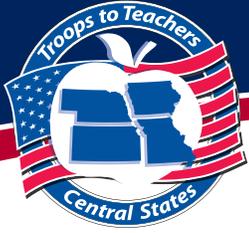


# TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE  
**877.530.2765**

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE  
**314.729.2444**

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE  
**816.241.1705**

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR - HIGH SCHOOL" FOR 2015



Thomas Collison was named Troops to Teachers, "Teacher of the Year-High School" for 2015 in ceremonies held at Clinton High school recently marking the end of the school year. Making the presentation is Veterans Education and Training Director, Chad Schatz.

Mr. Collison (left) is a JROTC instructor, just finishing his first year of teaching after a 23 year career in the U.S. Army.

The JROTC program in Clinton has 68 cadets in a high school enrollment of 600 students.

Two participants in the program qualified for state competitions in Archery and one female student earned the, "Ultimate Raider-Female" award.

"It is great to see the kids succeed," said Collison. "They move from doubt and self-esteem issues in their mind, some maybe a little scared; to, "Hey, I can do this," and then they begin to tap their potential."

"Mr. Collison reflects the type of leadership and enthusiasm that the Troops-to-Teachers program brings to public school classrooms," said Schatz, Troops to Teacher program director.

"From day one, Mr. Collison's passion and professionalism were evident by the manner in which he was immediately committed to the community, staff and students," said Dr. Bryan Pettingill, High School Principal. "students and staff are drawn to his optimism, expertise and willingness to think outside the box."



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888.442.4551

## MEET THE NEW VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING SUPERVISOR



Michele Mueller has joined the Veterans Education and Training Section of DESE as a Supervisor in the St. Louis office. Her past experience includes Director, Education Director and Instructor at the Arnold Campus of Metro Business College.

"After two months of being on the job I have found that no two days are the same," said Mueller. "Each day brings new challenges and something new to learn. I have found that my past positions and education have been a great help."

"My experience as a proprietary for-profit school director and my past auditing experience provide me with a good background for performing my job. Understanding the day-to-day operations of running a school gives me a reference for evaluating quality educational and training opportunities for veterans. Working with school officials is easier when you have been in their shoes and faced the same challenges. My past auditing experience has given me the skills needed to determine if schools are complying with federal regulations and helping to ensure benefits are being paid correctly."

Mueller worked for General American Life Insurance Company and MetLife, in the Corporate Accounting Division as a Supervisor over the Cash Disbursements Department. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri – St. Louis and has a Master of Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She and her husband Gary have two teenage sons. She enjoys riding her bike, swimming, and reading books.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, June 4, 2015: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Missouri School Certifying Official Seminar at Metropolitan Community College of Kansas City Business and Technology Center Campus

**Monday, June 8, 2015: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Congressman Clay Job Fair held at Harris Stowe State University

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Job Fair at the Washington Missouri Career Center

**Monday - Thursday, July 20 - 23, 2015**

AVECO Conference held at St. Louis Union Station

### 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:

**WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV**

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

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

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

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

### MISSOURI/IOWA/NEBRASKA/KANSAS

Chad Schatz, Director

Ron Marsch, Supervisor

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Veterans Education and Training Section

P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

**p:** 877.530.2765

**fax:** 573.526.5710

**e-mail:** [dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov](mailto:dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov)

### TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

#### MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher p: 573.751.7863

**e-mail:** [debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov](mailto:debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov)

#### IOWA

Dr. Mary Lou Nosco p: 515.725.2146

**e-mail:** [marylou.nosco@iowa.gov](mailto:marylou.nosco@iowa.gov)

#### NEBRASKA

Bethina Garrett p: 402.471.0739

**e-mail:** [nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov)

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

#### KANSAS

Shane Carter p: 785.296.8011

**e-mail:** [scarter@ksde.org](mailto:scarter@ksde.org)

**website:** [www.kdse.org](http://www.kdse.org)

### TROOPS TO TEACHERS MENTORS

We are pleased to have a list of mentors on our web site. These people have successfully been through the process from start to finish. They are offering their thoughts, insights, and encouragement to others pursuing their goals of becoming teachers.

#### WANT TO BECOME A MENTOR?

The advice and guidance you will provide is invaluable to fellow veterans interested in starting careers as K-12 public school teachers.

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A MENTOR?

Visit: [DESE.TroopsToTeachers@DESE.mo.gov](mailto:DESE.TroopsToTeachers@DESE.mo.gov) or

click here to join us: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/TTT-MENTOR%20CONNECTION-%202006-14.pdf>

# VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

## MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



### SHOW-ME HEROES PARTNER WITH GI BILL BENEFITS

The Missouri State Approving Agency, representing GI Bill beneficiaries, initiated a meeting with the Show-Me Heroes Program, under the Missouri Workforce Development, to leverage veteran's VA benefits for on-the-job training and apprenticeship and the Show Me Heroes on-the-job training reimbursements to employers. This partnership will benefit employers of veterans and veterans themselves for those who are eligible. Missouri is committed to assisting returning veterans.

