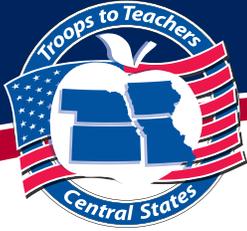


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE

877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE

314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE

816.241.1705

TTT TEACHER OF THE YEAR-GEORGETTE HARRALD



I've wanted to be a teacher since I was in the fifth grade. I loved school and I loved to learn new things every day. However, because I attended a vocational-technical high school, no one ever talked to me about college or the possibility of financial aid. I finished high school and the day after graduation, received my cosmetology license. I worked in a beauty shop for a year and a half. During that time, I received several letters from friends who had joined the Navy. I decided to visit a Navy recruiter who told me that I could get financial assistance for college. I left for boot camp on April 1, 1985 and then attended Yeoman "A" school, in Meridian, Mississippi.

At my first duty station, I focused on learning all of the responsibilities of my new job, got married, and had a baby. As my first four years ended, I re-enlisted as a Training and Administration of Reserves specialist, in the hopes of having some time to begin college classes. I was sent to VP-64 in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania where I spent four more years. When my son started kindergarten, I served as a classroom volunteer and lunch helper.

My second son was born while at, NAS South Weymouth, Massachusetts, and I was able to go to Quincy College. I continued taking classes at my next duty station, VP-66, back in Willow Grove.

My third son was born with medical issues and the Navy relocated us to Missouri, near family and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I was sent to Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 114, out of the Naval Reserve Center in Kansas City, and later, Whiteman Air Force Base. I had no time for

college and my dream of teaching was probably gone. I found that I wouldn't be eligible for financial assistance to continue college after retirement.

After I retired in 2005, I worked as a paraprofessional with a near-by school district. Being in the classroom, working with great educators for 3 years helped me to see where I wanted to be. In August 2009, my father told me about a new GI Bill. Days later, a neighbor, and former reservist, knocked on my door and told me about the Post-911 GI Bill also. I started filling out the required paperwork, and taking some online classes. When I found out GI Bill would pay a stipend each month and cover my college classes, I quit my job as a para and went back to school full-time. While in school, I heard about the Troops to Teachers program.

I graduated from the University of Missouri Kansas City in May 2012 with a degree in Elementary Education. I became a substitute teacher in three different districts. Many of those assignments were in special education, and, having a child who had special needs early in his education, I felt a calling to become certified in special education. After an interview for such a position, I passed the SPED praxis, and started my second career as a co-teacher in 2013.

I love my job as a first grade co-teacher and continue to learn new things every day! I would like to thank the Troops to Teachers program for all of the assistance I have received in the last year. I would also like to thank the awesome kids that I have the privilege to teach, their parents, our supportive community, and the amazing teachers and staff members. Without each of them, I wouldn't be finally living my teaching dream.

On the day of the TTT's teacher of the year presentation, the Director of the State of Missouri's Veterans Education and Training section, Chad Schatz, asked Georgette if she was GI Bill eligible. She was eligible for On-the-Job Training benefits. Director Schatz set up a visit with the school, designed and improved a training plan and quickly approved the school's OJT program. "School officials were great to work with in putting the VA On-the-Job Training approval together," said Chad Schatz. "It's great to see veterans take advantage of benefit programs and to see employers eager to help."



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



SCAN 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



GOOD NEWS FOR FIRST & SECOND YEAR TEACHERS

First and second year teachers who are eligible for the GI Bill may now receive VA Education Benefits for On-the-Job Training (OJT) during their first contract year. They can be teaching with a regular professional certificate or a temporary authorization certificate. **Approval of on-the-job training program for teachers must be sought through your State Approving Agency.**

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:

- > Application for VA Benefits.
- > Application for approval of the OJT position.
- > Training outline developed by school officials, including a letter detailing mentoring/supervision by either school principal or experienced teacher.
- > Designate a school official to serve as the contact person between the school and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the VA.

B. BENEFITS:

First and second year teachers can receive VA Education Benefits that are paid directly to him/her and thus need no special accounting or payroll practices in Missouri. Other states may contact your state approving agencies to apply for approval. This is a valuable addition to first two years of salaries. The benefit on a ten-month contract can range from approximately \$3,400.00 for a reservist/national guard member to over \$14,000.00 for a career serviceperson eligible under Chapter 30 of VA benefits. The amount a person receives depends upon their chapter of eligibility and their years of service.

