



The Teachers College

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY™

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ESU named a best value

Emporia State University is among the best values in the country for a college education, according to the Princeton Review.

The publication listed ESU among 150 colleges on the "best value" list, which also included the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth. No Kansas school made the top 10, although two Missouri schools did: Westminster College in Fulton and Truman State University in Kirksville.

To make the list, schools are rated on academics, student borrowing, financial aid availability and "Tuition GPA" — the average student's tuition after grants and scholarships is taken out.

Kansas Future Teacher Academy Applications Available

Emporia State University is making preparations for the Kansas Future Teacher Academy's 18th year.

Every year, the state's nationally renowned Teachers College at Emporia hosts 25-60 high school students for five days. During the academy, participants learn about opportunities for careers in education, problem-solving and leadership skills, personal goal setting, and the use of technology in education.

This year the KFTA will be held June 24-28, 2007 at Emporia State University and July 7-14, 2007 at Dodge City Community College.

Applications are available from high school counselors or from www.emporia.edu/jones/kfta/application.pdf and will be accepted through March 16.

For more information call 1-877-378-5433.

2007 Kansas Master Teachers Announced

Emporia State University announces seven teachers as the 2007 Kansas Master Teachers. They are Rob Davis, Blue Valley; Robin Dixon, Auburn Washburn; Shelley R. Faerber, Manhattan-Ogden; Diane Ladenburger, Pratt; Marilyn McComber, Emporia; Angela K. Miller, Junction City; and Elouise Miller, Hays.

The Kansas Master Teacher Award celebrated its 54th anniversary this year with the induction of the teachers on March 7.

Emporia State University has honored 384 teachers since the annual award was founded in 1954. According to awards committee chairman Lori Mann, Kansas Master Teachers are educators who have "served the profession long and well, and who also typify the good qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers."

Nominations come from local teacher associations, educational organizations and colleagues. A committee representing educational organizations across Kansas selects the finalists in February. The seven chosen teachers will be honored with a day of tours, seminars and receptions on March 7 at Emporia State University.

Bank of America has underwritten the Kansas Master Teachers program for over 20 years.

2007 KANSAS MASTER TEACHERS



Rob Davis
Liberty View Elementary
School
Blue Valley

When Rob Davis stepped into a Parsons, Kansas second grade classroom over 30 years ago, he knew he had chosen the right profession.

Mr. Davis's education career has been as diverse as his teaching techniques - from teaching in primary classrooms, to coaching high school speech and drama students, and even serving as a tutor for child actors on TV series in the early 1980's. As a student said, "Average teachers may only be with

you for one year, but great teachers, like Mr. Davis will be with you for the rest of your life."

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Davis has "freely given of his talent and creativity for the betterment of our community," including lending his singing abilities from dramatic productions to sports events. He also is actively involved with the National Wildlife Federation and other environmental organizations.

For the last six years Mr. Davis has been a gifted education teacher at Liberty View Elementary in Olathe. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, his master's degree from Webster University (St. Louis, MO), and his gifted education certification from Emporia State University.



Robin Dixon
Jay Shideler Elementary
School

Auburn Washburn - The concept that all children can learn might be cliché, but Mrs. Robin Dixon knows it is true as she witnessed firsthand her twin brother,

born with Down's syndrome, struggling through his education. "My parents modeled for my brother and me that we were both capable of learning. This belief follows me everyday to my classroom and drives me to see that all my students can learn."

Mrs. Dixon has 15 years teaching experience and has received multiple teaching awards. In 2006 she successfully completed the difficult work to become a national board certified teacher. She has a passion for helping others - from mission trips through her church, to mentoring new teachers, to leading and working in committees at school and in her community. A colleague writes, "Her dedication and work ethic, as well as very strong organization skills make her an accomplished teacher and incredibly effective team member."

For the past five years, Mrs. Dixon has been a sixth grade teacher. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Uni- *continued on page 3*

ESU alum named one of four finalists for 2007 National Teacher of the Year

Emporia State University is continuing to produce well-prepared teachers for the state of Kansas and the nation. An ESU graduate and language arts teacher at Olathe Northwest High School was named as one of four finalists for the 2007 National Teacher of the Year.

Joshua Anderson, the 2007 Kansas Teacher of the Year, earned a bachelors of science in speech communications and English from ESU in 1997. The announcement for the national honor was made by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The National Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the ING Foundation, is a project of CCSSO.

