

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

MARCH 2013

CENTRAL STATES

VOL. 1-13



SERVICE MEMBERS AND TEACHING: THE CHARACTERISTICS DESIRED BY PRINCIPALS

By *Craig Gilman, Faculty Member at American Military University*

If you are a military service member who has considered becoming a teacher after the military, but uncertain if you have the personal and professional traits that lead toward success in the front of the classroom, more than likely you do.

"There must be, within our Army, a sense of purpose. There must be a willingness to march a little farther, to carry a heavier load, to step out into the dark and the unknown for the safety and well-being of others." ~ GEN Creighton Abrams

When you wear your uniform and look into the mirror, what do you see? What characteristics do you possess that caused you to dedicate yourself to years, if not a lifetime, of service to a cause greater than yourself? Do you believe yourself to have integrity, pride, determination, discipline, courage, and selflessness? Are you willing to go the extra mile, accomplish more with less, take the lead, and share the load? Are you a disciplined, driven, well-organized self-starter with excellent communication skills? Have you grown as a result of your experiences in the military? Do you sleep well at night knowing you have served others? If so, you can continue to do so. You can lead a different army; one of tomorrow's leaders of business, government, and the military. The new "army" that will one day take your place, today's students.

The following is a summary of the personal, professional, and other traits that school principals look for when they consider hiring new teachers. While military members might take these for granted, school administrators find that veterans who have successfully served have a tested and proven ability to take responsibility, assume accountability, and demonstrate the very traits that are regularly associated with successful teachers.

Typically, principals want teachers that have a passion for education, a strong desire to work with students, and high quality interpersonal skills in order to collaborate with professionals in their schools, parents, and members of the community. Principals want teachers who possess a strong work ethic and good planning and organizational skills to meet the growing demands of the changing school curriculum and technology needs in the modern school classroom.

In regards to personal traits and skills, principals look for prospective teachers that demonstrate both a sense of responsibility and integrity and that are punctual and emotionally stable. Professional traits that are important include good communication skills and a commitment to education.

In addition to the personal and professional traits mentioned above, principals look for traits that indicate success in the broader spectrum of school and classroom. Working in a school means working as a member of a team and having an innate ability to see the big picture at the institutional, community, and national level. To be a successful member of such a team, teachers need to demonstrate enthusiasm, a positive attitude, and professionalism. Good judgment and strong problem solving skills are also essential. When working with students, good classroom management skills, the ability to plan and prepare ahead, and an understanding of what is relevant in today's society are all extremely important, but more so is a sincere respect for student diversity and all individual students.

Continue to lead by becoming a teacher. The same traits that caused you to serve in the military are those needed in today's communities. There can be no greater role model for today's youth than those who served in uniform. Principals understand this. They also know that the toughness it takes to succeed and serve in the military goes a long way in today's schools. However, it is up to you to find the conviction to take the first steps. Decide what grade level or subject areas you have a passion for. Look into university programs that will lead to teacher certification in your state. Investigate such programs as the Teach Grant, Troops to Teachers, and Teach for America. Go forth and conquer. You have only yet begun to serve!

Craig Gilman is currently an online, adjunct who teaches COLL100 and for the School of Education for American Military University. A veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps, he is a former, certified public school, secondary social studies teacher with an MS Education and MA International Relations from Old Dominion University.

www.InMilitaryEducation.com



WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

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Scan this code with your mobile device to be directed to the Troops to Teachers website.



Scan this code and be the first one to leave a message. Mention that you used this code and receive a free gift.

To find out if you are eligible for GI Bill education and training benefits, call 888-442-4551.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA HAS CHANGED

Due to new legislation, the eligibility criteria for referral and funding have changed. Thank you for your patience regarding these changes that we are still trying to analyze and resolve the new information. Many of the changed are for the betterment of the program. The changes include; how much time in service is required to register, how eligibility for GI Bill benefits comes into play with the TTT Stipend, and the new criteria for the TTT Bonus just to name a few. Hoping to roll out the new information to you very soon. We are currently determining the new eligibility criteria and will be updating the <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/> site soon. In the meantime, if you are/were a member of the armed forces (active or reserve) and are interested in teaching, recommend that you submit a TTT registration form and your status will be determined upon processing. Here's what we know thus far:

TROOPS TO TEACHERS LEGISLATIVE CHANGES:

With recent changes in the legislation governing the Troops to Teachers program below are a few of the important points that need to be shared with any possible participant that wants to be enrolled in the Troops to Teachers Program. If you even think you might want to be a teacher you need to get registered with the TTT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The program now is under the Department of Defense rather than the Department of Education.

