



64th Annual

KANSAS
MASTER
TEACHER
AWARD

April 5, 2017

EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Bank of America

2017 Master Teacher Schedule

April 5, 2017

- 10:00 a.m.** **Tour of the National Teachers Hall of Fame**
Meet in Visser Hall, Room 212
- 11:00 a.m.** **“Memories of Yesteryear”**
One Room Schoolhouse
Presenter: Dr. Scott Waters
Department of Elementary Education/
Early Childhood/Special Education
- 12:00 noon** **Dean’s Luncheon**
Phi Kappa Phi Room, Memorial Union
Host: Dr. Ken Weaver
Dean of The Teachers College
- 2:30-3:45 p.m.** **Seminar – “The Joys of Career Teaching”**
Jones Conference Center, Room 330, Visser Hall
Coordinators: Ms. Shannon Hall
Office of Field Placement and Licensure
Dr. Roger Caswell
Jones Institute for Educational Excellence
- 5:45-6:30 p.m.** **Social**
Webb Hall Lobby
- 6:30 p.m.** **Master Teacher Award Dinner**
Webb Hall
Toastmaster: Mr. Reed Uthe
2015 Kansas Master Teacher
Lakewood Middle School, USD 229 Blue Valley

Bank of America Kansas Master Teacher Program

Emporia State University established the Kansas Master Teacher awards in 1954. The awards are presented annually to teachers who have served the profession long and well and who also typify the outstanding qualities of earnest and conscientious teachers.

The university's Administrative Council originally developed the Kansas Master Teacher Award program in the early 1950s. Dr. Everett Rich, former chair of the English department, was the driving force behind the program.

The program was first discussed in 1952. Because of the illness and subsequent death of President David L. MacFarlane in 1953, nothing was done to establish the program until the following year. In 1954, with the support of Dr. Don Davis, the chair of the division of education, and the approval of the new president, John E. King, the first awards were made.

In the early days of the program, numerous faculty members and others connected with the college were involved in establishing policies and procedures. Dr. Davis added "Kansas" to the name. Rich suggested "distinguished," but that word was changed to "master." Ray Cremer, business manager, promoted a monetary award for the recipients, but Dr. King believed that watches were more appropriate, so watches were awarded. C.O. Wright, executive secretary of the Kansas State Teachers Association, suggested that local teacher associations or similar educational groups make the nominations. Dr. Rich coordinated publicity for the awards across the state.

The Kansas Master Teacher Award program expresses appreciation for the generosity of Bank of America. Since 1980, they have

pledged over \$100,000 to permanently endow the Kansas Master Teacher Awards. Bank of America is committed to assisting Emporia State University in its efforts to acknowledge outstanding teaching. Since 2016, an additional \$8,000 per year has been given by Bank of America to further underwrite the program and give each Kansas Master Teacher a \$1,000 stipend for professional development.

Each year, local teacher associations and school faculties nominate candidates for the awards. In February, a committee representing educational organizations from across Kansas selects the winners.

The 2017 selection committee included Cindy Hadicke, Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals; Ky Swisher, Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals; Deena Horst, Kansas State Board of Education; Mark Farr, Kansas National Education Association; Rachel Henderson, Kansas Parent Teacher Association; Dallas Shafer, Kansas National Education Association—Student Program; and Nikki Chamberlain and Adriane Falco, 2016 Kansas Master Teachers.

A committee of Emporia State University faculty and administrators coordinates local arrangements. The committee includes Roger Caswell, Brian Denton, Shannon Hall, Lori Mann, Roy Mann, Sharon Mayers, Gwen Spade, Scott Waters, Ken Weaver, and Lucie Eusey, Chair.

Information concerning the Kansas Master Teacher Award program is available on the Emporia State University web site. Go to www.emporia.edu/teach/master for information about past and current winners and the application process.

The William A. Black Kansas Master Teacher Endowed Chair



In 1984, the Black family of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, established an endowed chair for Kansas Master Teachers. Each year, this permanently endowed fund provides a stipend for two Kansas Master Teachers to spend part of a semester at Emporia State University.

The master teachers selected teach classes and work with students who plan careers in education. The endowed chair provides a valuable experience for Emporia State students and a meaningful opportunity for the master teachers.

The William A. Black Kansas Master Teacher Endowed Chair was established by Marea Belfield Black to honor the Black family's lifelong dedication to public education. The endowed chair is named for her husband, Dr. William Albert Black.

The late Dr. Black (pictured above) was born November 25, 1897, in Green County, Missouri. He received his bachelor's degree in 1926 and his master's degree in 1934 from Kansas State Teachers College. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy, education, and psychology from the University of Colorado. Black was nationally known for establishing junior colleges and for his work in school finance and curricula.

During his career, he served as president of the Pueblo (CO) Junior College, director of junior colleges and curriculum for the state of Washington, and as the head of the department of education and philosophy at Pittsburg State University. In 1962, while at Pittsburg State, he received the Kansas Master Teacher Award.

