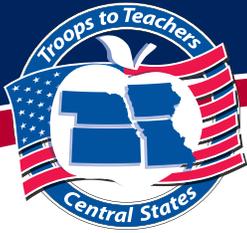


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



Chad Schatz, Director of the Central States Troops to Teachers program and the Missouri State Approving Agency served as presenter at the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program in Kansas City recently. A total of 111 individuals and military related agencies were addressed separately throughout the weekend. Resolving contact issues, certification requirements and other problems were discussed and solutions offered to attendees. Over 700 participants took part on the event.

VA benefits for education and training to include on-the-job training for teachers were discussed. Unfortunately, most of the participants were not aware of the VA on-the-job training program or benefits. Information packets were given to participants that included program information, contact information and regulation information. "This event has yielded better understanding of the Troop to Teachers program and how to engage the TTT program and VA benefits", said Schatz. "These events help veterans and dependents understand how to access programs that can improve their life."

2016 EDUCATION CAREER FAIR CALENDAR

The 2016 Education Career Fair Calendar is a list of nationwide education career fairs. Under each organization/institution, you will find the job fair date, time, location, and website.

MISSOURI

- Missouri Education Day (Missouri State University, Drury University, Evangel University, Southwest Baptist University, College of the Ozarks)
When: March 31, 2016, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Where: University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, MO
<http://careercenter.missouristate.edu/EducationDay.htm>
- Missouri Southern State University Education Career Fair
When: March 16, 2016, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Where: Billingsly Student Center Ballroom, Joplin, MO
<http://www.mssu.edu/career/employer-events.php>

ILLINOIS

- Northern Illinois University Educators' Job Fair
When: February 29, 2016, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Where: NIU Convocation Center, DeKalb, IL
http://www.niu.edu/CareerServices/career_fairs/index.shtml
- Illinois State University Education Career Fair
When: February 26, 2016, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Where: Bone Student Center, Normal, IL
<http://careercenter.illinoisstate.edu/events/education-career-fair.shtml>
- Northeastern Illinois University Education Job Fair
When: February 23, 2016, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Where: Alumni Hall, Chicago, IL
<http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/career-development-center/informationemployers>

A complete listing of all of the states can be found at: <http://www.troopstoteachers.net/Portals/1/National%20Home%20Page/TeacherJobFairs2016.pdf>



TROOPS TO TEACHERS

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is pleased to support Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program applicants.

Troops to Teachers, is a Department of Defense program designed to assist eligible military personnel in their pursuit of teaching as a second career in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed to relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other critical subject areas.

Troops to Teachers provides counseling, referral and placement assistance to eligible military personnel. The TTT state and regional staff across the country will help applicants identify teacher certification requirements and programs leading to certification and employment opportunities in their state of interest.



MYTH VS. FACT

- Myth:** TTT provides classes and programs that lead to teacher licensing.
Fact: TTT does NOT teach classes, but helps Troops find state approved licensure programs.
- Myth:** TTT awards teaching licenses.
Fact: TTT does NOT issue teaching licenses. Most TTT counselors are not licensing specialists, however, they are familiar with state licensing requirements. Each state has specific licensure requirements.
- Myth:** TTT forces candidates to teach in a particular school.
Fact: Candidates must obtain employment in a school that qualifies as "stipend/bonus eligible" only if they accept TTT funds. The candidate decides where to teach.
- Myth:** Once a candidate registers, they must teach for 3 years.
Fact: Registration does NOT obligate a candidate to teach for 3 years. An obligation is only incurred once a troop accepts funding.
- Myth:** It takes YEARS to earn a teaching license.
Fact: Obtaining a license does NOT require "years" of preparation. There are various 'fast-track' alternative programs; some as short as 10 weeks.
- Myth:** A person must have a degree in education.
Fact: A degree in education is NOT required to become a teacher; however, most teaching positions require at least a Bachelor's degree (in any major). A Master's Degree is NOT required to become a teacher.
- Myth:** All teachers are state employees.
Fact: A candidate is NOT a state or federal employee. A candidate is an employee of the hiring school district.