Effective October 1, 2011 On-The-Job training under Chapter 33 benefits are paid. Up to \$83 a month for books and supplies is available.

This benefit is separate from Troops-to-Teachers and may be used in addition to Troops-to-Teachers funds.

Allows the school districts to participate and be a positive force in the veterans' transition from military to civilian life.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS INTERVIEWING SKILLS WEBINAR

We recommend you view the hyperlink: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of-sRmuhgRY> interview skills webinar conducted by a former school administrator which addresses all aspects of the interview process, including the phone interview.

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 or

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

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

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VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



New apprenticeship for GM jobs Pilot launches at Fort Hood, with option to expand

By Michelle Tan
mtan@militarytimes.com

The Army has launched a new apprenticeship program aimed at helping transitioning vets score solid jobs at General Motors dealerships.

The program, in partnership with GM and Raytheon, is starting with a small group of mechanics at Fort Hood, Texas. However, it is poised to expand to other MOSs and posts, if deemed successful.

At least a dozen soldiers are expected to start The Shifting Gears: Automotive Technician Training Program on Aug. 4.

The program consists of a 12-week customized, on-post technician training course that includes classroom, online and hands-on technical training.

Soldiers who successfully complete the course receive career counseling, job placement help and employment assistance through the Army's Soldier for Life program, which helps soldiers reintegrate into their communities after leaving the Army.

Graduates also will have access to available GM technician employment opportunities through the company's authorized dealer network. The company needs about 2,500 new technicians every year working on brands that include Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac.

According to information provided by GM, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Department of Labor show auto technicians earn an average of \$39,000. Master technicians can earn \$60,000 or more.

"Soldiers transitioning to civilian life bring exceptional training, values and experience to American communities and their civilian workforce," said Lt.

<http://www.armytimes.com/article/20140811/CAREERS02/30810016/New-apprenticeship-GM-jobs>

Gen. Howard Bromberg, deputy chief of staff for personnel, in a statement. "Properly supporting our veterans requires a team approach from the Army, other government agencies and the local community."

The Shifting Gears program is the Army's newest apprenticeship opportunity.

The service already offers 13 other programs, in partnership with private companies, ranging from plumbing and welding to truck driving and software programming.

The idea behind the apprenticeships is to partner with national unions and local universities to provide transitioning soldiers with the skills they need to launch their civilian careers. As a bonus, the training programs are conducted while a soldier is still on active duty.

The Army is shrinking by tens of thousands of soldiers making apprenticeship programs very popular, officials said.

The idea for Shifting Gears was born in January, said Col. Kevin Hicks, deputy director of the Soldier for Life program.

GM and Raytheon came up with the concept and brought it to the Army, he said.

The government forecasts that the automotive repair and maintenance industry is expected to add 237,500 new jobs and have a 30 percent growth rate through 2020, according to information provided by GM.

The Army chose to run the pilot program at Fort Hood because of its population of 91-series (mechanical maintenance) soldiers, Hicks said.

The first class of 15 to 35 soldiers are expected to graduate in late October, he said.

How quickly the program grows—

including adding courses and expanding to other installations—will depend on how well this first cohort goes, Hicks said.

Lt. Col. Ryan Raymond, the education director for the Soldier for Life program, agreed.

"They likely will take a pause to evaluate how the pilot went and make adjustments before launching into other bases," he said.

Part of the evaluation will include whether soldiers who are not mechanics in the Army can qualify for the course, Hicks said. For this first cohort, the Army sought mechanics who were 180 days from leaving active duty. The goal is to open the program to transitioning soldiers regardless of military occupational specialty, he said.

"Not all mechanics in the Army desire to be mechanics outside of the Army. After this initial course, we'll see how technically proficient the soldiers have to be to start the course and see if we can expand the course to other MOSs or allow soldiers to test into it," Hicks said.

To participate in the pilot, soldiers had to have approval from their command and successfully complete the vetting and application process run by the education center at Fort Hood, Hicks said.

Successful graduates are not guaranteed a job at a GM dealership but they will get help with job placement.

They also will have access to a custom website that shows job openings cross the GM network.

