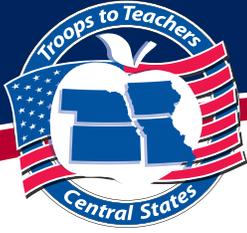


# TROOPS TO TEACHERS



❖ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE  
**877.530.2765**

❖ ST. LOUIS OFFICE  
**314.729.2444**

❖ KANSAS CITY OFFICE  
**816.241.1705**

## MEET LAKESHIA BROOKS, TTT MEMBER IN WICHITA, KS

Integrity First, Service before self and Excellence in all we do has become the trademark for what I do in the classroom. My service as a Medical Service Journeyman and time as EMT Instructor in the United States Air Force taught me how to take care of patients in everyday life and in crisis situations. These accomplishments made it possible for me to continue the legacy of military service that runs deep in my family.

After retiring in 2006, I wanted to find ways to help, not only my children, but others in their school overcome some of the same obstacles I faced while I was in school. Issues such as reading, comprehension, and math are just some of the things students struggle with on a daily basis. I found information on the Troops to Teachers Program on their website. Through my research I found that most participants come to the Troop to Teacher Program as Commissioned Officers. As an enlisted member, I was given guidance on completing my Bachelor's degree and instructed that, after graduating the Teacher Education Program, I would be provided

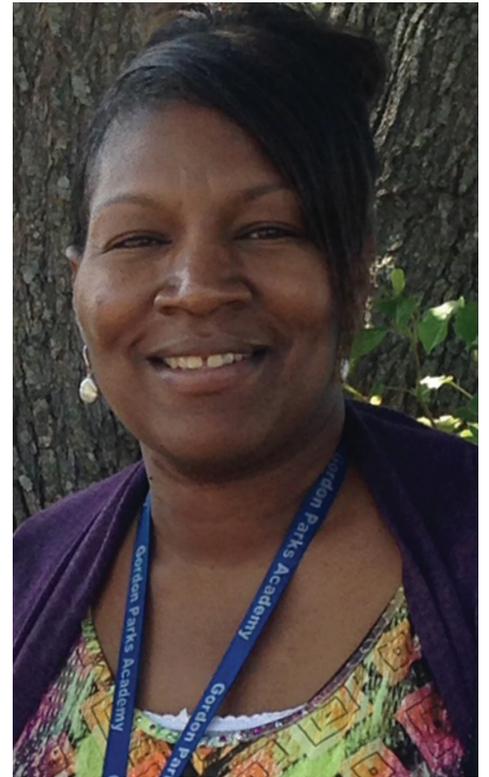
with assistance in completing my performance portfolio and job placement assistance.

Teaching in the Unified School District 259, in Wichita, Kansas first, at Gordon Parks Academy IB World School and then at Hamilton Middle School in the fall, it has been such an honor to come back and teach in the school district that influenced my life in such a positive way. Having the distinction of being a part of the TTT Program gives me a great sense of pride.

As a middle school math teacher, I'm blessed to have an opportunity to show students the importance of math in everyday life! The contribution that I want to make in becoming a teacher is to 'facilitate students learning' and to allow students to see that education can truly make a difference in their lives.

It is for this reason that I'm currently pursuing my Master's Degree in Special Education. By continuing my own education, I believe this training will give me the insight necessary to meet the diverse population of the students

I have the pleasure to serve. As teachers, education is one of the many things we model for our students every day. My hope is that students will see the importance of being committed to making a difference and becoming lifelong learners.



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

# HAVE A LOOK AT THIS!



The Department of Defense recognizes the many noble professions in the education system such as: paraprofessionals, teachers aids, counselors, psychologists, school nurses, librarians, media specialists, speech therapists, audiologists, physiotherapists, resource teachers, resource officers, school principals, and vice principals just to name a few. TTT participants are now receiving counseling, certification information, and job referral for positions in the schools as noted above. The name of the TTT Program will not change and funding is still only available for participants seeking certification and employment as K-12 teachers.