STATE TEACHER JOB VACANCY SITES

Looking for a new job? These are some links that may prove useful for finding certified and substitute teaching jobs. For a more complete listing go to our website:

WWW.TROOPSTOTEACHERS.MO.GOV

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

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

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

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

MISSOURI/IOWA/NEBRASKA/KANSAS

Chad Schatz, Director

Ron Marsch, Supervisor

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Veterans Education and Training Section
P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

p: 877.530.2765

fax: 573.526.5710

e-mail: dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov

TEACHER CERTIFICATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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

KANSAS

Susan Helbert p: 785.296.2288

e-mail: 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 or

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

THE NATIONAL TROOPS TO TEACHERS WEBSITE IS LOCATED AT WWW.PROUDTOSERVEAGAIN.COM

VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



NEW CRAFT TRAINING & ASSESSMENT RESOURCES FOR MILITARY MEMBERS & VETERANS

ALACHUA, Fla. — As part of their commitment to help veterans and returning military make a smooth transition into rewarding construction careers, NCCER and its Build Your Future (BYF) initiative have developed the Hard Hat Heroes campaign to assist in recruiting, training and hiring veterans. The Hard Hat Heroes program provides military service members and veterans with access to free online training and a portal to connect with interested employers.

NCCER and its publisher, Pearson, are donating \$1 million of online Core Curriculum to veterans and service members to provide them with training and credentials. Veterans and service members who want to take advantage of this opportunity and organizations interested in offering training can email: jwilkerson@nccer.org for more information.

For service members with construction training and/or experience who are interested in taking NCCER assessments, GI Bill® funding can be used towards the cost of exams for many of NCCER's journey-level craft and management assessments. Organizations that offer the assessments to veterans and service members can be reimbursed by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the cost of the exam. Veterans and service members who pay for the assessments directly are also eligible for reimbursement. The VA will pay for each NCCER written and performance assessment regardless of a pass or fail outcome. While there is no limit to the number of assessments that can be taken, the same assessment cannot be taken more than four times in a 12-month period. Interested individuals can visit byf.org/military for a complete list of NCCER assessments that are recognized by the VA, as well as reimbursement guidelines and a GI Bill fact sheet.

Hard Hat Heroes is in the process of expanding its military crosswalks to include Military Occupational Specialty alignments for task levels, which allow military

members to receive credit for skills and training already achieved through their service. These crosswalks will help employers understand and recognize the skills that service members have in various crafts within the industry.

Along with the craft training and assessment opportunities available to veterans and service members, NCCER and BYF have also partnered with the Folds of Honor Foundation to create an annual scholarship for the children and spouses of fallen and wounded soldiers. The scholarship includes a \$20,000 annual donation for five years to individuals seeking construction-related degrees or certificates. To apply for the scholarship, visit byf.org/scholarships.

With an expected workforce shortage of 1.5 million craft professionals by 2019 and more than 1 million service members projected to leave the military over the next five years, veterans and the construction industry make the perfect fit. NCCER remains committed to helping returning military transition into rewarding, high-wage construction careers through its program of training and assessments.

About NCCER — NCCER is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) education foundation created by the construction industry to develop standardized curriculum with portable credentials and to help address the skilled construction workforce shortage. NCCER is recognized by the industry as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for the construction and maintenance craft professional. For more information, visit: www.nccer.org or contact NCCER customer service at 888.622.3720.



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Chad Schatz: Director

Ron Marsch: Supervisor

Eldon Fletcher: Assistant Director

Debbie Butcher: Teacher Certification Supervisor

Loretta Fennewald: Administrative Assistant

ST. LOUIS

Michele Mueller: Supervisor

Robert Hummel: Approval Developer

Suzanne Adam: Secretary

John Hose: Education Specialist

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Sharon Sawyer: Supervisor

Veterans Education & Training Section Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Veterans Education & Training Section C/O Penn Valley Community College Pioneer Campus

Room 256

2700 East 18th St.

Kansas City, MO 64127

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Veterans Education & Training Section C/O Truman Middle School

Room 22

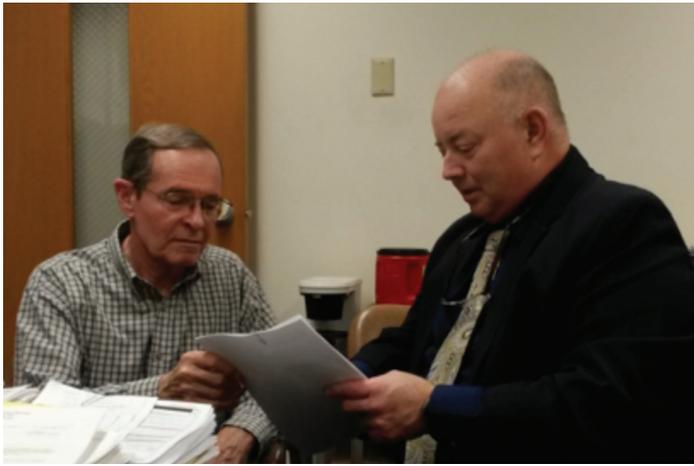
12225 Eddie and Park Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63127

314.729.2444

CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING & INFORMATION RESOURCES

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



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Turner Shipman retired from the Missouri State Approving Agency as the Kansas City area supervisor after 14 years of distinguished service on December 31, 2015. "Mr. Shipman's service to veterans, dependents and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education stands as exemplary," said State Approving Agency Director Chad Schatz.