Black married Marea Belfield on November 7, 1920. The Black's son, William Vincent Black, was born March 31, 1922, and the family moved to Broken Bow, Oklahoma on March 1, 1973. Dr. Black died on October 12, 1983. Emporia State University is deeply grateful to the Black family for this generous contribution.

2017 Master Teacher Nominees

Marcia A. Base, Andover USD 385 & Butler County Special Education Interlocal USD 638

John Butcher, Blue Valley USD 229

Cade C. Chace, Blue Valley USD 229

Leslie Downing, Lawrence USD 497

Melinda Eitel, Salina USD 305

Sheryl Fjell, Manhattan/Ogden USD 383

Natalie Frese, Tonganoxie USD 464

Joan Hayden, Geary County USD 475

Jennifer Hendrix, Dodge City USD 443

Kimberly Hett, Andover USD 385

Mark Jarvis, Butler Community College

Kelley Jenkins, Garden City USD 457

Kent Kunkel, El Dorado USD 490

Brandy Lane, Auburn Washburn USD 437

Roger Laubengayer, Topeka USD 501

Kevin Reeves, Olathe USD 233

Laura Schwinn, Emporia USD 253

Rose Beilman Shoup, Pratt USD 382

Amanda Young, Andover USD 385



John Butcher

Art Teacher

Blue Valley Northwest High School
USD 229 Blue Valley

“We need all sorts of people in this world and art helps make sense of everything going on around us,” states a student. “When I go into Mr. Butcher’s class, I become completely absorbed into what I am doing... I am doing art, not just for a grade, but for me.”

A former administrator of Butcher’s observes, “He has taught them to realize that they may not all have equal talents, but what they do have in common are ‘products’ that express their uniqueness and value as individuals.”

Butcher worked full-time through college, causing him to take eight years to finish his bachelor’s from Emporia State in 1981. In 1996, he earned his master’s from MidAmerica Nazarene University. He taught at Emporia High School from 1989 to 1994, and began at Blue Valley Northwest High School in 1994, where he still teaches today.

He is credited with starting the sculpture program in Blue Valley USD 229, co-developing the jewelry/metals program, and even helping coach the girls golf team. From art fundamentals class to photography and everything in between, he teaches specific content in a supportive, non-judgmental atmosphere where students can feel secure in expressing themselves both creatively and personally.

A colleague writes, “He is someone who can challenge students and encourage them at the same time. He also shows as much interest in a student who illustrates little art talent as one who shows significant talent. He is a master at what he does.”

A constant theme heard from Butcher’s supporters is that he has touched so many lives. Former students often return to visit and thank Butcher for broadening their horizons through art. Parents, who were reluctant and fearful of adult children living in their basement after college, have become supporters of their children pursuing careers in art and design. Current students share stories of how they learned to believe in themselves and their abilities. Colleagues are infected by his positive spirit. And one child broken by bullying was made whole again through creating in Butcher’s classroom.

“It is no coincidence that John used to be a stockbroker,” writes a former student. “He understood the power of investments. John took the time to invest in each and every student.” That former student became a teacher because of Butcher and now teaches alongside him.

Another former student states, “If I could only be half the teacher Mr. Butcher is, my students would receive an excellent education.”

Past Master Teachers

1954

Laura M. Beichley, Ulysses
Harry H. Brown, Peabody
Lucy Headrick, Winfield
Ira Laidig, Oberlin
Edith Ellen Means, Princeton
Violet Randolph, Atchison
Grace E. Stewart, Salina

1955

Redicia Engholm, Topeka
Edna Mason Golladay, Wichita
Gaye Iden, Arkansas City
Gussie Mootz, Dodge City
Elsie Olson, Marysville
M. F. Stark, Hiawatha
Dr. John Twente, University of Kansas

1956

Florence K. Belding, Iola
Dr. Jane M. Carroll,
Pittsburg State University
Clifford H. Dresher, McPherson
John E. Humphreys, Ashland
Mamie D. Mellinger, Emporia
Katie Puls, Attica
Audrey Smith, Goodland

1957

Teresa McDonald Coffey, Axtell
Dr. Maud Ellsworth,
University of Kansas
Una Funk, Council Grove
Mildred P. Parker, Hutchinson
Dr. Clyde U. Phillips,
Fort Hays State University
Ruth Flory Sexton, Howard
Katherine A. Tucker, Topeka



Melinda Eitel

Kindergarten Teacher
Grace E. Stewart Elementary School
USD 305 Salina

When Melinda Eitel received her first teaching job just two weeks before school started, it was a class combining two grades. She was advised by colleagues to teach to the middle of both grade levels, or to the high end of the lower grade, and “everyone else will be fine.”

“Fine” was not good enough for Melinda Eitel’s students.

“In my heart I knew that was not the kind of teacher I was destined to become,” Eitel states. “It was during this year that I truly began to realize that each and every student is a unique individual with unique learning styles, preferences, and abilities.”

That philosophy has guided her practice for the last 25 years. “She constantly assesses each child’s abilities to make sure that they are getting what they need,” writes a parent.