There is no more service time requirement to register with TTT! If you are currently serving in the Guard or Reserve or were honorably discharged you can now register with TTT and receive counseling/guidance to better understand how to become certified to teach what you're passionate about in your state. Afterwards networking with the State TTT Office is a real plus for teaching employment possibilities. TTT State Offices have knowledgeable staff and mentors willing and ready to assist you. Register now for your next career in teaching K-12.

If you are a Reservist and have at least six years of credible service towards retirement you will now be considered for funding. This is a big change from the previous ten years of credible service towards retirement.

If you separated from active duty or the Reserves due to physical disability and register with TTT within three years after your separation date you will now be considered for funding.

## 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

John Hose, Assistant Director

John Parker, Supervisor

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

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### IOWA

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

### NEBRASKA

**Bethina Garrett** p: 402.471.0739

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

**website:** <http://www.education.ne.gov/tcert>

### KANSAS

**Susan Helbert** p: 785.296.2289

**e-mail:** [shelbert@ksde.org](mailto:shelbert@ksde.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>

# VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

## MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



### TIPS FOR VA-ONCE

VA-ONCE is designed to work on any computer that has the proper web browser (Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher). Any operating system will work.

#### A. Initial Setup

Check your screen resolution - Right click on your desktop, properties, settings: 800X600  
Log-in with the user ID & Password provided, website [https://vaonce.vba.va.gov/vaonce\\_student/default.asp](https://vaonce.vba.va.gov/vaonce_student/default.asp)

#### B. Changing your Password

Each certifying official will be assigned a separate password.

1. Click on the Admin Button, on left side of screen
2. Click User (drop down)
3. Click User preferences
4. Click Change
5. Complete new password information
6. Click Change Password

#### C. User Preferences

1. Click Admin Button
2. Click User (drop down)
3. Click User preferences
4. Highlight "Default State"
5. Click Drop down box, find your state's abbreviated name and set. This will be the default state on the student address. If your student's location varies, you do not have to set a default.
6. Highlight "Always Print Address on Certs"
7. If you would like to always print the address, click on drop down arrow and change to Yes. If you only want the address to print

when it is sent to VA, leave as No.

8. Highlight "Default Training Type"
9. If you have a predominant training type, click on drop down box and find your appropriate training type. This will be the default on the Student Bio page.
10. Save
11. These settings are based on user preference. You are not required to set them, but they may assist you when completing the student Bio page.

#### D. User Accounts

Used to designate individuals, such as work study and other personnel to access va-once. **Do not give them your logon id or password. This is a security violation.**

**This is a security violation.**

1. Click Admin Button
2. Click User (drop down)
3. Click User Accounts
4. Click Add
5. Complete User Information
6. Bottom Right – By checking delete, the individual will be able to view, edit and delete records. By checking edit, the individual will be able to view and edit only.
7. Save

#### E. Entering Term Dates

1. Click Admin button
2. Click on Maintenance (drop down)
3. Click Standard terms
4. Click on Add
5. New Term information (middle of screen) - Term name (ex.

Fall 13), beginning date, ending date, drop date and break dates

6. Click on down arrow to choose semester or quarter (only use clock for certificate/NCD courses)
7. Save
8. Repeat steps 4 through 7 to add another term

#### F. Entering Programs

\*\*Check your facility code to make sure you are adding programs for the correct training type (IHL vs NCD).\*\*

1. Click Admin Button
2. Click on Maintenance - Standard Programs
3. Click on Add
4. Enter programs as listed on VA Form 22-1998. ("Deemed Approved" schools can enter any degree program, even if not reflected on VA Form 1998)  
You must also assign objective/course codes for each program (See pages 36-41 of Flip Book for code list - see link at end of this document)