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY:

1. To be eligible for selection to participate in the program any member who on or after January 8, 2002 who is separated or released from active duty after four or more years of continuous active duty immediately before the separation or release, others who have completed six years of service and execute a reserve commitment agreement for a period of not less than three years. This is for the counseling and referral services.
2. If teaching before they are registered they cannot be considered as a candidate for the bonus. If you are not eligible for the post 9-11 GI Bill you may qualify for the stipend. (If you transfer your post 9-11 GI Bill to a spouse or children and are no longer eligible for the bill and get a letter from the VA in writing that you are no longer eligible you may qualify for the stipend).
3. To be eligible you must apply to the program within three years after leaving the service unless you are retired from either active duty or the reserves.
4. If you teach in certain curriculum areas that are deemed as critical and in a HIGH NEEDS SCHOOL as defined by law you may be eligible for up to \$10,000.00 bonus while if you teach in an ELIGIBLE SCHOOL as defined by law you may be eligible for up to \$5,000.00 bonus.
5. Participants teaching in a ROTC Program may only be eligible for a maximum of \$5,000.00 bonus and that will not be paid until the end of the TTT fiscal year.

These are some of the changes in the bill as we understand it but stay tuned for other possible changes to follow.

FLORIDA RANKS HIGH FOR BRINGING VETERANS INTO THE CLASSROOM

By ANASTASIA DAWSON | Tribune staff Published: February 07, 2013

Editors note: Central States Troops to Teacher participants: If Florida can do 306 members, we can sure better. GET ENROLLED TODAY! Let's show what the Central States can do!

Florida hired 306 veterans in the 2012 fiscal year through Troops to Teachers, a Defense Department-funded organization that transitions former service members into teaching jobs.

"Teaching provides a sense of service to the country, and that's why a lot of them want to be in a job where they feel like they're still giving back, even though they're making less money," said Ron Burton, regional director for the state's Troops to Teachers program. "The people we're dealing with have been in the military, often working with high school graduates from all walks of life, and they had to teach and motivate kids in life-or-death situations. They know how to connect with people."

Veterans can help schools fill voids in science, math and foreign language classrooms, and many are willing to work at schools in low-income neighborhoods, where it's often tough to place teachers, said William McAleer, head of the Troops for Teachers program.

Because teachers who come out of the military tend to be older and more experienced, they are more likely to stick with the profession than those who start teaching right out of college, McAleer said.

"The first few years someone is a teacher are very telling," McAleer said. "Teaching's not an easy job. It takes planning, coordination and a great deal of leadership. Veterans come with a whole set of skills that work well in the classroom and simply have the experience, and they always have a plan B."

TEACHING AS A SECOND CAREER SEMINARS

Does your organization need to learn more about the program? Do you have members that can benefit from the Troops To Teachers program? The Troops to Teachers office can offer Teaching as a Second Career Seminars to brief program essentials.

Topics typically include: Pathways to teaching (certification or licensure process) Financial assistance (TTT, federal, and state funding) Advantages and disadvantages of teaching Desired attributes of teacher candidates Salaries and job market Individual counseling.

STATE TEACHER JOB VACANCY SITES

Looking for a new job? These are some sources that may prove useful for certified teaching and substituting.

