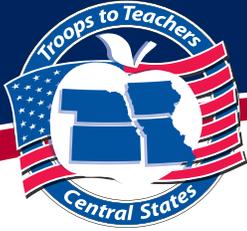


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROFILE: ANTHONY GALDAMEZ

Fontenelle Elementary School, Omaha Public Schools

G. Anthony Galdamez is a Paraprofessional at Fontenelle Elementary School in the Omaha Public School (OPS) system. He will graduate in December 2014 with a Master's in Education. He began at Fontenelle Elementary as the security officer after separating from the Air Force. Understanding the importance of helping others has set him on a path to become a teacher. The Troops to Teachers program was able to offer him referral services along with teacher counseling service which allow him to be informed of the latest teacher development for troops.

Anthony tells us:

I have used my Air Force training for everything I have done at this school and taken my developing education and put it to work even before I have graduated. I began the Robotics program 2 years ago and created a new school club/program which is the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) club this club focuses on all these aspects. The S.T.E.M. club spent about the last 7 months working on a science week we just had in May of 2014. The Science week was packed with very educational events and then we had all of our 4th grades compete against each other in "The S.T.E.M games."

I included a station with an Air Force recruiter that donated his time to setup a booth and demonstration. The Air Force recruiter did it out of pure support for our school. I reached out to him stressing the fact that I had developed these programs and being an Air Force vet myself I would deeply appreciate his presentation. During the S.T.E.M. games the children participated in certain activities such as:

- Where does that belong? (Classification)
- Root Beer Matters (States of matter: solids, liquids and gases)
- M&M Math (Percentages)
- Water Math (Volume)
- Worms in Dirt (Garden Club/Green Initiative)
- Slime Time (Chemical Reactions)
- Oreo Canyon (Erosion and Weathering)

The 4th grade competition included the following events:

- Station # 1 Balloon Rocket (Action/Reaction)
- Station # 2 Do elephants brush their teeth? (Chemical Reactions)
- Station # 3 Do opposites attract? (Magnetic Fields)

Station # 4 Which spider will go further? (Metric and Standard Units)

Station # 5 Can you hear me now? (Signal waves)

Station # 6 Bucket to Bucket (Engineering)

Station # 7 Will you float? (Mass and Density)

"We had an over whelming response to our S.T.E.M. games from the students, the teachers and the local community. I was even interviewed by the local news station because word is out on the great progress we have done for students and the community", said Galdamez. (See the interview here: <http://www.wowt.com/home/headlines/Kids-Get-a-Dose-of-Hands-On-Learning-258537631.html>).

Fontenelle Elementary School is a low-income school and Anthony had a very low budget which some local organization had donated to the school. Said Galdamez, "I stretched the money as much as I can but in the end I followed my military training and did the most I could with the little I had.

Galdamez and other staff members have introduced a Lego club that will focus on engineering and architecture new club for next year. He is busily sending out grants applications. If you know of a potential donor or would like to donate yourself, contact him at: galdamez62@gmail.com.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



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NEW WEBSITE

STATE TEACHER JOB VACANCY SITES

Looking for a new job? These are some links that may prove useful for finding certified and substitute teaching jobs. For a more complete listing go to our website:

[TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV](http://www.troopstoteachers.mo.gov)

IA: <http://www.iowaeducationjobs.com/>

KS: <http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/>

MO: <http://www.moteachingjobs.com/>

NE: <http://www.nebraskaeducationjobs.com/>

MISSOURI/KANSAS/NEBRASKA/IOWA

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website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/tcrt>



OLD WEBSITE

CHECK OUT THE NEW SITE AT: WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

THE NATIONAL TROOPS TO TEACHERS WEBSITE IS LOCATED AT WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

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VETERAN BOB LOYD RECEIVES LONG-AWAITED DIPLOMA

87-year-old Bob Loyd finally receives high school diploma

by David Baugher 4/14

Initially, Bob Loyd didn't give a lot of thought to the fact that he'd never graduated from high school. "At first, it didn't mean much, but then I got to thinking ... I'm like any other guy," recalled the 87-year-old Kirkwood resident. "But the school of hard knocks I went through didn't have any diplomas."

Loyd never got his graduating documents because he left school at age 16 to join America's fight in World War II, seeing action in the Navy at some of the Pacific's most storied battles. Just this month, however, Loyd, who lives at St. Agnes Home, finally got that piece of paper - an honorary degree from the board of education because of his service.

The native of tiny Annapolis, Mo., put his name on the dotted line when he was just 16 - too young to be legally eligible. Loyd was on his way to check out a new high school in St. Louis when the urge overtook him. "I doubled back and went to the draft board," he recalled. "I walked in and said, 'Hey, I'm 18 years old and ready to fight. What do you say about that?'" What they had to say was more positive than his mother's sentiments when she received an unexpected letter from the government. "She said, 'If you are so determined to go, God be with you,'" he recalled. "And He was." Loyd would need the Almighty's protection on more than one occasion.