Program Abbreviation: Enter an abbreviation for the program. The abbreviation will not be allowed to be duplicated for another program. You will have to select another abbreviation if this occurs.  
*Example: If you input the abbreviation for Sociology, BS as Soc., you will not be able to use the abbreviation Soc. for Sociology, BA.*

### STAFF

#### JEFFERSON CITY

**Chad Schatz:** Director

**John Hose:** Assistant Director

**Ron Marsch:** Supervisor

**Debbie Butcher:** Teacher Certification Supervisor

**Loretta Fennewald:** Administrative Assistant

#### ST. LOUIS

**John Parker:** Supervisor

**Mike Bitzenburg:** Supervisor

**Robert Hummel:** Approval Developer

**Suzanne Adam:** Secretary

#### KANSAS CITY

**Turner Shipman:** Supervisor

**Leo Blakley:** Approval Developer

**Sharon Sawyer:** Secretary

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Section Department of Elementary  
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Community College Pioneer Campus**  
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Kansas City, MO 64127  
816.241.1705

**Veterans Education & Training  
Section C/O Truman Middle  
School**  
Room 22  
12225 Eddie and Park Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63127  
314.729.2444

## TIPS FOR VA-ONCE CONTINUED

Program Name: Enter the program name first, and then the type of degree.

*Example: Sociology, BS. If you have more than 1 type of degree for each program, ie, BS, BA, you will have to input them as separate programs. Example: Sociology, BA for the first program and Sociology, BS for the second program. Don't input it as one program, Sociology, BA/BS.*

5. Save
6. Repeat steps 3 through 5 to add another program

### G. Entering School Standard Remarks

1. Click Admin Button
2. Click on Maintenance - School Standard Remarks
3. Click on Add
4. Click into Remark Text field and type your Remark
5. Click Save
6. Repeat Steps 3 - 5 to add another Remark

### H. Selecting a Student

Click on the SELECT bottom to the left, if you are still in Admin. Upon initial log in a list of your students will display. Students no longer attending may be deactivated.

1. Make sure you have entered all your programs before you start selecting students. The computer will not allow you to correct programs once you have selected the student.
2. You can search by last name, social security number, file number, or student ID
3. Click on the last name to open that student's record
4. You must complete the BIO screen first. Enter data in all fields with an (\*)
5. Click save when you have finished the BIO screen

### I. Certifying VA Form 22-1999

1. Click on CERT tab
2. Click on Cert
3. Click New
4. Click on arrow to the right (in the enrollment section) for smart dates
5. Choose the term to be certified
6. Enter credit hours, etc.
7. Click Save
8. Review for accuracy, click complete at the top. Notice your number in the upper right corner changed from 1 > 2 > 3. If you need to make changes at this point, click on cert and change to status 2
9. Click Submit. Your status number in the upper right hand corner has now changed to a 4

### J. Entering a New Student

1. Click Select
2. Click on Student (top of screen)

3. Click Add (previously listed as "Adopt")
4. Enter data on screen, be sure to enter the correct SSN
5. Click OK
6. Enter all BIO information. All fields with \* must be completed.
7. Click Save

### K. Printing the Enrollment Certification

1. Enter the student's record, Cert Screen
2. Click on the arrow to the left of the enrollment line
3. Another line will appear with the same information, click on that to highlight it
4. Click on "PRINT" at the top
5. Click Selected Cert

### L. Changes to VA Form 22-1999

1. Enter the student's record, select the Cert Screen.
2. Make sure the term you are changing was certified through Va-Once
3. Click on the arrow next to the #4 in the enrollment information field
4. Another line is added, click on that line. The original enrollment remains in system
5. Click Cert at the top, select action to take, amend, terminate or adjust.
6. The Edit Adjustment section at the bottom will unlock for the changes.
7. Make the appropriate changes.
8. Click Save
9. Click Complete
10. Click Submit
11. If you make an error, just click on "Cancel" or delete cert and start over.
12. Click Save