IA: <http://www.iowaeducationjobs.com/>
KS: <http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/>
MO: <http://www.moteachingjobs.com/>
NE: <http://www.nebraskaeducationjobs.com/>

Missouri/Kansas/Nebraska/Iowa

Chad Schatz, Director

John Hose, Assistant Director

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

IOWA

Dr. Mary Lou Nosco • ☎ 515-725-2146

E-mail: marylou.nosco@iowa.gov

MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher • ☎ 573-751-7863

E-mail: debbie.butcher@dese.mo.gov

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NEBRASKA

☎ 402-471-0739

E-mail:

nde.tcirtweb@nebraska.gov

Website:

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

PARTICIPANT LIFECYCLE

Determine Eligibility

Register

Bachelors Degree

Teacher Certification

Job Search

Get Hired

Be a Mentor

The national Troops to Teachers website is located at www.proudtoserveagain.com.

VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

March 2013

MISSOURI STATE
APPROVING AGENCY

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VA FORM 22-8794 (DESIGNATION OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL)

ALL VA Forms 22-8794, Designation of Certifying Official, are to be mailed to the Office of the State Approving Agency.

Do not send the 22-8794 to the ELR. We will process the 22-8794 at the SAA office and send the Designation of Certifying Official to the ELR for you. Make sure you include, in block 4, the e-mail address of all persons listed on the form.

2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

VA will accept modifications to the terms of existing, open-ended Yellow Ribbon Program agreements (or withdrawal from participation), and will accept agreements for initial participation in the program or renewals of existing agreements from March 15, 2013 until May 15, 2013. Click here for additional information: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/school-certifying-officials/yellow-ribbon-agreement/index.html>

Note: The May 2012 Edition of the VA 22-0839 requires the school to make a decision on the Principles of Excellence (page 2, paragraph 14). Also note in the instructions on page 5 that the signature of the authorizing official "must be from an official legally authorized to bind the institution to" the Yellow Ribbon Agreement with the VA. School Certifying Officials should be listed as a Point of Contact but should not be signing the 22-0839.

TREASURY OFFSET PROGRAM (TOP)

Several schools have not received the latest information concerning the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) and how it may affect their institution if an overpayment is assessed against the school. The following link is provided for information:

http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/job_aids/Treasury%20TOP%20Q&A.pdf

Note: In the debt management letter that if your school refunded funds to the VA in error, funds that should have been student debt, there is still an opportunity to correct the error. Schools should not refund funds to VA unless they are positive the school owes those funds. Please refer to the School Certifying Official Handbook concerning school and student debt.

VA FORMS 22-1999 AND 22-1999B

The initial enrollment certification for a specific reporting period is the VA Form 22-1999 whether the form is completed on paper or in VA-ONCE.

An amendment, adjustment, or termination of an enrollment certification for a specific reporting period is the VA Form 22-1999b whether the form is completed on paper or in VA-ONCE. VA-ONCE users can look in the lower left corner of enrollment certifications, amendments, adjustments, or terminations and see the VA Form number printed there. The 22-1999 and 22-1999b on paper or in VA-ONCE serve the same purpose.

Q: Do you know where/what this is?

Be among the first to post the answer on our face book and win a prize.



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.**

**Veterans Education & Training Section
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65109

**Veterans Education & Training Section
c/o Penn Valley Community College Pioneer Campus**

Room 256
2700 East 18th St.
Kansas City, MO 64127

**Veterans Education & Training Section
c/o Mehlville School District**

Room 110
3100 Lemay Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO 63125

 **Missouri**
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

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

The toll-free hotline number is 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.

SCHOOL/INSTITUTION DIRECT DEPOSITS

This information applies only to schools or institutions who wish to receive or change Direct Deposit, Post-9/11 GI Bill payments. This information does NOT apply to students.

Schools or institutions who desire to receive or change their Direct Deposit information must submit a letter to their Education Liaison Representative (ELR) on school letterhead. Do NOT mail this letter to the VA-RPO, the VA, or the SAA. Mail it only to the ELR.