Eitel earned a bachelor’s in education from Fort Hays State University in 1991 and a master’s from Kansas State University in 2010. She began her career as a substitute teacher in 1991 for Salina USD 305 and built her career there, working in four different elementary schools in Kindergarten through fourth-grade classrooms.

As an elementary teacher covering all content areas, Eitel brings volunteers into her classroom to aid individualized instruction. These

volunteers are critical to student success as they ensure children are actively engaged, correctly practicing skills, and having fun learning.

Eitel also eagerly takes advantage of “in the moment” learning opportunities as they arise. Is it a foggy morning? Students will graph it on the classroom weather chart, then go outside to see what is visible (or not), feel the humidity, observe the moisture on the sidewalk, and discuss cloud formation.

But it is not what is taught, but how students are taught that Eitel stresses. “In my experience I have seen that children learn best in a nurturing classroom.”

“In the fast paced, over-tested classrooms that we now struggle to function in, it is even more important that I take the time to listen when one of my student wants to tell me about the tooth they lost the night before, [or] show me their newly mastered skill of tying their shoes,” Eitel says.

“I was scared to go to Kindergarten,” writes a former student – now in fourth grade – in a handwritten letter. “Mrs. Eitel gave us a special poem and magical confetti. She told us to put it under our pillow the night before school started. It helped us sleep better... Because of Mrs. Eitel, I really like school.”

1958

Mildred Cunningham, Parsons
Myrrl Houck, El Dorado
Julian A. Johnson, Buhler
Edward D. Kroesch, Hoisington
Dr. Minnie M. Miller,
Emporia State University
Elsie N. Parrish, Concordia
Maude Thompson, Marion

1959

Henrietta Courtwright, Arkansas City
Nettie May Davis, Winchester
Paul R. Dick, Oakley
Ethlyn Hamlin, Fort Scott
Robert H. Pool, Larned
Dr. Ruth Thompson, Sterling
Jane Townsend, Girard

1960

Eula Bridger, Kansas City
Mary Louise Gritten, Bird City
Lena Carl, Holcomb
Owen E. Hodgson, Salina
Opal Jayne Kennedy, Lawrence
Pauline Shockley, Wellington
Blanch Smith, Pittsburg
* C. O. Wright, Topeka, KSTA

1961

Reba Anderson, Hutchinson
George D. Caldwell, Iola
Lydia Haag, Dodge City
Larry Ling, Liberal
Dorothy McPherson, Coffeyville
Jane E. Roether, Junction City
Ruth Socolofsky, Manhattan



Joan Hayden

Physical Education Teacher
Fort Riley Middle School
USD 475 Geary County

“A lot of students come to me with the preconceived notion that they cannot do a certain skill, sport, or activity because they have never done it before,” says Joan Hayden. She tells the students if they say they “can’t,” it has to be followed with the word “yet.”

Helping Hayden face medical issues as a child, her parents treated her no differently than her siblings. “This upbringing taught me to persevere,” says Hayden. “I purposefully set my mind to enter a health care profession so I could positively impact others. Through physical education, I can help others establish healthy habits for life.”

Hayden began teaching in 1988 after earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in physical education. She began her career teaching PE at Jefferson Elementary and Morris Hill Elementary Schools in Fort Riley. She has taught in Geary County USD 475 throughout her entire nearly 30-year career.

When asked what she teaches, Hayden responds, “I teach students through physical education” because within the PE curriculum she integrates math, social studies, science and life skills. Her students explore physical movement through less traditional activities like dance, water safety, Omnikin Ball (a sport favoring strategic thinking over skill), and pickleball in order to get students out of their comfort zones and level the playing field for less sports-minded students.

“When Joan comes to a meeting, everyone knows to wear comfy shoes because she won’t be just talking about fitness,” says a colleague.

Whether it is with her students, with other educators, or with community members, Hayden’s “commitment to fostering an interest in health and wellness is evident everywhere,” shares another colleague. Events she has coordinated and which evolved over time include a Dance Final, including DJ, guests, and judges; the spring wellness fair; and a canoe trip in May with more than 200 middle school students.

With nearly 100 percent of her students having parents or guardians in the United States Army facing deployments of up to a year at a time, Hayden’s ability to relate and connect with her students is remarkable. “Joanie does everything in her power to help them succeed,” attests a community member.

“Most gym teachers just make you run and don’t care about how you feel about yourself,” writes one current student. “I admire Mrs. Hayden because she shows all her students compassion. She always makes time for me and my peers. She is the type of teacher we feel safe to confide in.”

