



Newsbrief

Promoting the Abilities of Individuals Seeking Employment and Greater Participation in Community Life

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Success Story

Michael Whited and Jeffery Wilkerson have 44 years of service between them at MBS Textbook Exchange, LLC.

Michael has been employed with MBS since 1993; Jeffery started in 2001. MBS Vice President Human Resources, Jerome Rader said, "Our involvement with Job Point for over 30 years has been most rewarding. MBS has been extremely fortunate to have employees such as Mike and Jeff that have been an integral part of our family for several years." As a member of the maintenance department, Michael sorts and bails cardboard and keeps the area tidy for the book giant, where the receiving line can open 2500 cartons of books per day, resulting in five 1500 pound bales daily. In his spare time, Michael is an aspiring inventor/ entrepreneur and member of Open Door Baptist Church. He hopes to buy a house someday and attributes his success to his faith. Jeffery Wilkerson, a shipping clerk, builds boxes, affixes destination stickers and scans bar codes on the boxes. Both men initially came to Job Point (then Advent Enterprises) for assistance with their job search. Jeffery was initially placed at another business, and was honored with Advent/Job Point's 1999 Award of Excellence.

Coincidentally, Rader was Chair of Advent/Job Point's Board of Directors at the time. When his company moved to Texas, Jeffery chose to stay in Columbia, although he was fearful of restarting his job search. He quickly landed the position at MBS through a job fair hosted by Advent/Job Point. These days, when he is not working, Jeffery enjoys shooting pool with his friends and neighbors at Paquin Towers. Michael and Jeffery each report they love working at MBS and couldn't be happier with their jobs. They both greatly appreciate their benefits, especially the retirement plan. Rader said, "Over the years we have had the opportunity to have several employees come to us through Job Point, and have always supported the individual's abilities and what they bring to the workplace. We feel they have enriched our work life, as well as our individual lives." Job Point is supremely grateful for our invaluable long-time partnership with MBS. For decades, MBS has tirelessly provided Board leadership, lent financial support, sponsored events and hired our graduates. Michael and Jeffery are shining examples of many more success stories over the years, and we congratulate them on their outstanding vocational accomplishments.

We welcome our newest team member: Rich Klein, Employment Consultant.

We welcome back Howard Pruitt, former Instructor as Employment Consultant; and Damon Jones, former Intern.

We congratulate Ranjana Hans on her promotion to Advisor.

We graciously thank Heart of Missouri United Way for their allocation to Job Point for skills training scholarships.



Left to Right: Jeff Wilkerson and Michael Whited

We warmly acknowledge our fall, spring and summer service learning students, interns and volunteers: Joel Boudreaux, Cynthia Gardner, Muhammad Irzam, Maurius Newbill, Cayla Page, Olivia Scaturro, Mitch Schiller, Justin Shepley, Austin Ward, Catherine Wilkins, Hassan Yasin and Connor Young. Volunteers tutor YouthBuild students, help job seekers in the career lab, serve as teacher assistants, support marketing and special events, and perform clerical tasks. **Mark your calendar** Company Feud on October 10th. Make your reservation today by calling 573-777-1506 or by emailing brendao@jobpoint.org.



MRA Stevinson Award goes to Tania Cook



Left to Right: Starla Starke, Tania Cook, Sara Cleaveland

Tania Cook, Skills Training Coordinator was honored at the annual Missouri Rehabilitation Association (MRA) Conference in June. The Stevinson Award stands singularly as the most prestigious honor given by MRA. A recipient must have made a significant or outstanding contribution toward meeting the needs of persons with disabilities with whom he/she has contact; and must have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to help persons with disabilities and have been recognized by his/her peers for doing such. Sara Cleaveland, Columbia VR District Supervisor said, “Ms. Cook puts the mission of MRA into action through her work and community service every day. She works tirelessly on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the community to ‘have a fair opportunity for a quality life’. She goes above and beyond every day to ensure individuals have an opportunity to learn and grow and participate in the community through employment and career advancement.” We congratulate Tania, and

acknowledge her phenomenal 33 years of service. *Photo courtesy of Ning He.*

Steve Smith, Citizen of the Year

On June 25, Steve Smith, Job Point President & CEO, was honored by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of the Year. Chamber President Matt McCormick said, “The Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award is given annually to a local individual who has contributed an enormous amount of their time and talents to organizations and our community, as a way of saying ‘thank you’ for all that they do to make Columbia a better place to live, learn, work and play. Smith has been involved in several of the Chamber’s committees and divisions for decades, and works tirelessly to make Columbia a place where others can succeed.” In addition to his contributions to the community as President of Job Point since 2014, Steve is a former Chamber Board Member, Treasurer and Past Chair of the Finance Committee and Ambassadors. He currently serves on the Chamber Finance Committee. Mr. Smith has been a Chamber Ambassador for 22 years and is currently Treasurer of this group. He participated in the second class of Leadership Columbia, and has joined the Chamber Leadership Visit for the past two years.



