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Hazelwood East High student named 2010 Horatio Alger Missouri Scholar

The Horatio Alger Association named Michelle Penton of Hazelwood East High School as a 2010 Horatio Alger Missouri Scholar. Penton will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. She is one of 50 students in the state selected to receive the award.

The Horatio Alger Missouri Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students “who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education.”

Penton will attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the fall. She was accepted into The Bloch School of Business. She wants to minor in industrial organizational psychology, and after college, she plans to go to law school to study labor law.

In recent days, Penton has received more scholarship offers. In addition to the Alger award, she has two scholarships from UMKC.

“I never thought filling out scholarship applications would lead to all of this. I just knew it would help my life,” said Penton.

Earning the scholarships has been a positive experience for Penton.

“It makes me feel really proud,” she said. “I try really hard. I’m not an excellent test taker, but I try hard.” She realizes her strengths and weaknesses and she tries to use them to her advantage, explaining that she’s good at writing essays and she thinks it makes a difference in her scholarship applications.

Penton is a dual-enrolled student at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley. She will have 18 college credits by August 2010 when she begins her college career.

To be eligible for the Alger scholarship, applicants had to meet the following criteria: be enrolled full time as a high school senior in Missouri, progressing normally toward

graduation and planning to enter college in the fall following graduation; have a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution located in the United States (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution); financial need; involvement in co-curricular and community activities; demonstrate academic achievement (minimum grade point average of 2.0); be a resident of Missouri; and be a citizen of the United States.

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc. bears the name of the renowned author Horatio Alger, Jr., whose tales of overcoming adversity through unyielding perseverance and basic moral principles captivated the public in the late 19th century. The Association, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit educational organization, was established in 1947 to dispel the mounting belief among the nation's youth that the American Dream was no longer attainable. Through its scholarship programs, the Association encourages students to pursue their own version of the American Dream.

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Photo Information

MPenton_HEHS.jpg – Michelle Penton, a senior at Hazelwood East High School, is a 2010 Horatio Alger Missouri Scholar. She is one of 50 students in the state selected to receive the award, a scholarship for \$5,000. Penton will attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the fall.

The Hazelwood School District serves nearly 19,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.