM EXPO a huge success.



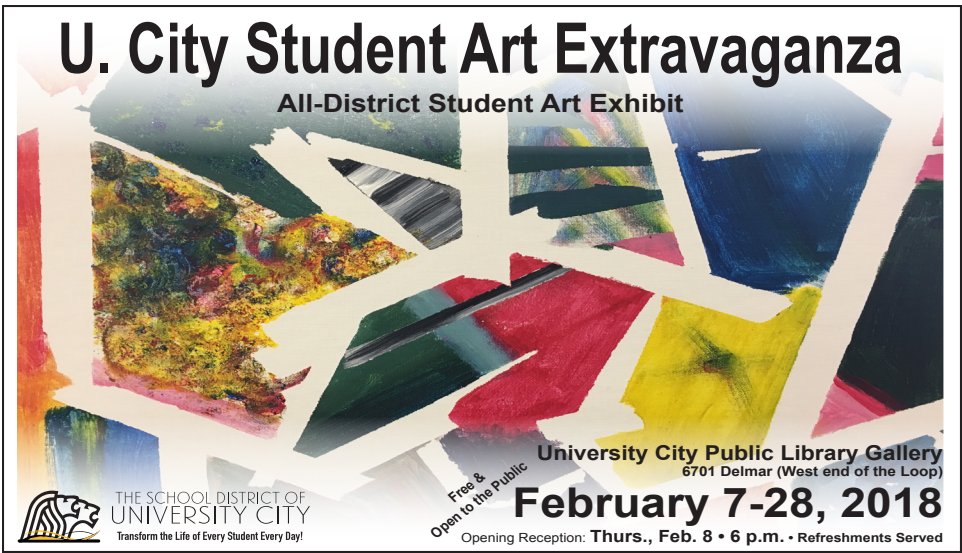
Families with children of all ages enjoy the hands-on, exploratory nature of the activities and exhibits at the STEM EXPO.



Brittany Woods Middle School sixth-grader Zofia Reed proudly explains how her robot works.



District partners from Monsanto bring biology to the forefront by helping students create germination necklaces.



Student EXPO presenters take a break and explore other booths.



# Genius Days Are a Big Hit for Barbara C. Jordan Students and Teachers

“Everyone looks forward to Genius Days!” That’s according to Barbara C. Jordan Principal Shenelle DuBose who says the concept of turning the school into a high level think tank has helped make the school’s monthly half-day a whole lot of fun.

DuBose explains that students in second through fifth grades select the clinics and all staff are assigned to host one in partnership with experts from within the community or partner-sponsored programs. “It’s completely student-driven and includes topics like, sports, gymnastics, engineering and more,” she said. “Students are free to learn about those things that interest them most or learn about something totally new.”

As an example, DuBose said the Institute for School Partnership at Washington University in St. Louis recently conducted an Hour of Code activity. “The Partnership instructors were fantastic!” she added. “Our students had never experienced coding before, but by the end of the class, they understood the concept that when one thing happens, it causes a reaction. Following class, one student who had been particularly hesitant, was even able to give me a real life example of coding.”

Recent partners include Abra-Kid-Abra magicians; COCA is teaching photography and District experts in video and IT hosted high level instruction. In addition, students participated in classes conducted by a



Barbara C. Jordan third-grade teacher Alisha Ashford looks over the shoulder of students working on the Stormy Science challenge.

16-year-old gymnast, learned to cook pizza from Mod Pizza and learned about professional sports from parent and athlete Leon Powell, Sr.

“When students are engaged they are learning at high levels and their behavior is better when they are seen for the bright young people they are,” DuBose said. “They can’t wait to do it again!”

## Project Lead the Way Shows the Impact of Project-Based Learning

Brittany Woods Middle School’s Project Lead the Way teacher Everett Townsend and visiting parents and students talked over the “swish, swish” of a 3D printer that was creating a three dimensional, mini robot at the Nov. 29 STEM EXPO. Among the excited chatter, Townsend said, “I heard a lot of ‘oh wow’s!’ and ‘what’s that?’ I explained that in our classes, we are teaching real world, rapid proto-typing of a particular design to help find out how something fits and works.”

Townsend is a veteran teacher who once served as a former aviation mechanic working on jetliners for a commuter airline. He loves to show students how these programs are used in real world applications. “It’s (3D printing) a process Boeing has been using for years,” he added. “They (Boeing) use a laser rosin printer. We are using melted plastic, but it’s the same thing.”

