

RESOLUTION NUMBER 361
Annquette Thirdkill
KIOJAE Educational Store

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Annquette Thirdkill will be receiving an award for outstanding entrepreneurship from Grace Hill and her name will be placed on the Hall of Fame of the Grace Hill Women's Business Center; and

WHEREAS, Annquette Thirdkill is a long-time fan and user of Grace Hill's Women's Business Center. During the 11 years that she ran her own in-home daycare, she spent many hours in Lynn Steele's office for advice and encouragement. She began taking training classes in 1997 or 1998 while also attending the community college for early childhood education and business; and

WHEREAS, it was while she ran her home daycare that she saw the real need for a single source of supplies for those caring for and educating children. As she began developing her idea of the Educational Store, she focused her training on establishing the new business. She took classes with the Women Business Center and worked with Curtis Triggs, a Counselor at the Women's Business Center. In addition, she worked with Jerry Donohue from Habitat for Neighborhood Businesses, of which she is a member. Lynette Watson, former director at the Women's Business Center and now with the University of Missouri Small Business Development, also worked one-on-one with her; and

WHEREAS, KIOJAE is really a combination of the names of her two granddaughters, Nykia and Najae, who are currently 9 and 7 years old. However, Ms. Thirdkill created her own meaning for the acronym, Knowledge Is Our Joy and Expertise. Currently, her store is operating on-line, where she offers over 16,000 items ranging from desks, schoolroom equipment, books, teaching resources, bulletin boards and anything else you could need to run a school. Ms. Thirdkill has a building at 512 N. Taylor in the Central West End where she plans to open a storefront soon; and

WHEREAS, Annquette Thirdkill is married and the mother of two sons, Carlo and Cornell, Jr. Cornell helps her as much as he can with marketing and support while also holding down a full-time job and going to school part-time. In addition, to two granddaughters, her son, Carlo, has provided her with a grandson, DeCarlo who is 10.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Annquette Thirdkill for her outstanding achievement and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24th day of March, 2009 by:

Honorable April Ford-Griffin, Alderwoman 5th Ward

Adopted this the 24th day of March, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

