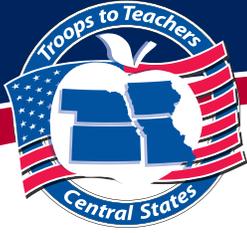


TROOPS TO TEACHERS



✦ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE
877.530.2765

✦ ST. LOUIS OFFICE
314.729.2444

✦ KANSAS CITY OFFICE
816.241.1705

OUR TROOPS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thousands of Troops to Teachers have discovered new and rewarding careers in teaching. Statistically, former troops have a very high retention rate as teachers. Skilled in science and mathematics, representing significant proportions of minority groups, and comprising a largely male component, they contribute valuable skills and life experience and fill critical needs in vital areas of our nation's classrooms.

- More than 85% of TTT educators coming into teaching are male, compared to 26% in the overall teaching force.
- 33% of TTT teachers are from a minority group, compared to 10% of the current workforce.
- 32% of TTT teachers report they are teaching mathematics or science, compared to 24% of all teachers.
- 18% of TTT teachers, compared with 12% overall, are teaching special education.
- 24% of TTT teachers work in inner-city schools, compared to 16% overall.
- 68% of TTT teachers indicate a willingness to teach in a rural community, compared to 23% overall.

THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR

You should hire a prior long-serving military member making a mid-career change to teaching only if you seek these qualities:

MATURITY- TTT participants have learned many lessons about human relations, stress management, priority setting, leadership and sacrifice that can only be gained through experience. Most TTT participants are in their early forties. This maturity is available to the students for decades to come, while the cost to the district is equivalent to hiring a recent young college graduate.

COMMITMENT- The retention of TTT participants far exceeds the average teacher. This longer retention is evidence of the commitment of TTT participants to the children, school and administration and the TTT participant's decision to make teaching a professional career choice.

DIVERSITY- When serving in the military you work in an extremely diverse community. Military members learn very quickly to be sensitive to other cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. Moreover, a "troop" learns very quickly

that what really matters is whether a teammate can produce under pressure when needed and not that teammate's race, ethnicity, religion, or beliefs.

PROVEN TEAM MEMBER- All military experience demands that each individual work for the good of the team and not of the self.

ALWAYS PREPARED FOR LESSONS- An axiom of military operations is that you must always be prepared and have a good plan prior to starting any evolution. TTT participants never enter a classroom unprepared and try to "wing it."

CARING TEACHER- In the military, a leader leads 24/7. The responsibility and caring for each individual "troop" are felt every day of the week. This same caring is evident in TTT participants and in the deep concern they feel for the children in their class.

DEDICATION- No one serves a career in the military for the pay—no one really works just for a paycheck. There is not enough money in the world to pay someone to do what is sometimes asked of our service members. However, they do it willingly because of an intense level of dedication. This same level is transferred to helping children.

LOYALTY- Service members have operated in a large bureaucracy and know that only through loyalty to the process and their leaders will the right things get done. TTT members support principals and their authority.

CREATIVE THINKER- Contrary to the misconceptions often portrayed in the media, a successful military career requires a service member to constantly be looking for a better way to do things. It is no accident that the military has always been on the leading edge of development in technology and personnel issues.

UNMATCHED WORK ETHIC- The military has never been a 9 to 5 job. This strong work ethic that was developed to be successful in a military career has earned most TTT participants the reputation as the first to arrive and the last to leave at their schools.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GI BILL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS, CALL 888.442.4551

TROOP TO TEACHERS STIPEND & BONUS:

FIRST THING!!! It is **EXTREMELY** important to get registered first before you can ever take advantage of any part of the program. Both Active Duty or Reserve members **MUST** register within three years after separation and/or retirement for financial benefits. Stipend. Not to exceed \$5,000 to assist with teacher certification expenses. If you meet the following criteria you may contact the National Office to request a stipend application which will provide specific information on applying for the stipend:

- Active Funding-Eligible Participant. Registered, verified and accepted into the TTT program as a funding-eligible participant. Provided all requested documents necessary to actively participate in the program.
- Ineligible for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance. The stipend can be used in conjunction with the Montgomery GI Bill, but those that are eligible for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance may not apply for the stipend unless:
 - benefits have been completely exhausted by the service member or dependent, or
 - state approved teacher certification program is not approved for VA benefits by the State Approving Agency for Veterans Education.

