

EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

63rd Annual

KANSAS
MASTER
TEACHER
AWARD

April 6, 2016

Bank of America



2016 Master Teacher Schedule

April 6, 2016

- 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**
Flint Hills Room, Memorial Union
Host: Dr. Ken Weaver
Dean of The Teachers College
- 2:30-3:45 p.m.** **Seminar – “Because Good Teaching Matters”**
Jones Conference Center, Room 330, Visser Hall
Coordinators: Ms. Shannon Hall
Office of Field Placement and Licensure
Dr. Roger Caswell, Executive Director
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. Andy Koenigs
Associate Superintendent for Human Resources
Emporia Public Schools, USD 253

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. This year, an additional \$8,000 was given by Bank of America to further underwrite the program and give each 2016 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 2016 selection committee included Jody Baker, Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals; Dathan Fischer, Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals; Deena Horst, Kansas State Board of Education; Sherri Schwanz, Kansas National Education Association; Jill Molina, Kansas Parent Teacher Association; Brandi Siebenaler, Kappa Delta Pi–Student Program; and Barbara Clark and Reed Uthe, 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.

2016 Master Teacher Nominees

Lou Ann Barker, Ulysses

Jessica Butte, Hays

Nikki Chamberlain, Salina

Stephanie JoAnn Chitwood, Manhattan-Ogden

Angela Conner, Seaman

Jay Doornbos, Council Grove

Barry E. Evans, Topeka

Adriane Falco, Blue Valley

Robin Fruits, Auburn Washburn

Jason Gallagher, Pratt

Janelle Hartegan, Archdiocese of Kansas City

Michelle Hilliard, Maize

Keri Lauxman, Lawrence

L. Raymond Linville, Andover

Joann McRell, Emporia

Kevin Monroe, El Dorado

Michaila Pfaff, Andover

Scott Seeger, Olathe

Carol Settgest, Geary County

Adam Wade, Blue Valley

Jenny Wilcox, Auburn Washburn

Glennis Wilson, Chanute

Laura Woolfolk, Dodge City



Jessica Butte

Science Teacher
Hays High School
USD 489 Hays

“Hello, class – my name is Mrs. Butte and you are in chemistry. People that like chemistry are crazy, so to teach it, you have to be downright psycho. Hopefully we can be crazy together,” – so Jessica Butte greets her students the first day of class.

Craziness ensues as Butte combines innovation with students’ interests, abilities, and learning styles. While any teacher can present subject material, Butte says, it is more important for students to discover it on their own, and it is her job to empower them to “make mistakes, take the wrong path, and productively struggle to form their own understanding.”

Butte began teaching in 2004 after earning a bachelor’s degree from Fort Hays State University in physical science. She began her career teaching physics at Hays High School, and has taught 9th grade science, chemistry, and ESL at the high school and middle school.

Butte “knows and demonstrates that the way she learned as a high school student is no longer an option for today’s students,” explains one colleague. “She welcomes questions from students about the history of the earth, the history of the universe, and climate change, all while reinforcing consensus, mainstream science.”

Whether it is supporting a ping pong ball at the top of a tower made of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows, creating musical

instruments to demonstrate sound waves, or creating model roller coasters to measure kinetic and potential energy, her teaching style encourages exploration while maintaining a physically and emotionally safe place.

Throughout her tenure, she noticed the demographics in her classroom changing. In order to respond to these changes, Butte recognized the need to switch focus from what she was teaching to how she was teaching. This led her to an endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages, allowing her to assist her fellow teachers as well as her students.

Butte is not only involved in the classroom, but is also a sponsor of many activities and active in her community. She is the co-sponsor of National Honor Society, assistant coach for debate, GSA sponsor, and has been involved with Science Olympiad, scholars’ bowl, and forensics. On Wednesday nights you can find her at church, meeting with fourth graders to discuss morality and character.

As a lifelong acquaintance stated, “Jessica is genuine, what you see is what you get.... (she) is a team player who does not need a trophy or tiara, because her glory comes from a job well done.”

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



Nikki Chamberlain

Chemistry Teacher
Salina South High School
USD 305 Salina

Nikki Chamberlain knows she has to make connections with students before she can get them to buy into learning chemistry.

“I teach kids, not content,” Chamberlain states.

Chamberlain received her bachelor’s in education in 2003 and a master’s of curriculum and instruction in 2007, both from Kansas State University. She is currently studying for an endorsement in building level leadership from Fort Hays State University. She has taught chemistry at Salina South High School since 2003.

Chamberlain understands while students may have diverse abilities and interests, they all have one thing in common, “Students have to see connections to their daily lives in the material we cover... From fireworks to climate change, chemistry can explain the phenomena that we encounter every day.”

While students in her class spend time making a chemical reaction happen faster or determining which food dyes are in use, they also have time to eat ice cream – after they have made it while testing freezing point depression. Her students explore chemical engineering through designing airbags for baby carriages, building rockets to determine ideal fuel to oxygen ratio, and designing safe hand warmers and cold packs.

