15 year old Seryna Martindale attends the JC/LISD TECH Academy - A Regional Middle College and is a 10th grader. Outside of her studies, she cares for two Great Danes, who just happen to have helped her become the number one dog handler in the United Kennel Club (UKC) open senior class. This title is a great accomplishment and Seryna’s story is one that deserves recognition!

Martindale’s path started in 2009, when she was just nine years old in a 4-H club, founded by her mother. Linda Dalton, one of the dog trainers Seryna knew, soon became her mentor. She accompanied Dalton to a dog show which lead to private training classes. Seryna began showing her Pit Bull in the UKC, then moved to her current two dogs, which are Great Danes. She currently is in the 4-H club, Dog Gone Fun Club as well as the American Kennel Club (AKC) Wolverine Great Dane Club. When competing in the UKC Martindale competes individually.

Seryna’s two year old Great Danes are named Lillie and Spike and are female and male, respectively. She shows her dogs in the UKC open senior class against other people her age. Seryna is the number one dog handler in the United States! Since she earned enough points in competition (1,067 to be exact), she has been invited to compete with the other top 24 kids in the country. When asked about her feelings when she first enters the ring, Martindale commented “When I go into the dog show ring I feel very nervous and excited because I don’t know what’s going to happen.” These nerves didn’t get to her when she competed for her current title... she overcame and won!

“My favorite thing about showing is being able to spend time with my dogs and get more experience and learn something new every time I walk into the ring,” Seryna shared. Congratulations to Seryna, Lillie, and Spike on this prestigious title and good luck in future competitions!