After joining the Navy, he was assigned to the USS Dewey, a Farragut-class destroyer that had already seen plenty of action from Pearl Harbor to Midway to Guadalcanal. After Loyd's arrival, things were no less eventful. He participated in the battle of the Philippines, escorting carriers and tankers. "The pilots had instructions to make a full circle around all the ships because if they didn't we would think they were kamikazes and shoot them down if we could," he recalled. "We had a lot of planes out there that tried to hit our ships."

Later, he'd be a part of the bombardment operations at Iwo Jima. "At night, we would shoot star shells," Loyd remembered. "They go up, explode and when they come down the island looks like noon."

Continued next page

Ultimately, however, the enemy that did in the USS Dewey wasn't Japanese. It was the weather. A devastating December 1944 typhoon hammered the U.S. Pacific fleet. Loyd remembers having to latch himself to the bunk as the ship tossed and turned on the raging sea. The only way to keep out the water was by sealing the airtight compartments, which presented an obvious problem.

"After a length of time, it would get hard to breathe," he recalled. "One of the men would have to climb up the ladder and wait until the ship was in what he felt was an upright position. Then, he'd open the door, your ears would pop and you'd get oxygen again."

The Dewey was badly damaged and eventually had to be decommissioned, yet it was among the lucky ones. Loyd said three ships were lost along with dozens of aircraft and 788 men.

He recalled the onboard preacher talking to the commanding officer afterward. "He said, 'Captain, look at that yardarm up there - it is bent up about 35 degrees,'" Loyd said. "I think an angel came down, took hold of that yardarm and lifted us out of the water."

After the war, Loyd wedded his sweetheart Dolores and the pair had three children. After 66 years of marriage, she passed away in December 2012, not long after the couple moved to St. Agnes.

That's how Loyd met Sarah Layton, bereavement coordinator for Gentiva Hospice. She said she thought what Loyd was doing when others his age were finishing high school certainly deserved recognition. She said, "I got the ball rolling and we were able to invite his family, his friends and the community. His son from Savannah, Ga., drove up over the weekend to be there. It was just an awesome day, and he was surrounded by a lot of people who cared about him."

The March 15 event saw Loyd being honored. Loyd is humble about the moment and gave Layton the credit for making it happen. "She's the one who should get the credit for all of this because she worked hard and they put on the program," he said.



U.S. Navy veteran and Wheeland resident Bob Loyd is presented with his diploma by Julia Hoss, photo by David Lanning.

The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

We do 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:

**Jefferson State Office Building,
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(Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act)
205 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480
p: 573.526.4757
or Relay Missouri p: 800.735.2966.**

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Toll-free hotline number 1 (855) 225.1159
The hotline is available from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, Central Time. SCOs must provide the school's facility code and be listed as a designated VA school certifying official to receive assistance through the dedicated hotline.

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 **Missouri**
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION™

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER This newsletter is being e-mailed to one Certifying Official at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, Financial Aid Office and other interested individuals at your school/business. It is extremely important that the information in this newsletter receives the widest dissemination in order that veterans receive the GI Bill and other educational benefits to which they are entitled.

KANSAS

JANA SHAVER-KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION INVITES PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN FOCUS GROUPS AS SEARCH FOR NEW EDUCATION COMMISSIONER BEGINS

Denise Kahler, Director of Communications (785) 296-4876
May 20, 2014

Kansas State Board of Education Invites Public to Participate in Focus Groups as Search for New Education Commissioner Begins

The Kansas State Board of Education will host focus groups across the state to gather constituent input as the search for Kansas' new Commissioner of Education gets underway. Former Education Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker submitted her resignation in April to accept a position as the Advisor to the Director General of the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

In the preliminary phase of the search process, a series of focus groups will be conducted in several State Board Districts to gather constituent feedback as to what they believe to be the most critical educational issues in Kansas, and the experiences and skills they feel are essential for this leadership position.

Board Chair Jana Shaver, representing District 9, will conduct a focus group:

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
6:30 pm
Memorial Auditorium, Alliance Room
101 S. Lincoln
Chanute, Kansas

The session is free and open to the public.



More information about educator preparation in Kansas can found at www.ksde.org

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA BUSINESS TEACHERS RECOGNIZED WITH BEST AWARD - May 5, 2014



Forty-five Nebraska business teachers will be recognized by the Nebraska Department of Education at the Nebraska Career Education Conference on June 4 in Kearney. Teachers whose professional activities influenced business and marketing education in Nebraska during the past year will receive BEST - Belong, Excel, Study and Travel — Awards for their involvement in professional associations, community and school activities, professional leadership development and service to the business education profession.

