

# PARKWAY today

News and information for residents of Parkway School District

Fall 2017

## Caring for the Community



**PLUS**

**NATIONAL  
RECOGNITIONS**

**INNOVATION  
IN EDUCATION**

**ENTERPRISING  
STUDENTS**

South High Students Collect Hurricane Harvey Relief Items with Pride



# Caring for the Community



*Craig Elementary Food Pantry*



*Packing food at Operation Food Search*



*Special Olympics*



*Veterans Day*



*Hurricane Harvey Relief*



*Student mentors*

**W**

hen disaster strikes, how you react says a lot about your character. In late August, Hurricane Harvey hit the southeast United States. Thousands were affected and left without their homes and the daily supplies many of us take for granted.

After the storm made landfall, Parkway students quickly started an initiative to raise money for victims of the disaster. Within a few days, they raised nearly \$10,000.

All four high schools hosted a Friday night home football game that week. Donations poured in from across the district. Before the final snap, there were enough donations to fill five trucks and four trailers with disaster relief supplies.

Erin Schulte, coordinator of character education in Parkway, says this response by students has become part of who we are in Parkway. "Our character education culture ensures that acts like these happen all the time."

Last year, Parkway added the word "caring" to its mission statement. "When we added caring as an initiative for what we wanted our students to be, that did not mean we started caring. We were identifying what we were already doing," said Schulte.

Actions speak louder than words when it comes to character. Acts of caring are seen throughout Parkway:

- Central and North High lead student days of service and West High is planning one for later this year. Students use this to lead community service projects that positively impact the community. During a Special Olympics event, Central High senior Sophie Cristiana expressed, "You don't need to be close friends to come together and make the day special for everyone." Fellow senior Alexis Morkisz said, "I like making a difference in somebody's life."
- On Veterans Day each year, students welcome veterans from the community to their student-led assemblies to honor and recognize them. Students often line the hallways with crafted posters in hand to pay respect.
- Craig Elementary hosts a food pantry to serve families in its school. Northeast Middle is initiating a district food pantry this year. Schools across Parkway are contributing hundreds of dollars towards the pantry to assist families in need.

Some may remember being in school where a small number of students were very active in projects and received the benefits of those experiences. Parkway is challenging all schools to inspire each student to impact the school community and the community at large. "We are intentional now as we give all students the tools and opportunities to make a positive impact," said Schulte.

Last year, Parkway was one of four school districts nationwide recognized as a National District of Character. "We are treating this recognition as an audit of our work." Schulte explained, "As we influence how students treat each other inside the academic community, we ultimately influence how they will treat others beyond their time in Parkway, as they pursue careers and live life."



# superintendent's corner

## Proud Leaders in Character Education

Dear Parkway Community:

A good friend of mine, a human resources director for large companies, has said to me often that he has never fired an employee for incompetence or lack of skills. He has fired individuals for attendance problems, ethical issues, poor relationships and generally poor work ethic. He reminds me that schools need to emphasize good character, collaboration and a solid understanding of the importance of interpersonal skills.

I am very proud of our character education work in Parkway. We are blessed in the St. Louis region to have the support of the CharacterPlus organization, championed by business and industry leaders like the late



Superintendent  
Keith Marty

Sanford McDonnell, former CEO of McDonnell Douglas Corporation. We have district leaders and building principals who have embraced the principles and action required to lead and implement values like respect, responsibility, caring and service in schools and classrooms. The results are apparent in the behaviors, attitudes and performance of our students.

Parkway is now a leader in character education with nine of our schools nationally recognized as schools of character. Last year, Parkway Schools was named a National School District of Character.

Recently, as I was speaking at a chamber of commerce event, I mentioned our Parkway mission to ensure all students are **capable, curious, caring** and **confident** learners who are ready for the ever-changing world. A business executive in the audience stopped me. He stood up and said, "Dr. Marty, if you can give me graduates of Parkway that have those four C's, I will hire them without hesitation."

**"Dr. Marty, if you can give me graduates of Parkway that have those four C's, I will hire them without hesitation."**

**-local business leader**

Our communities, our employees, and our nation as a whole need talented young people. But they need young people of character, knowing the vital skills to get along and work ethically, collaboratively and confidently in the workplace.

