

The Jayhawk *e-Educator*

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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#1 Special Education
#10 School of Ed

U.S. News & World Report again ranked the Department of Special Education as #1 in public universities. The School of Education as a whole rose to #10. Above: Big Jay celebrates with Conor Taft, senior in History and Government and SOE peer advisor.

This electronic version of *The Jayhawk e-Educator* is available online at the School of Education website: soe.ku.edu.
Please send submissions, questions and comments to Paula Naughtin at pnaught@ku.edu.

The Winds of Change

Rick Ginsberg, Ph.D., Dean

Spring is finally in the air, and with the welcome change of seasons, I am reminded of the multiple winds of change driving our work in the KU School of Education. Whether it be the dynamic nature of technology, the unpredictability of state and federal funding, or the demands for new approaches and increased quality in teaching and research, we are in a mode of continuous improvement to best serve the needs of our students, alumni and external audiences.

We are very pleased to offer practicing Kansas educators some financial relief in the form of our Practicing Educator Sponsorship Program. All practicing PK-12 educators in the state of Kansas are eligible for this program that reduces the cost of completing courses and pursuing degrees.

To better meet student needs, we have begun to move some Lawrence and Edwards campus-based courses to a hybrid mode, so that students can access information online between face-to-face classes and then meet for more in-depth projects and critical thinking work. We also launched a fully online program: a master of arts in Special Education. Eventually 15 School of Education programs will be offered in entirety online over the next three years.

Our faculty continue to hold themselves to the highest expectations and each department recently went through a thorough examination of



Trees surrounding Joseph R. Pearson Hall show off their spring blooms.

their annual research requirements to raise the standards and clarify their academic objectives. Although our programs are already well recognized nationally, this work is especially significant as it speaks to the desire among our faculty to continue to challenge themselves to produce research that meets state, national and global needs.

Finally, we have embarked on a comprehensive diversity agenda. The plan focuses on strengthening our level of understanding by learning more about people and cultures different from our own. We will examine our teaching, curricula, structures, and policies and make the changes needed so that the KU School of Education is more welcoming to all. We hope, ultimately, to increase our student, faculty and staff diversity, for as the audiences that our program and

degree graduates serve become more and more diverse, our work in this area takes on greater significance.

We remain eternally grateful to our many alumni and friends who have been so generous during the current Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas comprehensive capital campaign. With just a little more than a year left, we are positioned to raise the most support in the School's history for student scholarships and other academic program objectives.

So the winds of change challenge us but create an exciting atmosphere for faculty, students and staff to engage in. We are well poised for the future, and with the arrival of spring, we welcome the many new seasons that lie ahead.

School of Ed establishes 'Practicing Educator Sponsorship Program' for grad students

The School of Education has introduced a pilot program to make attaining a graduate degree more affordable for Kansas residents working in education.

Educators who live in Kansas and are employed by a PK -12 private or public school district are eligible to receive a sponsorship to reduce costs for attending classes offered through the Lawrence campus or KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park. The rate reduction takes effect with summer-session classes in May 2014.

"We want to ensure that a financial commitment isn't the one thing stopping educators from advancing their skills," said Rick Ginsberg, School of Education dean. "Our goal is to provide the best and most affordable resources to educators." This summer, qualified students taking a three-hour course at the

Lawrence campus will receive a \$140 reduction per semester, and students taking six or more hours will receive a \$350 reduction per semester.

At the KU Edwards Campus, students will receive a reduction of \$260 for at least three hours or \$580 for six or more hours. Educators who are interested in the reduced rate can learn more at the link below.

Once tuition rates for the 2014-2015 academic year are approved, the sponsorship rate for the fall will be adjusted, but it will not be lowered. The sponsorship program is designed to make KU's graduate education courses and degree programs more affordable to educators who have seen stagnant

wages or lower incentives due to state budget cuts. The School of

Education's graduate programs are among the nation's best, ranked 10th among public universities by U.S. News & World Report.

"We want to ensure that a financial commitment isn't the one thing stopping educators from advancing their skills." -- Rick Ginsberg

"We want teachers and education personnel to have all of the proper tools to help their students – and themselves – succeed in the classroom," Ginsberg said. "Having the brightest and best-trained education leaders, administrators and teachers has never been more important."

