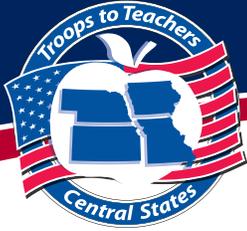


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

HONORARY DIPLOMA PRESENTATION TO HOMER STOTLER

The Missouri legislature created Operation Recognition in September 2001 to provide honorary high school diplomas for veterans and civilian prisoners of war (POWs) who left high school before graduation to serve in the military. To date, nearly 1,300 honorary high school diplomas have been awarded to Missouri veterans. (<http://dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/veterans-education/operation-recognition>).

Here, Homer Stotler, age 92, a World War II D-Day Omaha Beach participant receives his Honorary High School Diploma. He left home to join the US Army after the death of his father to help support his family. As a member of the Field Artillery, he eventually fought in Germany, where he received the Bronze Star for heroic action on the battle field. The Honorable Linda Black, Representative from the 117 District, presented him with a Proclamation from the MO House of Representatives. The diploma was presented to Homer Stotler by John T. Parker, Major USAF, (Ret), Supervisor, Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education.



Linda Black - Representative from the 117 District, Homer Stotler, John T. Parker, Major USAF, (Ret) - Supervisor, Dept of Elementary and Secondary Education.

GOVERNOR'S REMARKS TROOPS TO TEACHERS

"I commend the Troops to Teachers program on their efforts to help military personnel transition to a new career as public school teachers," said Gov. Dave Heineman of Nebraska. "I am proud of the work being done to help honorably discharged military personnel find meaningful employment in high need schools."

"As Governor, one of my top priorities is education. Having good, qualified teachers in every classroom is crucial to student success. Partnering with Nebraska military personnel who have served their state and nation admirably is outstanding."

"More than 1,300 Nebraska Army National Guard soldiers have returned from deployments since May of 2011 and I am proud of our employers in Nebraska. Nebraska hires veterans."



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



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TTT OFFERS VETS SECOND CHANCE TO SERVE

"Proud to Serve Again" is the tagline for the Defense Department Troops to Teachers program, and it truly expresses how veterans feel about beginning careers in education after transitioning out of the military. Today, I would like to recognize former service members, now educators, who are making a difference in the lives of young students across the country.

Veterans thrive in an ever-changing classroom environment because their military experience has given them the ability to successfully adapt to new challenges. Since the program's inception in 1994, Troops to Teachers has assisted more than 17,000 service members to successfully transition to a second career in teaching, providing value to the schools and communities where they work.

Many participants have been recognized for their success in the classroom, receiving awards such as school, district and state Teacher of the Year, and others have been promoted to administrator and other leadership positions within school districts. Troops to Teachers participants have also been recognized for positive contributions to schools and communities in non-instructional positions.

This past fall, the Memphis Street Academy Charter School in Philadelphia, was recognized by the Character Education Partnership for its program, Project At E.A.S.E. Project at E.A.S.E. stands for Enhancing Accountability for School Engagement. This program, a partnership between the school and the Troops to Teachers program, has employed several Troops to Teachers participants at the academy as engagement coaches. Engagement coaches provide a strong role model presence and help mediate disputes, providing a more positive alternative to traditional punishment and discipline approaches.

My staff had the privilege of meeting Dave Leib, lead engagement coach, at the recognition ceremony. Dave spent 4 1/2 years on active duty as a Coast Guardsman before being medically discharged. While on active duty, he participated in drug enforcement patrols, homeland security patrols and the protection of critical infrastructure.

While Dave enjoyed a fulfilling experience with the Coast Guard, he found himself without a job and with few prospects on the horizon after his discharge. Like many veterans, he enrolled in college while working to support his family as a mechanic.

While balancing school and work, he recalled a lieutenant mentioning Troops to Teachers several years earlier. That memory led to some Internet research and ultimately, to registration in the Troops to Teachers program. He found a calling as an instructor in the program, and began pursuing his goal of becoming a special education teacher in Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, the Troops to Teachers North Atlantic Region Director Vanessa Barron had been making plans with the Memphis Street Academy to place program participants in the school as engagement coaches. Dave Leib was selected as an engagement coach, and later was promoted to the lead position. Dave and three other engagement coaches were – and continue to be – instrumental in transforming this once failing and unsightly school into a safe, welcoming learning environment in the neighborhood.

The bars on the windows are now gone. A metal detector no longer greets students at the door. Instead, students have an environment focused on learning and succeeding. The engagement coaches' commitment to student achievement and positive personal growth support the aspirations of their students. And Dave Leib loves his work.

All of us at DoD salute educators and school staff across the country for their dedication and commitment to the nation's youth, but we especially recognize all of our veterans who have answered the call to proudly serve again — this time in the classroom. You are all making a difference.