Anderson, a speech, debate, and language arts teacher at Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, was named Kansas Teacher of the Year in mid-November. He is the fourth Kansas Teacher of the Year in 6 years to be named a finalist for the program.

Anderson was surprised and appreciative of the recognition. "This honor puts the spotlight on the source of my nomination—the accomplishments of my students which tell a story of dedication and a passion for learning; and the Olathe school district which has provided me with so many opportunities."

He has been a member of the English Department at Olathe Northwest High School since the building opened in 2003. He started the debate and forensics program at Olathe Northwest High School and today that program is one of the most successful in the country. His teams are ranked first in the state and second in the nation.

In a letter of nomination from Anderson's building principal, Dr. Gwen Potts, Anderson is lauded as a teacher leader. "Mr. Anderson's intelligence, willingness to take risks, and global view of the potential that exists within the staff and students at Olathe Northwest High School has enabled him to embrace opportunities that were offered here to nurture the potential that other members of the staff possess. Josh's work ethic and capacity to challenge colleagues to better themselves have been a major factor in the development of the culture of success that exists at Olathe Northwest High School."

Anderson feels that part of his job as a teacher is to introduce the community to his students and his students to the community. He serves on the Executive Committee of East Kansas District of the National Forensics League and is responsible for working with community leaders and citizens to organize a variety of speech and debate tournaments that bring together students and adults. He also works with his students to develop presentations for civic groups. For his students, it is often their first exposure to community organizations dedicated to service and leadership. This is their opportunity to discover the value of lifelong learning and community development.



*Josh Anderson,
2007 Kansas Teacher of the Year*

Education faculty honored

Four education faculty members at Emporia State University were honored for their achievements in instruction, service, and scholarly activity at a special ceremony Jan. 8.

Excellence in Instruction - Monte Selby, associate professor in school leadership, received the award for his ability to engage students, draw on his and his students' knowledge to solve problems, and continually evaluating his instruction methods. His philosophy is focused on using models and content that works, and if a method has not shown to impact student learning, then it has no purpose.



Monte Selby



Marc Childress

Excellence in Scholarly Activity - Marc Childress, associate professor and chair of instructional design and technology, was honored for his level of productivity and progressive nature of his work. A brief overview of his recent accomplishments include: co-authoring three articles for national, refereed journals; one book; and chapters in three books. He encourages the scholarly writing of faculty and colleagues by joining them for co-authorship of journals, articles, books and book chapters and frequently invites others to co-present with him at national, regional and state conferences.

Excellence in Service - Diane Miller, professor in psychology and special education, was recognized for her roles as a committed representative and a consistent advocate for her academic field, her department and her university at the local, state and national levels. Her service includes consulting activities with local schools, and university involvement as a member and officer of numerous committees, including the ESU Foundation Board of Trustees and the University Strategic Planning Committee. At the national level, she has served on numerous boards, committees and review teams, including work as a trained monitor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition to her other responsibilities, she is currently serving as President of the ESU Faculty Senate.



Diane Miller

Darrell E. Wood Service Award - Judy Wild, former education licensing administrator in the Office of Professional Education Services. For 14 years, Wild has served as the "certification officer" in The Teachers College and has defined the responsibilities and scope of this position. As such she has kept pace with the frequent changes of state regulations relating to certification and licensure and explained them to students. She was cited for giving advice and assistance because she wanted to help students – not just because it was a part of her job description. Wild retired on December 15, 2006.

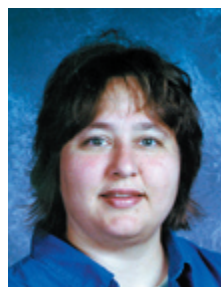
Each year The Teachers College presents the Darrell E. Wood Service Award to an individual who has supported the mission of the college in a unique or outstanding manner.

Recipients were nominated by their respective academic departments and selected by a university-wide committee.

The awards were presented by Dr. Larry Clark, interim executive director of the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, and Karen Tinker, chair of The Teachers College Dean's Advisory Council.

Kansas Master Teachers Announced *continued from page 1*

versity of Kansas, and a second master's degree from Washburn University.



Shelley R. Faerber
Susan B. Anthony
Middle School
Manhattan Ogden

"As a teacher, I function with the flexibility to see my best plans change in the face of unexpected needs and realities. I teach my students that

we control the confidence and creativity we bring to each new mystery and experience," said Ms. Shelley Faerber.

