

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**September 2015**

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF A SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE
OF LICENSE TO TEACH TO MICHAEL L. VARNER

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 168.071, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:**

Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.

SUMMARY:

Applicant's Name: Michael L. Varner

On May 14, 2015, Michael Varner applied for a Missouri substitute certificate of license to teach.

Offense: On September 26, 1996, Michael Varner, age 25, was arrested for appropriating a pressure washer of a value of at least \$150, which property was owned by another, without consent of the owner.

Disposition: On November 27, 1996, Michael Varner pled guilty and received a suspended execution of sentence to the Felony, Stealing in the Circuit Court of Miller County, Missouri, case number 696-1631F. He was ordered to serve two (2) years' supervised probation.

Letters of Recommendation: Four (4) – (Director, Educators, Principal)

PRESENTER(S):

Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the State Board of Education approve the application of Michael L. Varner for a Missouri substitute certificate of license to teach.



DESE - Substitute Certification



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
 OFFICE OF EDUCATOR QUALITY
 EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION
 POST OFFICE BOX 480
 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0480
 (573)751-0051

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINE

APPLICATION FOR A SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE OF LICENSE TO TEACH

SECTION I: APPLICANT INFORMATION

PROFILE

Educator ID: Social Security Number:
 Name: MICHAEL LOGAN VARNER [View Application Checklist](#)
 Address: 5 TRAIL ROAD
 City: ELDON State: Zip: 65026-0000
 Personal Phone: (573) 280 - 9828
 Work Phone: (573) 301 - 7374
 Email Address: MLV6W3@YAHOO.COM

EDUCATION

State	Institution	Degree	Major	Major	GPA	Graduation Date	Attended To	Student Teaching Date	Transcript Status	Verified
MO	MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TEC	BACCALAUREATE DEGREE	OTHER		3.608	05/15/2004	05/15/2004		RECEIVED	06/18/2015
MO	MISSOURI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TEC	MASTERS DEGREE	OTHER		3.750	07/29/2005	07/29/2005		RECEIVED	06/18/2015

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED)

Please answer the following questions. If you answer yes to any of the questions, please provide an explanation in the box below.

Have you ever been charged with, convicted or entered a plea, including a plea of nolo contendere, to any felony or misdemeanor whether or not sentence was imposed or suspended, except minor traffic violations? If yes, explain fully.

Yes No

I WAS ARRESTED FOR THEFT OVER 25 YEARS AGO. INSTEAD OF GETTING A LAWYER, I JUST PLED GUILTY AND GOT PROBATION AND SIS.

Have you ever been denied a professional license, certificate, permit, credential, endorsement, or registration? If yes, explain fully.

Yes No

Has your professional license (except for driver's license), certificate, permit, credential, endorsement, or registration ever been disciplined, suspended, revoked, reprimanded, restricted, curtailed or voluntarily surrendered or do you have any pending complaints before any regulatory board or agency or is there any investigation or adverse action now pending against you? If yes, explain fully.

Yes No

Have you ever resigned, been restricted, disciplined, or discharged from any position, including the armed forces, while under suspicion of having engaged in criminal, immoral, unethical behavior or unprofessional conduct, or are you under investigation for any such charge? If yes, explain fully.

Yes No

TYPE OF APPLICATION

CONTENT SUBSTITUTE

Selected Payment Type : Debit, Credit, eCheck payment
 Actual Payment Type : Debit, Credit, eCheck payment
 Application Fee : 50.00
 Amount Paid : 50.00
 Amount Remaining : 0.00
 Payment Status : Paid
 Comments :

I, the above named applicant, hereby affirm under penalties of perjury that I am the applicant referred to in the preceding application for a certificate of license to teach in the state of

Missouri, and that all statements and enclosures are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that any misrepresentation of facts may result in the denial or revocation of the requested certificate(s). I submit for consideration this application as required by the Missouri law governing the practice of teaching. I understand that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may require further information of evidence that it deems reasonable and proper. Furthermore, I voluntarily consent to a thorough investigation of my present and past employment and other activities for the purpose of verifying my qualifications. In addition, I grant permission to access any court, FBI, or police records related to arrests and convictions related to good moral character or personal fitness pertinent to my certification, and to probation or parole records as well.

RELEASE OF EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

I hereby give my recommending certification institution permission to release any and all information needed.

BY SELECTING "I Accept", I AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THE SWORN STATEMENT AND TO THE RELEASE OF MY EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION.