If you're preparing to transition from military service, I would encourage you to look into the Troops To Teachers program. Service above self is part of your DNA. Maybe a new career as an educator is right for you. There are classrooms across the country where your skills, knowledge and experience are needed. More importantly, young students would profoundly benefit from your decision to serve again.

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

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

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VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



ARMY ANNOUNCES NEW TUITION ASSISTANCE RULES



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE, DEPARTMENT 400
FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5400

AHRC-PDE

28 March 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR

Chief, Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Division G-1, U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM), ATTN: Mr. Francesco G. Serafinelli, 2405 Gun Shed Road, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-1223

U.S. Army Reserve Command Reserve Education Center, ATTN: Ms. Mary Newkirk, 4710 Knox Street, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5010

Army National Guard Education Oversight Branch, National Guard Bureau (NGB), ATTN: Mr. Thomas Slaughter, 111 South George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204-1382

SUBJECT: Degree Plan Changes

1. Army Counselors play a vital role in guiding Soldiers in the pursuit of their professional / personal education goals as well as helping them to remain focused on those goals. Soldiers who do not establish solid degree plans early in their education program risk multiple changes to degree plans which in turn can lead to increased time and TA costs to complete their degree. It is therefore critical for counselors to work with Soldiers to establish realistic, achievable goals supported by careful selection of both degree plans and schools. It should be noted a total of 25,785 students changed degree plans (22,665 one time, 2,586 two times and 536 three times) and 43,103 students changed schools in FY 2013.

2. Effective 15 April, 2014 Soldiers will be able to change a degree plan only one time after their initial degree plan selection at each level: associate, baccalaureate, or master's degree levels. Should the timeframe from the Soldier's last degree plan change be more than eight years the Soldier will be allowed an additional degree plan change.

Dr. Pamela L. Raviner
Director, Army Continuing
Education Division

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Section Department of Elementary
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Jefferson City, MO 65109

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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 Truman Middle
School**

Room 22

12225 Eddie and Park Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63127

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>

CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING & INFORMATION RESOURCES

or go to: http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp

A MESSAGE FROM CURTIS L. COY, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

*Veterans Benefits Administration U.S.
Department of Veterans Affairs*

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Yesterday we testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on "Defining and Improving Success for Student Veterans." Specifically, we shared information regarding various VA efforts to help Veterans achieve success in their educational endeavors, including the recent expansion of the VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) program, launching new online tools (Comparison Tool and Feedback System), and the Million Records Project.

Additionally, did you know tutorial assistance is available to help Veterans attending school pay for tutoring necessary to advance your education? Tutorial assistance is available under the Post-9/11 GI Bill if pursuing training at the half-time or greater rate, and have a deficiency in a subject, making tutoring necessary.

Available Benefit and Eligibility

The monthly rate of tutorial assistance may not exceed the cost of tutoring or \$100 per month. The maximum amount payable is \$1,200. There is no entitlement charge under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

A student must meet the following criteria to be eligible for tutorial assistance:

- Rate of pursuit must be at least 50 percent.
- Must have a deficiency in a course that is part of your approved program.
- Must be enrolled in the course during the quarter, semester, or term in which the tutoring is received for the course. Tutoring may not occur between quarters or semesters.

The student, tutor, and certifying official must complete VA Form 22-1990t, Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance. The application may be submitted at the end of each month or combination of months. The application must be signed and dated on or after the date of the last tutoring session certified. The School Certifying Official (SCO) can submit the application on your behalf.

Information for Schools

When a SCO signs an Application and Enrollment Certification for Individualized Tutorial Assistance, he or she will certify the following:

- Tutoring is essential to correct a deficiency. A letter from the course instructor should be put in the student's VA file stating that the student is deficient in the course and that individual tutoring is required to correct the deficiency.
- The tutor meets the college's qualifications. Ideally, the school maintains a list of approved tutors. The list should indicate the subjects a tutor is qualified to tutor and the hourly charge. Students should be assigned a tutor from the approved list. A tutor may not be a close relative of the student.
- The charges do not exceed the usual charges for tutoring.

Tutorial assistance is also available under many of our Educational programs (VocRehab, Dependent, etc.). Brochures and pamphlets on tutorial assistance requirements of various VA educational benefits are available at http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/handouts_forms.asp

Tutorial Assistance is one of the many training program opportunities under the GI Bill benefits that are available to Veterans, Servicemember and their eligible dependents. If you have any questions about the GI Bill or Tutorial Assistance please contact the school certifying official or call our GI Bill hotline using the information below.

