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Lee's Summit R-7 School District's Community Newspaper

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Michelle Uptegrove hugs one of her students just after being named Teacher of the Year.

MICHELLE UPTEGROVE NAMED LS R-7 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

*Excellence In Teaching winners
honored at April 6 event*

Michelle Uptegrove, life skills teacher at Cedar Creek Elementary, was named Lee's Summit R-7 2016 Teacher of the Year during a surprise announcement at an April 6 community reception. The reception also recognized 12 R-7 teachers who were named Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce Excellence In Teaching Award winners earlier this spring.

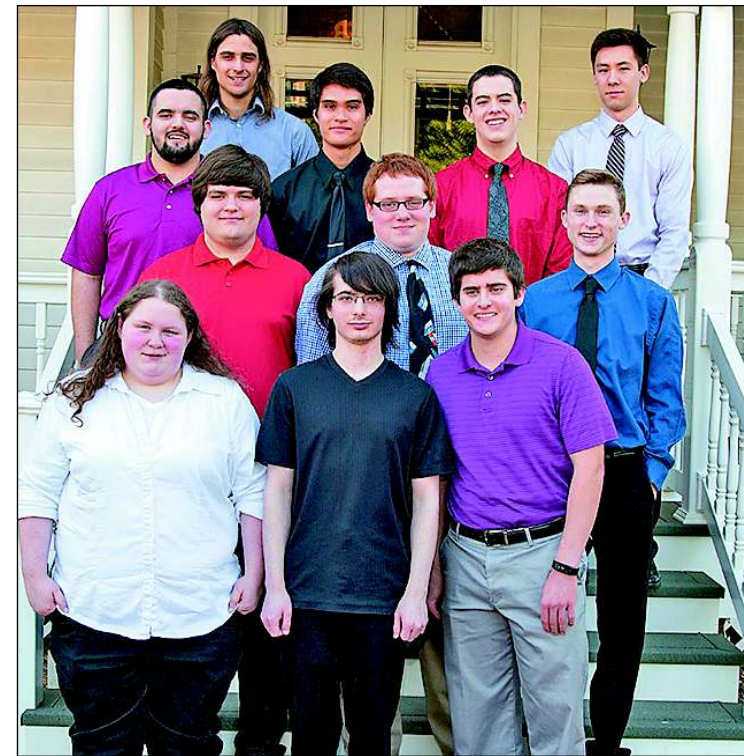
TEACHER OF THE YEAR | page 10

Missouri Innovation Campus first cohort graduates from UCM this May

Trailblazing students are earning four-year degree just two years after high school graduation and with virtually no student debt

During spring 2012, a group of high-school sophomores made a decision that would not only change the course of their lives, it would help launch a nationally recognized program that is reshaping the way students experience education.

The students, who were around 16 years old at the time, entered the Missouri Innovation Campus (MIC) during the summer between their sophomore and junior years, joining the unique program's first cohort. Since then, the MIC has grown dramatically while gaining regional and national attention for providing students with a valuable, affordable education and connecting businesses with a skilled, career-ready workforce. The first cohort of students graduated from high school in 2014, earning their associate degree from Metropolitan Community College immediately after high-school graduation. On May 6, 11 members of the first cohort received four-year degrees from the University of Central Missouri -- just two years after graduating from high



The first cohort of students from the MIC are (first row, left to right) Jamison Guilford, Keaton Thomson, Nate Orson, (second row) Trevor Brixey, Glenn Banhart, Max Ostrander, (third row) Matt Orson, Brian Green, Quinn Cosgrove, (fourth row) Michael Robertson and Joey Nooner.

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