In her 15 years of teaching, Ms. Faerber has used her philosophy and skills to teach middle school students the values of curiosity, decision-making, and enjoying the journey of their lives. In preparing students for the world waiting for them outside of school, Ms. Faerber brings her experiences to the classroom. She has tutored students in China, helped build houses locally, done tsunami relief work in the hardest hit location of Indonesia, and been a foster mother.

As a former student of hers said, "She has not only dedicated her life to teaching, but to the hearts of the kids that are around her."

Ms. Faerber has served as a seventh grade language arts teacher for the past 10 years. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas State University and is certified in cross-cultural studies and ESL. She is currently working on her master's of divinity.



Diane Ladenburger
Mattie O. Haskins
Elementary School
Pratt

Focus, dedication, and commitment - these traits are continually used by students, colleagues, and parents to describe Mrs. Diane Ladenburger.

As the overseer of a "garden of children" - the definition of the German word kindergarten - Mrs. Ladenburger is in charge of caring, nourishing, and guiding each child's growth.

One child in particular remembers Mrs. Ladenburger's effect on her life. "I have been hearing-impaired since I was 18 months old," said the student. "When I started kindergarten, Mrs. Ladenburger made me feel accepted and included me in class. She took a sign language class then taught the whole class sign language...Because of Mrs. Ladenburger, I did not know I was hearing-impaired or felt like I was different from other kids."

As an award winning teacher with 25 years of experience and active member of her community, Mrs. Ladenburger hopes she is a role model for students. "I try to plant the seeds of compassion,...(I hope students) will bloom into adults willing to give their time and talents to philanthropic needs."

Mrs. Ladenburger has taught kindergarten at Haskins Elementary for the last 12 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University and her master's degree from Friends University.



Marilyn McComber
Emporia High School
Emporia

Having the ability to transform "a class of wandering focus and sophomoric behaviors, to a team of young scientists with an impressive level of interest and engagement"

is one of Mrs. Marilyn McComber's skills, according to a colleague. With over 30 years of teaching, Mrs. McComber said that "some 5,268 students later - give or take a few - there is still joy in teaching."

But it is not just her joy and continuation of learning that keeps her going. As one colleague writes, "It's one thing to develop into a teacher of impressive skills, knowledge and abilities. It's quite another to give of oneself and time to assure that others can also have extraordinary opportunities to grow in that direction."

Mrs. McComber was named the 2007 Emporia NEA Master Teacher in December 2006. Along with other teaching awards, in 2005 she successfully completed the difficult work to become a national board certified teacher.

Mrs. McComber has taught science at Emporia High School for the last 14 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Emporia State University and her master's degree from the University of Houston.



Angela K. Miller
Junction City Middle
School
Junction City

"Throughout my career, very few things have been more satisfying than witnessing the moment a student's brain locks around a difficult mathematics concept," said Mrs. Angela "Angie" Miller.

With over 10 years of teaching experience, she has often witnessed these moments

once she gets students over "math phobia."

In 2004 Mrs. Miller received the US Department of Education's American Star of Teaching. This annual award is given to one teacher in each state who successfully uses creative teaching methods and increases student achievement. As one colleague said, "Her value...lies in her naturally helping spirit and her nonjudgmental approach to empowering learners of any age."

"(Superheroes are) always taking time out of their lives to help other people. People don't even know," said a former student. "I see Mrs. Miller as a superhero."

Mrs. Miller has taught math at Junction City Middle School since 2003. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas State University.



Elouise Miller, Lincoln
Elementary School, Hays

- At four years old, a little girl imitated a much older sister who was a teacher. Putting on the sister's high heeled shoes and carrying an old grade book, the little girl conducted her own school. It

wasn't too much longer when, at the age of 17, she actually began her teaching career.

Now, nearly 60 years later, Miss Miller - who dresses in colorful clothing her kindergarten students like - looks every now and then at women in business, wearing fancy clothes in offices and envies them for a minute, before thinking, "But how boring would that job be compared to teaching."

"Miss Miller is a role model for all professionals; one leaves her presence uplifted, inspired, and ready to pursue new avenues of learning in the classroom, and a clear understanding that education is truly the most important profession on the face of the earth," said a colleague.

Miss Miller has been a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Elementary School since 1965. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Fort Hays State University.

New scholarships available

The Gerald Witten Scholarship Fund - The scholarship is designed for students majoring in physical science, math or education from the Kansas counties of Grant, Kearney, Finney, Haskell, Seward, Stevens, Morton or Stanton.