1962

Dr. William A. Black,
Pittsburg State University
Eunice McGill, Sterling College
Nellie McGuinn, Kansas City
Owen R. McNeil, Peabody
Ella C. Shearer, Beloit
Marie Therkelsen, Independence
William D. Wolfe, Lawrence

1963

May Gruver, Augusta
Alta Hendrickson, Oakley
Walter M. Ostberg, Salina
Pearl Peterie, Kinsley
Phebe Scott, Derby
Martha Steele, Goodland
Charles E. Strange, Wichita

1964

Dan Foster, LaCrosse
Mary Hunholz, Manhattan
Erdman Johnson, Turner
Loma Mack, Madison
Bernadine Sitts, Garden City
Lillie Elizabeth Studdt, Glasco
Dewey E. Wolgast, Marysville
* Ruth Stout Wright, Topeka

1965

Rebecca Bloodworth, Kansas City
Bryce H. Glecker, Dodge City
Mabel Lacey, Gorham
Hazel Lee Simmons, Lawrence
Floyd C. Smith, Iola
Dorothy Vaughn, Neodesha
Ethel Yantis, Howard

Jennifer Hendrix

Physics Teacher
Dodge City High School
USD 443 Dodge City



Knowing her students will “shape the world beyond the walls of my room in powerful but unknown ways,” Jennifer Hendrix believes her greatest contribution as an educator is to “reveal the best qualities of my kids: their own curiosity, compassion and innovation.”

Hendrix strives to create a community of learners where complex critical thinking experiences are shared and skepticism and argumentation, tempered with respect, are welcome. Her physics classroom “is their space...which supports their study of the natural world and contains the tools they see fit to experiment with and argue the meaning of their results.”

Her use of standards-based grading gives all students, despite varying abilities, a flexible environment in which to move beyond their own boundaries.

One former student shared, “It was not possible to slouch low on your lab stool and fade into the background in her class.”

Hendrix chooses not to teach from a textbook. “She can provide better, more in-depth and up-to-date information and experiences for her students than a textbook,” a colleague states “[She] is not a teacher who teaches the same lesson semester after semester; as the science changes, her teaching changes.”

In her classroom, failure has value because in the scientific world – and elsewhere – learning occurs with failure.

The student-led teaching strategies adopted by Hendrix, such as inquiry-based learning, collaborative problem-solving, and peer review sessions, challenge students to take risks and think creatively without fear of failure and interference. A student once encouraged her methods by exclaiming, “Hendrix, set kids up to fail more often. We learn so much more!”

A former student, now studying mechanical engineering in college, reported his college science courses were easier because “I had been taught the correct way of thinking by Hendrix so I could figure it out.”

Hendrix received her bachelor’s in biochemistry in 1999 from St. Edward’s University in Austin, TX, and a master’s in education from the University of Notre Dame in 2001. She began her career teaching science courses in Tennessee, then spent a year and a half in Santiago, Chile, as a fourth-grade ESL instructor. From 2003-2014, she taught a variety of science courses at Cimarron, KS, High School and in 2014, began teaching physics at Dodge City High School.

The number of students taking physics at DCHS has increased nearly 75 percent in the last few years, reports her principal, who continues, “Students will work hard for a teacher who works just as hard, if not harder for them.”

1966

Eva M. Chalfant, El Dorado
Louis A. Coppoc, Belpre
Helen Glaser, Coffeyville
Evelyn Harper, Atchison
Maurice Little, Goodland
Ione Ramey, Olathe
Wesley E. Simpson, Salina

1967

Dr. J. W. Breukelman,
Emporia State University
Lois Hogue, Pratt
Dr. Perva M. Hughes,
Pittsburg State University
Winifred Jennings, Shawnee
Jean Jones, Topeka
Florence Miller, Iola
Cecil E. Smith, Pittsburg
* Adel F. Throckmorton, Wichita,
State Supt.

1968

Arley A. Bryant, Concordia
Lottie Carver, Mulvane
Alice Ham, Hutchinson
Hazel Miller, Emporia
Irma Minden, Paola
Gladys Peterson, Lindsborg
Doris Stith, Bonner Springs

1969

Kelso Deer, Hoisington
Marguerite Hackney, Iola
Joe W. Ostberg, McPherson
Theodore Palmquist, Turner
Maxine Sebelius, Northern Valley
Joy Wigginton, El Dorado
Lonnie Wood, Independence
* Dr. Alex Daughtry,
Emporia State University



Kimberly Hett

Fifth-Grade Teacher
Andover eCademy
USD 385 Andover

Imagine you are given the task of creating a school from scratch, incorporating technology, meaningful experiences, and significant support from families, the school district, and the community.

Kimberly Hett, along with her fellow instructional coaches, accomplished that task. They developed Andover eCademy.

“Through Kim’s can-do attitude, her extraordinary ability to bring people together for a common goal, and her tireless work ethic, a flourishing eCademy was built over time and thrives today,” an administrator states. “Kim is the ‘architect in chief’ for the school. It is a blended model, where in-house days, field trips, and live lessons help to set our virtual school apart from the others in our state.”

A virtual school necessitates close interaction with students’ parents as well as helping those parents improve as learning coaches – an area in which Hett excels, writes her principal. She encourages attendance and participation in Learning Coach workshops for eCademy’s staff, the parents, and their children. Her skill at adapting lessons for multiple environments, along with the differentiated needs of her students, is notable among parents.

“As a parent and a learning coach, I am grateful for Mrs. Hett’s creativity, teaching talents, and her ability to effectively interact with such diverse students,” states one parent.