“When parents hear industrial tech, they automatically think, ‘shop,’ but that’s only a little bit about what’s going on down here,” he said. “The (STEM) EXPO allows students to showcase (for parents) what they are doing in class and also peaks the curiosity for students who have yet to take a particular class.”

That was certainly true for sixth-grader Zofia Reed who was excited to know she would soon move from taking old laptops apart and restoring them, to operating the 3D printer.

Although feigning exasperation, she clearly appreciated Townsend’s teaching style. “In sixth grade, he (Townsend) explains everything

and then he leaves you!” Throwing her hands in the air, she added, “You say, ‘Hey what’s this?’ He doesn’t tell us! He just says, ‘look it up!’”

Excitedly, she continued, “We took everything (laptop) apart ...basically we had to find things out, like the numbers calculations for the CPU (Central Processing Unit)...and you have to calculate RAM (Random Access Memory) and then put it all back together.”

Townsend explained, “They had to learn to look up the different specifications for different parts. The CPU has a clock speed; they had to



At the Nov. 29 STEM EXPO, community members of all ages were intrigued by the 3-D printer available for middle school students to use as part of the Project Lead the Way engineering class.


find the laptop’s make and model and then the clock speed. By looking up RAM, they learned about how much memory is in the computer and how much is needed in order to function.”

Zofia admitted, “I loved it! It was also *hard*! I was the second person to finish putting it (laptop) together!”

Beverly Velloff, District curriculum coordinator for math and science, says that “hands-off” teaching style Zofia described is project-based learning, a standard in Project Lead the Way. “Engineering exploration in University City starts in kindergarten and through the grades we teach students to explore and personally discover; applying their own thinking.” She says it also opens the minds of teachers who are looking beyond traditional computer science teachings for programs that excite and inspire students.

*“In our classes, we are teaching real world, rapid proto-typing of a particular design to help find out how something fits and works.”*

Everett Townsend  
Brittany Woods Middle School  
Project Lead the Way Teacher




# Yoga

## Talk with Superintendent

& Guest Instructor UCHS Alumnae **Dr. Gladys Smith**

Come & unwind for an hour of Yoga, then follow up with a brief conversation with **Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley**

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 - 5:30 p.m. (UCHS Library)**  
**Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018 - 2 p.m. (McNair Board Room)**





# UNIVERSITY CITY HOMECOMING 2017



Leading the 2017 Homecoming parade, Precious Jamerson, junior, performs with the Golden Girls from University City High School.



Students from Pershing, dressed as the playing cards from “Alice in Wonderland,” dance down Delmar.



Jackson Park students Madison Toliver, Mikaya Lang and A'mia Hodges walk in the Homecoming parade.



Riding in the Jackson Park Elementary School float, former Pershing Elementary student Nyeela Johnson-Burns supports Jackson Park where her mother, Shumsheia Johnson, teaches music.

## Parade floats tie for first place

On an exceptionally warm and sunny mid-October day, participants in the annual U. City Homecoming Parade gathered in the parking lot across the street from the University City Public Library ready to begin the festivities. This year’s Homecoming theme was “Once Upon A Time.”

Competition for the best Homecoming float was intense this year and resulted in a tie between Jackson Park Elementary School and Pershing Elementary School for first place.

Thanks to Jackson Park’s parent involvement, they were able to pull off an award-winning float.

“The community and parents helped the most,” Jackson Park librarian Patricia McGarvin said.

“We had 40 parents who walked with us and at least 20 other

siblings,” McGarvin said.

Jackson Park was able to put the float together the night before the parade after teachers, including McGarvin, and other volunteers worked on it the week leading up to the parade.

The highlight, according to McGarvin, was Jackson Park principal Rebecca O’Connell riding on the main float and starring in the dancing.

For next year’s Homecoming parade, Jackson Park is hoping to remain in the lead, without tying with another school.

“We’ve never had a tie before since I’ve been in the District,” McGarvin said. “This allows us the opportunity next year to make sure there’s no question about who’s number one.”

**STORY BY KATHRYN FULLER ~ PHOTOS BY LINSEY SPARKS  
DESIGN BY KATHRYN FULLER AND LUCY WURST**

## Alumni return to the bands at

With the crash of cymbals, the bands of bass drums, and the year’s Homecoming game between the U. City High School marching bands. Although it was wild when the football team won the Homecoming losing season 15-14 against Jennings, the students were also impressed by the competition.

“It made the game more exciting,” Raven Bates, UCHS junior, said. “More people paying attention and moved closer to the game. It was all the way on the other side of the field. We can’t hear us.”

The alumni band in the parade. They played one of their favorite cadences.

