

# TROOPS TO TEACHERS

October 2011

CENTRAL STATES

Vol. 7-11



## Getting Started with Troops to Teachers

### Researching basic job vacancy potential

- Throughout the process, keep accurate records.
  - Persons you have contacted.
  - Which offices you have contacted.
  - Phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses.
  - Dates on which actions were completed (or promised).
- Examine the job potential to better identify what certification you might pursue. Introduce yourself to the district (1) in person if at all possible, (2) by phone, (3) by letter or (4) by email.
- Introduce the TTT program, emphasizing the maturity, life experience, training, and motivation of participants. If the district is not aware of the program have them contact us at 1-800-231-6242.
- Inquire about current and future positions available.
- If you are interested, ask about substitute teaching positions and pay.
- Follow up contacts with a thank you letter.

### Start gathering basic college/university certification program info

- Ask the institution for the details of their program(s):
  - Are the courses offered at times when you can attend?
  - Cost per credit hour for tuition.
  - Cost and type of fees.
  - Average time needed to complete the program.
  - Transcripts and records needed to apply to the program and application procedures.
  - Is there a POC on the campus familiar with the TTT program?
  - Financial aid available for potential teachers.
- **Note:** Certification program costs and completion times will vary. When possible, compare and contrast all of the institutions available in your area before making a final commitment.

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TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888-442-4551.

# Ameren UE Honors Missouri Guardsman



Ameren UE in Jefferson City, Missouri honored Missouri Army National Guardsman and employee Heath Little at a ceremony on August 23rd, 2011.

Mr. Little was the first person to complete the Gas Journeyman Apprenticeship while using his GI Bill benefits. He began the apprenticeship in 2008, was interrupted for a deployment on active duty in 2009 and returned in 2010, resuming his apprenticeship training.

Congratulations to Heath for his achievements. We thank him for his service and a big shout out to Ameren UE for participating in the GI Bill program and being proactive in the hiring of veterans.

## VA Medical Centers in Missouri

**COLUMBIA**  
800 Hospital Drive  
573-814-6000

**KANSAS CITY**  
4801 Linwood Blvd.  
816-861-4700 or  
800-525-1483

**POPLAR BLUFF**  
1500 N. Westwood Blvd.  
573-686-4151

**ST. LOUIS**  
Jefferson Barracks  
Jefferson Barracks Drive  
314-652-4100 or  
800-228-5459

**ST. LOUIS**  
John Cochran Division  
915 N. Grand Blvd.  
314-652-4100 or  
800-228-5459



Missouri/Kansas/Nebraska/Iowa

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Veterans Education and Training Section  
P.O. Box 480 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480  
Phone: 877-530-2765 • Fax: 573-526-5710  
Email: chad.schatz@dese.mo.gov

The national **Troops to Teachers** website  
is located at [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com).

### Teacher Certification Contact Information

#### Iowa

Geri McMahon • ☎515-281-8323  
E-mail: [geri.mcmahon@iowa.gov](mailto:geri.mcmahon@iowa.gov)

#### Missouri

Debbie Butcher • ☎573-751-7863  
E-mail: [debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov](mailto:debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov)

#### Kansas

Sungti Hsu • ☎785-291-3573  
E-mail: [shsu@ksde.org](mailto:shsu@ksde.org)

#### Nebraska

☎402-471-0739 • E-mail: [nde.tcertweb@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.tcertweb@nebraska.gov)  
Website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert>



In order to qualify for the Troops to Teachers program, a veteran must have at least six years of military service. Most have much more than that. Often, a TTT veteran is a retiree with at least 20 years of service. This gives the school administrator a dependable teacher for today's challenging school environment.

*The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966.*

# VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

October 2011

MISSOURI STATE  
APPROVING AGENCY

Vol. 7-11

## Special Points of Interest

- The Department of Veterans Affairs wants all veterans to know about recent changes made to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- There are various ways to determine eligible benefits.

The **Missouri State Approving Agency Directory** features all schools and colleges approved for the GI Bill. Request a copy by calling **877-530-2765**.

## Guard Members Retain Reemployment Rights While on State Emergency Duty

By Richard Grant, Ombudsman Director for the Missouri Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Recent headlines, such as, "Nixon activates Missouri National Guard for flood assistance"; "National Guard doubles its presence in flood stricken Southeast Missouri"; and, "Missouri Guard Mobilized to Assist in Flood Response Effort" highlight the state mission of the Missouri National Guard. State Emergency Duty, or SED, at the call of the governor results in Missouri Guard members leaving their civilian employment, usually on very short notice. This can result in stresses on employer/employee relationships.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA, Title 38, US Code) offers job protections to National Guard members as they meet their military obligations while serving in a Federal Status. However, it offers no coverage to members serving on SED.

During times of SED, Guard members' job rights are protected by Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 40, Section 40.490 (RSMo 40.490). The statute is brief and states, "Members of the state military forces of this state who are ordered to active state duty by the governor shall, upon being relieved from such duty, be entitled to the same reemployment rights provided by Title 38 of the United States Code, the Revised Statutes of Missouri, and all amendments thereto. The attorney general shall enforce the reemployment rights contained in this section for members of the state military forces who are ordered to active state duty by the governor."