Official documentation from the VA is required. To determine your current eligibility, call 888-442-4551. If you are determined to be ineligible, request an "Awards Letter/Certificate of Eligibility" letter. This will explain in detail entitlements in relation to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Submit a copy to TTT as verification.

- Teacher Certification Program. Accepted into a program at accredited institution that will result in licensure as a teacher.
- Vocational-Technical or Academic Stipend Eligibility. Participants with less than a baccalaureate degree may only apply for assistance for vocational-technical teacher certification expenses. Those with at least a baccalaureate degree may apply for vocational-technical or academic teacher certification expenses.

Bonus- A bonus may be available for teaching three years at a school that meets the "eligible" or "high-need" school criteria; not to exceed \$5,000 for employment at an "eligible" school and not to exceed \$10,000 for employment at a "high-need" school. If you meet the following criteria you may contact the National Office to request a bonus application which will provide specific information on applying for the bonus:

- Active Funding-Eligible Participant. Registered, verified and accepted into the TTT program as a funding-eligible participant. Provided all requested documents necessary to actively participate in the program.
- Teaching Contract. Contract for employment as a full-time U.S. public school teacher at an "eligible" or "high-need" school (see the eligible school criteria listed under the "Employment Obligation" section below) teaching a subject for which you are licensed by the state. The first eligible employment must have started after registration with TTT. Bonus is not paid retroactively and can only be paid for employment to be worked. The objective of TTT is to assist with transitioning veterans into careers as teachers and does not pay for those employed as full-time U.S. school teachers prior to registration with TTT (some exceptions may apply).
- Vocational-Technical or Academic Bonus Eligibility. Participants with less than a baccalaureate degree may only apply for a bonus for vocational-technical teaching employment. Those with at least a baccalaureate degree may apply for a bonus for vocational-technical or academic teaching employment.

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

MISSOURI

Debbie Butcher p: 573.751.7863

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

IOWA

Dr. Mary Lou Nosco p: 515.725.2146

e-mail: marylou.nosco@iowa.gov

NEBRASKA

Bethina Garrett p: 402.471.0739

e-mail: nde.tcrtweb@nebraska.gov

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

KANSAS

p: 785.296.2288



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



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING CERTIFYING OFFICIAL WORKSHOP

A workshop for VA certifying officials at Missouri Department of Corrections facilities was hosted by the Missouri State Approving Agency in Jefferson City recently. The training focused on the VA on-the-job training program, including program information, certification and approval criteria.

State Approving Agency Director Chad Schatz began the morning with a description of the VA on-the-job training and Show-Me-Heroes programs. He explained that the two programs can be used in conjunction with one another. The Show-Me Heroes program benefits the employer while the VA On-the-job training program provides benefits to the veteran. Both programs are not utilized to the full extent possible and the attendees can help in spreading the word. Each person in attendance was given posters and other promotional material to use in their offices for the VA OJT Program.

Karen Branch from the Farmington Correctional Center commented, "The most useful information was the knowledgeable explanation of the many ways this can benefit our employees, and this has led to my realization that these programs are being underused & we (at my site) can do better. Gaining this info has challenged me to take a closer look at how we deliver this info to our employees and to develop a way to target those that are eligible so that they truly understand what a benefit this is to them."

The information was presented by walking through the entire certifying process step-by-step and form by form. Participants found the information very useful and appreciated the explanation of all of the forms and when they should be used. VA Education Liaison representatives Barry Walser and Christina Hanks explained what is involved with a compliance survey visit and some of the most common pitfalls.

Mary Scherder from the Northeast Correctional Center shared these comments about the workshop, "Thank you so much for offering this workshop. I am so glad I attended. I liked how you detailed the process from beginning to end and used scenarios for better understanding." So whether you are a new on-the -Job training certifying official or have been a certifying official for a while, this workshop provides an opportunity for you to learn and ask questions. The next workshop will be held on January 14, 2016 at the University of Missouri – St. Louis so mark your calendars now.