I Accept

It is the policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. 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, Office of the General Counsel, Coordinator-Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number (573) 526-4757 or TTY (800) 735-2966, fax (573) 522-4883, email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.

SECTION II: DESE

1 record(s)

	Subject Area Grade Level	Classification	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Analysis Indicator	Status
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONTENT SUBSTITUTE					

Memo (Public):

Last Team Member to Update Memo: TNEU

Status:

Assign To:

Date Received: 05/14/2015

Email: certification@dese.mo.gov

Current User: ALEE Last Modified User: MTANNER Last Modified Date: 7/1/2015 10:38:17 AM

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**MILLER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
ASSOCIATE & PROBATE DIVISION
MILLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
TUSCUMBIA, MISSOURI 65082
Phone 573-369-1970 CIVIL, CRIMINAL & PROBATE**

State of Missouri)
) ss.
County of Miller)

CERTIFICATE

I, Kelly L. Wallace, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Associate Division of Miller County, Missouri, hereby certify that the attached 4 pages are true and accurate copies of the court file which are relative to **Case No. 696-1631F – State of Missouri vs. MICHAEL L. VARNER.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my said office this 23rd day of July, 2015.



Kelly L. Wallace
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Associate Division
Miller County, Missouri

FILED
MILLER COUNTY

COMPLAINT

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MILLER)

1996 JUL -6 11:29 96

ASSOCIATE JUDGE DIVISION
MILLER COUNTY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MILLER COUNTY, MISSOURI
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE DIVISION

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
) Plaintiff,)
))
) vs.)
))
Michael L. Varner)
d.o.b. [REDACTED])
SSN: [REDACTED])
) Defendant.)

Case No. *CR696-1631F*
RA: mcsd-5303

Robert J. Seek, Prosecuting Attorney, being duly sworn, deposes and states that the defendant, in violation of Section 570.030, RSMo, committed the class C felony of stealing, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011.1(3) and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about Septmeber 26, 1996, in the County of Miller, State of Missouri, the defendant appropriated a Super Blaster pressure washer of a value of at least one hundred fifty dollars, which said property was owned by Bill Sexton, doing business as Mike Fink's Marina, and defendant appropriated such property without the consent of Bill Sexton and with the purpose to deprive him thereof.

And the said Robert J. Seek, Prosecuting Attorney, further states that he is signing this complaint on information and belief in his official capacity as Prosecuting Attorney.

Robert J. Seek

Robert J. Seek
Prosecuting Attorney

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8 day of July, 1996.

Marilyn Whitaker

Clerk

CRIMINAL DOCKET SHEET (Associate Division)	MILLER COUNTY COUNTY AND DIVISION NUMBER	26TH CIRCUIT NO.	CR-06-96-01631 F CASE NUMBER
	7/08/96 DATE FILED		

STATE OF MISSOURI vs. MICHAEL L VARNER	Robert J. Seek PROSECUTOR (Optional)	James A. Grantham JUDGE NAME AND NUMBER AT FILING	20914
DEFENSE ATTORNEY (Optional)			

(Assign a number if more than one defendant) # _____

TYPE: 1. Private 2. Public Defense 3. ProSe/Waived 9. Other

CHARGES (Description Optional)	CHARGES CODES	OFFENSE CYCLE NUMBERS (OCN)	BOND INFORMATION:
1. Stealing	150.10		Date Posted: _____ Amount: \$ _____ 1. ___ Cash/Property 2. ___ % Bond 3. ___ Personal Recog. 4. ___ Prof. Surety 9. ___ Other

ORIGIN OF CASE	WARRANT ISSUED AT FILING
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/Complaint <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Venue <input type="checkbox"/> Transferred In (New Location # _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Remanded for Resentencing <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

DATE	DOCUMENTS FILED/ACTION TAKEN IN CASE
	COMPLAINT FILED, WARRANT ISSUED. BOND SET AT \$ 10,000.00
9.18.96	Warrant returned served.
	Bond filed in amt. of \$10,000.00
	Surety. Arr. dt. 10-9-96 @ 9:00.
10-9-96	Defendant appears without attorney is read the complaint and pleads not guilty. Defendant to return 11-4-96, 9AM w/attorney.
11-4-96	Prelim set Nov 27 1996, 9AM D w/atty notified open court. &
11-27-96	Information filed D w/atty waives arr pleads guilty. Ct accepts D plea Ct sentences D to 6 mos in jail. Ct SES places D on 2 yr. prob. supervised by Mo. Dept Prob & Parole on condition
JAN - 7 1997	
EXECUTION RETURN SATISFIED	
	D do 50 hrs comm serv.