“They looked over at us and took that as a challenge,” said Pointdexter, UCHS senior. “Each of us played a part. We looked back at them and we were sure of their win. It was undecided.”

While some U. City students were sure of their win, the outcome was undecided.

“They’re alumni and we were but this time they didn’t win, but not really,” said UCHS junior.

**STORY BY SIERA  
ALONA J  
PHOTO BY R**

## Hall of

Eleven alumni from University City High School were inducted into the Hall of Fame on the night of the Sheraton Clayton. The evening began with a dinner for the inductees, alumni, community, and students shared stories before the dinner.

Sharonica Hardin, superintendent, hatched the idea of bringing student leaders to provide an opportunity



University City High School alumni in alphabetical order) Jack Hammerman (1969), so federal probation officer and private investor in h Ambassador to Malawi; department of Music Ed



## to play in battle Homecoming

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a big part of this  
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aid Shu’Rya Butler,

RRA TYLER AND  
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EBECCA RICO



Donnie Robinson, class of 2006, plays the treble drum with the alumni band at halftime time during the Homecoming football game.

## Fame dinner honors alumni contributions

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Plaza Hotel. The  
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ome time together

Bartley, PhD PHR,  
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ers to the ceremony  
nity for them to

speak on behalf of the school and meet a  
different side of the U. City community.

“Seeing the alums return to celebrate  
their successes as well as their U. City  
pride was certainly a high point,” said  
Hardin-Bartley. “However, I was most  
moved by the fact that our current  
students had the opportunity to attend  
the event. I firmly believe in exposing  
students to real world, authentic learning  
experiences. They were able to network  
with Hall of Fame inductees as well as

other guests.”

One of the inductees, Todd Williams,  
class of 1985 and accomplished musician,  
played alongside the high school jazz band.  
After the performance and conversation,  
people were served dinner and the  
induction ceremony began.

Hardin-Bartley was impressed with the  
inductees, especially their support for our  
current students.

“So many alumni have tremendous gifts  
and talents to provide our students,” said

Hardin-Bartley. “We need to do better  
outreach and remain connected with  
alums in meaningful ways.”

Among those inducted were two  
university professors, an advocate focused  
on social justice issues, a conservationist,  
and a U.S. ambassador.

“University City has a rich tradition  
of graduating amazing young people,”  
said Hardin-Bartley. “The 2017 Hall of  
Fame inductees certainly represent this  
tradition.

ALL HOMECOMING CONTENT PRODUCED BY UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS~STORY BY LUCY WURST



chool’s 2017 Hall of Fame celebration recognized all inductees present at the Oct. 13 ceremony - especially include the 2017 inductees (in  
Fishman (1966), professor of meteorology, department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Saint Louis University; Marlene Scheinkman  
cial justice and women’s rights activist; The late Hasan Houston (1976), UCHS tri-sport athlete, Chicago Bears, commodities broker,  
; Robert Kalish (1958), journalist and author, “Bloodrun” book series; James Katzman (1964), co-founder, Tandem Computers, Inc.  
high tech companies; Anthony “Tony” Neal (1979), president and CEO, Education Equity Consultants; Virginia E. Palmer (1979), U.S.  
Jerry Sugerman (1959), conservationist; Jake “Alex” Williams (1975), television production; Todd Williams (1985), assistant professor,  
education, Indiana Wesleyan University; and Andrew Woods (1975), president, Andrew Woods & Associates, LLC/Public Relations.

***Special thanks to UCHS  
Journalism teacher  
Mary Williams and  
her student staff for  
their hard work on this  
center spread.***



# New Flexible Seating Options Are Transforming Traditional Classrooms

Just as we work to make our homes more comfortable for guests, educators across the country are using various forms of flexible seating to redesign 21st Century classrooms. That makes them more inviting and more in line with how students study today.

Teachers across The School District of University City have been working to redesign classrooms to better fit the way teachers teach and the way students learn. Recently, the University City Education Foundation awarded several grants to teachers on all grade levels who want to add furniture, equipment and sensory toys to improve comfort, concentration and focus and positively impact achievement.

The District’s executive director of Technology and Innovative Learning, Robert (Bob) Dillon, agrees. Recognized as an expert in the study of educational space, Dillon has written two books, “The Space: The Guide for Teachers” and “Learning Space Design,” which provide insight on the national effort to transform spaces in education. Over the past four years, the concept has picked up momentum across the country. “Two years ago it (flexible learning space) was profiled in The Horizon report as one of the short term trends in education,” Dillon said. “However, the learning science behind the impact of physical space is continuing to grow and educators are starting to pay attention to it.”