-- Jon Ratliff

Trozzolo Communications Group



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The University of Kansas



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Special Education again tops *U.S. News & World Rankings*, SOE rises to #10

The KU School of Education's special education department maintained its top spot among public university programs, and the School itself also rose five places into the top 10 among public university programs in the 2015 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Graduate Schools."

Other University of Kansas graduate programs posted big gains as well. Every ranked specialty in the School of Engineering rose, including aerospace engineering, which is now the top-ranked aerospace program in Kansas. The School of Medicine jumped 15 spots overall in both primary care and research, while the schools of Law and Business also posted double-digit overall gains. Meanwhile, the School of Public Affairs and Administration in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences holds the top overall ranking in city management and urban policy.

"Our mission as Kansas' flagship university is to educate the leaders and professionals the state needs to grow and prosper. Raising the quality and stature of our graduate programs is key to that mission, and is also central to achieving the university's bold aspirations," Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little said. "Of course, rankings are just one measure, and our ultimate success will be judged by how well we serve the people of Kansas. These rankings show that we're on the right track, especially in disciplines vital to the future of the state," she continued.

Jack Martin, Office of Public Affairs

Inequality in the Post-Civil Rights Era: A KU Symposium Commemorating the Sixtieth Anniversary of Brown v. BOE

Hall Center for the Humanities
Thursday, April 17, 2014, 10:00am - 6:30pm

Co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Office, the Provost's Office, the School of Law, the School of Education, Social Welfare, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, IPSR, Public Administration, and the Hall Center
More information [here](#).

Stay in touch!

Keep in touch! Receive electronic newsletters like this + copies of our Jayhawk Educator! Find out about upcoming events! Just update your contact information and give us news of your recent activities [here](#).

Exercise Science at KU Edwards Campus!

KU's School of Education is extending its department of Health, Sport, and Exercises Sciences to the KU Edwards Campus. The Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science prepares students for fields such as coaching and personal training or serves as a foundation for graduate level work in health sciences including physical therapy. More info [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

Who: Teachers, Administrators and anyone interested in advancing achievement for PK-12 students in the State of Kansas

What: The University of Kansas and the Kansas State Department of Education are partnering to offer this informative workshop at **No Cost**

When: Friday, June 13, 2014
Registration: 7:30 a.m.
Welcome: 8:30 a.m.

Where: University of Kansas • Lawrence, Kansas

Presentation Proposals are currently being accepted on our website, <http://soe.ku.edu/strategies>

Sign-Up: Participants may register on-line . . . <http://soe.ku.edu/strategies>

SOE Alumni Spotlight

Alumna **Allison McFarland** (Ph.D., 1992) recently returned from a memorable experience as an Event Services Volunteer at the XXII Olympic Winter Games, Sochi Russia. She shared the following:

The application process for being selected as a Sochi volunteer began nearly a year ago. All volunteers were required to complete an English proficiency exam and participate in a lengthy interview. After selection, all international volunteers were required to pass several online content-specific tests that measured their knowledge of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

My previous volunteer assignments include the Michigan Senior Olympics, Symphony in the Flint Hills, Girls on the Run, and the KS State High School Track Meet.

My interest in volunteering at the Olympics stemmed in part from having taught Sport Management courses at previous institutions. I was particularly interested in the tactical planning that surrounded this International event.



Volunteers at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi were assigned to either the Coastal Cluster (indoor events) or the Mountain Cluster (outdoor events). A volunteer shift was eight to nine hours, with an additional three hours for travel at the beginning and end of the day. I was assigned to the Biathlon and Cross Country Center in the Mountain Cluster.

During the 2014 Games all volunteers lived in specially constructed apartment houses. In addition to their accommodation, the organizing committee paid for volunteers' food, provided us with uniforms and transportation to and from our places of work. Volunteers were responsible for paying their travel to and from Sochi.

Traveling to eastern Europe was a new experience. Since administration of Olympic volunteers is controlled by the host country, my exposure to Russian culture was more intense than those who simply attended the games as a spectator.

Russian volunteers and spectators were curious about Americans; heightened by the fact that very few spectators from the U.S.A. unaffiliated with a team, athlete or Olympic job were in attendance. My abbreviated observation of Russian culture reflected significantly different formal and informal management and decision making processes than those in the West. I look forward to integrating these new perspectives and experiences into my Management and Marketing classes at Bethel College in North Newton, Kans.

This is my first sabbatical leave in 22 years of higher education teaching. I am grateful for this opportunity to step away from my normal routine and gain new experiences that will in turn, inform my teaching.



