

MARYVILLE

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Design, both from Fontbonne University.

Normandy's Fashion Design program prepares students for the ever-changing world of work, which means not only college readiness, but also career readiness.

"It has enhanced our curriculum because the content area meets industry standards and prepares students for the required industry-based assessment," Green said.

Normandy students in the Fashion Design track earned recognition for their achievements in the field, earning gold and silver medals in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) STAR Event Competitions. They have earned this recognition for two consecutive years.

As program chair, Trawick ensures that the Fashion Design curriculum provides her students with a well-rounded experience. She has developed a study-abroad program and travelled with students to Paris, France. In May 2018, they visited Château des Milandes, a Renaissance castle in the Périgord region of France where fashion icon and St. Louis native Josephine Baker once called home. She described it as a life-changing experience.

"They had all of her costumes from her performances on display and diploma on the wall from Sumner High School," the 1992 graduate recalled. "It was absolutely breathtaking to see that beautiful woman of color and all this admiration surrounding her."

In the fall of 2017, Trawick was instrumental in expanding the university's Fashion Design program to include a Fashion Business and Entrepreneurship degree. When meeting with



Chajuana Trawick (far right) is chair of Normandy's Fashion Design program. She has developed a study-abroad program and travelled with students to Paris, France.

students, she discovered some were not interested in the creative side of the industry.

"They didn't want to sew and construct," she said. "They wanted to own their own boutiques. They wanted to work as a merchandiser or buyer."

As a business owner, she knows first-hand both sides of the industry. She launched her custom design and clothing company, Designs by CVT, in her parents' basement. She found her niche designing prom dresses. Her latest home business venture, the Fashion

and Beauty Historical Society, provides consulting services for young adults. Trawick says the society's mission is to preserve the past, promote the present, and prepare future African-American entrepreneurs in the fashion and beauty industries. "Whether you're starting

your own business, working in the industry or any industry, navigating college or just needing someone to talk to," Trawick said, "helping students build their future is where I find my joy."

Small businesses can still buy healthcare via Healthcare.gov

By Maximilianah Zales
For The St. Louis American

The Trump administration has created a lot of confusion through recent changes and misinformation about the Affordable Care Act (ACA).



Maximilianah Zales

but it's important for Missouri small businesses to know they can still purchase healthcare through Healthcare.gov.

It's important to know open enrollment is shorter than it once was, beginning November 1 and ending December 15. Cuts to advertising and enrollment assistance may also make it harder to find the information needed to enroll, but local

■ Open enrollment is shorter than it once was, ending December 15 this year.

organizations like Cover Missouri are stepping up to fill this gap. Purchasing insurance through the ACA marketplaces remains a great option for firms that want quality, affordable

insurance. In fact, Missouri's second-cheapest silver plan is estimated to decrease by nine percent next year.

The ACA remains law, and it's important for small business owners and employees to learn about their options now to make sure they are covered for 2019.

Maximilianah Zales is the outreach manager for the Small Business Majority in St. Louis.