"He was well respected by schools, colleges, employers and the VA for his quality service." Mr. Shipman came to the SAA after 26 years working for IBM. He served 9 years as a Navy Officer.

Mr. Shipman said this about working for the department, "I took the job as Supervisor because it provided a way for me to support veterans. I very much love that part of the job but I feel this is the right time for me to retire or at least cut back on the number of hours I work." Mr. Shipman will work part-time in the Veterans Education and Training Section Troops-to-Teacher program.



MEET THE NEW SUPERVISOR

Sharon Sawyer has become the new Kansas City area supervisor. She has been in an administrative role with the Missouri State Approving Agency since November 2008 and is excited to take on the responsibilities of her new role.

Sharon shared her thoughts on her new position. "My interest in what goes on with our veterans peaked the more I observed Chad Schatz, Turner Shipman, Leo Blakley and others in their roles within our agency. I wanted to be where they were in knowing how to help veterans. I appreciate being given the opportunity to serve those who have served this country."

Sharon has previously worked in the telecommunications, hospitality and gaming industries. She is married and has one daughter and one grandson.

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.

WHAT ARE VA GI BILL OJT/ APPRENTICESHIP AND MISSOURI SHOW ME HEROES PROGRAMS?

Missouri State Approving Agency and the Show-Me Heroes Program agree to share information regarding VA benefits for on-the-job training and apprenticeship and Show Me Heroes on-the-job training reimbursements to employers.

The VA program for on-the-job- training and apprenticeship include benefits for eligible veterans and dependents. The minimum training program length is at least six months. Benefits range from \$276 to \$1,341 or more per month paid to the veteran, based on entitlement.

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

Contact the Missouri State Approving Agency at **1-877-530-2765** or **1-573-751-1250**.

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



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.

IOWA

STATE EFFORT LEADS TO MORE WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Iowa has expanded the quality and range of work-based learning experiences for students in kindergarten through 12th grade because of a stronger connection between business and education made possible through a state network established by the Legislature, a new Iowa Department of Education report shows.

"When we expose Iowa students to high-quality internships, job-shadowing opportunities, career fairs and other workforce experiences, we better position them to make well-informed choices in college and career training, which can lead them to make good career decisions," Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise said. "This is important for students to choose rewarding careers and for Iowa to ensure our workforce is prepared to fill high-demand jobs."

In 2013, the Legislature set aside \$1.45 million to establish a statewide intermediary network, which has representation from each of Iowa's 15 community colleges. The network has developed stronger connections with business and industry representatives, professional organizations, and other partners to expand work-based learning opportunities, including those in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, construction, information technology, and advanced manufacturing. The role of the statewide intermediary network is to be the catalyst for connecting K-12 education to business and industry.

The state appropriation and other sources led to hands-on workplace learning opportunities for 15,081 Iowa students during the 2014-15 school year, according to the Department's report to the State Board of Education today. Another 52,641 Iowa students participated in career fairs, camps, work skills testing and other activities.

The expansion of work-based learning experiences is in line with the Future Ready Iowa initiative launched by Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds earlier this year. The initiative focuses on ways to continue building Iowa's talent pipeline to ensure the state has a workforce ready to fill the high-quality, well-paying jobs and careers of today and tomorrow.

The Branstad-Reynolds administration last week announced that Iowa was awarded a National Governors Association grant to scale work-based learning that will connect Iowa's youth with STEM careers. The grant will be co-led by the Iowa Department of Education and the Governor's STEM Advisory Council.

Expanding high-quality work-based learning experiences also was one of five recommendations from the Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force this fall. The task force was convened by the Iowa Department of Education in response to 2013 legislation.

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

MISSOURI

SCHOOLS TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Several Missouri schools are set to be honored this week for their commitment to professional learning.