In 2005, she started the Lab Chicks club. “I wanted to help inspire other women to love math and science as much as I do,” she said. Lab Chicks engages high school girls in science, exposes them to career fields they may not be aware of, and provides them with mentors. What started as a group of less than 15 students now has more than 70 members. In 2006, Lab Chicks organized its initial Girls in the Lab Day for girls in grades 4-8. This now annual event allows the younger girls to take part in inquiry-based activities and meet with female scientists and engineers. In 2007, Lab Chicks began a reading program and now visits K-1 classrooms to read books combining science and phonics.

Numerous letters of support praised Chamberlain for her enthusiasm for students and instruction, and documented her successes: a young woman with Asperger’s syndrome is a sophomore in college studying chemistry education, another is about to pursue a double major in chemical engineering and chemistry, another is to study biochemistry.

How does this happen? As one student stated, “I walked into her class as an apprehensive sophomore who had no plans for the future and will walk out of her class this May driven toward a career in pharmaceutical chemistry. The most important lesson she teaches her students is that hard works pays off, a lesson for which she visibly sets the example.”

1958

Mildred Cunningham, Parsons
Myrri 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



Adriane Falco

Music Teacher
Stanley Elementary School
USD 229 Blue Valley

“It is my job to inspire,” says Adriane Falco. And for Falco, providing an opportunity for every student to perform is part of that inspiration. To create these opportunities, she has written nine elementary stage musicals, complete with props, costumes, speaking parts, vocal solos, and incorporating the school choir.

“She doesn’t just teach us about music, she lets us express ourselves through music,” said one student. Recently, a long-time teacher from the school died in her sleep. As a member of the school’s Crisis Team, Falco served as a relief teacher – consoling students and substituting for teachers when they needed to process emotions. A current student wrote her account of that day, “The only thing I could think of doing is making her a song that everyone could remember her by and celebrate the admirable person she was. So I knew I had to go to Mrs. Falco for help in putting my poem to music.”

Falco earned a bachelor’s degree in music education from Kansas State University in 2007 and a master’s degree in education from Avila University in 2010. In 2014, she earned her administrative building level licensure from Fort Hays State University. Her first professional teaching post began in 2007 in Blue Springs, MO. She began in her current position at Stanley Elementary School in Overland Park in 2010.

“I have witnessed quiet, shy children belting out a song as loud as their voices allow, and you can see how genuinely happy they are to be there,” said one colleague. “Equally amazing is the pride beaming from every student as they stand on stage and execute their individual role as if the show would fall apart without their contribution.”

In addition to participating in performances, Falco applies for and receives grants for every student in her building to attend a performing arts event – ballet, theater, or symphony. For a recent musical about America, Falco extended an invitation to family members of students who were veterans.

Knowing how much an audience can be moved by performances and art, she regularly volunteers the elementary choir to sing at a local retirement home and has students make valentines for patients at Children’s Mercy Hospital. She created, implemented, and manages logistics of an after-school program called BLAST – Big Learning After School Time – allowing students extracurricular time to explore everything from yoga to Legos.

A parent states, “Ms. Falco inspires her students to be not only the best of who they are, but to imagine beyond into a world of fantasy and wonder.”

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 Studd, 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



Keri Lauxman

English Teacher
Lawrence High School
USD 497 Lawrence

“I know what students experience in the classroom will influence the sense they make of their world,” states Keri Lauxman.

With “amazing energy and devotion to her students,” Lauxman employs everything from author visits to writing workshops with a bluegrass band member. To thank a guest speaker for discussing a novel which mirrors his experiences growing up in West Africa, Lauxman organized a dental hygiene drive to support a clinic where the speaker volunteers on medical missions.

Lauxman earned a bachelor’s from The University of Kansas in film, and a bachelor’s in English and a teaching certificate from Washburn University. In 2010, she graduated with a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Peru State College. She began her career by teaching English at Olathe South High School and Chisholm Trail Middle School in 2006. She joined Lawrence High School in 2007.

Wanting to incorporate a therapy animal into her classroom, Lauxman proceeded through the necessary steps to introduce a therapy dog, Roxy, into the culture of the entire school. As an administrator says, “Roxy is pretty much the rock star of Lawrence High School!”

Lauxman keeps “a balance between educational equality and equity firmly in mind.” The father of a student with cerebral palsy said because of his daughter’s physical disability, many students (and

a few teachers) consider her disabled in all areas of her life. “Ms. Lauxman was the first teacher to actively engage with (her) and learned very quickly that there was nothing in her nature which would limit her.”

With a reputation as being a risk taker and innovator, Lauxman collaborated with a university chemical and petroleum engineering professor and “flipped” a classroom. The two instructors designed a cross-curricular activity emphasizing the benefits of inquiry in learning to support a hands-on science-meets-English lesson.

Lauxman is a Boys & Girls Club committee member, Leadership Lawrence graduate, volunteer for the Lawrence Community Shelter, and worked with students in the Salvation Army’s Adopt-a-Family program. She founded the high school’s Habitat for Humanity club in part to have “students develop a strong sense of community spirit and a willingness to serve others.”

One colleague writes, “Keri is the complete package. She’s the consummate professional with a personal touch, a ready smile, and a quick sense of humor.”