Parkway will continue to build character and outstanding citizens as part of our daily work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Marty'.

Keith A. Marty, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## 2017 National District of Character



**P**arkway has been named a 2017 National School District of Character by Character.org, a national character education advocate. This year, only four school districts in the United States were honored with this prestigious recognition. Selections are based on how well schools and districts incorporate character education within their culture and how that process positively impacts school climate, academic achievement and student behavior.

Character education focuses on helping students develop a sense of ethical and engaged citizenship that can be carried beyond their academic careers. The rigorous application process is an opportunity for schools and districts to gain feedback in the areas of character development through Character.org's "11 Principles of Effective Character Education."

In addition, Parkway has four new schools that were recognized as 2017 National Schools of Character -- Carman Trails Elementary, Green Trails Elementary, Northeast Middle and Southwest Middle schools. Parkway now has nine National Schools of Character.

## America's Most Challenging High Schools

**P**arkway's four high schools rank among "America's Most Challenging High Schools" by The Washington Post. Central, North, South and West High were among only 23 other Missouri Schools to receive this honor. Rankings were based on the number of Advanced Placement tests taken divided by the number of seniors that graduated for each of the ranked schools that year.

U.S. News & World Report also included Central, South and West High in its "2017 Best High Schools" list. The basis of the ranking process identifies how effective a school is at preparing students for college and careers. These Parkway schools ranked in the top 13 percent of high schools across the country. A school was awarded a gold, silver or bronze medal based on its performance on state assessments and its ability to prepare students for college. Only 24 of the 517 Missouri high schools made the list of gold or silver medal winners. Central, South and West achieved silver medal status and were among the top 20 schools in the state.



## Eleven Promising Practice Awards

**T**he Parkway School District received 11 Promising Practice awards from Character.org. Last year, Character.org awarded 300 Promising Practices awards to schools, districts and youth-serving organizations internationally. The Promising Practices program highlights what's working in classrooms across the world when it comes to character education. The program is simple in scope and recognizes many wonderful ideas from passionate teachers who are making a real difference in the lives of their students.

### Craig Elementary

#### *Moonlight's Meals*

Moonlight's Meals provides families with free food assistance through the Craig Community Food Pantry.

### Highcroft Ridge Elementary

#### *Highcroft Helping the Environment*

Student family groups met on multiple occasions to discuss and research how they wanted to make our world a better place, submitting their ideas for a school vote, which was to help the environment.

### Mason Ridge Elementary

#### *Mason Ridge Ambassadors*

Students visit a neighboring senior living center one time each week to build relationships with the residents.

### Central Middle

#### *I Stand For*

This lesson was part of a year-long theme of what students and staff stand for in today's changing society.

### Early Childhood

#### *Parker's Peaceful Moments*

Parker's Peaceful Moments is a home- and school-based focus on building connections through activities that build awareness to self, others and the environment.

### Northeast Middle

#### *Challenge Science For ALL*

One way in which the school merges academics and character is by offering Challenge Science, where any student who has an interest and the Viking Value of grit can tackle this rigorous academic option.

### Northeast Middle

#### *The Legacy Board*

For three years, teachers have watched students find voice and purpose through the character education embedded curriculum as they discovered what their personal legacies would be in school and the world.

### South High

#### *SouthTalks*

SouthTalks fosters a network of relationships among the student body, staff and community leaders in order to seek a deeper understanding of the views, values and cultures of a diverse world.

### West High

#### *Empowering Young Women through Leadership & Positivity*

This group builds self-esteem of high school women by promoting awareness, resiliency and empowerment through a community of caring, support and encouragement.

### West Middle

#### *African American Scholars' Academy*

The African American Scholars' Academy creates a collaborative community of learners who support and challenge one another to increase academic achievement and principles of character and leadership.

### Wren Hollow Elementary

#### *Counseling Cadets*

The Counseling Cadets is a student leadership role consisting of fourth- and fifth-grade students who administer and lead many leadership and character-building opportunities with the student body.







