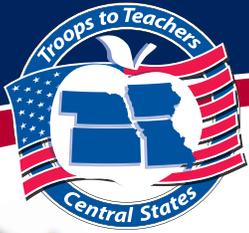


# TROOPS TO TEACHERS



❖ JEFFERSON CITY OFFICE  
**877.530.2765**

❖ ST. LOUIS OFFICE  
**314.729.2444**

❖ KANSAS CITY OFFICE  
**816.241.1705**



## TEACHER OF THE YEAR -VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 2015



CSM (R) Garret Spencer was named "Troops to Teacher of the Year, Vocational School 2015" in a ceremony before JROTC cadets and others at Scott Regional Technology Center in Monett, Missouri. Making the presentation was Central States Troops to Teacher Supervisor, Ron Marsch.

Mr. Spencer is starting his second year in the JROTC program after 24.5 years in the U.S. Army.

The JROTC program has 70 cadets from the 14 schools that send students to Scott Regional Technology Center which has an enrollment of 485 students.

Mr. Spencer said it sometimes seemed like a juggling act with getting the drills and practices etc. accomplished with 14 sending schools. He also said that the program was successful because of the cooperation of parents, students and the various school districts all wanting the program to be successful.

Some comments from the Scott Regional Technology Center Director, David Miller about Mr. Spencer are "He is an extremely hard worker and is dedicated to the success of our students. He spends time getting to know his students and families when he can. Since his hire, he has shown himself to be a true professional and a role model for our students.

Some of the comments from Chad Sparks, COL (R) US and Senior Army Instructor of the JROTC program reinforce the same traits of Mr. Spencer. Some of his thoughts are "CSM (R) Spencer takes the initiative to identify problems and devise solutions. His role requires strong communication skills and he has shown that he not only has these skills but that he also has the ability to inspire respect and cooperation with the cadets in the program. I feel that this is an appropriate choice for him. Based on my observation, he clearly has the interest in this field and based on his performance, he clearly has the ability to achieve success."

"Mr Spencer is an example of leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication that our veterans bring to the Troops to Teachers Program and the public school classrooms, "Willing to Serve Again." Said Mr. Marsch, Troops to Teacher supervisor.



Ron Marsch, Supervisor Central States Troops to Teacher, Participating at 6th Annual Iowa Statewide Veterans Conference at Memorial union at Iowa State University.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS



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



## THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR OUR SOLDIERS

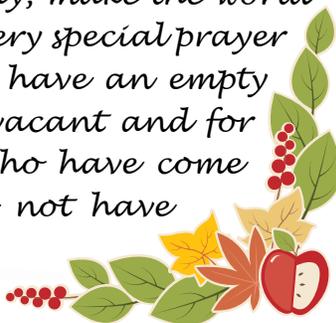
*Today we gather around the dinner table with family and friends to share good food, warm laughter, and the happy memories of Thanksgivings past. But for many families, whose loved ones serve in the Armed Forces, this year's Thanksgiving celebration will not be complete.*

*A familiar voice will not be heard and a chair at the table will remain empty because, they have someone far from home serving our country.*

*Today also, members of the Army, Marines, Navy, Airforce and Coastguard (men and women, Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard alike) will gather in mess halls or in tents across the globe as friends and comrades to enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving meal.*

*So, as those of us who are blessed to be with our families celebrate and give thanks, let us remember in our prayers the homes that have an empty chair at the table and also offer a special prayer of thanksgiving and ask God's Blessings for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, whose service and sacrifice will, we further pray, make the world a better and safer place. And a very special prayer dear God, for those homes that have an empty chair that will forever remain vacant and for those servicemen and women who have come back to us, may their sacrifice not have been in vain.*

*- Author Unknown*



### 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](mailto:dese.troopstoteachers@dese.mo.gov)

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#### NEBRASKA

Bethina Garrett p: 402.471.0739

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<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](mailto: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](http://WWW.PROUDTOSERVEAGAIN.COM)

# VETERAN'S EDUCATION & TRAINING SECTION

## MISSOURI STATE APPROVING AGENCY



### CONGRATULATIONS

John Hose has been with the Veterans Education and Training division of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since January 1989. In March 2015 he retired from his position as Assistant Director and began working part-time as an Educational Specialist in the St. Louis Office. John Hose said the following regarding his time with the department, "It has been a terrific experience to work with a dedicated team in the Missouri State Approving Agency, the NASAA membership and VA. As a GI Bill alumnus I know the impact this program will have on the lives of the nations' veterans and their families."