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,
Civil Rights Compliance
(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.**

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.**



 **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

*Kansas State Board of Education to Commemorate 60th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education
Denise Kahler, Director of Communications, May 12, 2014*



KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO COMMEMORATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION

What: In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, the Kansas State Board of Education will gather at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site on Wednesday, May 14. KSBE members will gather outside of the school at 8:45 am where board chairwoman Jana Shaver will deliver a statement addressing this landmark decision. Following the statement, board members will convene in the historic site's auditorium to conduct day two of its May board meeting. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954) is one of the most pivotal opinions ever rendered by that body. This landmark decision highlights the U.S. Supreme Court's role in affecting changes in national and social policy. Often when people think of the case, they remember a little girl whose parents sued so that she could attend an all-white school in her neighborhood. In reality, the story of Brown v. Board of Education is far more complex.

In December, 1952, the U.S. Supreme Court had on its docket cases from Kansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, South Carolina, and Virginia, all of which challenged the constitutionality of racial segregation in public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court had consolidated these five cases under one name, Oliver Brown et al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka. One of the justices later explained that the U.S. Supreme Court felt it was better to have representative cases from different parts of the country. They decided to put Brown first "so that the whole question would not smack of being a purely Southern one."

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

NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM INFORMATION

There are sixteen (16) approved educator preparation programs in Nebraska. In addition to the requirement that all Nebraska institutions successfully complete the state program approval process, a majority of institutions have also attained national accreditation by the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). National accreditation processes are transitioning to the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) by 2016.

All sixteen (16) institutions that prepare teachers in Nebraska are members of the Nebraska Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (NACTE) and are also represented on the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE), an advisory body to the State Board of Education. NCTE consists of equal representation from educators, educator preparation administrators, and governance representatives which work in partnership to assure high standards for Nebraska educator preparation and quality education for PreK-12 students statewide.

Nebraska Teacher Education Programs

- Chadron State College
- College of Saint Mary
- Concordia University
- Creighton University
- Doane College
- Grace University
- Hastings College
- Midland University
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Peru State College
- Union College
- University of Nebraska Kearney
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- University of Nebraska Omaha
- Wayne State College
- York College



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

MISSOURI

MISSOURI SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 5 (MSIP 5) ADDS JOB SKILLS MEASURE MSIP 5 Adds ACT WorkKeys®

In support of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's goal that all students graduate ready for college and career, the Department has announced ACT WorkKeys® as an additional academic measure that districts and charter schools can use to gauge students' proficiency as they graduate from high school. This assessment is focused on the practical application of literacy, mathematics, and the ability to efficiently access information.

Reading for information, applying mathematical calculation and problem solving, and locating information are skills employers say are critical to job success. Use of the assessment can help students identify their current career skills as well as identify areas that need improvement as they plan for their futures. Students who succeed on the assessment qualify for ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate.

"One of our primary goals is to make sure students graduate ready to succeed in college and career," said Dennis Cooper, assistant commissioner in the Office of Quality Schools. "Including the use of the WorkKeys® assessment as an option for districts and charter schools helps us do that, and it gives students, parents and teachers another way to see how well students are learning."

ACT WorkKeys® is a component of Missouri's Certified Work Ready Communities (CWRC) initiative. The state was one of seven in the country chosen to participate in CWRC. The initiative is a voluntary effort guided by community leaders to align workforce and education to meet the economic needs of the state and local communities.



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

IOWA

BY O. KAY HENDERSON

May 12, 2014



Iowa officials plan to hold another "Iowa Teacher and Principal Leadership Symposium" this summer. Iowa Department of Education deputy director Ryan Wise says the discussion will center on the 2013 education reform package that calls for changes in Iowa's schools.

"We have a great opportunity unfolding in Iowa and I'm confident we'll make the most of it," Wise says. "Iowa's new teacher leadership and compensation system is revolutionary by itself. For example it improves entry into the teaching profession, fosters collaboration among teachers and rewards excellence with pathways to career opportunities that come with greater leadership opportunities and increased pay."

The event will be held in Ankeny on Monday, August 4. It will feature the experiences of two Iowa school districts which started last fall to implement a new system where teachers get more instant feedback on their classroom methods. Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds has visited with teachers in the Saydel and Central Decatur districts.

"They loved working together, the collaboration. There's the master, the mentor teacher which helps coach but is also in the classroom and they thought that was an important component of it because if you leave the classroom sometimes you forget what you're dealing with," Reynolds says. "...They want to have an opportunity increase the the profession as a whole."

Thirty-nine other districts have gotten state grant money to implement this mentoring program starting this fall. Saydel and Central Decatur districts got a federal grant to start implementing the changes last fall. Reynolds says teachers in those districts told her they are excited about the changes.

"They talked about how hard it was...the time, but they were very optimistic about what they were learning," Reynolds says. "...Some of the master teachers can model teach for them in the classroom, so to have that full-time professional development was really just a big thing to them."

Brad Buck was superintendent of Saydel when the district got the federal grant in 2012 and he helped launch the new teacher leadership program before leaving that job to serve as Governor Branstad's education director.

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