That access gives soldiers a leg up, Hick said.

"One of the things we're finding in the employment realm is establishing that network," he said. "In addition to having those skills, being connected to various GM human resources representatives and actual dealerships across the country is a huge step for that soldier." □

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CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING & INFORMATION RESOURCES

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

Quarterly State Approving Agency & VA Educational Liaison Representative meet in St Louis, MO



In order to create an open cooperative and informative relationship that fosters a great working relationship, the Missouri State Approving Agency (SAA) meets regularly with the Educational Liaison Representatives for the state. This is a great program that allows those who are in the know to raise issues, opportunities, needed changes and problems. During these meetings, the processes, approvals and questions take front and center and the focus on the veterans and their families is brought to the forefront. If you have a question that you want addressed, contact your SAA representative or your ELR.

Expansion of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("Choice Act"). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans. Section 701 requires that VA allow certain surviving spouses to take advantage of educational benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Background

VA educational benefits have been expanded under Section 701 of this Act. Specifically, this section extends the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to surviving spouses of military personnel who die in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Prior to this Act, only children of those who died in the line of duty were eligible for this benefit.

Eligibility Changes

Eligible spouses will be entitled to up to 36 months of the full, 100% level, of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This includes the tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a books and supplies stipend.

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. If you are reading this, email: john.parker@dese.mo.gov to receive a gift.



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.

KANSAS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TOPEKA - During its recent meeting, the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) voted to adopt an amendment to regulation KAR 91-1-214 Criminal History Records Check that will require individuals applying for renewal of a valid Kansas teaching certificate or license to submit fingerprints, if the person has never submitted fingerprints as part of any previous application for a Kansas certificate or license issued by the KSBE. Currently, only those applying for an initial certificate or license as of 2002 or those renewing an expired Kansas certificate or license are required to submit fingerprints. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) releases the fingerprints to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to conduct criminal history checks.

The board also voted to adopt amendments to licensure regulations that will provide a license option for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educators, address schools' needs for special education and career and technical education instructors, and remove unnecessary requirements for licensure and renewal. The regulation amendments also reflected licensure changes resulting from House Bill 2506, which was signed into law on July 1, 2014.

In his report to the board, Interim Education Commissioner Brad Neuenswander announced that the United State Department of Education approved the one-year extension of Kansas' flexibility waiver and removed the high risk status placed on the state's waiver one year ago. Kansas received the status based on its plan for using student growth in teacher/leader evaluations. KSDE was eventually able to win USDE's approval of its approach and is able to move forward. Kansas' also received Federal approval to waive reporting requirements for 2014 as a result of the cyber-attack and other issues that impacted the reliability of its state assessment results. 2014 was a pilot year for the state's new web-based assessment delivery platform as well as its new assessment, which, for the first time, was fully aligned to the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards being taught in schools. Early testing issues coupled with a cyber-attack launched against the testing platform resulted in the state being unable to produce valid assessment results.

The board also received several updates. The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) reported that it will present its recommendation for an Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) appeals process to the board in October. Kansas State University Dean of the School of Education Dr. Debbie Mercer, who is chair of Kansas' Professional Standards Board, provided the board an explanation of the process for accreditation and program review of teacher preparation programs. The KSBE is the accrediting body for teacher preparation units and approves teacher preparation programs. The board also received the 2014 Licensed Personnel Report, which includes self-reported information about professional and demographic characteristics of licensed personnel in state accredited schools across Kansas.

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

NEBRASKA

GRANT COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

The Nebraska Department of Education is requesting proposals for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2015 grant competition. The goal of the 21st CCLC program is to establish or expand community learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as activities that complement the students' regular academic programs. About \$2 million is available to successful Nebraska applicants who offer services to eligible school buildings where at least 40 percent of the students qualified for free or reduced priced meals as reported on the 2013-14 State of the Schools Report.

Two types of 21st CCLC grants are available:

- 1] First-Time Grants for applicants proposing to serve eligible school building populations that have never been served by a 21st CCLC grant, and
- 2] Continuation Grants for applicants who have successfully implemented 21st CCLC programs for five years and who propose continuing those programs to the same eligible school building populations.