### M. Delete or Inactive

1. Click Select Button
2. Highlight the name of the student
3. Click Student on upper toolbar
4. Highlight "delete" or "inactivate" and click

### N. Undelete or Activate

1. Click Select Button
2. Click drop down box of "Status and"
3. Select "deleted" or "inactive"
4. Click Filter
5. Highlight the name of the student
6. Click Student on the upper toolbar
7. Highlight "undelete" or "activate"
8. Click Reset

**There is an on-line training guide at the following address:**

[http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/vaonce/VAONCE\\_Quick\\_Reference\\_User\\_Guide\\_v5.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/vaonce/VAONCE_Quick_Reference_User_Guide_v5.pdf)

There are Help Buttons on each page to answer some of your questions. If you have any problems or questions, please contact your ELR.

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](mailto: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 JULY KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING -July 15, 2014

*Denise Kahler, Director of Communications, 785-296-4876*

Two Kansas teachers were recently inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, which is located in Emporia, Kansas and was founded in 1989 by Emporia State University (ESU), ESU's Alumni Association, the City of Emporia, Emporia USD 253, and the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce as a tribute to the nation's teaching profession. The two inductees, Jan Alderson, a science teacher from Shawnee Mission South High School and Cindy Couchman, a mathematics teacher at Buhler High School, presented to the board what they believe to be the greatest opportunities for education in Kansas. Couchman praised the board for giving the profession "Voice and Choice" by giving educators the opportunity to provide input into the state's academic standards, advocating for local control and working with the Coalition for Innovative Districts. She asked board members to keep in mind the need for professional learning whenever a new program is launched – reminding the board that there is often times a lot coming at teachers and they need this professional learning to collaborate, process and learn.

Alderson and Couchman represent the eighth and ninth Kansas teachers inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, which honors five of the nation's most outstanding educators each year.

The Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) voted Tuesday, July 8 to not release any individual, building-, district- or state-level assessment scores for 2014, citing a cyber-attack and early system glitches that impacted the validity of some student scores. Instead, the board approved the suggestion of Dr. Marianne Perie, director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, the contractor that developed and administered the assessment, to develop score-free, grade- and subject-specific reports that provide feedback to students, parents and teachers about generalized findings, including examples of item types where students demonstrated mastery and where they struggled.

Emporia USD 253 Assistant Superintendent, George Abel, chair of the Kansas Assessment Advisory Council told board members that even though 2014 assessment scores will not be released, he believes testing the new assessment aligned to the current standards was a much more valuable experience for schools, districts and students than if they had used the former assessment aligned to standards no long relevant.

To read the entire article go to: <http://www.ksde.org/Home/QuickLinks/NewsRoom/tabid/586/aid/51/Default.aspx>

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

# NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA CAREER EDUCATION ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Education, business and industry leaders as well as career education teachers were recently recognized jointly by Nebraska Career Education and the Association for Career and Technical Education in Nebraska.

The 2014 Nebraska Career Education (NCE) Awards were presented at NCE's three-day professional development conference in Kearney. The NCE award winners were nominated by individuals who have worked with them and benefitted from their commitment to quality career education. More than 600 career education instructors, counselors, administrators and business/industry representatives from across Nebraska attended the conference.

NCE Awards were presented in the following categories:

Elaine Stuhr Leadership and Advocacy Lifetime Achievement Award

Dennis Headrick, Vice President of Instruction

Southeast Community College

Distinguished Partner Awards

Al Haiar, Bernina Sewing Center, Omaha

Donlynn Rice, Nebraska Department of Education

Outstanding Nebraska Career Education Program

Career Education Program

Stratton High School, Dundy County

Career Pathways Institute

Grand Island Senior High School, Grand Island

Urban Agriculture and Natural Resource Academy

Bryan High School, Omaha

Outstanding Business/Industry Partnership Awards

Embassy Suites and Courtyard by Marriott

David Scott, Director of Sales

La Vista

[http://www.education.ne.gov/ndepress/2014/Nebraska\\_Career\\_Education\\_Award\\_Winners.pdf](http://www.education.ne.gov/ndepress/2014/Nebraska_Career_Education_Award_Winners.pdf)