School of Education Research

Researchers publish article illustrating benefits of sports psychology in youth programs

Susumu Iwasaki, doctoral student, and **Mary Fry**, associate professor of health, sport and exercise science, have authored a study detailing how sports psychology professionals can help youth sports administrators evaluate their programs and improve the motivational environment so kids have more fun and better physical, psychological and emotional outcomes.

Iwasaki and Fry worked with administrators of two youth sports camps to survey young participants about how they perceived the environment — whether it was caring and task-involving, or ego-involving — and how such results can be used by coaches and administrators everywhere to improve youth sports.

“We know that if you’re a coach, a negative approach can be destructive to the learning environment,” Iwasaki said. “This study helps show how doable it is for youth sports programs to evaluate their climates and improve.”

The study will be published in the journal *The Sport Psychologist*.

[Read more...](#)

Promoting self-determination increases opportunities for students with disabilities

When young people finish high school the societal expectation is that they’ll continue their education, find employment and become productive members of society. When it comes to students with disabilities, three faculty members from KU’s Department of Special Education found that focusing on self-determination while they are in school can help them achieve those same goals when they’ve graduated.

Karrie Shogren, (associate professor, SPED & associate director, KU Center on Developmental Disabilities - KUCDD), **Michael Wehmeyer** (professor, SPED & director, KUCDD) and **Susan Palmer** (research professor, Life Span Institute) worked with Graham Rifenburg, a former KU graduate student and Todd Little, former KU faculty member and current Texas Tech University professor to co-author the study.



L-R: Shogren, Wehmeyer, Palmer

It surveyed 779 students with disabilities from a six-state area one and two years after they completed high school. Those who had higher levels of self-determination when they left school fared better than their counterparts who did not. And students who were taught self-determination skills in school — lessons that focused on skills such as setting goals, problem solving, self advocacy, self-management of behavior and allowing them to affect change in their own lives — showed more stability in the positive outcomes they achieved.

The researchers plan to further study the numerous environmental and personal factors that affect outcomes in adult life. They argue, however, that the findings thus far indicate the value of educators spending time on self-determination instruction. In an era of limited instruction time, reduced budgets and numerous educational challenges, supporting self-determination training is proving its worth.

[Read more...](#)

School of Education Research

Professors develop survey tool to gauge university attitudes on diversity

Four KU School of Education professors have developed an instrument to assess faculty attitudes about diversity and how these attitudes relate to their day-to-day social interactions, the varied norms and expectations of their different disciplinary fields, and ultimately how they carry out their research, teaching and service.

Jennifer Ng (associate professor) and **Lisa Wolf-Wendel** (professor) from the department of educational leadership and policy studies worked with **Bruce Frey** and **William Skorupski**, both associate professors in the department of psychology and research in education, to develop the ACES survey instrument.

Their article on the tool's development and testing has been published in the journal *Research & Practice in Assessment*.

[Read more...](#)

Professor examines effects of school board makeup on student performance

School boards are one of the foundations of the American educational system, yet little research exists on their effects on student performance. A University of Kansas professor has published a study showing that when a school board's sociological makeup

includes both strong internal and external ties, those relationships can be reflected in educational outcomes.

Argun Saatcioglu, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies, co-authored a study with Gokce Sargut of Governors State University examining the social capital of school boards. They found that boards with strong internal ties — those with members who work well together and respect one another — are good, but they are even better for their schools when they have strong, diverse ties outside of their own school system. The study was published in the journal *Sociological Inquiry*.

School boards that displayed high social capital, made up of substantial positive internal and external relationships, were also in districts that had the best eighth-grade reading and math scores. They were lowest in districts with the lowest brokerage and closure.

Put simply, school boards that work well together and also have strong ties to external individuals and groups that influence education will most likely have the highest-performing students, Saatcioglu and Sargut wrote.

[Read more....](#)



Saatcioglu

Professor studies educational value of dogs in prison with 'Greyhounds Behind Bars'

For most of us, dogs are man's best friend, a companion to amuse us, join in walks or to shower with love. A University of Kansas researcher is showing that for prison inmates, dogs can be much more than companions, helping them learn vital skills for use in life after prison and to become better people. And the inmates are providing a new lease on life for the dogs.