Proposals for the grant competition must be postmarked no later than Feb. 2, 2015. The grant application, other information as well as eligibility requirements and funding priorities are available on the Nebraska Department of Education web site at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc/>.

A grant writing workshop for First-Time 21st CCLC Grants will be conducted Oct. 22, 2014, at 1:30 p.m., at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level, Conference Room B, in Lincoln, and Oct. 30, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at ESU #10, Conference Room A, in Kearney. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend one of these workshops and to invite representatives of community-based organizations that may work collaboratively with them. For additional information, contact Jan Handa, grants manager for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, at: jan.handa@nebraska.gov or at 402.471.0876.

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





IOWA

DIRECTOR BUCK SUPPORTS LONG-OVERDUE REVISION OF THE FEDERAL LAW

More Iowa schools and districts were identified as “in need of assistance” under the federal No Child Left Behind law based on student performance on state tests taken during the 2013-14 school year, according to the 2014 State Report Card for No Child Left Behind released today by the Iowa Department of Education. The results say more about the arbitrary accountability system under No Child Left Behind than it does about the work under way in Iowa classrooms, Director Brad Buck said.

“No Child Left Behind has outlived its usefulness as a lever for improving student achievement in our country,” Buck said. “We need some different solutions. In Iowa, we embrace high expectations and accountability, but we must have an approach that dignifies growth and progress as much as proficiency on a test.”

While most states have obtained a waiver from key components of No Child Left Behind, Iowa must continue to follow the federal law unless it is reauthorized by Congress or Iowa’s system for educator evaluation is changed by state legislators to meet waiver criteria.

“I continue to fully support Congressional reauthorization, which is long overdue, as well as a significant overhaul of this law,” Buck said. “We want a rigorous system that both acknowledges growth and holds schools and districts accountable without labeling schools that fall short of proficiency targets as failures.”

Adequate Yearly Progress Results

No Child Left Behind requires public schools and districts to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) state targets for the overall student population and for demographic subgroups of students in grades 3-8 and 11. In Iowa, the target proficiency rate climbed from 80 percent in 2011-12 to 94 percent in 2012-13 to 100 percent in 2013-14. The AYP calculation takes some elements of growth into account, so it should not be assumed that schools and districts that met AYP for 2013-14 had 100 percent of students demonstrating proficiency, Buck said. But the focus on growth doesn’t go far enough, Buck said.

Public schools that receive federal Title I funding and are identified as “in need of assistance” face consequences under No Child Left Behind. The consequences associated with various stages of “in need of assistance” are available on the Iowa Department of Education’s hyperlink <https://www.educateiowa.gov/search/no%20child%20left%20behind>. And Guidance for Schools and Districts in Need of Assistance (SINA/DINA) webpage (the files are marked “SINA and DINA Timelines”).

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

MISSOURI

MISSOURI RECEIVES EXTENSION FOR ESEA WAIVER

Missouri has received a one-year extension for flexibility from certain provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the U.S. Department of Education announced today. The extension runs through the 2014-15 school year. “This is great news for Missouri and its school districts,” said Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro. “It is important that states direct their own accountability systems setting ambitious goals and focusing on continuous improvement.”

The waiver allows Missouri to use its own accountability system to more effectively identify struggling schools, to efficiently direct resources to struggling schools and to recognize schools achieving exemplary results. The waiver also gives school districts flexibility with their Title I funding. <http://dese.mo.gov/communications/news-releases/missouri-receives-extension-esea-waiver>

ESEA, currently known as No Child Left Behind, has been due for Congressional reauthorization since 2007. Without reauthorization, waivers have been granted from parts of the law to qualified states, in exchange for state-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students.

ESEA flexibility has been effective in allowing Missouri to carry out important reforms that have improved student achievement and quality of instruction. **Examples include:**

School-based data teams that focus on collaborative decision making. These teams meet regularly to analyze and discuss student progress in English language arts and math, as measured by performance on formative assessments, and share best instructional practices.

The Missouri Leadership for Excellence, Achievement and Development (MoLEAD) program, which focuses on enhancing the leadership skills of principals and district staff. Training began in January 2013 and continues to focus on developing systemic processes for sustained school improvement, empowering instructional leadership teams, building collaborative learning and decision-making cultures and coaching teachers on the use of outcome data to drive instructional improvements.

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