Comedy Night 2019

Our Comedy Night fundraiser was held at Stoney Creek Hotel on April 17th, with nearly \$40,000 raised. Local comedians set the stage: Mark Farnen with Strategists Communications Company regaled the audience with memes of local residents as compared to celebrities. Erica Pefferman from The Business Times Company shared her hilarious perspective as a woman dating in her 40’s. Richard “Dickie” Walls from The Heidelberg amused the guests with challenges he has experienced of parenting eight children. Jon McQuilkin with Eng & Woods provided his own personal and humorous twist on lawyer jokes. Thomas Rost from Arris’ Pizza entertained with his unique experiences in the hospitality industry. Professional, Greg Morton (contestant on this season of America’s Got Talent) brought down the house. We extend our deep gratitude to presenting sponsors Commerce Bank and Eng & Woods, all of our event sponsors, table sponsors, patrons, amazing and fearless comedians and host, Matt Istwan. Find photos and videos on our [Facebook page](#). Save the date now for April 29, 2020.



Richard "Dickie" Walls

Jon McQuilkin

Erica Pefferman

Mark Farnen

Thomas Rost



Summer Graduation Celebration



A record number of graduates celebrated with a packed house at Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church on June 13th. Honorable Casey Clevenger, the Treatment Court Commissioner for the 13th Judicial Circuit was keynote speaker. Eleven YouthBuild, three Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning, ten Highway/Heavy Construction, two Highway Maintenance & Repair, four Intermediate Construction Trades, twenty-one Certified Nursing Assistant and three Office Technology participants were honored for their outstanding accomplishments. Congratulations to all our graduates, including those who were unable to attend the ceremony because they were WORKING!

YouthBuild Honors

Several YouthBuild students enjoyed some additional excitement recently. Makayla Mosley received the Golden Hammer Award at graduation in acknowledgement of her exceptional achievements. Brianna Logan was one of 50 YouthBuild graduates from across the country who traveled to Washington, D.C. in April for a two-day alumni gathering focused on leadership, financial literacy and personal branding, culminating with visits to legislators on Capitol Hill. Monesha Johnson joined more than 80 other young leaders this month at Washington, D.C., to further develop leadership skills and network with current and former students from YouthBuild programs across the country. Because of her impressive participation in April, Logan accompanied Johnson for the June trip, as she was invited back to D.C. to serve as a team leader. *Photos courtesy of Denny Henry.*



700 Oak Street - SOLD!



Closing occurred this week for the happy owner of this new, energy efficient, affordable home at 700 Oak Street. Made possible by the Columbia Community Land Trust (CLT), Job Point carpentry and YouthBuild students built this and other houses from the ground up with direction from experienced and qualified instructors. The homes are sold with down payment assistance available from the City of Columbia for income eligible buyers. The CLT will retain ownership of the land, and preserve a relationship with current owners to ensure upkeep. The CLT is committed to this dwelling remaining affordable for individuals or families who are income-eligible.

Upcoming Job Point Programs

Starting dates for our programs include: **Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning** – July 15; and **Certified Nursing Assistant** – July 30. **Highway/Heavy Construction, Intermediate Construction Trades Program (ICTP)** and **Office Technology** – open entry. **Job Works** July 8, July 22, Aug 5, Aug 19, Sept 9, Sept 23. Scholarships may be available. Contact Tania Cook at 573-777-1524.

Job Point fulfills its mission through the support of Missouri businesses. We acknowledge our new or renewed employer partnerships in our service areas: **CENTRAL:** Albright Heating & Air Conditioning, All American Landscape, Beyond Meat, Black Market Arms, Bright Star, Capital Paving, Chipotle, Dependable Services, Emery Sapp & Sons Inc, Fulton Manor, Home Depot, HyVee, Integral Resources, MBS Textbook Exchange, Inc, McGhee Associates, On Broadway Pet Styling, The Sheridan (Chicago, IL), Solstice Senior Living, Steak N Shake, Sub Shop, University of Missouri Campus Dining, **WEST:** Colton's Steak House & Grill, Howard County Board of Sheltered Services, Job Finders/Sedalia Food & Vending, McDonald's (Marshall), Phoenix Home Health Care, RTS Waste Solutions and Wendy's (Sedalia). **NORTH:** Cardinal Health and Hospital Housekeeping Systems/Moberly Regional Medical Center.

We Thank the Following for Giving Generously

A to Z Auto Repair
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 Veterans United Home Loans
 Megan Waigandt
 David Whelan
 Anne Williams
 Wilson's Fitness Centers
 Jessica L. Yankee

*Job Point is mid-Missouri's premier employment center.
 Since 1965, we have been linking people and jobs by providing career planning
 and job placement assistance. We specialize in preparing individuals to enter the workforce
 while meeting a critical need of the business community.*



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Accredited by CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission, and an equal opportunity organization committed to a diverse workplace, Job Point is a member organization of Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (MARF). Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

www.jobpoint.org

