



2021 Missouri State Teacher of the Year Professional Biography and Application Questions

Professional Biography

Complete a professional biography in third person, as this will be used in promotional materials for speaking opportunities and engagements if selected as the Missouri State Teacher of the Year. In your bio, please include the grade and subject you teach; the school, city, and state where you teach; and degree(s), institution name(s) and institution locations. Spell out your degrees (no abbreviations). Use your first and last name in first reference, and your last name only in second and subsequent references. Spell out all acronyms the first time used. (Maximum of 250 words).

Question Criteria

The State Teacher of the Year

1. Is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence;
2. Collaborates with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of respect and success;
3. Deliberately connects the classroom and key stakeholders to foster a strong community at large;
4. Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning; and
5. Expresses themselves in an engaging and articulate way.

Application Questions:

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? How did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit? (maximum 750 words)
2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, how did you involve others, and what is the status of this project today? Please include evidence of student impact. (maximum 500 words)
3. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you deliberately connect your students and the community. Please include evidence of student impact. (maximum 500 words)
4. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, leader, and innovator about this issue, both in and outside the classroom walls. (maximum 500 words)
5. As the 2021 National Teacher of the Year, you serve as a spokesperson and representative for teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the public? (maximum 750 words)