Sixteen schools from across the state have been named Professional Learning Communities Exemplary Schools for outstanding performance in implementing professional learning. The schools, which promote cultures focused on collaborative learning while effectively using data to increase student achievement, will be recognized during the Powerful Learning Conference Jan. 25-26 at Lake of the Ozarks. The 2015-16 award winners are:

- Blanchard Elementary School, Cape Girardeau 63 School District
- Bismarck R-V Elementary School, Bismarck R-V School District
- David H. Hickman High School, Columbia 93 School District
- Eagle Glen Intermediate School, Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
- Garrett Elementary School, Hazelwood School District
- Highland Elementary School, Lewis County C-1 School District
- Julia Goldstein Early Childhood, School District of University City
- Martin Warren Elementary School, Warrensburg R-VI School District
- McIntire Elementary School, Fulton 58 School District
- Montgomery County Middle School, Montgomery County R-II School District
- Raymore Elementary School, Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District
- Reeds Spring Intermediate School, Reeds Spring R-IV School District
- Reeds Spring Primary School, Reeds Spring R-IV School District
- Russell Hawkins Junior High School, Jackson R-II School District
- Southview Elementary School, Kearney R-I School District
- Warrensburg High School, Warrensburg R-VI School District

Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven will present school leaders with their awards. More than 1,600 educators from around the state are expected to attend the conference.

"These educators are focused on creating schools that foster growth and enhance learning opportunities for their children," Vandeven said. The Missouri Professional Learning Communities Project began during the 2003-04 school year. Supporting, preparing and developing effective educators is one of the primary goals of Missouri's Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for Missouri to rank among the top 10 states for education by 2020.

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



NEBRASKA

WISE, LARSEN RE-ELECTED TO LEAD STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rachel Wise of Oakland was re-elected president of the State Board of Education. Wise is a retired Nebraska teacher and administrator. She has spent 37 years serving both rural and urban school districts.

"I am honored and it is a privilege to have the State Board members' vote of support and the opportunity to lead the Board forward with the strong, shared leadership approach we have built over the years," Wise said. "By working together, we can further strengthen our relationship with the Governor's Office, the Legislature, our policy partners and educators across the state.

"I am confident that the State Board will continue to focus on providing excellent educational opportunities for every student every day and further develop the new state school accountability system, AQuESTT. It will be an exciting year considering the recent adoption of the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which, we understand, will allow Nebraska to have greater control over our education system," Wise said.

Lillie Larsen was re-elected vice president. Larsen served on the Lincoln Board of Education for 12 years before she was elected to the State Board of Education.

"I am honored to be re-elected to serve as vice president of the Nebraska State Board of Education," Larsen said. "I look forward to working with board members to support and improve education in Nebraska for all students.

"It is important to provide quality education for each and every student," she said. "The goal is to help students develop their interests and talents. The State Board of Education must work to ensure that Nebraska students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their careers and/or postsecondary education." Wise and Larsen have served on the State Board of Education since 2013.

COMMISSIONER BLOMSTEDT'S CONTRACT EXTENDED

The State Board of Education voted unanimously to extend the employment contract of Education Commissioner Blomstedt through Dec. 2019. Dr. Blomstedt, whose career has focused on local, regional and statewide education issues, was named Commissioner of Education by the State Board of Education in January 2014.

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

KANSAS

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

TOPEKA — The Kansas State Board of Education during its two-day January meeting adopted five outcomes that will help measure progress of the board's new vision. Board members in October announced a new vision for Kansas education — Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. The newly adopted outcomes are:

- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary completion/attendance
- Kindergarten readiness: An essential building block for future achievement and academic success.
- Individual plan of study focused on career interest: This is a roadmap started for students in middle school that includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly defined, rigorous and relevant to ensure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce. Each IPS will include graduation requirements, approved for the student's educational and career goals and work-based learning experiences.
- Social/emotional growth measured locally: Social-emotional learning integrated with character development will help students learn, and model essential personal life habits that contribute to academic, vocational and personal success. The development of skills will lay a critical role in achieving the state board's new vision.

Kansas Education Commissioner Randy Watson also announced a recommendation by Gov. Sam Brownback to put all early childhood education programs under the Kansas State Department of Education. The move won't take effect until the legislature votes on the proposed budget. Watson also gave an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Watson shared with board members a master list of committee members who are helping advise KSDE on key components of the waiver.

ESSA maintains a requirement that every state have annual assessments in reading and language arts and math for grades 3-8 and once in high school, as well as science assessments given at least once in each grade span from grades 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12. The ESSA doesn't require specific educator evaluation measures or methods; it allows but doesn't require that Title II funds be used to implement specific teacher evaluation measures; and it reauthorizes the Teacher Incentive Fund, Watson said.

Kansas' waiver will end in July. ESSA takes effect in August. However, states are allowed one year for transition. ESSA will take full effect in the 2017-2018 school year, Watson said.

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