Suzanne Rice (professor, ELPS) has done research on a program that matches greyhounds retired from the racing industry with prison inmates and argues that the program is a truly educational experience for both participants and that animals play an underutilized role in education. Rice became interested in the educational potential of such programs after she adopted a rescue greyhound herself.

[Read more...](#)



All stories courtesy:
Mike Krings, KU News Service

Kansas Teacher of the Year & Team

Jeff Baxter, a language arts teacher at Leavenworth High School in the Leavenworth School District (USD 453), was named as the 2014 Kansas Teacher of the Year by the Kansas State Department of Education. Baxter earned his BS in English and Secondary Education in 1971 and completed his MS in Secondary Ed in 1976 at the KU School of Education.

In addition, two other SOE alumni were finalists for the award. **Marney (Johnson) Hay** (B.S.E. 1991) is the Elementary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 4. Hay teaches fourth grade at Pray-Woodman Elementary in Maize. **Katie (McDonald) Perez** (B.S.E., 2007) is the Elementary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 1 and teaches fourth grade at Morgan Elementary in Hutchinson. The other five finalists are: Mary Lonker, Secondary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 1, who teaches ELA in Wamego; Jenny Nash, Elementary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 2, who teaches Kindergarten in Paola; Brandi Leggett, Elementary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 3, who teaches 3rd grade in Shawnee; Jennifer Smith, Secondary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 3, who teaches social studies in Blue Valley; and Jennifer Bailey, Secondary Kansas Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 4, who teaches ELA in Valley Center. All eight will travel throughout the state with Baxter as part of the Kansas Teacher of the Year Team,

visiting pre-service teachers, media outlets, and school districts.

Baxter's honor was announced by Kansas Commissioner of Education, Dr. Diane DeBacker, during an awards banquet at the Wichita Marriott on Saturday evening, November 23, 2013 that recognized the eight finalists for the award.

"This is a room of passionate and gifted teachers and I am honored to be among them," said Mr. Baxter after his selection.

This is Mr. Baxter's 24th year in the Leavenworth School District. Mr. Baxter teaches AP Language and Composition and Junior-level Honors English. He also serves as the Language Arts Department Chair at Leavenworth High School.

In addition to a certificate presented by DeBacker, Mr. Baxter received a \$4,000 cash award from Security Benefit, a primary sponsor of the program. Other benefits include an instructional technology classroom package from SMART Technologies valued at \$7,250, and funds for travel and transportation through The Hubbard Foundation Kansas Teacher of the Year Ambassadorship and Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Mr. Baxter now advances on to the National Teacher of the Year recognition program. The national program, sponsored by Target, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, in partnership with the ING Foundation, the University of Phoenix and People-to-People Ambassador programs.

-- KSDE press release



*L-R: Bailey, Smith, Leggett, Baxter, Perez, Nash, Hay, Lonker
Photo courtesy of Ron Clevenger of Ron's Studio*

News from KU Special Education

Elizabeth Kozleski, professor and chair of the special education department at KU, has co-edited and contributed to a new book that explores how students, teachers, parents and community members can recognize the intersections of equity and ability to reform schools to be more inclusive.



Kozleski, with her co-editor, Kathleen King Thorius, assistant professor of urban special education

at Indiana University, published the book, *Ability, Equity and Culture: Sustaining Inclusive Urban Education Reform*, in December 2013.

In the nation's public schools, some students are marginalized based on disabilities or differences, real or perceived. Research has long shown that students placed in special

education programs and minority students — who are placed in such programs at disproportionately high rates — are often denied access to the best teachers, programs and opportunities for a quality education, which puts them at a disadvantage later in life. Kozleski's research has focused on how to reform schools to break down those established barriers.

“How are schools organized to put people into different groups and how are school districts organized to spin some kids out to the margins? How can we help them to restructure their organizations, policies and practices so that these effects are no longer part of systemic, institutionalized minoritization and marginalization? Those are some of the questions I address,” Kozleski said.

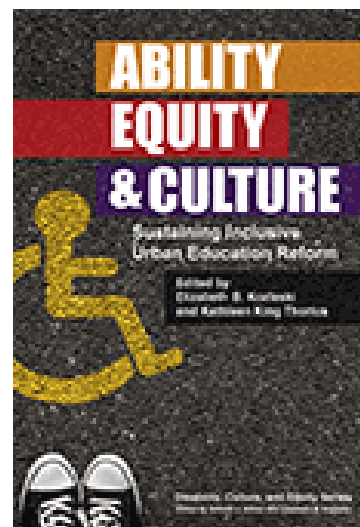
The book builds upon research conducted by the National Institute for Urban School Improvement (NIUSI), a 12-year, \$12 million program Kozleski led that offered leadership for transformation and

gathered data from five major urban school districts across the United States.