The school must provide the following information:

Name of the Institution
Address of the Institution (Street Number, City, State, Zip Code)
Tax ID
Facility Code
Name of the Financial Institution
Address of the Financial Institution
Nine Digit Routing Number
Account Number
Type of Account (Checking or Savings)

The letter should be dated and signed by an official legally authorized to add or amend the account for which Post-9/11 GI Bill payments will be issued. The title and telephone number of the official must be provided. The letter must be provided with an original signature. Fax letters cannot be accepted. (SCOs should not sign this letter.) Changes will no longer be accepted on VA Form 22-8794a. Questions concerning this information should be addressed to your ELR insert email addresses.

HONORABLE DISCHARGE

An Honorable Discharge from any of the Armed Services is required for an individual to use his or her GI Bill benefits. Individuals who may have received less than an honorable discharge may submit an Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States, DD Form 293, to request their discharge be upgraded. Requests to upgrade a discharge require justification and supporting documents. A fillable DD Form 293 can be found at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0293.pdf> and must be completed by the individual and mailed to the service address on the second page of the form. DD Form 293 is NOT to be mailed to VA.

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.

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.

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS, DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

The 2012 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 http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp



Download the 2012 booklet at:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp



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.

Please read more about Sweet Dream Picture Pillows on our website to learn more about this project and the brave men and women serving in every single branch of our armed forces.

You are appreciated and we thank you!

Visit our website at: <http://www.pillowprojectusa.com>

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR GI BILL BENEFITS

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE OFFICIAL GI BILL SITE AT
WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV



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

The Iowa Department of Education released the 2012 edition of the Annual Condition of Education report.

The Annual Condition of Education Report, 2012 includes the most recent data through the 2011-12 school year, unless otherwise noted.

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2812:advisory-annual-condition-of-education-report-is-available-&catid=242:news-releases

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE: STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 19.3%: Percentage of minority student enrollment, up from 14.9 percent in 2008-09 and 5.5 percent in 1990.
- 40.1%: Percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, up from 27 percent a decade ago.
- 88.3%: Four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2011.
- 39.4%: Percentage of students in the Class of 2012 who enrolled in high-level mathematics courses, including calculus and trigonometry.
- 65.9%: Percentage of students in the Class of 2012 who reported taking chemistry; 26.9 percent enrolled in physics.
- 22.1: ACT composite score among 63 percent of students in Iowa's Class of 2012 who were tested. The national average was 21.1 out of a possible 36.
- 34,513: The number of students enrolled concurrently in high school and community college courses, up from 21,587 in 2006-07.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

- 351: The number of Iowa school districts in 2011-12; there were 359 the year before and 431 in 1990.
- 33,938: The number of full-time public school teachers, up slightly from 33,610 in 2000-01.
- \$50,634: The average salary for public school teachers in 2010-11, up from \$49,626 the previous school year. Iowa ranks 25th nationally in teacher pay and 6th among Midwestern states.
- 96%: Percentage of Iowa school districts that offered preschool in 2011-12, up from 83.4 percent in 2008-09.
- 41.8: Average age of Iowa's full-time public school teachers.

SCHOOL FINANCE

- 81%: Percentage of total general fund spending in public schools for salaries and benefits.
- \$9,484: Iowa's average per-student expenditure in 2010-11. The amount is about the same as the year before (\$9,455).
- 70.8%: Percentage of total general fund spending in Iowa public schools dedicated to student instruction in 2010-11; up from 68.6 percent in 1997-98.



MISSOURI

MO STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES SCHOOLS

Eleven Missouri schools were recognized last month as Professional Learning Communities Exemplary Schools by state education officials for their outstanding performance in implementing the professional learning community process. These schools promote cultures focused on learning with collaborative teams and effectively using data to increase student achievement.

The 2012-13 Exemplary Schools Award recipients are:

- Benton Elementary School, Neosho R-V School District
- Central Park Elementary School, Monett R-I School District
- Festus Elementary School, Festus R-VI School District
- Festus Intermediate School, Festus R-VI School District
- Festus Middle School, Festus R-VI School District
- Gratz Brown Elementary School, Moberly School District
- North Park Elementary School, Moberly School District
- Partridge Elementary School, Waynesville R-VI School District

- South Park Elementary School, Moberly School District
- Upper Elementary School, Ozark R-VI School District
- Waynesville East Elementary School, Waynesville R-VI School District

The award recipients were showcased by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the 2013 Powerful Learning Conference, held January 28-29. More than 1,400 educators across the state attended the conference.