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

## IOWA

The second Iowa Teacher and Principal Leadership Symposium, was held on Monday, Aug. 4, 2014, at the FFA Enrichment Center at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny. Featured speakers included Vivien Stewart from the Asia Society, Ee-Ling Low from the National Institute of Education in Singapore, and Barnett Berry from the Center for Teaching Quality. Also featured are Iowa's first 39 school districts to launch teacher leadership systems in 2014-15 as part of Iowa's landmark 2013 education reform package, two Iowa school districts – Central Decatur and Saydel – that started teacher leadership systems in 2013-14 with the help of a federal grant.

The purpose of the symposium was to continue the public conversation about the critical role teacher and principal leadership will play as Iowans work to give students a world-class education.

"Iowa has many exceptional teachers, and the 2013 transformational education reform elevates the profession to a higher level by recognizing how teacher leadership can improve instruction to raise student achievement," said Branstad. "We look forward to learning from those who have started to experience the teacher leadership and compensation system as well as experts from outside Iowa who are steeped in this work."

"We want to ensure the Teacher Leadership and Compensation System is as successful as possible, and the symposium is one way to continue the dialogue and make certain our children are prepared to be competitive in a global, knowledge-based economy," added Reynolds.

If you missed it you may view it here on video:

<https://educateiowa.eduvision.tv/Default.aspx?q=d0F7qPKKlcdXW9lW7kS5g%253d%253d>



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

## MISSOURI

### MISSOURI ASSESSMENT SCORES FALL WHILE SOME DISTRICTS SHOW PROGRESS

According to results from the 2014 Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), the statewide average rate of proficiency has fallen in English language arts (ELA), mathematics and science. ELA and math grade-level assessments are given in grades 3 through 8. Despite an overall decline in average scores, more than 300 districts and charter schools in Missouri saw gains in either math or ELA.

To ensure that 2014 Missouri Assessment Program results are valid and reliable, the Department required the testing vendor, CTB/McGraw-Hill, to conduct a formal analysis of its process and results. The state also contracted with an outside assessment research company to review all data. There does not appear to be one consistent reason for the decline in scores; rather, there appears to be a combination of factors that might have contributed to the overall drop in the state averages.

First, Missouri refreshed the testing form for the first time since 2010. Statewide testing procedures usually require that test forms be refreshed with items of equal difficulty each year. Because of budget constraints, Missouri used the same test form for four straight years: 2010-2013. With an improved budget situation, a new test form was possible. While the 2014 test is not more difficult, it is common to see a drop in scores when test forms are refreshed after a number of years. Test items in the 2014 assessment were drawn from an existing pool common to both the previous standards and the Missouri Learning Standards in English language arts and math.

Another possibility for the lower scores this year might be adjustments to curriculum as school districts are moving to higher state standards. The Missouri Learning Standards define the knowledge and skills students need in each grade level and course for success in college, other post-secondary training and careers. These grade-level and course-level expectations are aligned to the Show-Me Standards.

Finally, many districts missed weeks of school because of harsh winter weather. In fact, more than 23% of all districts reduced their actual days of attendance by 10 or more days. Although the analysis shows no definite pattern for districts with large numbers of snow days, scores from individual districts may have been affected by make-up schedules.

MAP tests are administered yearly at all public schools in Missouri. Results are one of the measures used to develop school- and district-level Annual Performance Reports (APRs). The APR is the foundation for determining a district's accreditation classification, based on five areas: academic achievement, subgroup achievement, high school or college and career readiness, attendance, and graduation rate. The 2014 APRs are scheduled to be released August 29.

<http://dese.mo.gov/communications/news-releases/missouri-assessment-scores-fall-while-some-districts-show-progress>

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