“The argument I'm making is that education and inclusivity happens in the center, in the school,” Kozleski said. “If we expand the center and eliminate the margins, we will build the kind of networked learning communities that will provide robust education for all in 21st century contexts.”

[Read more...](#)

Mike Krings
KU News Service



Kathleen Lane, professor of special education, received the 2014 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Special Education Research Award at the CEC 2014 Convention & Expo in Philadelphia on April 9.

Lane was cited for her “commitment to and exemplary performance in serving children and youth with exceptionalities.”

Lane's research interests focus on school-based interventions (academic and behavioral) with students at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD), with an emphasis on systematic screenings to detect students with behavioral challenges at the earliest possible juncture.



Barbara Kerr receives E. Paul Torrance Award

Barbara A. Kerr, Williamson Family Distinguished Professor of Counseling Psychology in the department of psychology and research in Education (PRE), received the E. Paul Torrance award winner in November at the annual meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children.

The award acknowledges significant contributions of individuals and groups whose work facilitates the enhancement and spread of creativity, especially among gifted children, and who are themselves creative thinkers. Other past recipients of the E. Paul Torrance Award include Bill Moyers, for his television journalism promoting innovation and creativity; Teresa Amabile for her groundbreaking

work on innovation in organizations; and Robert Sternberg for his research into creative intelligence.

Kerr founded counseling laboratories at the University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and Arizona State University that provided career development to talented individuals while learning about their characteristics and developing careers. She has served as psychological consultant to the Iowa Writers Workshop; the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture at Taliesin West; and to inventors, artists, writers and musicians in communities ranging from the Navajo and Apache reservations to inner city schools. At the University of Kansas, she founded the

Counseling Laboratory for the Exploration of Optimal States (Project CLEOS) in PRE. There, she and her staff developed innovative methods for profiling creative adolescents and ways of helping them to find the “invisible pathways” to careers in arts, technology, science, and leadership. In the city of Lawrence, Kansas, she is co-founder of the Lawrence Creates Makerspace, where creative people are provided with the space, resources, and assistance needed to transform ideas into products and businesses.

Barbara Kerr wrote the best-selling *Smart Girls, Gifted Women; Smart Boys; Counseling Gifted Students*; the *Encyclopedia of Giftedness, Creativity, and Talent*; the SAGE Major Works in Giftedness and Creativity, as well as innumerable contributions to the scholarly literature of talent and creativity over the decades.

With her colleague, **Karen Multon** (professor, PRE), she will be expanding the CLEOS Project at KU this year to include counseling for writers block and procrastination; for performance and presentation anxiety; and career development for creative college students.

Left: Kerr at a Lawrence Creates Makerspace event.



SOE Alumni recognized with 2014 Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Awards

Several KU School of Education graduates were among the 32 first-year educators from around the state who were named 2014 Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Award recipients recently. The Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Awards are sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association and recognize exemplary first-year educators.

The program recognizes teachers who have completed their first year of teaching and have performed in such a way as to distinguish themselves as outstanding. The program is a regional competition with four regions corresponding to the state's U.S. Congressional

districts. Four elementary and four secondary classroom teachers may be selected for the award from each region.

The SOE alumni included:

Noah Musser (G.L.P., 2012)

Eudora High School,
USD 491 Eudora

Kassy Miller (B.S.E., 2011, MSE, 2012) Louisburg Middle School,
USD 416 Louisburg

Alix Lea Santa Maria (B.S.E., 2011) Stanley Elementary School, USD 229 Blue Valley

Diane DeBacker, Kansas commissioner of education remarked, "I want to extend my congratulations to the recipients of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Award. These new educators have

taken on the challenge of helping all of our students learn to their fullest potential, and I am heartened by the quality of individuals we bring to our classrooms each year. I commend each of the award recipients for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their students."

The 2014 Kansas Cable Telecommunications Horizon Award recipients were recognized at a special luncheon during the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN) State Education Conference on Feb. 21, 2014.

Editor's note: Do you know or are you another SOE alum who received this or another award? [Let us know!](#)

More Alumni Awards

SOE Alum **Sam Rockford** (B.S.E., 1997) was the October 2013 winner of the Educating Excellence award from Perceptive Software and the University of Kansas School of Engineering. Rockford, the math department chair of St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kans., received a check for \$1500 and a printer.