“Not all students can be successful in a classroom of 27 of their peers,” Hett says. “Not all students have the physical or mental stamina to go to school for seven hours. These students – the more ‘nontraditional’ ones – have influenced my philosophy and its evolution over the years. This is where my passion for blended education has come from and continues to grow.”

In Hett’s classes, student growth occurs through technology-rich projects such as learning to code and Skyping with museums, national park rangers, and classrooms around the world. Guest speakers including community leaders, astronauts, multicultural singers and dancers are also brought in to show students different paths of life.

Hett earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Wichita State University in 1994 and a master’s in education from Baker University in 2009. She began her teaching career as a third-grade teacher in Andover USD 385 in 1994 and has been in the school district since then.

The appreciation of her students extends beyond just innovative class projects. “It is not her great lesson plans that she made that made her the best teacher I had growing up,” said a former student. “It was her heart. Her devoted, loving, caring, understanding, humbling, protecting, [no-nonsense] heart.”

1970

Ralph Dennis, Olathe
John England, Pittsburg
Gladys Kaump, Dodge City
Thomas Kelley, Hutchinson
Lois Patton, Great Bend
Albert Riedel, Hays
Mary Ellen Sissman, Eureka

1971

Dr. Kenneth Anderson,
University of Kansas
Earl Bevan, Pittsburg
Helen Case, El Dorado
Carl Clinesmith, Fort Scott
Herman Grundy, Kansas City
Betty Jackson, Colby
Margaret Jagger, Minneapolis
* F. L. Schlagle, Kansas City

1972

Joseph L. Bournonville, Pittsburg
Robert Burnett, Colby
Gerald Goacher, Topeka
Carl A. James, Emporia
Catherine Johannsen, Kansas City
Dr. Margaret Parker,
Pittsburg State University
Leona Velen, Manhattan
* F. Royd Herr, Topeka,
State Dept. of Education

1973

Mildred Barber, Concordia
Dr. Elton W. Cline,
Pittsburg State University
Marie Hieger, El Dorado
Anna Hurty, Hutchinson
Rachel Leist, Fort Scott
Allen L. Unruh, Ottawa
Marjorie Vieux, Atwood



Brandy Lane

Sixth-Grade Teacher

Pauline South Intermediate School

USD 437 Auburn Washburn

Brandy Lane understands that a sixth-grade teacher “has the privilege of guiding students as they are beginning to choose who they are as individuals.”

“Mrs. Lane is extremely nice, but she will discipline us if we do something wrong,” writes one of her current students. “Think about it, if kids think they can do whatever they want and nobody will do anything about it then they will most likely grow up to be a person who makes a lot of bad choices in life.”

Lane’s goal is for every lesson to connect to her students’ lives and engage them in learning. Her top priority is “to introduce students to experiences they might not otherwise be afforded through curriculum or life circumstances,” such as trips to the Kansas Cosmosphere, the Topeka Symphony, or matinee performances by local theatre groups. Lane also works to inspire compassion in her students through civic engagement projects that teach them how to take action in their community.

As a teacher who “asks and acts,” says a colleague, Lane questions and considers all points of view. This is especially important as three out of four students she teaches live in poverty. Crucial among these questions is “What is the culture of this school from a parent’s perspective?”

“I know that every child is good and wholesome, and curious, and enthusiastic,” says Lane. “My students know that I am in their corner, fighting for them to realize the good and positive and amazing possibilities they possess all by themselves.”

“Mrs. Lane understands fair doesn’t mean every child gets the same thing. She ensures that every child that walks in her classroom gets what they need to be successful,” states a teaching colleague and parent of a child with Asperger’s syndrome.

Lane graduated in 2005 with a bachelor’s in education from Washburn University, earned her master’s in education from Baker University in 2009, and received an ESOL endorsement from the University of Kansas in 2016. She taught in Valley Falls for two years and has been at Pauline South since 2009.

As she grows through her work with students and with her professional community, Lane says, “I am beginning to realize the impact I can have on teachers in a multitude of areas, sharing my strengths, struggles and strategies, just as they have so graciously done for me.”

“I want students to see me as a person who has pride in my best qualities, but who is still journeying toward become the person I want to be, just like them.”

1974

Wanda Franzen, Emporia
Arlene Garrett, Hugoton
Ruben Grose, Hutchinson
Louis Hayward, Eureka
Clyde Johnson, Leavenworth
Esther Overman, Columbus
Norris Sayre, Ensign

1975

Vernon Hastert, Ulysses
J. Paul Jewell, Kansas City
Betty Dutton, Alta Vista
Iram Teichgraeber, Chapman
Marion Klema, Salina
Ernest Nelson, Pittsburg
Rozella Swisher, Kansas City

1976

Charlotte Doyle, Manhattan
Harry Hart, Emporia
Glennis Lindsey, Hutchinson
Frances Raines, Winfield
Dr. Richard Roahen,
Emporia State University
Darlene Theno, Basehor
Eleanor White, Dodge City
* Dr. James A. McCain, President,
Kansas State University

1977

Jean Curl, Kansas City
Fred Deyoe, Dodge City
Joan Hanna, Winfield
Shirley Longfellow, El Dorado
Martha McReynolds, Burlington
Gene Russell, Galena
Dan Tewell, Pittsburg
* Dr. William Edwards,
Emporia State University



Laura Schwinn

A/V Communications Teacher
Emporia High School
USD 253 Emporia

Is there any stronger endorsement of her success than two sisters requiring their younger sibling to take Schwinn's classes? Admittedly, the student writes, "It has turned out to be one of the best decisions of my high school career."