Director Chad Schatz had this to say, "Mr. Hose has provided exemplary service and has played a key role in the success of the Missouri State Approving Agency and Troops to Teachers program. He continues to provide leadership and expertise in a part time role as an Education Specialist."

This year Mr. Hose received two awards for his outstanding service. One award given was the Lifetime Membership award from the National Association of State Approving Agencies. Mr. Hose has served NASAA in numerous ways including preparing the annual report, and serving as Public Affairs Officer. The award was presented at a banquet held at the Summer Training and Business Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. The second award was given by Marie George the Chief Educational Liaison Officer for the St. Louis Veterans Regional Processing Office. This award was given in recognition of Mr. Hoses' efforts in assisting and ensuring that veterans are able to use their educational benefits at quality facilities within the state of Missouri.



### 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

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Room 256

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Kansas City, MO 64127

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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](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_training_resources.asp)



## VETERANS DAY

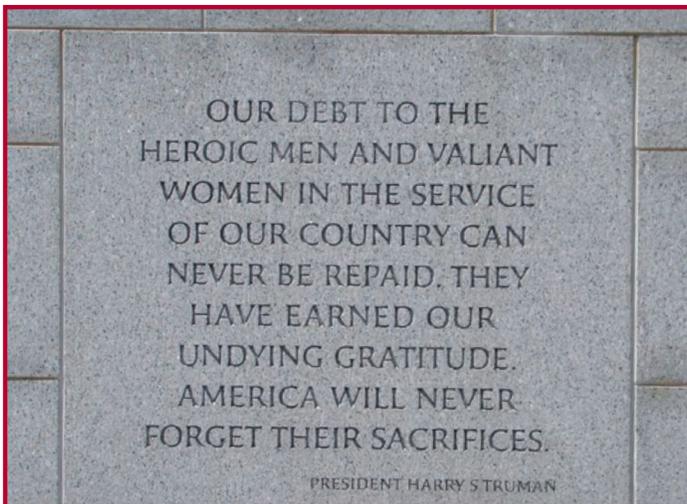
Will you go to one of the many Parades? Will you stop and think about what Veterans Day is really all about? Will you just go about the day as normal and wonder why there are so many government holidays?

**When is Veterans Day? November 11, 2015**

**What is so special about Veterans Day? How did it all start?**

The day was originally known as Armistice Day since the Allied nations and Germany ceased fighting on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 and marked the end of World War I. The day was observed with parades and public gatherings with a pause in business starting at 11:00am. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance of the end of World War I which became a National Holiday in 1938. President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day in 1954 and November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill which moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October beginning in 1971. President Gerald Ford moved Veterans Day back to November 11th in 1975 because of the historical importance of the date. The National Holiday has been observed on November 11th ever since 1975 with recognition of all of our veterans with parades and other events.

So, this November 11th attend one of the many events held to honor our veterans for their willingness to serve and sacrifice for all Americans.



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.



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.**

# NEBRASKA



## FIVE NEBRASKA SCHOOLS NAMED 2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Five Nebraska schools have been named 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups.

The five Nebraska schools were among 335 schools nationwide recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. The Nebraska schools that were honored are:

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer at [betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov](mailto:betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov) or 402.471.4537 Arapahoe Elementary School, Arapahoe Public Schools, in Arapahoe

- Bancroft-Rosalie Elementary School, Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools in Bancroft
- Washington Elementary School, Norfolk Public Schools, in Norfolk
- Douglas County West Elementary School, Douglas County West Community Schools, in Valley
- St. Robert Bellarmine School, an elementary school in Omaha

"This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a video message to the awardees. "Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you." The Department will honor 285 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C. In its 33-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on more than 8,000 of America's schools. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. The award plaque affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The award flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.

Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The U.S. Secretary of Education invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonsschools>.

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

# MISSOURI

## EIGHT MISSOURI SCHOOLS NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Eight public schools in Missouri have been honored as 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Education announced Tuesday.

The national award honors schools for high levels of academic achievement or significant progress in closing gaps in achievement among disadvantaged and minority students. Missouri's Blue Ribbon Schools are:

- Blanchard Elementary, Cape Girardeau 63 School District
- Ralph M. Captain Elementary, Clayton School District
- Ladue Middle School, Ladue School District
- Truman Middle School, Lindbergh Schools
- New Haven High School, New Haven School District
- McKelvey Elementary, Parkway C-2 School District
- West Middle School, Parkway C-2 School District
- Kennard Classical Junior Academy, St. Louis City School District

"Congratulations to the students, teacher, school staff and their communities for this tremendous accomplishment," said Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven. "These schools model the hard work taking place in our public schools across the state in preparing students with the necessary skills for success now and after graduation."