The John R. and Lenore S. Zimmerman Scholarship Fund - The scholarship is available to students majoring in elementary education with an emphasis in mathematics.

Kansas schools gain highly qualified teachers

Nearly 80 percent of educators mentored through a program at Emporia State University in 2005-06 achieved the highest honor of the teaching profession. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released results Tuesday, Jan. 9 for teachers who worked for the national certification during the 2005-06 school year, with 36 Kansas educators achieving the certification.

“Teachers who pursue National Board Certification are committed to daily reflection about their effectiveness as teachers,” said Tes Mehring, Dean of The Teachers College at ESU. “They strive to document student learning that occurs as a result of teaching. They are willing to provide evidence that they meet the highest standards in the profession. Emporia State University and The Teachers College congratulate the teachers who have met this benchmark of excellence!”

The process a teacher goes through to gain the certification is one of the main ways the teaching profession recognizes excellence among its ranks. Roger Caswell, director of Emporia State University’s Great Plains Center for National Teacher Certification in the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence (JIEE), guides teachers through the year-long process.

“Teachers who ultimately receive a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate show they have met high and rigorous professional standards through peer review,” said Caswell. “In an era where so much is documented through test scores, it is refreshing to help teachers provide other measures to document their impact on life-long student learning.”

With the new national board certified teachers, Kansas now has a total of 238 national board certified teachers in the state’s schools. In Kansas, 79% percent of the teachers who received assistance from the ESU program in 2005-06 attained the certification in their first year of attempting it. This 79% initial certification rate is 30-40 points above what is generally the initial certification rate nationally.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes between one and three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do. The program for providing professional support for the certification has been available at ESU since 1993.

Nationwide, nearly 7,800 teachers attained their national board certification in 2006, bringing the total number of national board certified teachers to over 55,000.

Kansas 2006 New National Board Certified Teachers (school district – teacher’s name):

<i>Atchison Public Schools</i> – Margaret Anderson	<i>Easton</i> – Julie Grecian	<i>Olathe</i> – Deborah Jaeger, Karen Rogers, Bruce Wellman
<i>Auburn Washburn</i> – Robin Dixon, Kristine Wanamaker, Jane Waterson	<i>Emporia</i> – Dennis Newell	<i>Shawnee Mission</i> – Juli O’Mealey-Hossain, Robyn Seglem
<i>Blue Valley</i> – Richard Gill, Yvonne James, Ann Nelson, Maria Worthington	<i>Hays</i> – Ronald Leikam	<i>Stafford</i> – Martha Hilley
<i>Buhler</i> – Cynthia Couchman, Gentry Doggendorf, Janel Walker	<i>Manhattan</i> – Susan Carpenter, Christian Goering, Cora Kenyon, Deborah Nauerth	<i>Wamego</i> – Mary Lonker, Kelly Nehring, Lori Stratton
<i>De Soto</i> – Christine Eaton	<i>Newton</i> – Sharon Landrum	<i>Wichita</i> – Robert Compton, Catherine Hoopes, Judy Mareda, Shane Phillips, Lynda Snyder, Stacie Valdez

Three Kansas Mini-Future Teacher Academies Held

Select middle school students from Emporia, Topeka and Wichita are attending one-day conferences this spring in order to consider careers in education.

Eighth graders nominated by educators in the three cities attended or will attend “mini” Kansas Future Teacher Academies at Emporia State University on the following dates: Emporia, February 8; Topeka, March 8; Wichita, April 26. This will be the third year the mini-Kansas Future Teacher Academy is held.

“Research shows students who have an in-depth look at education careers will consider entering that field as they move through high school and college,” said Dr. Scott Waters, director of the academy. “For several years we had dreamed of holding a one-day conference for middle school students – particularly under-represented student populations – with the goal of planting seeds for younger students to consider entering the teaching profession. With funding from the state legislature, we are now in our third year of offering the program to selected eighth graders.”

Activities will include sessions on setting goals, technology, and general information about attending college.

This one-day academy was coordinated by the schools and Future Teacher Academy faculty consisting of ESU and area K-12 instructors.

For more information about the academy, contact Scott Waters at 620-341-5764.

Nationally Known Reading Expert Speaks at ESU

Over 175 educators from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Nebraska gathered to hear a professor speak about his investigations on how children are taught to read at a recent conference at Emporia State University.