WHO IS THE MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY?

The State Approving Agency also known as SAA teams with the Veterans Administration to complete compliance surveys at schools, colleges, on-the-job training sites and apprenticeships. A compliance survey is conducted to verify an institutions' compliance relative to the rules set forth by VA for educational benefits. Missouri SAAs conducted 83 compliance surveys in Fiscal Year 2015. The fiscal year began on October 1, 2014 and ended August 15, 2015.

In addition to being responsible for compliance surveys, the State Approving Agency approves programs of study at schools and colleges, training programs, on-the-job training and apprenticeship facilities. The approvals include new programs at existing facilities as well as brand new facilities. Veterans are only allowed to use their benefits for approved programs at approved facilities.

State Approving Agencies are federally funded and interact with federal regulations as well as state regulations. Missouri SAA has offices in St. Louis, Kansas City and Jefferson City. For more information call (573)751-3487.

STAFF

JEFFERSON CITY

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

KANSAS CITY

Turner Shipman: Supervisor

Leo Blakley: Approval Developer

Sharon Sawyer: Secretary

Veterans Education & Training Section Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

P.O. Box 480

Jefferson City, MO 65109

573.751.3487

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

Room 256

2700 East 18th St.

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

CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL TRAINING & INFORMATION RESOURCES

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



NEXT STEP FOR TAP: MORE CIVILIAN EMPLOYERS

Federal administrators spent the last four years reworking military transition programs to better prepare departing troops for jobs in the civilian workforce.

The next step is to actually get veterans into those jobs. Officials say the upcoming focus for military transition assistance programs will be creating connections to civilian employers, in an effort to more quickly link separating service members with eager employers.

"Our last big piece is to institutionalize these pipelines into the workforce," said Susan Kelly, director of the Pentagon's Transition to Veterans Program Office.

Lawmakers and outside observers say that emphasis is overdue. While they praised Defense, Veterans Affairs and Labor department officials for improving transition classes, they worry that existing bureaucracies too often are hampering efforts by private companies to directly access and hire those veterans.

The issue is expected to become more problematic in coming years. Unemployment among the latest generation of servicemembers has fallen to eight-year lows in recent months, progress hailed as wider acceptance of veterans in the civilian workforce.

VA officials estimate that roughly 1 million troops will leave the ranks in the next five years, and more than half of those will face some period of unemployment during the transition. Congress mandated back in 2011 that all departing troops attend transition classes, and a coalition of government agencies has worked to update and refine the programs since then. That includes new focus on resume writing, job interviews and skills transitions.

In testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Kelly said roughly 226,000 troops have gone through those programs in 2015, with most calling the experience a positive step forward. But officials with Coca-Cola told senators that even though participants receive better job preparation, they don't get direct connection to employers who could help bridge the gap from classroom lessons to real-world applications. "Transitioning personnel are often unable to formally discuss what job opportunity would constitute the best fit and which companies offer that type of job," said Elizabeth Voticky, a hiring executive for Coca-Cola.

American Legion officials added that too much of the transition classwork is theoretical, and needs to take more of a hands-on, practical approach. And U.S. Chamber of Commerce officials said employers unfamiliar with military bureaucracy still struggle to find ways to connect with any existing programs. Administrators promised they are working on fixes to that, and on way to better measure veterans success after vets go through the transition programs.

Lawmakers said they will be watching. "I think this nation is failing to address the transition problem of veterans as they return home from the military," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., the committee's ranking Democrat "Seamless transition requires getting it right the first time, rather than waiting to reach out and inform veterans after they have returned to their hometowns across America."

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

97 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ADDED TO IOWA'S TEACHER LEADERSHIP SYSTEM

Thursday, December 10, 2015



Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise today announced the next group of school districts chosen to launch local teacher leadership plans through Iowa's Teacher Leadership and Compensation System.

Ninety-seven school districts have been added to the state system, bringing the total number of districts in the teacher leadership system to 295 (88 percent of Iowa districts).