Earlier this year these eight schools were honored as Missouri Gold Star Schools, a program conducted by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. "The students and staff at Barbara Blanchard Elementary are very grateful for the honor of being named a Blue Ribbon School," said Principal Barbara Kohlfeld. "We deeply appreciate the recognition for our work."

New Haven High School Principal Josh Hoener added: "Student accountability accompanied with high expectations of the community and staff encourages our students to achieve at high levels. We are proud to represent the State of Missouri and the many great Missouri schools at the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Ceremony."

More than 7,500 schools across the country have been honored as Blue Ribbon Schools since the program was founded in 1982. The state and national programs are part of a larger effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school-leadership and teaching practices.

The winners will be recognized in November at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

College and career readiness is a primary goal of the state's Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for Missouri to rank among the top 10 performing states nationally in education by the year 2020.

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





## IOWA

### FIVE IOWA SCHOOLS NAMED 2015 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS - September 28, 2015

Five Iowa schools are among 335 schools nationwide named 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools for their overall academic excellence or for their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups:

- Whittier Elementary School (Clinton Community School District)
- Ridge View High School (Galva-Holstein Community School District)
- Davis Elementary School (Grinnell-Newburg Community School District)
- Sunnyside Elementary School (Sioux City Community School District)
- Webster Elementary School (Urbandale Community School District)

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized the schools today. The Department will honor 285 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C.

• "This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," Duncan said. "You represent excellence - in vision, in implementation, and in results - and we want to learn as much as we can from you."

"We're proud of Iowa's Blue Ribbon Schools and look to them for leadership and lessons as our state moves forward with the important work of making sure all students have a bright future," Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise said.

The U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

Since 1982, more than 8,000 schools in the U.S. have received the coveted award. Read more about the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools.

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

## KANSAS

### KANSAS RECEIVES \$5.8 MILLION GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CETE to develop learning-maps-based instructional model for mathematics, ELA in grades 2-8

TOPEKA – The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) today announced that the state will receive a four-year, \$5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the federal Grants for Enhanced Assessment Instruments Program.

In partnership with Alaska, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin, Kansas will use the award to work with the University of Kansas Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) to develop a learning-maps-based instructional model linking formative assessment with curriculum and instruction for grades 2-8 in mathematics and English language arts.

Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students to monitor progress and adjust instructional activities to meet students' learning needs. Throughout the development process, CETE will engage with approximately 400 elementary- and middle-school educators across the project's five partnering states.

This award is a tremendous gift," said Kansas Education Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson. "It supports our goal to prepare all students for college and careers by enabling us to develop new tools that support teachers in their efforts to individualize instruction. Every child learns differently, so gaining a deeper understanding of the learning process and then designing a formative assessment process that can pinpoint and address where a student is on the learning spectrum just makes sense."

Developed through theory and research of how humans learn cognitively, learning maps display stepping stones in the learning process: networks of concepts, skills and connections that foster understanding. CETE pioneered the learning maps approach with the development of the Dynamic Learn Map (DLM) alternate assessment currently being administered by 13 states, including Kansas.

"The goal of this approach is to better individualize instruction by helping educators gauge how well students are learning and when adjustments to instruction need to be made," said Neal Kingston, the project's principal investigator and director of KU's Achievement & Assessment Institute, of which CETE is part. "We have expertise in this approach and have seen how it can help teachers and students succeed. This project provides another opportunity to translate our expertise into a sustainable solution, investing our intellectual capital in ways that benefit the public good."

As the project progresses, CETE will study the effectiveness of the learning-maps approach within the general student population and develop an open-source web-hosting solution for making materials available to educators. Project findings will help inform the field on updated practices for advancing student learning.

"Technically speaking, a learning map is a network of connected learning targets, representing the many-to-many relationships among concepts and skills and containing a landscape of learning pathways that are not necessarily linear," said CETE's Angela Broaddus, who will serve as project director and co-principal investigator. "Plainly speaking, we believe that to help students succeed, you need a road map. In the simplest terms, a learning map provides an infrastructure that supports teachers and students being on track for reaching academic goals."

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