To Whom it May Concern:

Why I want to be a teacher

I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in high school. I had a teacher that got his PhD from Stanford University. He decided to teach high school even though he was over educated for that position and could do so many other important things in his career. He was very instrumental in my education so it was something I thought I would also like to do. I also feel I can help children like myself growing up in a small community. I did not go to college right away because my family could not afford it. Also my high school counselor did not think it was a good career for me because I was an introvert by her tests. I went into engineering instead and worked for several years. My mother had developed dementia and I moved back to my home town to take care of her. I did not have any nuclear engineering jobs available in that area so I decided to volunteer at a local high school to get my feet wet in the education area. I feel I have done a good job with the students and think I can make a great career in teaching the rest of my time.

Criminal Record

The situation occurred when I was asked by two friends to give them a ride to their house on 42 highway in Lake Ozark Missouri. They asked if I could put their power washer in the back to take home with them. I didn't think anything of it because they both are boat detailers and they detailed boats in their driveway at home all the time. I took them home and they unloaded the power washer. I went on with life but later on I was arrested for stealing. In the time between me dropping them off and the date I was arrested the two friends of mine had pawned the power washer. I was included as an accomplice in the theft even though I had no idea it was stolen in the first place. I knew the prosecuting attorney and

my lawyer and he planned out getting probation and the charge coming off my record after that. I said ok and pleaded guilty because I had thought it would be off my record so it wouldn't be a big deal. I guess in court after I pleaded guilty the judge changed sentencing. I still only had probation but it was not taken off my record and was called SES. I wish I would have just fought the charge now because I still feel I did nothing wrong. I didn't steal the power washer or pawn it. I didn't even know it was stolen and thought I was just helping some friends.

Time after conviction

I was convicted in 1996. The initial time after that I worked at Lil Rizzo's restaurant as a day manager in the kitchen. After that I started college. I enrolled at University of Missouri St. Louis and began my college career. I started as an accounting major. I went there for two years and started to think about other careers than accounting. I made up my mind to transfer to University of Missouri Rolla. I went into nuclear engineering. I finished my BS in Nuclear Engineering and decided to stay in school for my master's degree. I received a research assistantship and finished my master's degree in one year. I then got a GAAAN Fellowship which is very prestigious. I then was accepted into the PhD program in materials science. I did not finish my PhD but was very proud to have worked on it for some time. I moved to St. Louis again. I began working as a computer programmer at integration controls. It was a small company but a few engineers from UMR worked there. I also enrolled in the Masters of Business Administration program at UMSL. I worked at Integration Controls for several years. I finished my MBA in that time period as well. I found out that my mom had dementia. I discussed moving back to my hometown with my girlfriend. She agreed we needed to go back to help her even though I would be essentially giving up my career as a nuclear engineer. We moved back and I found out about Americorps. I decided to volunteer in the PAVE Americorps program. It focused on at risk children in need of tutoring at the high school level. I have been doing the Americorps program going on my third

year of service. In that time I have helped many kids and touched their lives. I hope I have made their future brighter by giving my time to help them. I am now taking classes in special education to be a teacher. I was denied certification to be a substitute teacher because of this conviction. I was going to substitute until I was finished with my teaching certification. It happened a lifetime ago and I feel I have dedicated my life to making up for it. I really hope this appeal is approved so I can do what I feel I was put here to do help others learn.

Michael Varner

July 30, 2015

Paul M. Blanchard
200 Keigan Drive
Eldon, MO 65026
573-301-0349

July 24, 2015

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to be writing this letter of recommendation for Michael Varner. I have had the pleasure to work with Michael for the last two years in the in the Eldon School District. I worked directly with Michael in his position as an AmeriCorps tutor, as I direct academic interventions at Eldon High School where Michael single handedly tutored most of our students who were failing core subject areas into passing .

Michael is a diligent worker that cares for the students he is overseeing. He pushes them to work hard and gives them expectations that far exceed their personal beliefs. He is an excellent disciplinarian and has great people skills. His dedication is without question. Michael's ability to assess situations and make decisions is noticeable when you work with him.

After watching Michael work with his students, you notice the respect they have for him as a teacher.

I can without hesitation recommend that Michael obtain his substitute teaching credentials. He would be a great asset to the program. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at the number provided.

