Teacher of the Year - Tracey Newman

Tracey Newman, a Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher in the Ste. Genevieve School District, is certainly worthy of the Missouri ACTE 2010 Teacher of the Year award! She has been extremely involved in her profession, community, school district, and classroom.

We thought you might like to hear what one of her students said about the impact Tracey’s talents have had on her life.

It is my greatest pleasure to recommend Mrs. Tracey Newman for the [Missouri ACTE] Teacher of the Year Award. Undoubtedly, her application reflects her involvement in professional membership and activities, numerous professional contributions, strong education and educational experience background, and commitment to school, civic and community involvement.

You’ve seen her stats - undeniably a great candidate all around. So, I’d like to focus on what the application doesn’t tell you. I believe Mrs. Newman’s greatest ability is to see great potential in shy, reserved individuals - individuals very much like myself when I walked into her classroom at the age of 14. Four years later, I walked out of high school experiencing nothing less than “the entire package.” Without Mrs. Newman’s encouragement, guidance, and support, I cannot imagine the person I would be today. She opened up opportunities that I never could have dreamed of, introduced me to places I may have otherwise never visited, and showed me that I can do anything I set my mind to. Mrs. Newman has a great ability to “plant seeds” in her students, friends, and acquaintances to achieve the unimaginable - and she gets to sit back and watch beautiful gardens grow.

We traversed to California, planned speeches and presentations for crowds of two to two-thousand, raised thousands of dollars for not-for-profit organizations, and grew to be great friends. Without Mrs. Newman in my life, I simply cannot imagine where I would be today. I know that I wouldn’t have developed such a strong interest in family and consumer sciences and I would not be enrolled in the #1 program for Hospitality Administration, at an Ivy League University, enjoying my education without enormous financial debts because of scholarship monies and opportunities that I was able to secure. Without my involvement in FCCLA, and other opportunities that opened up through FCCLA and Mrs. Newman, I would not have built the resume that has allowed me to achieve the position I am in today. Mrs. Newman has had a great influence over my day-to-day life, and I could not imagine things any differently or imagine myself in a better situation. (Okay, so the course load is not exactly easy - but as Mrs. Newman demonstrates - if you’re handed it, you can handle it!) I am still dedicated to serving others, volunteering over 200 hours per academic year, and working 35 hours/week throughout the academic year.

Where would I be if no one took notice of the potential within a shy, reserved girl at the age of 14?

In the classroom, within the community, and within her family, Mrs. Newman demonstrates the type of person I can only dream of becoming. She is truly inspirational. Her commitment to home, school, community and world deserves to be recognized.

Jenna Gegg
Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher - Cara Posegate

Although Cara has only been teaching for a few years, her impact on her students’ lives, as well as her colleagues and her school district has already been felt. One of her colleagues states, “Cara is one of the teachers who will make a difference in the future of education.”

We wanted to share what one of her students said. It helps demonstrate why Cara is such a deserving candidate for Missouri ACTE’s 2010 Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher.

An award for recognizing a teacher’s amazing ability in the classroom is often presented to an extremely intelligent instructor who pushes their students to the maximum of their capabilities. They devise new ways to present information to the class in an effort to ensure that each and every student understands. A teacher of this caliber may even take time out of their personal home life in order to ensure students have reached their full potential. Finding a teacher with these qualities is more like fulfilling a wish list, rather than reality. However, at Marshall High School, I believe that we do have a teacher who could put a checkmark next to each requirement on this list, and continue to add more traits. Her name is Cara Posegate.

I have been a student of Mrs. Posegate’s for two years. As a junior, I was enrolled in the Marketing class with low expectations and hoping to gain an easy “A.” What I wasn’t prepared for was the way this class would change my plans for the future. I had never before been involved in a class where most of the work requires hands-on activities, and I grew to love it. This started to make me excited about high school for once because I was able to be creative in situations that will eventually present themselves in the workforce. Mrs. Posegate made sure that a majority of the work was hands-on, based on the fact that it instills trial and error. It makes the student apply their knowledge into everyday use, rather than worksheet after worksheet ... but this was just the beginning of my experiences.

I became involved in DECA (marketing club) while taking Mrs. Posegate’s Marketing and Advanced Marketing classes. To me, this is where our teacher really began to “shine,” so to speak. She was always around when we had questions with our papers, making suggestions and giving ideas. She devoted many nights to this club so that the participants would be able to come into the school and work. When competition began, Mrs. Posegate offered a calming voice to those nervous, a laugh to those bored, and a conversation to those that were waiting. No matter what the outcome of the student’s work, she was always proud; never upset with our effort.