Because of the foresight of the Missouri Legislature, National Guard members may rest assured that their employment is protected as they conduct flood related missions in support of local authorities, which includes sandbagging, levee monitoring, route reconnaissance, door-to-door safety visits, and support of law enforcement and first responders.

Missouri Statutes provide additional benefits to those Guard members who are employed by state agencies, or any political subdivision of the state. Broadly stated, any guard member whose civilian pay check is paid by Missouri tax payers is entitled to compensated military leave for the duration of the SED. This benefit is limited to 120 hours every federal fiscal year for Federal Service, but not so for SED. These benefits are stated in RSMo 105.270

Enlisted soldiers holding a rank of less than E-5, and E-5 with less than 12 years of service will be glad to learn that, RSMo 41.430 states, "members of the organized militia serving on active duty shall receive as a minimum the daily rate equivalent to the grade level of E5 with maximum longevity and with dependents."

Missouri citizens affected by the ravages of Mother Nature are grateful for the courageous and untiring efforts of Missouri National Guard members who perform State

*(Continued on the following page)*

# GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR GI BILL BENEFITS

CLICK HERE TO  
VISIT THE OFFICIAL  
GI BILL SITE AT  
[WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV](http://WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV)



## Guard Members Retain Reemployment Rights While on State Emergency Duty *(Continued)*

Emergency Duty missions. Those Guard members need not worry about their civilian employment as they work to protect Missouri lives and property.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) can assist Guard members who need help to resolve workplace issues that may arise as a result of their military obligations. Visit [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) for more information or call 1-800- 336-4590.

## FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS, DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

The 2011 edition of the VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet is now available. It provides rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by the VA and other federal agencies. The booklet also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country.

Download a PDF version of the booklet by clicking on the link below. Or, view the information online using your Web browser by going to [www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp).



**CLICK [HERE](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp) TO DOWNLOAD THE  
2011 EDITION OF THE BOOKLET.**

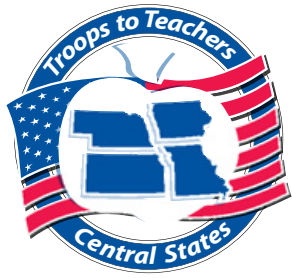


## Missouri Creates Operation Recognition

The Missouri legislature created Operation Recognition in September 2001 to provide honorary high school diplomas for veterans and civilian prisoners of war (POWs) who left high school before graduation to serve in the military.

Here, George Dudley Yeoman receives his honorary diploma presented by John Parker of the Veterans Education and Training Section/Troops to Teachers Supervisor in a surprise ceremony in his daughters home in St Louis, MO. Mr. Yeoman, a US Marine who received a purple heart after being injured in WWII in the Battle Of Peleliu, left high school an 1/8 of a history credit short of graduation to join the war effort and create history.

**TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS,  
OR TO SEE HOW MUCH YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS, CALL 888-442-4551.**



# TROOPS TO TEACHERS

## CENTRAL STATES MONTHLY UPDATE

### Iowa

Iowa is one of 20 states that will lead the development of Next Generation Science Standards, which will clearly define the content and practices students will need to learn from kindergarten through high school graduation. The standards process is being managed by Achieve, a nonprofit education reform organization.

"I'm proud that Iowa is on the front lines of this ground-breaking effort to improve science education with the development of new standards," Iowa Department of Education Director Jason Glass said. "Raising the bar for science education fits with our goal to build a world-class education system in Iowa and to prepare every child to graduate ready for college and careers in a globally competitive context. It's also crucial to Iowa's economy, which depends on STEM-related fields."

The 19 other lead state partners are Arizona, California, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

"The lead state partners will provide important leadership and guidance throughout the development of the Next Generation Science Standards and are to be congratulated for making a strong commitment to improving science education," said Michael Cohen, president of Achieve. "This will be a collaborative process that will lead to a set of standards that provides America's students a strong foundation in science and supports college and career readiness for all."

The development of the Next Generation Science Standards is a two-step process. The first step was to build a framework that identified the core ideas and practices in natural sciences and engineering that all students should be familiar with by the time they graduate. In July, the National Research Council released A Framework for K-12 Science Education, developed by a committee representing expertise in science, teaching and learning, curriculum, assessment and education policy.

The second step is the development of science standards based on the framework. As a lead state partner, Iowa will guide the standard writing

process, gather and deliver feedback from state-level committees and come together to address common issues and challenges. The lead state partners also agree to commit staff time to the initiative and, upon completion, give serious consideration to adopting the Next Generation Science Standards. To be considered, states had to submit a letter signed by the state education director and the chairman of the State Board of Education.

American students continue to lag internationally in science education, making them less competitive for the jobs of the present and the future. A recent U.S. Department of Commerce study shows that over the past 10 years, growth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs was three times greater than that of non-STEM jobs. The report also shows that STEM jobs are expected to continue to grow at a faster rate than other jobs in the upcoming decade.

"There is a clear benefit to providing our students with the strong science education they need to compete in college and the work place," said Stephen Pruitt, an Achieve vice president who is coordinating the science standards effort. "A strong science education provides all students with opportunities to be successful in the 21st century."