Laura Schwinn wants to connect with each individual student and equip them with skills they can use immediately in real world applications. The fact that students leave her classroom with a tangible product, such as a yearbook or a photography portfolio, helps them see the value of the content they are learning.

"I would walk into her classroom every day knowing three things would happen: I would learn something new, be appropriately challenged, and I'd have a ton of fun," said a former student.

Schwinn earned a bachelor's in education from Kansas State University in 2002 and an ESL endorsement from KSU in 2009. She began her career in 2002, teaching English/journalism at Marysville Jr/Sr High School. In 2003, she returned to her alma mater, Emporia High School, where currently she teaches A/V communications courses.

Schwinn has grown and evolved along with the digital media she guides students to explore. Stepping in to sponsor the yearbook and

student newspaper, Schwinn shifted her teaching emphases from basic strategies and classroom management to enabling students to find real world connections to their work. She developed what was once a traditional print newspaper into a web-based platform involving photography and video production. The yearbook routinely wins awards, and while other schools have difficulty selling their yearbook, sales have increased under Schwinn's guidance.

Outside of the classroom, Schwinn can be seen everywhere. "Her presence at all things school is standard practice, making students feel they are her top priority," a colleague states.

From her work as the assistant volleyball coach, to sponsoring student trips, to serving as the announcer at sporting events, as one student says, "She is always like the Energizer Bunny, always going. She is always going and it's always for the good of somebody else." Or, more succinctly, as a colleague states, "Laura Schwinn has a huge heart."

"Life is all about connecting and communicating with each other, and I strive daily to help students accomplish this," Schwinn states. "Each day, when I walk into my classroom, I am excited and ready for what the day will bring. Students find their passion and run with it, and I am proud to have a small part in that journey."

1978

Dennis L. Ary, Auburn-Washburn
Erma Lang Dow, Eureka
Harold Hardy, Pittsburg
Dr. Robert R. Noble,
Pittsburg State University
Milton Senti, Pratt
Patricia J. Teel, Columbus
Eugene Wiltfong, Norton
* Dr. A. Truman Hayes,
Emporia State University

1979

Gerald E. Barkley, Galena
Wendell Hodges, Anthony
Eleanor Kee, Coffeyville
Clifton McWaid, Kansas City
Loren E. Riblett Sr., Wamego
Cynthia Schrader, Alta Vista
William Warner, Manhattan
* Dr. Everett Rich,
Emporia State University

1980

Harold Balzer, Buhler
Raymond Goering, Salina
Lucille Luckey, Dodge City
Mary Remington, Pittsburg
Patricia Samuelson Bonds, Emporia
James R. Smith, Olathe
Paul Willis, Topeka

1981

Mary Chase, Andover
Mary Lou Davis, Dodge City
Marguerite Flick, Winfield
Don Miller, Fort Scott
Deloris Jean Osger, Eureka
Chester Peckover, Buhler
Byron Smith, Anthony

1982

Dorothy Arensman, Dodge City
 Frances Kohrs, Fort Scott
 Bill Saunders, Garden City
 Marjory Pease Sharp, Pittsburg
 Patricia Tippin, Manhattan
 Kenneth Trickle, Jr., Salina
 Elizabeth Voorhees, Emporia

1983

Catherine Ann Brown, Emporia
 Elaine Fowler Bryant, Pittsburg
 Betty Holderread, Newton
 Lois McLure, Kingman
 Barry L. Scharz, Kingman
 Sally Shipley, Kansas City, Mo.
 Doris Velen, Manhattan

1984

Robert Coffman, Chase
 Frances Lou Disney, Great Bend
 Stephen R. Germes, Dodge City
 Thomas Hedges, Pittsburg
 Don L. Mason, Kingman
 • Dottie McCrossen, Ottawa
 • Joan Spiker, Manhattan
 * Dr. John Visser, President,
 Emporia State University

1985

Bob Anderson, Manhattan
 Ken Carothers, Wellington
 Thomas Fowler, Emporia
 Charlotte McDonald, Olathe
 • Lana Scrimsher Oleen, Manhattan
 Barbara Shinkle, Pratt
 Sharon Willis, McPherson
 * Dr. John E. King, President,
 Emporia State University

1986

Jill Burk, Manhattan
 Richard G. Dawson, Kansas City
 Frank B. Evans, Dodge City
 Dr. Jim Gill, Stilwell
 Harry Heckethorn, McPherson
 Sally Six Hersh, Lawrence
 Helen Owens, Derby
 * Dr. Fred Markowitz,
 Emporia State University