# PARKWAY CARES

## Parkway Cares Recognition Program

**T**he Parkway Cares recognition program identifies employees who exemplify caring and exemplify the Parkway mission for students. Through this program, employees are empowered to recognize each other in a timely, meaningful way.

It often captures the untold stories of employees who are role models for children and colleagues as caring adults. The following stories are examples of Parkway staff worthy of gratitude and special recognition.



*Ashley Winslow (left), family and consumer sciences teacher at South High, welcomed a student into her home who did not have anywhere to go, providing a safe home, food and support so the student could complete high school and have the full "senior year experience," including graduation.*



*Joe Walker doesn't just fix computers at Barretts. He recently took the time to make a connection with a fourth-grade student, who now helps Joe with technology issues throughout the building.*



*Sanel, Hanna Woods custodian, goes above and beyond to be helpful to all teachers and students. During his break, Sanel will go outside and play soccer with students.*



*Diana Ott, first-grade teacher at Wren Hollow, met with a family in St. Louis to hold their parent-teacher conference at a restaurant on a Sunday.*

# Innovator to Watch

Who is the Parkway leader shaping the national conversation about education technology?

Meet Bill Bass.

**B**ill Bass, innovation coordinator, was recently named a "20 to Watch" educator by the National School Boards Association.

Bass believes that access to equipment and devices is critical for successfully engaging students as they navigate their journey of education in the 21st century.

**"It's not just using technology, but making it invisible and seamless; making it a part of everyday education and not an add on."**

Scholastic, the world's largest international publisher and distributor of children's books and a leading provider of print and digital education programs, states "by the time children enter kindergarten they should be able to navigate computers and iPads, launch applications and use menus." The expectations and needs of students in middle and high school are also considerable due to the expectations of universities and employers who use cutting-edge technology to increase productivity and profitability.

This year, Parkway added a new program that provides Chromebooks to all middle school students to use both at school and home. The ALT project (Access Learning for Today) will allow all students in grades two-12 to have full access to a Chromebook by 2021.

**"It means kids have broader access to more tools and educational digital content. So it's not about the devices, it's about the learning."**



*Students using Chromebooks made possible by the ALT initiative*

In addition to using technology and applications, the ultimate goal goes beyond the practical application and extends into ethics, internet safety and evaluating the quality and accuracy of internet-based information.

**"We want students to be critical consumers of information and embrace it more than just for entertainment. We want them to be educated citizens in a digital world."**

Bass and his innovation team have also been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for their work on mobile makerspaces. The mobile makerspace empowers libraries to better serve students and make librarians technology leaders. This unique learning environment allows students to explore their interests outside the classroom. Activities include, but are not limited to coding, programming and 3D printing.

Makerspaces come in an array of shapes and sizes to best serve each school. Every elementary school has been involved in this movement. The mobile makerspace is a great opportunity for students to find their own path, innovate and collaborate on their academic journey by offering different vehicles for experiential learning.

**"We are helping students find their own way. The mobile makerspace provides more opportunities for kids to set their own learning direction and have hands-on experiences that extend beyond the classroom."**



*Engineering in Makerspace*



*Parkway Innovation Coordinator, Bill Bass*

**"It means kids have broader access to more tools and educational digital content."**

**So it's not about the devices, it's about the learning."**

**-Bill Bass, Innovation Coordinator**



# class acts

## West High Yearbook Royalty



*Haley Tiepelman, Alyssa Fleming and Natalie Rath accepting the Gold Crown Award at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention.*

**W**est High School yearbook staff was presented with the Gold Crown award by Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). West High School was one of four schools honored in the country for its hybrid yearbook. Its hybrid yearbook publication known as the Paweshi, was one of only two hybrid yearbooks in the country to win this award, which is the CSPA's highest honor.

Students received the award in New York City at the CSPA

Convention at Columbia University. Approximately 1,100 newspapers, magazines, yearbooks and digital publications issued during the 2015-2016 academic year were eligible for judging in the 2017 Crown Awards program. Judging was based on content, design or presentation, coverage photography, as well as writing and editing.