However, Mrs. Posegate offered something other than just a teacher’s viewpoint on situations. She provided more than just a scholarly personality when on trips. She was able to laugh, go shopping, and go out to dinner with her students, bringing with her the one-of-a-kind laugh she possesses. All the while, she never crossed the line into a Friend-Teacher, but rather a Teacher-Friend. She always put her educational work first. She demonstrated leadership skills when certain students became rowdy and never looked flustered. Mrs. Posegate truly cares about her students and their future aspirations.

That is why Mrs. Cara Posegate should be awarded the “New Professional of the Year.”

Maddy Keller
Dr. Donald Claycomb, President of Linn State Technical College (LSTC), has certainly earned this Certificate of Appreciation for his complete dedication to Career and Technical Education.

Glenda Whitney, LSTC, endorses Dr. Claycomb's nomination when she says, “Dr. Claycomb is a true leader who guided [LSTC] to become Missouri’s only two-year State Technical College in 1995 ...” As she explains, “Dr. Claycomb is and has been a product of technical education for over 50 years. Prior to becoming President of Linn State Technical College, he held positions at the secondary, community college, area vocational school, and university levels, having served on the faculties at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia, in addition to having served as the Executive Director of the Missouri State Council on Vocational Education. Dr. Claycomb has served as president of both the Missouri Association of Adult Continuing and Community Education Association and the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education ...”

Richard Cavender, Meramec Regional Planning Commission executive director, echoes Whitney’s sentiments when he says, “Under his [Dr. Claycomb’s] leadership, new programs have been added to meet the needs of today’s industries, ensuring the availability of a qualified workforce. Under his direction, the Linn campus has been transformed from one of all metal buildings to state-of-the-art facilities. Dr. Claycomb is passionate about ‘preparing students for profitable employment and a life of learning,’ which is the college’s mission.”

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As Marcia J. Ritter, CFCS, puts it ... “Her [Mary Lou’s] energy and excitement are contagious. She is a great mentor and a dear friend.”

Elaine Metcalf, Career Education Coordinator, agrees. “I can think of no one more deserving than Mary Lou Michler for the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education Certificate of Appreciation. It is my great honor to support her nomination.”

Congratulations, Mary Lou, for your recognition and thank you for your commitment to CTE teachers across the state!
As ranking Democrat on the House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, Rep. Aull has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues which makes him a valued advocate for career and technical education. With his background in public education, Rep. Aull brings a strong knowledge base from which he makes public policy decisions. He frequently asks how things are going for us and wants to know if there is anything he can do to assist. Rep. Aull is a true friend indeed.


From 1999-2004 Rep. Aull served as a board member of the Missouri High School Activities Association where he served as president in 2002-2003. He has also served as President of the Central District Superintendents and Secondary Principals Association.

A 1966 graduate of Lexington High School in Lexington, Missouri, Rep. Aull received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Westminster College in 1970 and received a Masters in Education degree from Central Missouri State University in 1975. Rep. Aull also received his Education Specialist Certification from Central Missouri State University in 1987 and is currently working on his doctorate degree.

Representative Aull currently serves on the following Missouri House of Representatives' committees:
- Rural Community Development
- Agri-Business
- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Special Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Animal Agriculture
- Joint Committee on Education

In the nomination for this statewide recognition, Dr. Donald Claycomb, president of Linn State Technical College (LSTC) provides some history of why Dean Machinery Company and Fabick CAT are so deserving. He says, “Linn State Technical College and Fabick CAT embarked on a partnership in the mid 1990s, intent on developing a win-win relationship to meet the needs of industry and to maximize the college’s ability to provide quality educational programs. Not long after the initial partnership began, Dean Machinery joined, as well as E.A. Martin, which was purchased by Fabick CAT in 2002.

“Throughout this relationship, Dean Machinery Company and Fabick CAT have promoted the value of technical education throughout the state. Dealer representatives are active in recruiting events, promotion of technical programs through open house activities at their respective locations and both dealers are active in serving on the Linn State Technical College Advisory Council, where advisors meet twice a year to discuss industry trends and make recommendations to the academic programs.”

Certificates of Appreciation

Congratulations to both Dean Machinery Company and Fabick CAT on this award, as well as “Thank You” for your continued support of career and technical education!