According to Dillon, flexible learning environments are the “third leg of the stool” for the education process. “When it comes to the delivery of the total education experience, there’s digital space, pedagogical space and physical space.” He explained, “We have always known that ‘where’ we learn matters, but the research is growing and more people are recognizing the educational impact that can come from this.”

Social worker (Flynn Park and Pershing) Stacey Miller says flexibility is

*“When they are comfortable and relaxed, they naturally get into the flow of the language.”*

**Matthew Tuths**  
UCHS Latin Teacher



New flexible-seating in classrooms around the District gives students a different perspective on learning. How many kinds of seating can you spot?

key on the elementary level as well. “Much like the trendy fidget-spinners, flexible seating gives students the ability to have proper stimulation that encourages learning.” She added, “It is important that educators address the learning styles of each student. I truly believe students learn best in an environment where they can be themselves and can move while learning.”

Matthew Tuths, a fifth-year Latin teacher at University City High School, has totally committed to flexible seating in his classroom. “I experimented with it last year, but this summer I attended a conference on second language acquisition and language teaching. We learned that when students are under stress, a filter goes up and the part of the brain that acquires language is much less efficient,” he said. “When they are comfortable and relaxed, they naturally get into the flow of the language.”

Tuths gathered resources to ensure that his classroom is a relaxing setting to allow for more student engagement and greater concentration. “Now, my room is set up with desks and tables outside along the walls, chairs are in a half circle facing the smart board. There are bean bags, green (comfort) chairs, pillows for the floor at reading time and they also sit on the tables.” He added that his students have gotten good at regulating their own seating each day.

## UCHS Awards 147 Students with Academic Letters and Pins

The University City High School PTO hosted the annual Academic Awards Assembly on Nov. 29, 2017. Parents Lisa Brenner and Debbie Gibson coordinated the event. Assistant Principal Kimberly Austin and Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley shared words of inspiration and congratulated the 147 sophomores, juniors and seniors who earned a grade point average of 3.0 or above during the 2016-17 school year. First-year recipients received academic “U” letters, similar to the school’s athletic letters. Academic bar-pins were given to those who had received an academic letter in previous years.

Letters were awarded to sophomores Alla Aldhaheri, Ta Marra Anderson, Ty’zell Anderson, Keisha Atkins, Cory Barber, Keyon Beasley, Netsanet Belachew, Isabel Blumenhorst, Maelisha Boclair, Sasha Bonilla, Roberta Booth, Jaden Brooks, Bri’asia Brown, Tiayana Brown, Jacob Cherry, Deangelo Davis, Kayden Faddis, Jayla Fitch, Kailon Ford, Eliot Fuller, Erianna Funches, Henry Giles, Alexis Hambrick, Andrea Harris, Rhyann Haynes, Maximilian Henderson, Nathan Hill, Alexandria Hogan-Wilson, Nyjah Hudson, Nicole Kellogg, Kaylyn Little, Delos Matos, Jayde McKenzie, Emma McMahon, Karl Nelson, Marco Pluma, Yael Portman, Sherman Quan, Linares Quiroz, Michael Redmond, Mary Rhoades, Dashavia Ridgel, Shamyia Shaw, Diamond Smith, Mariel Smith-Frazier, Makiaya Stewart, Shira Tannenbaum, Robert Taylor, Farah Thabet, Tahshara Tucker, Bre Westbrook and Junxian Zhang

Letters were presented to juniors Gerald Coleman, Kamiya Davis, Kristina Eason, Marzay Gulley, Malike Harris, Camil Ingram, Doris Jefferson, Makayla Jones, Victoria Little, Marquess Pearson, Angela Smith and Courtney Taylor; and pins were awarded to juniors Julian Albright, Elijah Ballard, Logan Black, Kaya Blount, Jarrod Brandt, Dominic Bryant, Brooks Carrico, Givion Crawford, Cooper Deitzler, Saida Donaldson, Folly Dotou, Terrico Garrett, Rowan Hoel, Nicole Holahan, Andrew Immer, Alona Jenkins, Thomas Looby, Cecilia Mattli, Gage McGinnis, Kayla Merrill, Brianna Mitchell, I’aiyana Redden, D’avion Reed, India Reedus,

Rebecca Rico, Camryn Rogers, Knokeia Shears, Cabria Shelton, Tianna Shelton, Benjamin Shostak, Nathaniel Smorodin, Linsey Sparks, Phoebe Thoroughman, Markell Tompkins, Dominic Torno, Sierra Tyler, Denise Washington, Autumn White, Annika Williams, Brittany Worthy, Peter Zhang and Leah Zukosky.