West High Yearbook advisor Debra Klevens added that this was a life-long dream she had for her staff to achieve. "This was the first time my staff was even nominated for the CSPA Gold Crown. I didn't know if it would ever happen, but we continued to work to produce the best content for our audience annually. Ultimately, through empowering my students to take risks and tailor their content to a diverse population, we were able to create something special that was recognized nationally as well as respected within our community. I look forward to watching these students continue the legacy of journalism and paying it forward with future students."

## North High's Photo Finish



The North High boys track and field team finished second overall in the Class 4 state track and field championship. Jekeel Suber and Jalani Williams were individual champions at the event in the 300 meter hurdles and 110 meter hurdles.

The head coach is Jeff Kinney, and the assistant coaches are Carter Snow, Jason Crawford, Ali Ghassedi and Rod Reed.

## STARS Award-winning Researchers

Six Parkway high-school students attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis STARS program as aspiring scientists and left as award-winning researchers.

The scientific papers are the product of six weeks of participating in this pre-collegiate program, which pairs high-school students with prominent area scientists to conduct undergraduate-level research projects. Research papers were reviewed by a panel of experts from Monsanto, Confluence Life Science, SIU-Edwardsville and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The reviewers looked for overall quality based on standards the scientific community uses to determine worthiness for formal publications.

The following are Parkway's Excellence in Research winners: Sarah Butterfield, North High; William Chen, South High; Saayli Khambekar, North High; Anusha Manjunath, Central High; Saikushal Marri, South High; and Sudheesha Paladugu, South High.

## Acing the ACT

Four Parkway students achieved a perfect score on the ACT college admission exam. The test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores in English, mathematics, reading and science. Of the millions of students who take the test each year, less than one tenth of one percent earn the top score.

Victor Folk, West High. Victor participates in speech and debate. He plans to study economics and mathematics.



Salomi Inje, West High. Salomi participates in Parkway West's debate team and enjoys playing violin and piano. She plans to study pediatrics.



Kate Luckerman, Central High. Kate is on the dance team and also dances outside of school. She plans to study mathematics and wants to work in a math-related field.



Alec Zhou, West High. He plays cello and participates in swimming and water polo. Alex plans to study computer science or business.





## The Colts are State Champs



*The Central High boys volleyball team the night of its championship win.*

Last Spring, the Parkway Central Colts boys volleyball team defeated St. Mary's 17-25, 25-23, 25-22 to win the Class 3 state championship. The head coach is Tom Schaefer. Schaefer earned the title of 2017 Class 3 Coach of the Year. His assistant coaches include Nathan Wilson, Melissa Hoormann and Jon Hardy. The boys team also earned the following titles:

- 2017 District Champs;
- 2017 Conference Champs (co-champs with Pattonville); and
- 2017 Cape Notre Dame Tournament Champs.

Zach Hresko was named Class 3 MVP. Mark Diekroeger, Daniel Buffum and Jack Meier were placed on the All State 1st Team.

## Missouri High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year



Central High's Terri O'Leary was selected as the Missouri High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Missouri Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (MOAHPERD).

This recognition comes during her 18th year of service to the Parkway School District. O'Leary leads High School Heroes, a program that develops high-school students to become advocates for physical and mental health. Students actively demonstrate their knowledge by educating their younger peers at the middle-school level. She has been actively involved in

developing and implementing effective health education and physical education programs throughout the district.

In previous years, O'Leary was honored with the Ambassador Award from the Special School District of St. Louis County, Missouri Health Teacher of the Year by MOAHPERD and the nine-state Central District Health Teacher of the Year.

## A Powerful Performance



*Emily Bauer performing at Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University. Photo credit: James Kegley*

The Poetry Out Loud program helps students develop public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about literary heritage. At the Missouri state finals held in Jefferson City, Emily Bauer, West High, won the top honor of Missouri State Champion. As state champion, Bauer earned an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete at Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University with the other 52 state and territory champions. More than 300,000 students competed in the annual contest. Bauer became one of nine finalists.

Bauer performed three poems at the state and national level: *It was not Death, for I stood up*, by Emily Dickinson; *Entirely*, by Louis MacNeice; and *Zacuanpapalotis*, by Brenda Cárdenas.



