

## 2014-2015 Missouri School Social Worker of the Year

### **Cherise Grandison, LCSW**

Each year, The School Social Workers Association of Missouri honors a social worker who best exemplifies the values and goals of the profession through that school social worker's specific accomplishments and contributions in his or her services to students and families. This year, Cherise Grandison of Special School District of St. Louis County has been named Missouri's 2014-2015 School Social Worker of the Year.

Cherise Grandison is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a highly skilled, compassionate school social worker with a high level of personal commitment of time and energy to help others. She has a unique ability to look beyond the initial snapshot to see the student. Then, through enormous effort and innovation, she is able to establish a level of trust and cooperation. For the past five years, Cherise has been assigned to Normandy School District's high school where she has been a significant team member in addressing the mental health, academic support, and community needs of students and their families. Parents, students, and staff recognize that Cherise genuinely cares, and will go out of her way to ensure that their needs are serviced. Cherise has applied for grants such as those from SDNEA to help students with shoes, clothing, bedding, senior fees, among other needs to assist in diminishing barriers to their success in school. Every year, Cherise takes seniors shopping at the St. Louis Galleria to buy their graduation clothes and shoes. Cherise believes that school social workers are the key stakeholders in connecting, school, home, and community.

"As many families within the Normandy School District are experiencing stress and facing critical challenges in adequately caring for their children, School Social Workers are that critical link in families accessing prevention services to reduce significant education interruption. Drawing from the experience I've had in my previous jobs, I feel well equipped to reach out to students and their families and eventually linking them to resources that would help eliminate barriers to their academic success."

Cherise has already received honors from SSD as a recipient of the Lasting Impression Award for her initiative in making a difference in the lives of Normandy High School students within and outside the classroom. She was recognized for this award at the 47th Annual Midwest School Social Work Conference in Louisville, KY September 24-28, 2014 and also locally at SSWAM's St. Louis Regional Fall Conference on October 17th, 2014.