Thank you,

Paul M. Blanchard
Director of Alternative Education
Eldon High School

REC'D AUG 04 2015

ELDON HIGH SCHOOL

Eldon R-I School District

101 S. Pine Street

Eldon, MO 65026

Phone: (573) 392-8010 Fax: (573) 392-5057

Kristina Harwood, Principal
Steve Henderson, Assistant Principal

Tanya Rhine, Counselor
Colleen Abbott, Transition Coordinator/Athletic Director

April 7, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Mr. Michael Varner for a position as teacher. Mr. Varner has been working this past school year with the PAVE Americorps program, tutoring and assisting mathematics students at Eldon High School, and I have been supervising him through this program. During this time, I have found him to be one of the very best Americorps tutors we have had in this building over the last several years.

Mr. Varner is very knowledgeable about the mathematics used in the classroom. He has an engineering background, so he understands the advanced math as well as the fundamentals. His familiarity with computers and technology has also been an advantage to the teachers in the classroom.

I have been very impressed by Mr. Varner's compassion and helpfulness to the students this year. He takes charge of tutoring sessions and leads the students in a gentle manner without demeaning them. His content help is consistently on target, assisting students when needed without giving too much information. He also seems to enjoy working with the at-risk and special needs students, which speaks well of him as a tutor.

I wholeheartedly recommend Michael Varner to move into a teaching position. He has demonstrated his knowledge of content, an excellent manner with the students, and the drive to take his work to the next level. I believe he is ready to take on the role of teacher in our school district.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wyatt
Mathematics Teacher

REC'D AUG 04 2015

Accredited with Distinction



PAVE AmeriCorps

Tutoring and Volunteer Programs

July 22, 2015

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Michael Varner. Michael is currently serving as a Mathematics Tutor at Eldon High School for PAVE AmeriCorps. Michael will complete this second term of service July 31, 2015. He also served in our program as a PAVE AmeriCorps math tutor from August 2013-July 2014, and a VISTA Summer Associate from May-July, 2013.

Michael has a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience in all levels of mathematics. Frankly, this did not initially make him a desirable candidate for an AmeriCorps tutoring position. We have found that some people with high levels of academic expertise have a difficult time translating their learning to the functional level of a struggling student. They may even have a hard time understanding that students struggle with the most fundamental skills or concepts in a subject.

Michael is a great asset to our program because he understands that students do struggle and that math is a subject that some kids simply hate. Michael has an innate ability to break math concepts down into easily understandable components. He also uses his understanding of mathematics to provide alternative methodologies of learning based on individual student strengths. Michael functions as one of our most effective tutors based on these demonstrated skills.

Michael has a patient demeanor and a willingness to invest time in students. Students are receptive and responsive to his support. Michael reaches even the most distant at-risk students and applies his knowledge to support the academic achievement of these students. Not only does Michael excel at working with at-risk students, he is willing to invest his personal time – both before and after school, and at Saturday School – to reach students when they are available and willing to work.

Michael would be an asset to any educational organization that values relationships and achievement. Feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information about Michael's performance.

Sincerely,

Daphney Partridge

Community Resource Director
PAVE AmeriCorps

REC'D AUG 04 2015

KRIS HARWOOD, PRINCIPAL
 STEVE HENDERSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIR.
 TANYA RHINE, COUNSELOR
 TOBBY ELDRIDGE, TRANSITION COORDINATOR



ELDON HIGH SCHOOL

101 SOUTH PINE, ELDON, MO 65026

July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my privilege to serve as principal for the two years of Michael Varner's AmeriCorps service. The Eldon High School mission is to graduate every Mustang in four years prepared for a post-secondary education or a career. Michael has taken this mission to heart and lives it out in the classroom every day.

Tutoring for all levels of mathematics and science started at 6:50 every morning when students would come to the media center for help. This continued until 4:00 pm or sometimes even 5:00 pm four days of the week. Michael did not stop there but could also be found tutoring students at Saturday School from 7:30 am until 3:00 pm.

Finding that at risk student to connect with is what he strives for. With poverty around the 60% mark, relationships are what will make the difference in the education of these students. Michael was able to work with individual students or small groups in the Individual Intervention Lab in order to help them pass Essential Skills tests for mathematics and science. Without this intervention, many students would have had to repeat the course.

Michael Varner is growing personally and professionally every day. Eldon High School has been blessed by his contributions for the past two years. It is my privilege to recommend Michael Varner for any of his endeavors in the future. He will be missed.

Sincerely,

Kristina Harwood
 Eldon High School Principal
 (573)392-8010

REC'D AUG 04 2015