The Educating Excellence Award is given out each month during the school year to an engineering, math, science, or technology teacher in Kansas or the Kansas City area.

Kelly Hart (B.S.E., 2004), an English language arts teacher at South Middle School, has been named the Lawrence School District's 2013-2014 Secondary Teacher of the Year. Hart, who is also an alumna of South Middle School, is a graduate of the SOE English education program and taught one year in Holton before joining the Lawrence district in 2006. She is now in her eighth year teaching at South Middle School.

Each year, the Lawrence district selects an elementary and

secondary teacher of the year for local recognition. Those individuals are also nominated for the Kansas Teacher of the Year program sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education.

Joel Leader (B.S.E., 2006), who teaches English at Hebron High School in Lewisville, Tex., was named 2013 Teacher of the Year and was a finalist for Secondary Teacher of the Year in the Lewisville Independent School District.

Simpson, Tompkins named Icons of Education

Ingram's Magazine, a Kansas City business publication, recently announced the 2014 Icons of Education, honoring those who "have dedicated their lives to the mission of educating the region's youth." A KU School of Education faculty member and a former faculty member were among the ten educators who were honored; both are also alumni of the School.

Richard Simpson (Ed.D., 1973), a professor in the department of special education, was honored for his pioneering work in autism.

Simpson has directed numerous University of Kansas and University of Kansas Medical Center demonstration programs for students with autism spectrum disorders and other disabilities as well as coordinating a variety of federal grant programs for students with those disabilities. He has also worked as a special education teacher, school psychologist, and coordinator of a community mental health outreach program. He has authored numerous books, articles, and tests on a variety of topics connected to students with disabilities. Simpson has received numerous awards, including the Council for Exceptional Children Research Award, and the Gene A. Budig Endowed Teaching Professorship of Special Education.

Simpson notes in the story, "I think I am most proud that I was able to offer a training program specifically in the area of autism for a sustained period of time," he says. Since founding KU's program, "my colleagues and I have prepared literally hundreds of teachers and related service professionals to work with students with autism."

Andy Tompkins (Ed.D., 1977) is President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. Prior to that, Tompkins was dean of the Pittsburg State University (PSU) College of Education and also served as associate professor in the PSU department of special services and leadership studies. From 2005 to 2007, he served as an associate professor in the department of education leadership and policy studies at the University of Kansas.

Tompkins served as the Kansas State Department of Education's Commissioner of Education from 1996-2005. Throughout his career he has held various positions in K-12 and higher education serving as a high school teacher, principal, superintendent, university associate professor, department chair, and college dean.

Tompkins received the KU School of Education distinguished alumni award in 2004.

In the Ingram's article, Tompkins said, "What I hope I have added during my service is a passion for education and a vision for believing in the potential of all Kansans to learn and make a contribution to improve their own circumstances as well as those around them."

[Read more...](#)



*Top right: Simpson
Bottom right: Tompkins*

KU SOE Student News

Four seniors were named Teachers of Promise this year. The four were chosen by KU School of Education faculty to represent The University of Kansas and the School as “Teachers of Promise” throughout the state this school year.

Kelsey Nelson, health and physical education, and **Kaitlin Lugo**, elementary education, were honored at the KSDE Teacher of the Year event. **Eli Sturn**, unified early childhood, and **Chris Carter**, secondary mathematics education, received their awards at the KSDE KEEN conference.

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Kelsey Nelson was also recently honored as Undergraduate Student Major of the Year at the annual convention of the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. She was selected for her academic excellence and her devotion to helping children embrace healthy living. Kelsey is an America Reads tutor, a Big Sister, a fitness



specialist, and a teacher’s aide at Lecompton Elementary School. She was joined at the convention by past and present Health and Physical Education majors from KU.

Lauren Smith, a junior majoring in community health, is one of 50 students working on a research project funded by the Undergraduate Research Award (UGRA) program, coordinated by the Center for Undergraduate Research. Her study, “Relationships Between Individual’s Perceptions of Physical Activity Climate and Their Motivational Responses,” an examination of the relationship between individual’s perceptions of the climate in their physical activity setting to their motivational responses; was conducted under the supervision of her research mentor: **Mary Fry**, professor, health, sport, and exercise sciences.