# THIS IS PARKWAY

## AT A GLANCE



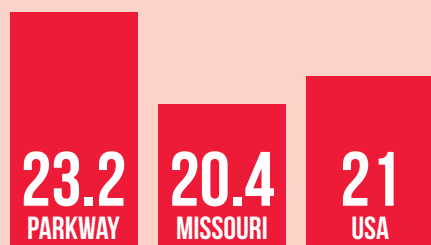
17 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS



NINE NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER  
NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CHARACTER



WASHINGTON POST  
AMERICA'S MOST CHALLENGING  
HIGH SCHOOLS



STUDENT ACT SCORES



PARKWAY STUDENTS' SCORES ARE CONSISTENTLY  
AMONG THE TOP 10 PERCENT IN MISSOURI  
IN ENGLISH, MATH AND SCIENCE



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS



81% OF PARKWAY TEACHERS HAVE A  
MASTER'S DEGREE OR ABOVE  
(59% STATE AVERAGE)

# \$64,812

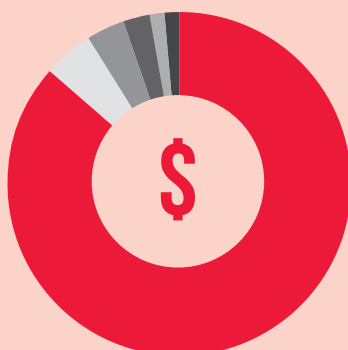
AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY  
(\$47,995 STATE AVERAGE)



AVERAGE CLASS SIZE  
Elementary (19) Middle School (17)  
High School (19)

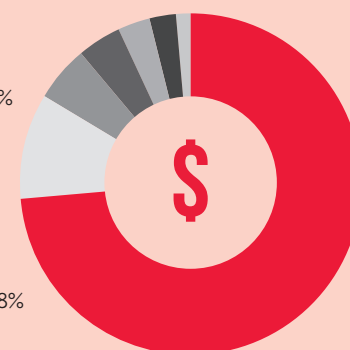
### 2017-18 BUDGETED OPERATING REVENUE \$236.21 MILLION

- Local: \$204.54 • 86.60%
- State: \$11.15 • 4.72%
- Desegregation: \$8.35 • 3.54%
- Federal: \$5.85 • 2.47%
- County: \$3.49 • 1.48%
- Other: \$2.83 • 1.20%



### 2017-18 BUDGETED OPERATING EXPENDITURES \$233.06 MILLION

- Instruction: \$171.72 • 73.69%
- Facilities/ Grounds: \$23.27 • 9.99%
- Business Services: \$12.68 • 5.44%
- Transportation: \$9.71 • 4.16%
- Food Services: \$6.84 • 2.94%
- Community Services and Adult Education: \$6.00 • 2.58%
- Executive Admin: \$2.84 • 1.22%



## Parkway's Experiential Learning Means Business



*Liza Tarakanova (right) as she is awarded \$10,000 for her TredBed innovation in the 2017 VE Venture Challenge.*

*Photo credit: West Newsmagazine*

**L**iza Tarakanova, a West High 2017 graduate, was awarded \$10,000 for her TredBed innovation project at the 2017 Virtual Enterprises International Business Summit in New York City. Her patent pending product TredBed is a mattress overlay for individuals that require assistance being elevated in bed due to health conditions that inhibit them from supporting themselves otherwise.

Tarakanova developed the TredBed during her time in Parkway's Spark! program. Spark! is an off-site experiential learning program that specializes in business and entrepreneurship.

Tarakanova described her experience in Parkway's Spark! program to West Newsmagazine, "While in Spark, I got to participate in leadership workshops where I learned to lead myself and others. I was able to interact with business professionals and access to their insight was extremely beneficial."

Tarakanova was not motivated by the prize money. The TredBed is a tribute to her mentor's son. Due to his muscular dystrophy his parents had to reposition him three to four times a night. Liza Tarakanova, a young woman of strong character, exemplifies every aspect of Parkway's mission: capable, curious, caring and confident.