Peter Johnston, a professor at the University at Albany-SUNY, was the keynote speaker at the ninth annual Kansas Reading Recovery® and Early Literacy Conference held February 26.

Johnston’s current work investigates literacy assessment, the consequences of teaching practices for the kind of literacy children acquire, how teachers and students build productive learning communities, and the process of building critical inquiry into literacy teacher education. He was recently elected to the International Reading Association’s Reading Hall of Fame.

His speech, titled “Talking Kids into Literacy,” addressed the use of language used in the classroom and its affects on children’s learning.

The Reading Recovery conference was sponsored by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. The conference offered educators the opportunity to network and attend sessions led by reading instruction experts from across the country.

The Kansas Regional Reading Recovery Training Center currently oversees five Teacher Leaders and 138 Reading Recovery Teachers and Teacher Leaders serving 105 schools in 66 state school systems/USDs.

The Jones Institute for Educational Excellence is hosting a number of professional development opportunities for educators this summer. To view the list of workshops and conferences and find out more information, visit www.emporia.edu/jones.

Generous Gift Funds ESU Scholarship for Single Parents

Single parents who decide to pursue a college degree face numerous obstacles, from finances and scheduling to child care concerns and self-doubt. At Emporia State University, a substantial gift has changed the educational dynamic for single parents.

The Single Parents With Children Scholarship, funded by Paula Sauder of Emporia with a gift of nearly half a million dollars, will provide generous scholarships for single-parent students. The scholarship program will award five scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year, increasing to 10 annual scholarships in later years.

"I deeply appreciate Paula's generosity and I am touched by the support she is providing for a group of students with so great a potential for life-changing benefits," said President Michael Lane. "Her vision to assist single parents earn a college degree will ensure a more stable future for them and their children. We thank Paula Sauder for her vision, her insight and her generosity."

Sauder was motivated to support scholarships for single parents for two reasons. The first was an early exposure to higher education. As a grade-schooler, Sauder and her mother, Inez Carmichael Friesen, spent their summers together at Emporia State University, away from their Hutchinson home. Friesen, who in 1925 earned a life certificate for teaching from Kansas State Normal School (now ESU), was renewing her certificate and working toward a bachelor's degree.

Although Sauder's mother was not a single parent — the father remained in Hutchinson during those summers — Sauder gained an appreciation for what it takes when one parent and child seek an education together. The young girl was free to roam, exploring every inch of campus. "There was no doubt about where I wanted to go to college," said Sauder, who now co-chairs ESU's campaign for student scholarships, Building Blocks for Success.

The scholarship campaign is nearing completion in the face of declining state support for higher education. Historical levels of 50 to 60 percent state support have fallen to the 20- to 30-percent range today, said

President Lane. "At a time when access to higher education for lower income students is threatened, it is essential that we increase scholarship funding to fill the gap," he said. "In the absence of federal or state policy to remedy this situation, private scholarship dollars have become the primary stop-gap solution. As we look to the future for tuition increases and changes in state funding, scholarship support will continue to be a high priority for ESU."

Sauder and her mother earned bachelor's degrees in elementary education from ESU in 1968 and 1967, respectively. Beginning her professional life, Sauder encountered a second reason to help single parents. For 20-plus years she managed both federally-subsidized housing and college apartments in Emporia, and saw firsthand the hardships a single parent endures. "The struggles of having to go to school and raise a family were very obvious to me," Paula said.

Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau bear out those hardships. In 1970, nine of 10 American families were headed by two parents. Today, almost one-third are headed by single parents, and 86 percent of all single parents are women. One in four children is born to an unmarried mother.

Divorce is frequently cited as the reason for a single parent to return to school. Although choosing education is a positive decision, it is one fraught with barriers. It is held together by the threads of available child care, functional transportation, minimal health insurance and access to health care. A break in any of those threads might make or break the student's academic success.

"Education is so very important, and I think Emporia State University is an excellent place to get that education," Sauder said. "If a child grows up in a situation where they see education as important, they'll be more likely to take their education seriously."

The gift is a "win-win situation," she added. "The university will benefit, the students will benefit, and the children will benefit, growing up knowing that there are places that nurture and educate."

Help us stay in touch

Do you have information to share with us and/or your classmates? If so, please return the completed form to The Teachers College Newsletter, Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Campus Box 4036, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801-5087 or fax to (620) 341-5785 Attn: JIEE. You may also use the online form at www.emporia.edu/jones/tcnewsletter/alum-choice.htm.

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