The 50 recipients received \$1,000 to fund their projects, which encompass departments from across campus and explore a wide range of topics. Students applied for the award by writing a four page research proposal under the guidance of a faculty mentor. This spring’s competition saw a 25 percent increase in the number of applications from the previous spring, making the awards all that much more competitive. Proposals were selected on the merit of the applicant’s proposal, the applicant’s academic record, and the recommendation from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant and the proposed project.

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A number of KU students and alumni presented at the annual National Council for the Social Studies conference in St. Louis in November 2013. Included in the

group were current undergraduates **Laura Collins, Ashley McKee, Mark Schiltz, Megan Unger, Elizabeth Bittiker & Conor Taft**; master’s students **Charley Forsythe, Kori Green, Thomas Fulbright & Joe Zlatnik**; and doctoral students **Tom Barker & Tina Ellsworth**. Alumni included: **Molly Fuller** (B.S.E. 2011, M.S.E. 2013), **Scott Peavey** (B.S.E. 2010, M.S.E. 2013), **Nick Lawrence** (B.S.E. 2006, M.S.E. 2011), **Brian Bechard** (B.S.E. 2008, M.S.E. 2011).

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Paul Howard, the former president of the University of Kansas Council for the Social Studies, who received his B.S.E. last May and took a teaching position with the Washington, D.C. school system, was selected to represent D.C. on the Middle States Council for the Social Studies.

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A KU School of Education student, **Bret Koch**, was one of 15 students, staff and faculty who were selected as University of Kansas Men of Merit, recognized for positively defining masculinity through challenging norms, taking action and leading by example while making contributions to the university and/or the community. The 15 will be featured on the sixth-annual KU Men of Merit posters that are available in the Student Involvement & Leadership Center at the Kansas Union. Koch is a junior in the Community Health program.

Edwards Campus now offers educational technology degree

The University of Kansas has added a master's degree in educational technology at its Edwards Campus in Overland Park, Kans., to serve the need of state and local businesses and industries to expand workforce online learning programs.

“Both small businesses and large corporations use online learning to educate workers, and nonprofit organizations are training more of their volunteers online as well,” said David Cook, vice chancellor of the KU Edwards Campus. “This degree prepares professionals who write, design and administer online courses and online support resources for face-to-face training.” The new educational technology master's degree includes courses that concentrate in integration, administration and design of

eLearning programs. A U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study estimates demand for eLearning instructional coordinators, including designers, is growing much faster than the average for all occupations. The program uses interdisciplinary and educational technology resources uniquely available to Edwards Campus students. KU is an established national leader in developing highly regarded eLearning tools and resources that serve millions of users every week.

Ron Aust (associate professor), Young-Jin Lee (associate professor), and Robert Isaacson (lecturer) from the department of educational leadership and policy studies will teach the courses in the program, that began this spring semester.

The new degree is offered through the KU School of Education and supported by the Johnson County Education Research Triangle sales tax approved by voters in 2008. Missouri residents may qualify for tuition rates equivalent to in-state rates.

Read [more information](#) about the program.



In Memoriam

Donald C. (Don) Richardson, EdD, 83, of Garden City, Kansas, died Thursday, November 7, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Glenda Faye Richardson; son, Steven Lane Richardson; daughter, Sue Richardson; granddaughters, Laine Richardson O'Donnell and Nicolette Alley; and many loving friends and colleagues. Dr. Richardson was a Professor of Education at the University of Kansas in the department of curriculum and instruction for over 27 years, where he was admired and respected by students and fellow faculty.

“Don was a beacon of common sense formed by his knowledge and wisdom. Kind and thoughtful to all, always offering a supporting word of guidance and encouragement to younger colleagues mixed with his endearing knowing smile. A great fellow and colleague.” John Poggio (professor, PRE)



Pat LaShier died Sunday, November 24, 2014 in Sioux Falls, SD. Pat was born in 1935 and received a business degree from Texas Tech University in 1957. She worked for the University of Kansas, first in the department of

special education and then in the Comptrollers office, where she served as Assistant Comptroller until her retirement in 1995. Pat was married to William S. LaShier, a long-time faculty member in the department of curriculum and instruction (now C&T).

“Pat was a very special person. It was a privilege and pleasure to work with her. Clearly she was one of those people that made KU the place that it is today. She was a significant contributor to the department and the University.” Ed Meyen (professor, SPED)