## Fifty-one Students Named National Merit Scholars

Fifty-one Parkway students have either been named National Merit Semifinalists or Commended in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program.

### National Merit Semifinalists

#### Central High

Daniel Buffum, Justin Fang, Eyal Kattan, John Kim, Anusha Manjunath, Jonathan Yn

#### North High

Sarah Butterfield, Saayli Khambekar

#### South High

Melissa Behnke, Andrew Berndt, William Chen, Natasha Goel, Justin Klopfer, Samuel Modde, Kaitlyn Moran, Athena Shen, Emily Xu

#### West High

Jack Burraston, Victor Folk, Salomi Inje, Haran Kumar, Abdullah Kuziez, Margaret Newberry, Rachel Wang, Alec Zhou

### Commended Students

#### Central High

Vincent Gao, Andrew Hollinrake, Krishny Karunanandaa, Daniel Kattan, Madison LaChance, Jessica Li, Jacob Mack, Michael Tian

#### North High

Benjamin Bradley, Steven Fatzinger

#### South High

Mason Dyess, Avery Gray, Nikita Kohli, Sudheesha Paladugu, Bo Peng, Rakshana W Sundara, Elvis Walters, Emma Wright

#### West High

Emily Dickson, Ronald Fields, Eric Hintz, Adam Johnson, Alexa Ling, Lechuan Ma, Nicole Wang



# 2014 Bond Issue: Projects Nearing Completion

T

he summer of 2017 marked the third year of construction from the 2014 bond issue (Proposition S). More than \$23 million in maintenance, repair and renovation were completed as scheduled at 13 schools and support buildings throughout the district. As approved by voters, the projects were centered on student safety, security, health and major capital replacement and upgrades. All projects from the 2014 bond issue will be completed as planned in the summer of 2018.



*New North High fine arts additions*

## Highlights of last summer's projects:

- Renovations to the nine science classrooms at Central Middle;
- Major renovations to North High, including an addition to the fine-arts wing, installation of a fire sprinkler system, replacement of the main HVAC air handler and boiler, and the addition of HVAC to the secondary gym;
- 130,000 square feet of roofing was replaced at South and Central High;
- HVAC upgrades to Green Trails Elementary;
- Major site work improvements to the driveways and parking lots at Barretts and Ross elementary schools; and
- HVAC and roofing replacements at Henry Elementary.

Approximately \$22.5 million in projects remain for the Summer 2018. Project scopes have been addressed and designs are close to completion. Requests for bids for construction will be published this fall and early winter.

## Project Parkway - Planning for Future Building Needs

Parkway is asking the community for input to determine future school building and facility needs. Become part of the community conversation at the next Project Parkway meeting. We need your help to identify priorities as we continue to improve school buildings and facilities.

Project Parkway dates:

- Monday, Nov. 20, 2017 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
West High School, 14653 Clayton Rd. 63011
- Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Central High School, 369 N. Woods Mill Rd. 63017
- Monday, April 16, 2018 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
South High School, 801 Hanna Rd. 63021

**Please join us as we plan for the future.**





## 2017 Summer Bond Projects



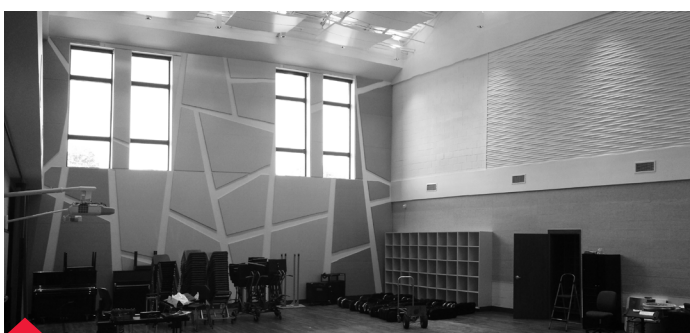
*Central Middle science renovations*



*Central High roof replacement*



*Repavement of parking lot at Barretts Elementary*



*North High fine arts addition*



*Central High HVAC replacement*

## Parkway Earns AAA Bond Rating

Standard and Poor's rating service recently assessed Parkway's finances and reaffirmed its AAA rating. The AAA rating is the highest rating possible for a school district. Parkway is one of four school districts that share this accreditation in the state. The rating is a reflection of the following factors:

- Participation in the broad and diverse St. Louis economy;
- Very strong income and extremely strong market value;
- Strong management, with good financial policies and practices;
- Strong financial position, supported by positive budgetary performance and strong reserve; and
- Low debt levels.