BEST awards exemplify superior qualities, including dedication to students, community outreach and continual classroom improvement efforts. The following individuals contributed significantly to the quality of education in their community and the state:

20-year award winners: Jean Condon, Mid-Plains Community College and Deb Wolken, Lincoln Northeast High School

10-year award winner: Janice Arent, Maywood High School

1st-year award winners: Kate Carlson, Douglas Co. West High School; Jocelyn Crabtree, Lincoln Mickle Middle School; and Sydney Kobza, Westside High School. Additional award recipients:

Lori Anderson of Lincoln East High School
Carol Andringa of Lincoln Public Schools
Patricia Arneson, Wayne State College
Crystal Bolamperti of Westside Middle School
Brenda Budler of Chadron High School
Angie Chittick of North Platte Community College
Kathy Dobesh of Litchfield High School
Teresa Feick of Arlington High School
Lisa Fox of Dundy County Stratton High School
Dawn Friedrich of Wausa High School
Kris Gaebel of Gretna High School
Tennille Gifford of Kearney High School
DeLayne Havlovic of Omaha Public Schools

Julie Jensen, Aurora High School
Shawna Koger of Arlington High School
Dennis Krejci of Tri County High School
Janet Lear of University of Nebraska at Kearney
Colleen Lenners of Omaha Central High School
Kathleen McCune of Mid-Plains Community College
Matt Maw of Lincoln Southeast High School
Kelly Means of Omaha Central High School
Shelly Mowinkel of Milford High School
Lorrie Mowry of McCook Community College
Mickie Mueller of Norfolk High School
Laura Newton of Elkhorn Valley High School
Lisa Newton-Hanson of Neligh-Oakdale High School

Cathy Nutt of Mid-Plains Community College
Pat Olson of Blair High School
Jan Osborn of Sargent Public Schools
Sheryl Piening Keller, Southeast Community College-Milford
Celeste Rogers of Sandhills High School
Wanda Samson of Metropolitan Community College
Kurk Shrader of Elmwood-Murdock High School
Janet Stalder of McCook Community College
Janelle Stansberry of Cedar Bluffs High School
Debra Stroh of Gibbon High School
Cindy Talley of Fillmore Central High School
Lindsay Tillinghast of Lincoln Southeast High School
Kari Tunink, Columbus High School

Perry Edwards of PKL Software will be recognized as providing financial support for the BEST pins, certificates and recognition gifts.

More information about educator preparation in Nebraska can found at www.education.ne.gov/tcert

MISSOURI

NORMANDY SCHOOLS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH NEW BOARD

For more information, contact:

Sarah Potter, Communications Coordinator, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Phone: 573-751-3469 Email: communications@dese.mo.gov

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The State Board voted today to lapse the unaccredited Normandy School District and replace it with a new local education agency and new governing board. The move keeps local schools operating in the district's footprint under new leadership. The Department recommended the move based on significant community input and on a report from the Normandy Transition Task Force, which was established in March 2014 to develop a plan for the future of the district.

"We are most concerned with the 4,000 children in Normandy – making sure they receive high quality education," said Board President Peter Herschend. "This is the only feasible way to have schools operating in the district next year." Board members have indicated that they will insist on significant academic improvements within the district. "Business as usual will not get the job done," said President Herschend. The State Board will retain authority over the new board to ensure positive results.

At numerous meetings with parents, educators and students, the community urged the Department and State Board to keep Normandy schools open and serving children. The Board believes lapsing the district and creating a new entity will allow for significant change in the educational experience offered to children.

The Board voted today to:

- Lapse the Normandy School District effective June 30, 2014. All existing contracts with personnel and others will be terminated effective June 30, 2014.
- Create the Normandy Schools Collaborative as a new local education agency, encompassing the Normandy School District footprint effective July 1, 2014.
- Appoint a Joint Executive Governing Board (JEGGB) to govern the Collaborative effective July 1, 2014, replacing the current elected board.

The next steps for the Department include working closely with the Normandy superintendent and others to develop a calendar, schedule, budget and staffing plan for the 2014-2015 school year. The Board plans to address a number of additional issues at its June meeting. The Normandy School District was classified as unaccredited on Jan. 1, 2013.

More information about educator preparation in Missouri can found at dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/.

IOWA

According to the recent U.S. News & World Report (<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/iowa/rankings?int=c0b4c1>) Iowa, which has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation, requires students to take the Iowa Assessments. Built into Iowa's state curriculum are lessons to provide students with "21st Century Skills," which include civic, financial, health and technology literacy, as well as employment skills, according to the Iowa Department of Education.

There are many Iowa schools in the 2014 U.S. News Best High Schools rankings, including 12 silver medal schools and 86 bronze medal schools. Iowa's top-ranked high school is located in the Cedar Rapids Community School District, which is roughly 130 miles from the state capital of Des Moines.

Top Ranked IA Schools

To be eligible for a state ranking, a school must be awarded a national gold or silver medal.

John F. Kennedy High School

4545 Wenig Rd Ne, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Decorah High School

100 Claiborne Dr, Decorah, IA 52101

Ames High School

1921 Ames High Dr, Ames, IA 50010

West Senior High School

2901 Melrose Ave, Iowa City, IA 52246

Bettendorf High School

3333 18th St, Bettendorf, IA 52722

See Complete Iowa High School Rankings

Linn-mar High School

3111 North 10th St, Marion, IA 52302

Valley High School

3650 Woodland Ave, West Des Moines, IA 50266

Johnston Senior High School

6501 Nw 62nd Ave, Johnston, IA 50131

Williamsburg Jr-sr High School

810 West Walnut, Williamsburg, IA 52361

Iowa City High School

1900 Morningside Dr, Iowa City, IA 52245



More information about educator preparation in Iowa can found at <http://educateiowa.gov/>