"This system is about supporting teachers to do their best work so that our students can do their best work," Wise said. "Students and schools today face higher expectations, and we must support the critical and complex work of teaching in order to improve instruction. We're doing that through Iowa's teacher leadership system, and it's exciting that so many school districts share this commitment."

Iowa's teacher leadership system, which taps into the expertise of top teachers to improve classroom instruction and raise student achievement, is the centerpiece of the state's landmark education reform package passed by the Legislature in 2013. It is the nation's most comprehensive teacher leadership system. About 25 percent of Iowa teachers will be in leadership roles when the system is fully phased in.

The system paves the way for more support and greater collaboration for all teachers to learn from each other instead of operating largely in isolation within their classrooms.

As of this fall, all 336 Iowa school districts had applied to join the teacher leadership system. The 97 newly accepted districts will implement their teacher leadership plans in the 2016-17 school year. The remaining 40 school districts will have an opportunity to refine and re-submit their plans for approval in the next two months. Wise said he is hopeful that all of Iowa's school districts will join the teacher leadership system by the 2016-17 school year.

"I have had the opportunity to visit many school districts with teacher leadership plans, and the feedback has been very positive," Wise said. "What I'm hearing is that the system empowers teachers and principals to work together in new ways and that teachers have found greater support, opportunities for collaboration, and ownership over decision-making, particularly as it relates to professional development for their colleagues."

School districts in the teacher leadership system are at varying stages. Some are in their second year, while others are gearing up for participation. A recent report on the first year of Iowa's teacher leadership system found progress has been made toward each of the system's five goals, including attracting new teachers, retaining effective teachers, promoting collaboration, rewarding professional growth and effective teaching, and improving student achievement. In addition, students in the first 39 participating school districts saw a jump in proficiency rates on state math and reading tests.

School districts are chosen for the system based on recommendations of the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation, which evaluates applications. Districts that apply to start teacher leadership systems are required to set a vision and goals for what they plan to accomplish. They also must address "must-haves," such as setting a minimum teacher salary of \$33,500, improving entry into the profession through efforts that include mentoring new teachers, and a rigorous selection process for leadership roles.

The teacher leadership system cost nearly \$50 million in fiscal year 2015. That amount is expected to grow to about \$150 million annually by fiscal year 2017, which would enable all districts to participate.

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

MISSOURI

NINE MISSOURI DISTRICTS OFFER PROJECT LEAD THE WAY IN EVERY GRADE



Sarah Potter Communications Coordinator Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Nine school districts in Missouri are offering K-12 programs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). They are the first Missouri districts to offer the programs in every grade:

- Butler R-V
- Blue Springs R-IV
- Liberty 53
- Ritenour
- Jennings
- Affton 101
- Montgomery County R-II
- McDonald County R-I
- Brentwood

"PLTW offers extensive, rigorous training in STEM courses and provides students with a higher order of thinking and collaborative problem solving," said Jim Hogan, director of engineering and technology in the Office of College and Career Readiness. "We expect more districts to offer these programs next year." Project Lead the Way helps schools design activities, projects and problem-based learning experiences to better prepare students to solve problems in STEM fields. For example, in the Ritenour School District, high school students in an introductory course in biomedical science are challenged with solving a fictitious crime by studying DNA, fingerprinting, electrophoresis and other physical evidence. The course lays the foundation for additional biomedical courses in Ritenour.

Missouri's rate of growth in Project Lead the Way programs ranks third nationally behind only Texas and California. More than 370 Missouri schools are participating at the elementary, middle or high school level. "Industries around our state have told us there is a shortage of qualified STEM workers," said Hogan. "Missouri is working to prepare students for those careers."

College and career readiness is one of the primary goals of Missouri's Top 10 by 20 initiative, an effort to rank among the top 10 states in education performance by 2020.

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



NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA TEACHER SURPRISED WHEN SHE WINS \$25,000, MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

Science teacher Courtney Matulka walked out of an all school assembly at Beadle Middle School today with a prestigious national educator award and \$25,000 richer. Matulka was presented the 2015-2016 Milken Educator Award. The 8th grade science teacher at Millard Public Schools was surrounded by her students and other Beadle Middle School students when Gov. Pete Ricketts, Nebraska Education Deputy Commissioner Dr. Deborah Frison and Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Jane Foley presented the national educator award to her. Frison applauded Matulka's outstanding leadership and teaching skills as well as her ability to set high learning expectations for her students while connecting with them.