Letters were earned by seniors William Austin, Brian Barnes, Toni Chillers, Danae Dudley, Destiny Moore, Gabriel Sekou, Amera Shelton and Chamahra Tucker; and pins awarded to seniors Christy Bell, Essence Brown, Kelsi Bryant, Jasmine Buchanan, Kayla Buchanan, Michael Campbell, Della Cox, Larry Cox, Kathryn Fuller, Daniel Gibson, Jakob Giles, Marco Gillispie, Cheyenne Hawkins, Catherine Hoff, Whitney Huling, Ashlynn Jenkins, Makaya Johnson, Maleak Johnson, Shavonda Jones, Jayiera McBride, Jordan Mcneal, Aaliyah Moore, Kathleen Murphy, Alan Phillips, Daniel Pomerantz, Brandi Redmond, Chanelle Rice, Miata Smith, Nia Spencer, Gordon Stuvland, Wadad Thabet, David White and Lucille Wurst.



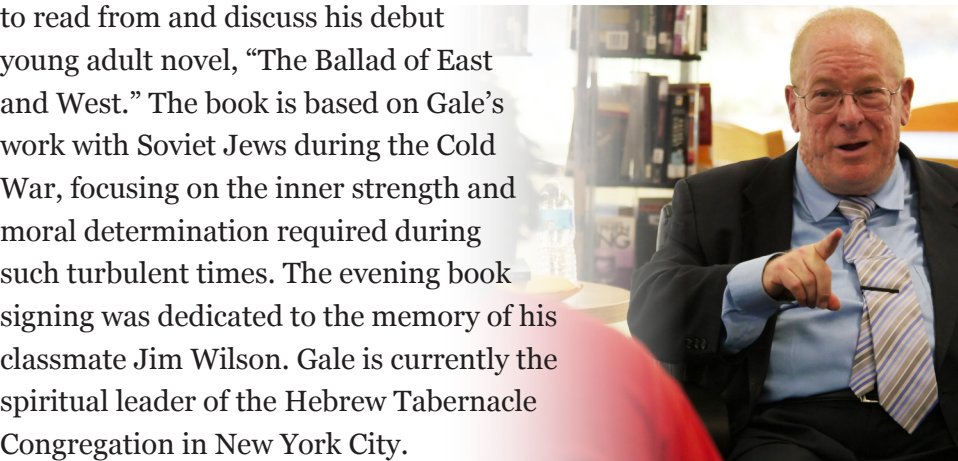


# UCHS Alumni Class Acts spotlight:



## Rabbi Gale Visits Two Libraries

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, University City High School and the University City Public Library welcomed UCHS 1971 alumnus Rabbi Jeffrey Gale to read from and discuss his debut young adult novel, “The Ballad of East and West.” The book is based on Gale’s work with Soviet Jews during the Cold War, focusing on the inner strength and moral determination required during such turbulent times. The evening book signing was dedicated to the memory of his classmate Jim Wilson. Gale is currently the spiritual leader of the Hebrew Tabernacle Congregation in New York City.



## UCHS Grad Finds Career Through Job Placement Program

“Hey aren’t you from U. City (schools)?” The young lady behind the counter at Walgreens recognized Ellen Bern, a volunteer and founder of University City High School’s job placement program. “You helped me get this job!”

Bern, smiling from ear-to-ear, asked J’atori McIntosh more about her experience with the program. The 2017 UCHS graduate said that she started working at Walgreens in May of her junior year and the beginning of the UCHS’ job placement program. Back then, she was unsure of her plans and looking for direction, “I thought I would never get a job!” she remembered.

Then came the opportunity with Bern’s program that pairs University City businesses with student workers. “I started as a customer associate,” McIntosh said, “And, in February of 2017, I got my pharmacy technician’s license.” While waiting for a pharmacy opening, she has also enrolled at Forest Park Community College with hopes of becoming a pediatric nurse.

In November, McIntosh was promoted to full-time pharmacy technician at Walgreens. Store Manager Dane Warneke says she is a great testament to the program’s success. “Ellen Bern contacted me two years ago and asked if we would be interested. Representatives from both (U City Walgreens) stores attended the UCHS spring job fair,” he explained. “The whole cafeteria was full and we did interviews on the spot. I interviewed three students looking for the specific (personality) traits you want to see and I selected J’atori,” Warneke continued.