### Missouri

G.I. Jobs magazine recently named **Missouri State University** to its list of 2012 Military Friendly Schools®. This list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's service members and veterans as students.

Inclusion on the list is based on a survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide, which focused on the recruitment of students with military experience through scholarships, organizations, staffing considerations and

military credit for those who served. For the first time, a survey of student veterans was also integrated into the evaluation process. A total of 1,518 institutions were included on this year's list, which is posted online and will be highlighted in the annual "Guide to Military Friendly Schools" distributed to active and former military personnel.

# Kansas

## Five Kansas Schools Recognized as 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools

TOPEKA - Five Kansas schools were among the 304 U.S. schools recently named 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award, one of the most prestigious education awards in the nation, distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap.

In announcing the National Blue Ribbon Schools, Secretary Duncan said, "America's long-term economic prosperity and civic engagement depends on our children receiving a world-class education. National Blue Ribbon Schools are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their success is an example for others to follow."

The Kansas schools being recognized include Louisburg High School, USD 416 Louisburg; MacArthur Elementary School, USD 480 Liberal; Oswego High School, USD 504 Oswego; Sunflower Elementary School, USD 231 Gardner/Edgerton; and Union Valley Elementary School, USD 313 Buhler.

"These schools are to be commended for demonstrating the consistent focus, hard work and commitment necessary to achieve Blue Ribbon status," said Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Diane DeBacker. "I'm delighted to offer them my congratulations on a job well done in achieving this distinction."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: High performing schools and Improving schools.

High performing is defined as follows:

- the achievement of the school's students in the most recent year tested places the school among the highest performing schools in the state on state

assessments of reading and mathematics, and

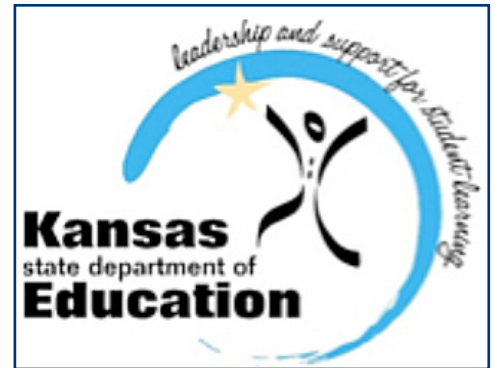
- disaggregated results for student subgroups, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds, is similar to the results for all students tested.

Improving Schools are defined as:

- demonstrating a positive trend in test results from the earliest to the most recent year tested,
- in the most recent year tested, the achievement of the school's students places the school in the top 40 percent of schools in the state on state assessments of reading and mathematics, and
- disaggregated results for student subgroups, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds, shows improvement similar to that of all students.

The schools - 255 public and 49 private - will be honored at an awards ceremony November 14-15, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Three of the Kansas schools being recognized were nominated as representatives of High Performing Schools: Louisburg High School, Sunflower Elementary School and Union Valley Elementary School. Two schools, MacArthur Elementary School and Oswego High School, are being recognized in the Improving Schools category.



# Nebraska

## STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DEVELOPS NEW TOOLS TO HELP PARENTS, SCHOOLS IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

Nebraska Department of Education unveils parent-friendly reading standards, new instructional tool for teachers, parents.

Nebraska parents and teachers now can find grade-by-grade resources for use in the home or classroom to help children in reading and mathematics.

### Student-Friendly Standards

Student-Friendly Standards have been developed to help students better understand what their teachers expect and why they are expected to do certain activities, said Tricia Parker, state language arts consultant. In addition to students, parents also will find the grade-by-grade standards helpful, Parker said. The Student-Friendly Standards will help parents better understand the learning targets set for their children and find it easier to talk to teachers about their child's progress.

Student-Friendly Standards are available in several formats as well as brochures that may be printed from the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage at: [www.education.ne.gov/read/StudentFriendlyStandards/StudentFriendlyStandardsMain.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/read/StudentFriendlyStandards/StudentFriendlyStandardsMain.html).

The standards are based on the work of national and state education

researchers and were developed with the help of Nebraska language arts educators from different grade levels. Parker emphasized that the standards reflect end-of-year learning expectations at appropriate grade levels.

### Standards Instructional Tool

Teachers and parents can search a new web tool by subject and grade to learn what schools expect students to know and be able to do and for activities and resources to help students meet reading and mathematics expectations. The interactive web site, known as the Standards Instructional Tool, is available at: [www.education.ne.gov/AcademicStandards/SIT](http://www.education.ne.gov/AcademicStandards/SIT).

"We designed the Standards Instructional Tool with Nebraska classroom teachers in mind," said Donlynn Rice, Nebraska Department of Education curriculum and instruction administrator. "Nebraska parents also will find the resources, activities and exercises helpful when they work at home with their children."

Reading and mathematics exercises, activities, web links and videos on the site will help teachers and parents understand the state's learning goals, Rice said. Over time, additional resources will be added. Reading activities focus on comprehension and vocabulary. The Standards Instructional Tool was developed by Nebraska Department of Education staff working with Nebraska teachers.