"Courtney has demonstrated character, commitment and ethics as a Beadle Middle School teacher, providing a strong role model for her students while steadily increasing the number of her students exceeding state standards and steadily reducing the number below proficient. Her content and instructional knowledge is admirable as well as her commitment to professional development," Frison said.

In class, Matulka promotes active student participation and establishes a learning environment to ensure that her students not only learn, but excel. "Ms. Matulka is a great example of the kind of leadership that has made Nebraska's education system one of the best in the country," Gov. Ricketts said. "Her energy and creativity has helped lead her students to higher standards of excellence, and she is well deserving of this prestigious award." "In her seven years as an educator, Courtney has demonstrated outstanding instructional and leadership ability," said Foley. "She is dedicated to her craft and profession and values education and what it provides for the individual students as well as the community in general. She demonstrates the ability to hold students to the highest expectations. We look forward to Courtney's contributions to the Milken Educator Network."

An example of Matulka's exemplary educational accomplishments includes her role in the Millard school district piloting and then adopting the Co-teaching in Student Teaching model. The pilot was so positive that the school district uses only the co-teaching model with their student teachers. Matulka has served on multiple building and district committees on science and instruction. She frequently is asked to lead district committees and is an active district leader and presenter.

Matulka has been teaching since 2009 at Millard Public Schools and has served as Beadle Middle School Science Department Head since 2011. She graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and with a Masters in Secondary Education in 2010. For the next six months, in up to 40 schools around the U.S., outstanding middle and high school educators will receive the Milken Educator Award and an unrestricted cash prize of \$25,000 before cheering students, respected colleagues, distinguished officials and the media during a surprise school assembly.

The Milken Educator Awards, which was launched by the Milken Family Foundation in 1987, has been described as "the Oscars of teaching" by Teacher magazine. Recipients are selected in early to mid-career for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish. Many have gone on to earn advanced degrees and be placed in prominent posts and on state and national education committees.

Alternating yearly between elementary and secondary educators, the Milken Awards are sourced through each participating state department of education, which appoints an independent blue ribbon committee to confidentially review candidates for recommendation to MFF. For more information about the Milken Educator Awards, visit www.MilkenEducatorAwards.org or call MFF at (310) 570-4772.

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

KANSAS

COMMISSIONER'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

The Kansas State Board of Education is setting a new course for Kansas education with a bold, new vision. Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. What does that really mean? While academic skills are and will remain important to the future success of Kansas' students, it is time to challenge the status quo and move away from placing so much emphasis on a single standardized test score. Through the No Child Left Behind Act, education focused with laser precision on making sure every child reached a mandated achievement target, and in the process, lost sight of the individual needs of students.

What we know to be true is that academics alone do not ensure the future success of a student. In addition to attaining a solid academic foothold, students must learn to persevere, problem solve, work collaboratively, and think critically – all skills required to be successful in the workplace. Equally as important, we have to support our students' career exploration by helping them identify their interests, introduce them to careers that match those interests and build an individual plan of study that will place them on the path to achieve their envisioned future.

Right now, Kansas State Board of Education members and the Kansas State Department of Education are working closely with business and community leaders, educators and parents to build agreement on how to work together to achieve this new vision. The board's new focus - and the focus of the vision - is really about rebalancing the great work our schools are already doing and making sure we are placing the right amount of emphasis on helping Kansas students identify and achieve their career aspirations. It also is about changing school culture. We have to place as much value on a student who chooses to pursue a technical education or a two-year college degree as we place on a student who wants to pursue a four-year degree.

We need to make sure each student is successful. Together, we will make this happen. You can support our efforts by displaying the Kansans Can logo on your school and business websites; encouraging schools and businesses to display Kansans Can posters; talking with students and parents about the new vision; blogging about it; and sharing the Kansans Can video and PowerPoint at meetings and school events.

It is going to take hard work and dedication to reach the goal, but we can do it together. Together, Kansans Can!

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