“I think this is a great way for employers to tap into the talent in the community and, as for me, I love to hire younger kids and help mold them into the employees you need them to be. They take it more seriously, try harder and the care factor increases.” he continued, “Walgreens was my very first job at 16 and, I am a store manager now.”

Bern says she started the job placement program literally going door-to-door asking local businesses to consider hiring students. “But, you don’t always know when you are making a difference. That is, until you come face-to-face with a beaming graduate like J’atori who says, ‘thank you,’ by sharing her hopes and dreams. That’s the kind of stuff you love to hear. The program works and is making a difference.” She smiled and added, “It’s a good thing there was a counter between us. I would have hugged her!”

Asked if he’s going to continue with the program, Warneke answered, “Absolutely! After a success story like J’atori, I am open to keeping this going and I know our other store is as well.”

Since 2014, 88 UCHS students have found summer jobs through this program. About a third of the students maintained their employment throughout the school year. Many college students return to work for their employers in subsequent summers and holiday breaks. The City and The School District of University City jointly provide funds for rebates to the businesses who hire UCHS students through this program.

Local businesses interested in providing jobs, internships or apprenticeships for junior and senior students currently enrolled at UCHS, may contact Ellen Bern at [ellenbern@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenbern@yahoo.com).



## Thank You Class of 1967



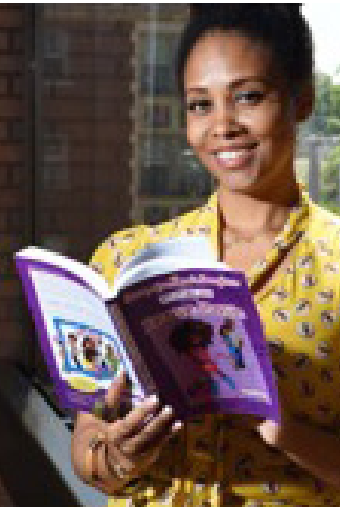
*The University City Board of Education thanks the University City High School Class of 1967, represented by Ken Schwartz, Phil Brooks, Larry Cherry, Larry Glazer and Leah Rubin, for their generous donation of \$13,000 in support of educational initiatives at UCHS. These projects include freshman classroom updates, an AP testing program and a new scholarship fund (currently set to award one \$2,500 scholarship and an additional 10 scholarships at \$500 each).*

## Children’s author Raquel Hunter is the 2018 Returning Artist

University City High School 1996 alumnae Raquel Hunter, author of the popular children’s book series “Diary of Brave Rave,” is the 2018 University City Returning Artist. Her literary work explores diverse, positive and relatable characters for children to learn from and enjoy.

Hunter will be honored at a public reception at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, in the UCHS Pruitt Library Media Center, 7401 Balson Ave. 63130.

The Returning Artist Program, coordinated by the University City Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters, brings artistically renowned UCHS graduates to work with students and encourage them to investigate careers in the arts. Past returning artists included visual artists, glassblowers, writers, filmmakers, musicians, actors, singers and dancers. More information about the Returning Artist series is available at [ucityartsandletters.org](http://ucityartsandletters.org).



Raquel Hunter



## 2018 Ice Carnival

The 2018 Ice Carnival will be held Friday, Jan. 12 through Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018. Watch for updates online at [www.visittheloop.com/icecarnival](http://www.visittheloop.com/icecarnival).



## Little Hats, Big Hearts

Centennial Commons is a collection point for the Little Hats, Big Hearts Hat Drive sponsored by the American Heart Association. Volunteers are needed to make hats to be given during February – Heart Month – to newborns at our local hospitals. There are three ways to participate: 1) Drop off your completed hat at Centennial Commons. 2) Join the “Stitch-a-Thon” to create hats from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. 3) Donate “red” yarn. Drop off deadline is Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. For more information, contact Stephanie at 314.505.8613.



## Go Red For Women Day

Ladies (and guys too!) wear red on the 15th Annual National Wear Red Day to stand with women in the fight against their number-one killer: heart disease. Deck yourself out in red to raise awareness for heart disease. Come to Centennial Commons (7210 Olive Blvd.) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 2 for a Lunch and Learn with a guest speaker, door prizes and special giveaways. There will be information, blood pressure/heart rate checks, vendors and more. This event is FREE, but pre-registration is required. Please call 314.505.8700.

## Staying Safe and Secure

The University City Police Department is seeking to re-establish a K9 dog to assist officers in crime investigation and to aid in community relations. They are asking citizens to support the cause by contributing to the purchase, training, and equipment for the K9 dog. Their funding goal is \$25,000 to equip and train both the dog and its handler. Contributions via cash, check, or money order can be made in-person or sent to Captain Lemons at the UCPD, 6801 Delmar Blvd. (63130) during usual business hours Monday through Friday – be sure to write “Police K9 Fund” on the check memo line. For more information, contact Captain Lemons, 314.505.8661 or [flemons@ucitymo.org](mailto:flemons@ucitymo.org).