1987

Roger D. Brannan, Manhattan
 Jackie Engel, McPherson
 Dr. Nick Henry,
 Pittsburg State University
 Dr. Eloise Beth Lynch, Salina
 • Marie Peterson, Oakley
 • Joyce Rucker, Pratt
 Dr. Sandra J. Terril, Salina
 * Dr. John Webb,
 Emporia State University

1988

• Carol S. Adams, Manhattan
 Donald G. Buhler, Pratt
 Robert Hottman, Anthony
 Carolyn Clevenger Kuhn, Emporia
 Michael S. Rush, Osawatomie
 Bonnie Weingart, Fort Riley
 Martha Zakrzewski, Hays

1989

Tanya Channell, Hays
 Max Ferguson, Medicine Lodge
 Lois Schweitzer Gray, Pratt
 Carolyn Koch, Emporia
 Ada Ligia R. Paquette, Junction City
 • Mary Anne Trickle, Salina
 • Gary Wilkerson, Derby
 * Dr. Darrell Wood,
 Emporia State University

1990

Dr. Thomas Christie, Lawrence
 • Gretchen Davis, Overland Park
 Dr. E. Sutton Flynt,
 Pittsburg State University
 • James Gardner, El Dorado
 Ralph E. Mock, Council Grove
 Allen K. Scheer, Westmoreland
 Beverliann Wolf, Derby

1991

Deena L. Horst, Salina
 Kenneth R. Kennedy, Pratt
 Sherryl L. Longhofer, Auburn-Washburn
 • Susan F. McKinney, Emporia
 Kenneth R. Stith, Dodge City
 • Valarie S. Tims, Pittsburg
 Helen A. Wagner, El Dorado

1992

Beth Bergsten, Junction City
 Ernest L. Brown, Wakeeney
 • Irma Jean Fallon, Manhattan
 Diane Low, Lawrence
 Ethel Marie Peterson, Dodge City
 Alana Kay Sewell, Pratt
 • Joyce Ann Sinn, Fort Scott

1993

Mickey L. Bogart, Manhattan
 Carol J. Brandert, Salina
 Mary Alice Gordon, Lawrence
 Kathy Ann Ramsour, Dodge City
 • William M. Scott, Wakeeney
 Alice M. Shaffer, Overland Park
 • Glenda S. Watkins, Paola
 * Dr. Daryl Berry,
 Emporia State University

1994

Norma Bynum West, Dwight
 • Diane Prell, Derby
 Myron E. Schwinn, Manhattan
 • Connie J. Viebrock, Olathe
 Kathryn E. Taylor, Emporia
 Anne Nettleton, Salina
 Garold Robert Billionis, Fort Scott
 * Dr. Robert Glennen, President,
 Emporia State University

1995

Cathy Colborn, Medicine Lodge
 Joseph P. Glotzbach, Council Grove
 John B. Harclerode, Emporia
 Diana E. Harris, Pratt
 • Patrick R. Lamb, Manhattan
 • Tom Schwartz, Abilene
 Jo Ann Schuette, Wichita

1996

Doyle D. Barnes, Manhattan
 Margaret Coggins, Lawrence
 Catherine Ecroyd, Ottawa
 • Jacquelyn Faye Feist, Dodge City
 • Millie P. Moye, Salina
 Janice Reutter, Medicine Lodge
 Nancy Robohn, Emporia

1997

Lisa Artman Bietau, Manhattan
 JoLene Rae Bloom, Seneca
 • Patricia Gnau, Blue Valley
 Mike Harvey, Pratt
 Darla J. Mallein, Emporia
 Renita Ubel, Ottawa
 • Randall J. Warner, Olathe
 * Dr. Jack D. Skillett,
 Emporia State University

1998

Brian "Chip" Anderson, Lawrence
 Janeen Brown, Wakeeney
 Candy Birch, Olathe
 Elizabeth Cronemeyer, Tonganoxie
 • Floyd "Stan" Standridge, Salina
 Shirley Stein, Ulysses
 Carol Strickland, Emporia

1999

• Michelle DiLisio, Chanute
 Mary Machin Hemphill, Manhattan
 • Judy Humburg, Andover
 Mary Porterfield, Goodland
 Linda Maxine Stelzer, Pratt
 Phillip Theis, El Dorado
 Curt C. Vajnar, Hays
 * Dr. Andy Tompkins, Topeka

2000

Kay Parks Bushman Haas, Ottawa
 • Tracy Jo Kerth, Overland Park
 • Michael R. Schainost, Osawatomie
 Roberta (Robbie) Thomas, Andover
 Robert James Tindel, Pittsburg
 Deborah B. Wertin, Overland Park
 Goldie Wood, Dodge City

2001

• Cathy Esquibel, Dodge City
 Jeanne Evans, El Dorado
 • Betty Lavery, Stilwell
 Leona Madden, Hays
 Margaret McClatchey,
 Overland Park
 Rosemary A. Riordan, Lenexa
 Jane Sak, Overland Park
 * Jerry Long, Assoc. Dean,
 Emporia State University