"The Exemplary Schools Award honors not only the school, but also the educators for their commitment to fostering a collaborative environment that focuses on improved outcomes of all students," said Vandeven. "It's schools like these that will help drive Missouri into the Top 10 by 20."



KANSAS

INFORMATION FOR JOB: POSSIBLE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS



Job Title: Possible Elementary Teachers

Job Description: Possible Elementary Teacher Vacancies
2013-14 School Year

Required Endorsement:

Elementary Education K-9 or Elementary Education K-6
In order to be considered for a teaching position in the Lansing School District, you must apply on the district website at www.usd469.net.

Lansing USD 469

- Job Salary (if available):
- Job Benefits (if available):
- Job Bonus (if available):

Job Start Date: August 1, 2013

Applications Due By: May 1, 2013

Job Categories:

- Elementary

Job Regions:

- Northeast

Job Contact Information:

Contact First Name: **Jan Zoellner**
Contact Email: zoellnerj@usd469.net
Contact Phone: **913-727-1100**

Employer Information:

Employer Name & Website: Lansing USD 469 - www.usd469.net

Employer Description:

The Lansing Unified School District is comprised of three buildings: Lansing Elementary (K-5), Lansing Middle School (6-8), and Lansing High School (9-12). The Special Education services are provided by Leavenworth County Special Education Cooperative. The district employs a staff of 142 certified teachers, 72 classified staff, and 10 administrators.

In order to be considered for a teaching job in the Lansing School District, you must apply on the district website at: www.usd469.net.

Employer Address: 401 S. 2nd Street, Lansing, Kansas 66043

Job posting at: <http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com/index.php?p=funct.search.job&jobHash=438c89bca84a024&employerHash=7f054bb732b4ab5>

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA REVISES CAREER ED STANDARDS

Nebraska career education standards have been revised to better prepare students for their careers and to help students better meet the needs of employers. The Nebraska Department of Education and Partnerships for Innovation in cooperation with business and industry as well as Nebraska postsecondary institutions revised the course standards for Career Technical Education (CTE) courses offered in the state's public schools.

The CTE course standards were also aligned with the Nebraska's academic standards in reading, writing, mathematics and science. The new career education course standards are available at <http://cestandards.education.ne.gov/>.

<http://cestandards.education.ne.gov/>.

THE MODEL STANDARDS WILL HELP SCHOOL DISTRICTS ORGANIZE CURRICULUM INTO SEQUENCES FOR COURSES IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CAREER FIELDS:

- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business, Marketing and Management
- Communication and Information Systems
- Health Sciences
- Human Sciences and Education
- Skilled and Technical Sciences

The revised standards also were aligned to courses offered in the state's two- and four-year colleges to create a more seamless education experience for students. Students begin with high school introductory courses that teach broad concepts and skills, progressing to college courses that offer more specific information and develop higher skill levels. Some Nebraska students will have an opportunity to earn college credits while in high school.

Career education courses provide an opportunity for students to gain the knowledge and skills they need for employment and entrepreneurship. The standards define what students should know and be able to do to enter college or their chosen career.

A map displaying the six career fields organized by 16 national career clusters is available at:

http://www.education.ne.gov/nce/careerclusters/2012NCEModelPoster8_5x11.pdf

Other career education tools include the Nebraska Standards for Career Ready Practice at:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/nce/documents/2012CareerReadinessBookletWEB.pdf> as well as online learning Career Readiness Modules developed by the Nebraska Department of Labor, the Nebraska Department of Education's Career Education System and Adult Basic Education. The modules are free and available to all Nebraskans at (<http://nelearn.mylearning.org/course/view.php?id=2>).

Instructors, youth and adults across the state may use the information to help improve their basic job skills by selecting specific modules that focus on areas in which they want to enhance their knowledge and skills or take an entire course.

http://www.education.ne.gov/ndepress/2013/Nebraska_Revises_Career_Ed_Standards.pdf