If you will be travelling out of town this winter, you can request that the Police Department watch your house while you are gone. A police officer will check your doors and windows by walking around your property once a day while you are gone. To request this service, contact Captain Lemons or visit the City’s website, [www.ucitymo.org](http://www.ucitymo.org), to enroll online.



## University City Symphony Orchestra

The University City Symphony Orchestra hosts “Focus on St. Louis” at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018 at the 560 Music Center, 560 Trinity Ave. (63130). This free concert is open to the public. Their mission is to provide rich musical experiences and educational opportunities for the culturally diverse community of University City and beyond. For more information, visit [www.ucso.org](http://www.ucso.org).



## 2018 Municipal Election

The municipal election on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 will have candidates running for mayor and one seat for each of the three wards. Nominations for City Council shall be made by petition signed by no less than 50 and no more than 75 registered voters, who are entitled to vote for the candidate in the ward where they live. No voter may sign more than one nominating petition for the same office.

Petitions can be obtained at University City City Hall, 6801 Delmar, 2nd Floor, Room 8 (63130). Filing opened at City Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 and closes Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a \$50 filing fee.

First day filers will participate in a lottery draw for ballot placement, and subsequent filers will follow on the ballot as submitted.

Candidate’s qualifications are: be a qualified voter of the City and a resident thereof for at least three consecutive years prior to election, be a resident of the ward from which elected, and be current on all state and city taxes. Candidates cannot hold any other elected public office or compensatory position in the city government.

The general municipal election will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Please direct any questions to LaRette Reese, Interim City Clerk, at 314.505.8531.





# Foundation Awards More Than \$16K in Grant Funds

On Nov. 16, 2017, the University City Education Foundation marked American Education Week by awarding 19 educators across all grade levels more than \$16,000 for equipment, supplies, technology and innovative education experiences.

This year’s projects include requests for flexible seating, iPads, sensory equipment, a 3D printer, online mapping technology, an archery scanner, field trips, construction trade exercises, LEGO engineering, personal fitness and Latin text books. (More details available at [ucityeducationfoundation.org](http://ucityeducationfoundation.org)).

The excitement started with a visit from the UCEF Prize Patrol, led by Superintendent Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and UCEF Board members. As each classroom door swung open and the team with balloons in tow strode into classrooms, students applauded in anticipation of the fun that was to come.

UCEF Grant Committee Chair Kim Feld explained, “The UCEF grant process is a way for teachers in the District to secure additional education opportunities. We get just as excited as the students and teachers do when we are able to hand over the big checks!” She added, “The grant process is voluntary. Teachers who apply take the time to map out their plans and demonstrate how the funds will be used to enhance learning and achievement in their classrooms.”

“We are extremely grateful to UCEF and our greater community for providing new education experiences for our students,” said Superintendent Hardin-Bartley. “I am proud to see so many of our teachers thinking outside of the box and securing new funding for projects that fall outside the school and District budgets. The scope of funded programs is amazing as our teachers work to improve individual achievement by addressing the varied needs of our students.”

According to UCEF president and Lieberman Learning Center art

*“The UCEF grant process is a way for teachers in the District to secure additional education opportunities.”*

**Kim Feld**  
UCEF Grant Committee Chair



Pershing Elementary teacher Amanda Gaston’s Movement in the Classroom grant request for alternative seating was one of the 19 grants awarded on Nov. 16 by the University City Education Foundation.

teacher Beverly Brandt, UCEF holds events and activities year-round to help build funds to offset costs of special projects for which District teachers feel strongly. “Our students deserve the best education experience we can offer, but traditional funding sources often fall short in providing the extras needed in today’s classrooms.” She added, “We don’t want any limits placed on our students and -- thanks to the generosity of our community and alumni across the country -- we can say, ‘yes,’ to more wonderful enrichment opportunities.”

To help excite and inspire our community, UCEF invites adults to “Come and Play,” and test out the supplies and equipment purchased with the grants at an adults-only event on Friday, Jan. 26 at Brittany Woods Middle School. This event is free and open to the public. (See ad below.)

The University City Education Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. Since it was established in 1996, UCEF has been fundamental in enhancing educational programs in the School District of University City. UCEF engages the community and works to attract private funds to supplement state, federal and local revenues. Funds raised are dedicated to the development of enrichment programs, opportunities and services, which can help make the difference between a good education and an excellent one.

