Mini-Future Teacher Academy at Emporia State University

Each semester a select group of middle school students attend a one-day conference called the “mini” Kansas Future Teacher Academy to consider careers in education. The mini-academy is hosted by The Teachers College and held in various locations in Visser Hall on the Emporia State University campus.

“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 have been able to offer the academy each semester since 2004.”

The day’s activities included sessions on setting goals, technology, and general information about attending college. Middle school students from Emporia, Topeka, and Wichita attend.

The Kansas Future Teacher Academy began at Emporia State University in 1989. The Academy is sponsored by The Teachers College and directed by the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence. It provides select students with the opportunity to learn more about the challenges and rewards of teaching and has become recognized as an established and highly respected training opportunity for students throughout the state of Kansas. During this intense five-day program, the participants attend seminars on leadership and self-improvement, communicate via interactive video and e-mail with other educational sites in Kansas, and listen to and interact with ESU faculty, Kansas Master Teachers, a Kansas State Teacher of the Year, a National Board Certified Teacher, and a National Teachers Hall of Fame inductee, among other highly accomplished educators.