

NAACP

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Dr. Martin Luther King jr.

Coxhealth Diversity Day

On May 22nd, Coxhealth devoted the day to promote diversity and inclusion in their facilities. Through a series of activities, panel discussions and presentations, they helped the (mostly white) audience understand some of the challenges of being a minority in Springfield, Mo. Lyle Foster (MSU professor and owner of Big Momma's) presented as well as the upper tier of Cox leadership. Hats off to the Cox team for having the courage to address these issues.

Voter Registration

"The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of a rich man." Denise Lieberman Esq.

You can register to vote at the Greene County courthouse in the office of the county clerk. The office number is (417)868-4060. Remember to bring a photo ID.

Meet Lauren Brown, Phlebotomist

As a phlebotomist I mostly draw blood. Sometimes I work all over the hospital but primarily in the ER where I respond to level 1 and 2 traumas. I sometimes operate the I-stat machine which gives nearly instantaneous results on blood tests necessary to guide treatment. Most of my shifts are at night. *Tell us about your education.* There is no particular type of degree required to be a phlebotomist but it helps to have a certification. I have four year degree in Biology from Baker University in Baldwin City, KS. Many of the people I work with are in or are planning to go to nursing school. At some point I may go to Physician Assistant (PA) school. PAs can make 80-120 K a year. I am interested in blood cord blood banking which involves collecting blood from a newborn baby's umbilical cord for use or study later.





Juneteenth Celebration June 16th Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center

Join us on June 16th at the Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center, 918 E. Calhoun St.

- Good food.
- Music. Indigo Soul will perform at 12:30. The Minnows will play at 2:30.
- The Health Committee will check blood pressure at our booth.
- Community booths.
- Voter registration.

On June 19th, 1865 Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston TX with the news that the pro-slavery forces had been defeated. The abolition of slavery had been proclaimed by President Lincoln in 1863 but that proclamation became law that June day. The formerly enslaved people celebrated June 19th the next year and has been celebrated since then.

Britain had been the first country to outlaw the Atlantic slave trade in 1807.

Tell us about your family. I grew up in Kansas City, Mo. in a warm loving family. I have an older brother that is a manager for Sprint and a younger brother who is studying physics at the university. I have an aunt who is a retired teacher in Kansas City Kansas. My mom is a single mother who has worked in a manufacturing plant for many years. She is currently a production control manager. She went back to school and earned a Masters Degree in business despite her many responsibilities as a mother. My grandmother wanted to be a nurse but the opportunities simply weren't available to her.



What are your accomplishments you are most proud of? I am a two time All-American in the 4 x 100 relay. This ring is from that accomplishment. In high school I played volleyball, basketball and ran track. The track scholarship paid for my degree. *Who are your heroes?* First, I look to the lord for guidance. My mom is a hard working single parent. She has been at her job for 30+ years. Although things were often hard, she always found time to go to my events.

Have you ever had to deal with racism? Certainly, but not too much in middle school (predominantly white) or high school (predominantly black). Most of the racism I have encountered has been at work. If my co-workers suspect someone will behave in a racist way towards me they usually step in and take care of that patient. Some of racism is from not knowing or understanding, most of it comes from hate. When I came to Springfield I had prepared my mind for the possibility I might have to deal with it. Have the conversation about race; prepare your heart. If you go into the conversation angry, you will have cloudy thoughts.

What advice do you have for young people? Stay focused, even when you don't know what you want to do. Do good in school. Network with people, communicate and take advantage of any opportunity. Apply for scholarships, use your talents, find ways to pay for school.