For more information on these projects or how you might support UCEF, visit [ucityeducationfoundation.org](http://ucityeducationfoundation.org) or, contact Lori Willis, director of development at (314) 290-4016 or at [llwillis@ucityschools.org](mailto:llwillis@ucityschools.org).

## “Brittany Helping Brittany” Effort Raises \$600 for 21 Families

This year, 21 District families will benefit from \$600 in funds raised in the annual, “Brittany Helping Brittany” holiday community service event called, Family Night.

Allegra Grawer, social worker assigned to Brittany Woods Middle School and Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center, says social workers help lead giving programs across the District, but they take on different forms in each school. As an example, TOP students planned, organized and promoted to the community, the school’s signature fundraiser benefitting Brittany Woods families in need.

“We (social workers) work as a team to identify families in need and the siblings in the District and then structure the program goals to help ensure we can provide needed help at the holidays.” She added, “We look for families in transition (temporarily without a place to live) and those that have been impacted by fire or other disaster.”

Grawer says from giving trees, to gift tags, to donations of money and canned goods, charitable giving is, “...very much a district-wide effort.”





**Attention Adults of University City**  
The University City Education Foundation invites you to

# Come & Play!

Friday, **January 26**, 2018 • 6-8 p.m.  
**Brittany Woods Middle School**  
8125 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130



Thanks to our generous donors, UCEF just awarded funds to educators for the purchase of numerous cool, educational toys in our schools. Students in all grade levels are learning to use new technology and a host of other mind-bending, strength-extending and fun-never-ending -- gadgets in their classrooms.

## But, why should kids have all the fun?

UCEF invites YOU, parents and community members, to come and test all this fun stuff!  
This is an adults-only event, so please book the babysitter NOW!  
Call it a date night or “I just got to get out of the house” night.



## Just Come & Play!

Refreshments will be served!





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314-290-4000 • [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with The School District of University City are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning the District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) or the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, is directed to the respective Compliance Coordinator listed below, who oversees the School District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing the laws and regulations cited above. The School District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. The School District's Compliance Coordinator will provide information regarding those procedures upon request. Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under any of the laws and regulations cited above may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114 or 816-268-0550. Adult and Employee Compliance Coordinator: Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, School District of University City, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4021. Student Compliance Coordinator: Director of Student Services, Ronald E. McNair Administrative Building, School District of University City, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130, 314-290-4045.

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT of UNIVERSITY CITY  
8136 Groby Road  
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# Join U. City for "A Walk with Martin" - Jan. 12, 2018

Please join us for the 32nd annual, community-wide celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, in the University City High School Auditorium, 7401 Balson Ave. (63130).


Students and staff across The School District of University City are working to coordinate a dynamic, new experience in, "A Walk with Martin." The student-centered program retraces the steps in Dr. King's life that led him to write and present some of his most famous speeches. Performances will show that his influence and oratorical contributions to the world are as relevant now as they were then. In this hour-long celebration, you will see the enormity of his impact through the eyes of our youth.

To the right is a peak at the commemorative art inspired this year by the digital design of artist Destiny Martin, a UCHS senior.


Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this very special community event.

*Reminder: District schools and offices will be closed Mon., Jan. 16, 2018 in observance of the Dr. King holiday.*

*"Intelligence plus character -  
that is the true goal of education."*  
- MLK



University City's Annual Communitywide  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**  
Friday, **January 12, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.**  
University City High School  
More details at [ucityschools.org](http://ucityschools.org)



**WorkKeys Prep  
Job Training Assistance**

**NEW STUDENT INTAKES**  
Jan. 8 & 10, 2018 6 PM  
Jan. 9 & 11 2018 1 PM

**College Prep Assistance**

**University City Adult Education Services**  
8136 Groby Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63130

**FREE CLASSES  
BEYOND HSE PREP  
(FORMERLY GED) TO  
TRANSFORM  
YOUR CAREER**

[WWW.UCITYAELPROGRAM.ORG](http://WWW.UCITYAELPROGRAM.ORG)  
**314.290.4052**



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UNIVERSITY CITY ADULT  
EDUCATION & LITERACY PROGRAM  
8136 GROBY RD.  
UNIVERSITY CITY, MO 63130  
314.290.4052

New Student Intakes	Day or Evening Classes
January 8 & 10 10 AM or 6 PM	Mon. & Thurs. 9 AM- 12 PM Mon. & Wed. 6:30-8:30 PM