



# Newsbrief

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

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Carrie Brown, Placement Specialist; Kijon Ellis and his mother, Lukeisha Pitts.

final test was math. Like many people, he struggled. After a focused month studying the subject, Kijon passed the HiSET test, earning his diploma. After accomplishing these goals, his self-confidence increased and he gained a stronger sense of self-worth. With new skills in hand, Kijon enrolled in the Job Point Summer Work Experience program at Shelter Insurance Companies. There, he maintained vehicles and kept the beautiful Shelter Gardens. Not long after, he was placed into a six-week work study program at Hampton Inn & Suites in a maintenance position. After seeing his hard work and talent at the role, Kijon was offered a full-time position and a nice pay raise. He is currently responsible for evening shift maintenance for the entire hotel. His supervisor, Anthony Sims, said, "Kijon is a hard worker. He shows up. He learns and he is dedicated." According to Kijon, one of the most important aspects of his job is communicating with his coworkers and supervisors, so that guests are satisfied and work isn't missed. "I didn't have the motivation before. But now it feels good when you have a reward at the end, when you can take care of yourself and others. That's what it all comes down to," said Mr. Ellis. For his courageous spirit, Kijon was honored at our Awards Banquet with Job Point's 2019 Award of Excellence.

## Annual Awards Banquet

Held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hampton Inn & Suites, Job Point's Annual Awards Banquet honored some of our exceptional clients, partners and staff! Out of the over 400 clients served last year, **Kijon Ellis** and **Debbie Graves** were chosen by staff as the most exceptional candidates of 2019! The **City of Columbia** was acknowledged as our Partner of the Year for promoting the abilities of individuals seeking employment. Job Point's Employer of the Year was **University of Missouri Campus Dining**, honored for their support of Rehabilitation Services clients. For his pro bono legal services, **Tom Harrison** of The Van Matre Law Firm, P.C. was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Finally, **Thom Lutz**, Job Point Education Instructor, was acknowledged for his exceptional achievements, helping more students achieve their HiSET in his first six months than in the last two years. A special thanks to the Job Point Board of Directors for their help with this event!

## Success Story

**Kijon Ellis** came to Job Point as a young man frustrated with his lot in life. At the suggestion of a high school counselor, he enrolled in Job Point's YouthBuild program, hoping to pass the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), learn employment skills and get his driver's license. Kijon quickly stood out for his sense of humor and leadership qualities. At one point, Mr. Ellis started missing classes and almost gave up on his studies. With the support of staff, he pulled it together, changed his thought process and passed most of the HiSET subject tests. The



Debbie Graves and her supervisor, Natasha Scherry



Job Point 2019-2020 Board of Directors

**We welcome** our newest team members: Karen Almond, Placement Specialist; Travis Kroner, Senior Construction Instructor; Tierra Lucas, Driver, and Kenneth Petska, Construction Instructor.

**Postponed** Job Point's Comedy Night has been postponed until further notice.

## 2020 Home Expo

On March 7, Central Missouri Community Action Center hosted their 2020 Home Expo at Callaway Electric Cooperative. Job Point has been invited to this event the last few years. This year, two YouthBuild students attended with Recruiter Felecia Jackson-Qualls. The purpose of the event was to educate renters and landlords about affordable home ownership. There, YouthBuild students demonstrated skills learned in class, such as how to install a window.

## Covid-19 Update

Job Point is currently closed to the public. Staff are working from home, remotely serving clients and students the best they can. Business operations continue as much as possible. New class starts are temporarily on hold.



YouthBuild students posing at the 2020 Home Expo

**Job Point** fulfills its mission through the support of Missouri businesses. We acknowledge new and renewed employer partnerships in the following areas. **CENTRAL:** Atkins, The Bluffs, Bright Star Care Mid-Missouri, Central Missouri Facility Maintenance, City of Columbia, Dog Daze, EPC, Fuzzy's Taco Shop, Helzberg Diamonds, Heroes, Hyvee, Juanita, Kindred at Home, Lenoir Woods, Love Coffee, Marshalls, MBS, Menards, Mod Pizza, Motel 6, Phoenix Home Care, Pro Heal N Cool, Schnucks, United States Postal Service, University of Missouri Campus Dining, University of Missouri, and Walmart. **WEST:** 87 Diner, Katy Manor, Lakeview Health, Unlimited Opportunities, Walmart (Boonville) and Wendys (Boonville).

## We Thank the Following for Giving Generously

Frank and Elizabeth Aten  
Carrie Brown  
C & C Construction, Inc  
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*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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Moberly 573/823-2885

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](http://www.jobpoint.org)

