



This News In Education program features inspiring stories of young people aspiring to stay in school, impact their communities and achieve their dreams!

ASPIRE

Be inspired. Achieve your dreams.



MOTIVATE

**Minority Floor Leader
Tupac Hunter**
(Democrat, Detroit)

"Britney and Whitney Williams are going to school to get an education but they wound up teaching us all every bit as important a lesson as they ever learned in class. The Williams prove that no matter the obstacles, when our students put their minds to something, there's nothing they can't accomplish."

USE THE NEWS

Search this newspaper for stories related to technology. How are these technologies advancing the way people live, learn and do business in Michigan?

Look through the classified ads in today's newspaper. Find three jobs that require technological proficiency. What schooling or training is required for each job?

Despite tragedies, Detroit sisters say, 'THE SKY IS THE LIMIT'

By age 8, twins Whitney and Britney Williams had already faced two tragedies. When they were 6, their father was murdered during a robbery attempt. Two years later, their mother was bludgeoned to death by a male friend.

The girls spent time in foster care and then lived with their grandmother. Today, Whitney lives with an older sister, Britney with a mentor from her church.

Despite the tragedies, the twins, who are seniors at Detroit City High School, are both leaders in their school and have been accepted into college to pursue their dreams.

Whitney is senior class president, valedictorian and captain of the basketball team. Britney is senior class treasurer, a cheerleader and editor of the school newspaper.

Whitney wants to get her doctorate in psychology to help others, while Britney plans to be a nurse and then an anesthesiologist.

For Britney, inspiration comes from mentors in her church.

"I see so much greatness that I can do. I can change things. I can set a good example for other young girls who have been through hardships and don't know what to do," Britney said.

Whitney keeps pushing herself forward every day to stay on track.

"That gives me the strength to just give it my all in wanting to accomplish greatness," she said. "I've always wanted to stay on track my whole academic life."

For other young people who have a dream, Whitney advised, "The sky

Britney Williams ▶



◀ Whitney Williams

is the limit. There's nothing else to say. You can achieve whatever you want."

Britney has the same positive attitude.

"Your problems are never going to stop," she said. "I had to realize that myself. You can't let the obstacles bring you down. They might knock you down, but don't stay down forever. Build a bridge and get over it. You just have to go forward."

~ By Phyllis Rose

INNOVATE

"Innovation" is a big word that describes a simple concept—identifying things that can be done to make life simpler for you, your friends, family and neighbors. For the last two years as president of AT&T Michigan, Jim Murray has made innovation his goal – pushing forward new technologies for Michigan, working with elected leaders to modernize public policy and encouraging others to think big and aspire to be their best!



News flash: we live in a rapidly changing world. Just ask your teachers about a typewriter sometime. At AT&T, we're committed to helping students in Michigan prepare for the challenges of that changing world.

For example, we recently joined in an exciting partnership with Henry Ford Community College in Detroit, where an AT&T contribution helped launch the Michigan Alliance for High Tech Skills Training.

We first approached Henry Ford about developing curriculum for a certificate program that would train students in technical communications and properly prepare them for a career in the field. We then worked with a curriculum developer and other industry professionals to discuss and create courses that would teach students essential, high-tech skills

they could use to start a good career.

At the time, Henry Ford Community College President Gail Mee said: "We have a unique opportunity to help lead Michigan and the country in developing the workforce of the future."

Now, with the program up and running we are working toward President Mee's goal. We have valuable resources here in Michigan – none more valuable than our students – and by innovating and engaging them, we'll all benefit for years to come.



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