Parkway's Chief Financial Officer, Patty Bedborough, said, "the AAA rating will allow us to maximize taxpayer dollars by paying the lowest interest rate possible."

## Chief Financial Officer of the Year



*Parkway's CFO, Patty Bedborough  
photo credit: St. Louis Business Journal*

Parkway Chief Financial Officer Patty Bedborough, has been recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as Nonprofit CFO of the year. When she assumed her role as CFO in 2014, it was her goal to ensure Parkway was a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

By improving efficiency and sustainability efforts, Bedborough has saved the district nearly \$3 million a year in expenditures.

Some examples of this work include:

- Refinancing old debt;
- LED lights in parking lots that save \$139,000 in electrical costs;
- Compressed natural gas buses that save \$300,000 per year;
- Emphasis on employee wellness; and
- Educating employees on health care spending.

When Bedborough was asked about her recent recognition, she said, "I was extremely honored to know that my worked mattered, but I did not earn this award by myself. I am surrounded by an extremely wonderful team. No one person can make this kind of impact. It's the impact of all of us that makes the difference."

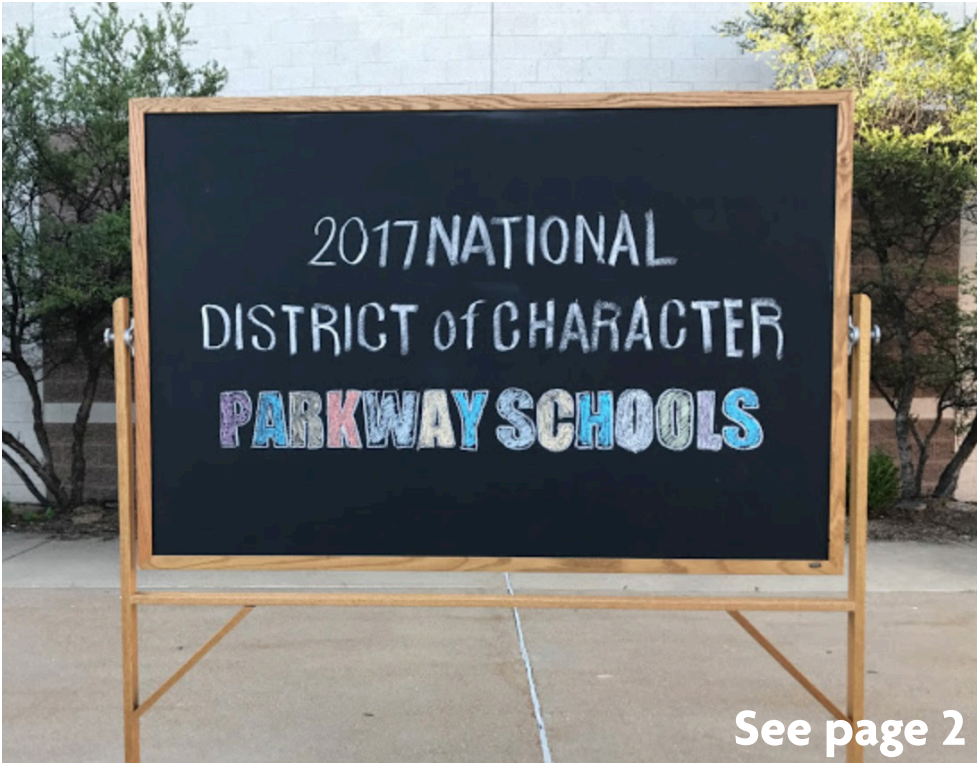




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It is the policy of the Parkway School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law in its programs, activities or employment practices. In addition, the School District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

For inquiries about the nondiscrimination policy, call (314) 415-8100.