The VA program for on-the-job- training and apprenticeship include benefits for eligible veterans and dependents. The minimum training program length is at least six months. Benefits range from \$275 to \$1,287 or more per month paid to the veteran, based on entitlement.

The Show-Me Heroes Program features a 50% wage reimbursement to employers in qualifying training for up to six months. Some veterans may qualify for both programs based on each program approval criteria.

"VA benefits for On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Training and the Show-Me Heroes program reflect enhanced opportunities for veterans and employers for those that qualify," said Chad Schatz, Director of the Missouri State Approving Agency. "Missouri will lead the way with these quality programs. These programs operate independently, but they can work well together to benefit veterans."

Contact the Missouri State Approving Agency at 1-877-530-2765 or 1-573-751-1250. The web site is <http://dese.mo.gov/veterans-ed>.

The Show-Me Heroes program phone number is 1-800-592-6020 and the web site is <http://showmeheroes.mo.gov/>



#### STAFF

##### JEFFERSON CITY

**Chad Schatz:** Director

**Ron Marsch:** Supervisor

**Debbie Butcher:** Teacher Certification Supervisor

**Loretta Fennewald:** Administrative Assistant

##### ST. LOUIS

**Michele Mueller:** Supervisor

**Robert Hummel:** Approval Developer

**Suzanne Adam:** Secretary

**John Hose:** Education Specialist

##### KANSAS CITY

**Turner Shipman:** Supervisor

**Leo Blakley:** Approval Developer

**Sharon Sawyer:** Secretary

**Veterans Education & Training  
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**Veterans Education & Training  
Section C/O Truman Middle  
School**  
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St. Louis, MO 63127  
314.729.2444

## RECENTLY DISCHARGED VETS RECEIVE IN-STATE TUITION RATES

The Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, section 702, provided that qualifying veteran and dependents receive in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities.

Students eligible for In-State tuition under Section 702 are: A Veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.



A spouse or child using benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the Service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

The website providing additional information is: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school\\_resources.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_resources.asp) The law affecting in-state tuition change is effective for items starting after 7/1/15. All of the public colleges and universities in Missouri are compliant with Section 702. The law was passed by congress (PL 113-146) in recognition of the fact that persons serving on active duty in the armed forces serve the entire nation, not just the respective states.

*\*\*Excerpts of the article were taken from VA Deputy Under Secretary Curtis Coy's letter to Colleagues dated December 22, 2014.*

A dedicated toll-free hotline is now available **FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIALS (SCOS) ONLY.**

**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.

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.



### SWEET DREAMS PILLOW

The Sweet Dream Picture Pillows are available to the children of any family whose father or mother is on active duty and will be absent from their family for at least three months.

Visit our website at:

<http://www.pillowprojectusa.com>

**SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER** This newsletter is being e-mailed to one person at each school. Please share this newsletter with all other Certifying Officials, Education officers, Unit Commanders and personnel, the Bursar's or Comptroller's Office, Human Relations office, Financial Aid Office and other interested individuals at your school/business/Unit.

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.



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

# NEBRASKA



## TWO NEBRASKA SCHOOLS, A DISTRICT NAMED 2015 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS U.S. Department of Education award honors schools, districts, for reducing environmental impact and costs; improving health; and offering environmental education

Lincoln Public Schools district and two Omaha schools – the Edward Babe Gomez Heritage Elementary School and the Wilson Focus School – were named today 2015 Green Ribbon Schools by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Nationally, 58 schools, 14 districts, and nine postsecondary institutions were honored for their promising efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways. In addition, nine colleges and universities were honored with the Postsecondary Sustainability Award, in the first year of that award category.

Duncan was joined by Managing Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Christy Goldfuss today to announce the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees.

"These honorees are compelling examples of the ways schools can help children build real-world skillsets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments," Duncan said. "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools are an inspiration and deserve the spotlight for embodying strong examples of innovative learning and civic engagement. We also are thrilled to add institutions of higher education to the list of honorees this year for the first time in the award's history."

The schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions were confirmed from a pool of candidates voluntarily nominated by 30 state education agencies, with honorees selected from 28 jurisdictions. The list of 81 total selectees includes 52 public schools and six private schools. The public schools include two charter and three magnet schools. The schools serve various grade levels, including 35 elementary, 19 middle and 17 high schools are among them, with several schools having various K-12 configurations, from 28 of the nominating authorities. Forty-seven percent of the 2015 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body, 22 percent are rural, and one-third of the postsecondary institutions are community colleges.

