



**Columbia**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**COLUMBIA AREA CAREER CENTER**  
**Columbia Public Schools**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEADLINE: Columbia Public Schools recognized with Breaking Traditions Awards at Columbia Area Career Center

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, April 24, 2018 — The Breaking Traditions Awards are sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize outstanding nontraditional career and technical students and the adults who support them. This activity is supported by funds from DESE, authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. All applicants are judged on the merits of experience, contributions and written responses. The competition names state and regional winners. State winners are eligible for scholarships to Missouri public community colleges and the State Technical College of Missouri.

2018 marked Missouri’s 25<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Breaking Traditions Award Program in Jefferson City to recognize and provide statewide publicity for the selected nontraditional students, career-technical programs, schools and employers. Columbia Public Schools was the recipient of three of these recognitions through Columbia Area Career Center.

Ms. Emily Carranza won the Student Regional Award for Region II (out of 16 counties) for her participation in Certified Welding and was nominated by her instructor Mr. William “Bill” Irvin. “I know when I give her [Emily] an assignment, it will be completed timely and correct,” states Mr. Irvin. “At CACC we teach students not only skills, but also on workplace expectations—positive attitude, reliability, professionalism, initiative/responsibility, respect/integrity and gratitude. Over the last three years, Emily has demonstrated her ability to stay positive and prepared. She manages her time, is honest and respectful, and shows initiative when working though an assignment or just cleaning up the work area. I feel confident that she will be able to pass any test an employer might give her, and she is well prepared for the workplace. Any employer will be lucky to have her on their team.”

CACC instructor, Mrs. Laura Estabrooks, was nominated by Geospatial Technology and Analysis student, Ms. Emily Meyer and was named the winner of the state high school Breaking Tradition award. “Mrs. Estabrooks is a role model to me,”



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states Ms. Meyer. “She is a woman in a field that is male-dominated. She teaches well because she has the real-life experience. She figures out situations and does not give up until she finds an answer or solution. Ms. Estabrooks is close to her students and is always there for us with help for school or even to just sit and talk with something that has been on our minds.”

Additionally, Jadie Arnett, graphic design and visual communications student of Mrs. Sandy Morrow, won the Breaking Traditions poster design contest. Students were to create a poster that celebrates the annual Breaking Traditions Award competition winners. Submissions were to show understanding and interpretation of Breaking Traditions, basic design concepts, originality, creativity and a keen eye for design.

Congratulations to the winners, nominators and a special thank you to Mrs. Ellen Buechler for the coordination of the nominations and recognition of our winners.

CACC is a part of CPS and serves the community by providing the following education programs to a variety of ages including, but not limited to, career and technical education, personal enrichment, literacy advancement, workforce development and summer camps. For more information, visit [www.career-center.org](http://www.career-center.org) or [www.cpsk12.org](http://www.cpsk12.org).

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- Photos Attached -

Photo 1: Jadie Arnett

Photo 2: Laura Estabrooks

Photo 3: Left to right; Stacy Smith, Bill Irvin, Sondra Inman, Dru Nash, Emily Carranza and Ellen Buechler

Photo 4: Laura Estabrooks , Randy Gooch and Emily Meyer







**Breaking Traditions**  
Presented to  
**Bill Irvin**  
Nominator Award - Region II  
Columbia Area Career Center

**Breaking Traditions**  
Presented to  
**Emily Carranza**  
Regional Award - Region II  
Certified Welding I  
Columbia Area Career Center