2002

Bev Bertolone, Blue Valley
 Barbara Fowler, Emporia
 • Sue Givens, Pratt
 Christine Herald, Manhattan
 Dee A. Moxley, Andover
 Jan Prather, El Dorado
 • Alexander Specht, Osawatomic

2003

• Tina Buck, Medicine Lodge
 Matt Copeland, Auburn-Washburn
 Connie Ferree, Emporia
 • Connie Healey, Stilwell
 Pamela Kilgariff, Pratt
 Barbara Tims, Pittsburg
 Carol Woydziak, Dodge City

2004

Mary Elizabeth Baker, Andover
 Luana Bitter, Pratt
 Patricia Grzenda, Lawrence
 Nicki Hancock, Olathe
 • Greg Mittman, Valley Center
 • Devra Parker, Medicine Lodge
 • Patricia Weidert, Emporia
 * William Samuelson,
 Emporia State University

2005

Mary Van Dyke, Atchinson
 Ken Garwick, Manhattan
 • Connie Neneman, Dodge City
 Sandy Hardesty, Auburn-Washburn
 Kathryn L. Reschke, Olathe
 Kimberly Thomas, Wichita
 • Larry Wayland, Blue Valley

2006

Jo Ellen Dambro, Emporia
 Karla Ewing, Pratt
 Elaine Bertels-Fasulo, Olathe
 Sherry Hutchcraft, Dodge City
 Vicki O'Neal, Baxter Springs
 • Bob Peterson, Butler County
 Community College
 • Marilyn K. Vaughan, Leawood
 * Kay Schallenkamp, President,
 Emporia State University

2007

• Rob Davis, Blue Valley
 Robin Dixon, Auburn-Washburn
 Shelley Faerber, Manhattan-Ogden
 Diane Ladenburger, Pratt
 • Marilyn McComber, Emporia
 Angela Miller, Junction City
 Elouise Miller, Hays
 * Tes Mehring, Dean,
 Emporia State University

2008

Alice Bertels, Auburn-Washburn
 Lisa Colwell, Hays
 Lori Goodson, Wamego
 Rhonda Hassig, Blue Valley
 • Deborah Nauerth, Manhattan-Ogden
 • Shannon Ralph, Dodge City
 Kenna Reeves, Emporia State University

2009

• Kenneth J. Bingman, Blue Valley
 Lynne "Christy" Boerner, Wamego
 Barbara Duffer Cole, Shawnee Heights
 Beverly Steele Furlong, Gardner-Edgerton
 Jeline Harclerode, Emporia
 Barbara McCalla, Augusta
 • Sarah Smith Meadows, Topeka

2010

Eleanor Browning, Emporia
 • Kathy Doussa, Dodge City
 Michael Dunlap, Blue Valley
 Lou Ann Getz, Manhattan-Ogden
 Sheila Lewis, Shawnee Heights
 • Andrea Saylor-Siefkes, St. John/Hudson
 Kassie Shook, Lawrence
 * Scott Irwin, Emporia State University

2011

Sonda Copeland, Manhattan-Ogden
 • Teresa Disberger, Council Grove
 Martha Hadsall, Anthony-Harper
 Rick Hildebrand, Barnes-Hanover-Linn
 Nancy Pence, Blue Valley
 • Janice Romeiser,
 Emporia State University
 Marcia Troutfetter, Salina

2012

Shelley Aistrup, Manhattan-Ogden
 • Cindy Ehrstein, Andover
 • Sandra Gonsler, Blue Valley
 Kendra Metz, Lawrence
 Katrina Paradis, Salina
 Jodi Testa, Geary County
 Marc Woofter, Dodge City

2013

Juliann Bliese, Olathe
 • Michelle Lynn Bogner, Dodge City
 Kathleen Bowen, Lawrence
 Kacie Evans, Morris County
 Kelley Norman, Topeka
 • Michele Ann Palmgren, Salina
 Tara Walrod, Blue Valley

2014

• Bonnie Austin, Dodge City
 • John V. Bode, Lawrence
 Lori Gunzelman, Andover
 Signe Truelove, Emporia
 Carla Varner, El Dorado
 Kathleen Wilhite, Olathe
 Maria Worthington, Blue Valley
 * Karen Godfrey, KNEA

2015

Carmen Cantrell, Shawnee Mission
 • Barbara Clark, Manhattan-Ogden
 Kori E. Green, El Dorado
 Leslie MacAfee, Piper
 Bill McFarland, Auburn-Washburn
 • Reed Urthe, Blue Valley
 Ginger Whiteside Steck, Andover

2016

Jessica Butte, Hays
 • Nikki Chamberlain, Salina
 • Adriane Falco, Blue Valley
 Keri Lauxman, Lawrence
 L. Raymond Linville, Andover
 Jenny Wilcox, Auburn Washburn
 Laura Woolfolk, Dodge City
 * Special Award
 • W. A. Black Endowed Chair Recipient