More information about educator preparation in Nebraska can found at [www.education.ne.gov/tcert](http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert)

# MISSOURI

## STATE BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Charlie Shields



**Education:** At its May meeting, the members of the Missouri State Board of Education voted unanimously to elect Charlie Shields as President of the Board and Vic Lenz as Vice President.

Charlie Shields of St. Joseph was appointed to the State Board of Education in 2012, and he currently works as President and CEO of Truman Medical Centers (TMC). Mr. Shields (top picture) joined TMC in 2010 after serving 20 years in the Missouri General Assembly as part of the House of Representatives, a Republican member of the Senate and most recently as President Pro Tem. He earned his bachelor's degree in marketing and his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Missouri.

"I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Peter Herschend, who has worked continually to ensure that Missouri's students are achieving at the highest levels and are ready for the future," said Shields. "Education is Missouri's most valuable resource, and I look forward to serving alongside my fellow Board members in preparing a path that gives students opportunities we never would have considered even a decade ago."

Victor Lenz of St. Louis joined the State Board of Education in 2013. Dr. Lenz (bottom picture) has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Central Methodist College, a Master of Science degree in Counselor Education from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and a Doctorate in Educational Administration from St. Louis University. He worked in Lindbergh School District as a teacher and an administrator, ending his career there as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He served ten years on the Lindbergh Schools Board of Education and was President of the Missouri School Boards Association from 2011 to 2012.



Victor Lenz

Shields and Lenz were elected to two-year terms of office that start on July 1, 2015.

Their focus on the State Board is helping Missouri become a top 10 state for education by 2020.

Find out more about this initiative at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/top10by20>.

More information about educator preparation in Missouri can found at [dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/](http://dese.mo.gov/eq/ep/).





# IOWA

## SUMMER CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHTS STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION

Registration is under way for a two-day conference June 22-23 in Des Moines focusing on high-impact learning for students, ranging from standards-based grading to effectively putting Iowa's statewide academic standards into practice.

The Iowa ASCD Summer Institute at the Iowa Events Center will include sessions on standards run by consultants at the Iowa Department of Education. The standards, known as the Iowa Core, will be addressed from multiple academic disciplines: literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Adding to the standards conversation is Sandra Alberti, who is director of the field impact team for Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit organization. Alberti will lead some workshops.

Other sessions include setting the proper culture for learning, creating a guaranteed and viable curriculum, demonstrating effective teaching, developing standards-based grading, and creating competency-based education.

Keynote speakers include Robert J. Marzano, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, Jim Rickabaugh and Tim Westerberg.

The sessions are designed for teachers, curriculum directors, and area education agency consultants. Cost is \$340. Register by clicking here. For more information on the statewide standards, go to <http://www.IowaCore.gov>.

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

# KANSAS

## KANSAS SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS HONORED

### 2015 Kansas Schools of Character Recognition

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

May 6, 2015

TOPEKA—Fifty-one Kansas schools and school districts were honored during a special ceremony on May 7 at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site for their work in character education, which focused on students' social, emotional and character development.

School representatives across Kansas were recognized for their efforts to positively affect academic achievement, student behavior and school climate. The awards were given through the Kansas Schools of Character Recognition Program, sponsored by the Topeka City of Character, Character.org, the Kansas State Department of Education, and the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

Character education is an educational movement that supports the social, emotional and ethical development of students. It is the proactive effort by schools, districts, and communities to help students develop important core ethical (recognizing what's right) and performance (doing what's right) values such as caring, honesty, diligence, fairness, fortitude, responsibility, grit, creativity, critical thinking, and respect for self and others. Character education provides long-term solutions to moral, ethical, and academic issues that are of growing concern in our society and our schools. Through character education, students learn how to be their best selves and how to do their best work while making school a place where students and educators feel comfortable and able to work.

Kansas Character Development Initiative Coordinator Sue Kidd said the Kansas Standards for Social, Emotional and Character Development give structure to the process of character education.

"Kansas school leaders understand that building a culture that focuses on student success academically, ethically and socially is built by developing character as well as life skills needed for good citizenship, employability and leadership," Kidd said. "The 2015 Kansas Schools of Character put that belief into action in a highly effective way." State and National Schools of Character serve as models and mentors, helping other educators transform their school cultures and improve academics and student behavior.

For More Information: Sue Kidd, Coordinator, Kansas Character Development Initiative, [skidd.kschared@gmail.com](mailto:skidd.kschared@gmail.com), 785-865-9942 or Kent Reed, Counseling Consultant, KSDE, [kreed@ksde.org](mailto:kreed@ksde.org), 785-296-8109

More information about educator preparation in Kansas can found at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)