“She just has this way of making everyone feel, not only comfortable in her class, but wanted. She wants everyone to be there and she wants everyone to learn, and it shows,” stated a current student.

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



L. Raymond Linville

Instrumental Music Teacher
Grades 5 through 12
USD 385 Andover

Ray Linville has an objective in teaching students how to perform music, “I hope they... experience the deserved pride from a job performed very well. The process we have taken together... is what I value as important not the trophy at the end,” he states.

Linville graduated in 1988 with a bachelor’s of music education from The University of Kansas and earned his master’s in conducting from Southern Oregon University in 2005. He taught in Neodesha, Iola, Hesston, and Pratt before coming to Andover in 2001.

Providing instrumental instruction in grades 5-12 at five separate buildings with class sizes as high as 100-200 students, Linville has established a program where students and the bands under his direction continually receive superior rankings in competitions.

Linville takes rambunctious 10-year-olds, who think band will be an easy extracurricular activity and make their parents cringe during practice, and turns them into teenagers willing to wake up early for practice, volunteer time before school and at community events, give up portions of summer, and – for one former student – qualify for master classes taught by Wynton Marsalis and Jon Lewis.

Described as “classroom trendsetter who generously shares his knowledge,” “exceptionally patient and kind,” and “dedicated,

selfless, kind-hearted, funny,” Linville “knows his students both personally and musically in selecting music to match their strengths.” And, once every four years, he organizes and leads the band to perform at a national bowl game and parade. As one parent summed it up, he has the “patience of a saint.”

In the last 15 years, the band has increased from less than 50 to nearly 200 students – meaning 25% of all Andover High students are in the band. Encouraging leadership and collegiality, his influence is evident in the band’s chant before a marching performance: “What time is it? Band time! One family, one sound!”

The music program itself is a service to the community of Andover. Students perform at retirement homes, at the Veteran’s Day events, march in the Greater Andover Days parade, lead charity runs, and perform jazz in the park during the fall festival. Linville volunteers to perform Taps at military funerals when an active-duty musician is not available, honoring veterans 16 times in the last three years.

“He taught me so much more than how to play with the correct intonation and the proper posture,” said one former student. “I didn’t cry when I graduated high school. I cried when I performed on stage for the last time under the guidance of one of the greatest teachers, role models, and friends of mine.”

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



Jenny Wilcox
 Seventh Grade Math Teacher
 Washburn Rural Middle School
 USD 437 Auburn Washburn

“Students must know that I am on their side: someone who will help them, teach them, learn with them, joke with them, grow with them, and respect them,” says Jenny Wilcox.

Wilcox sees her instruction as the bridge between mastering elementary math skills to beginning to learn the abstract skills needed to be successful in high school math classes. “It is imperative that students understand the underlying concepts of why things work the way they do,” she explains.

Developing new ways to approach teaching interlocking patterns and puzzles is how she approaches math instruction. From a stained glass window project about parallel and perpendicular lines and design, to calculating camera angles used in films to determine forced perspective, to making sure the odds are ever in students’ favor in a multi-disciplinary unit, Wilcox doesn’t “settle for the same activity I used last year if it isn’t still the best way to teach or connect with my students this year.”

At school, “(She) started a coding club for students,” states her principal. “I’m not sure she asked permission, she saw a need, an interest, so now... students come early to work on computer coding.” A peer recalls seeing, “giggling kids chasing their blinking, computer driven machines rolling through the hallways.”

Wilcox graduated with a bachelor’s in education in 1996 and a master’s in education in 2000, both from Washburn University. She began teaching at Washburn Rural Middle School in 1997 and continues in the same job today, having approximately 2,000 students go through her classroom.

The connections Wilcox has made can be seen everywhere throughout her community and church – from launching a family book club at her children’s school, to serving on site councils, to volunteering at church, and helping with Hands On Topeka.

But her “persistence and perseverance...makes her a master teacher.” A former student’s mother states her daughter now “has the confidence to work hard on all her subjects,” but that was not the case before being in Wilcox’s classroom.

“I am one of (her) miracle students,” said one student. “School has never been easy for me.” The student’s mother writes her daughter would say she was the “dumbest person in the class,” and was caught in a cycle of redoing assignments and asking for extra credit to pass subjects. The student said, “I was honestly scared to go to math. Mrs. Wilcox changed everything for me, she gave me hope. Hope that I could succeed, hope that I would make it to college, hope that I would make it in the world.”

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 Woolfolk

English Teacher
Dodge City High School
USD 443 Dodge City

“Teaching is more than lessons and test scores – to truly teach is to promote change and growth, and to fearlessly model the change and growth within yourself. It is to teach students to never, never, never quit,” says Laura Woolfolk.

Being an English teacher, debate coach, psychology instructor, and involved community member, Woolfolk’s teaching changes and adapts as technology evolves and makes experiences available for her students. Interviewing a Kansan living in Paris after the November shootings, Woolfolk encouraged students to practice the Socratic method before the Skype interview, so the students could benefit from active listening. In the end, the discussion with the Paris contact went from a scheduled 30 minutes to 90 minutes of original, thoughtful questions, ranging from the mood of Parisians to the fate of Syrian refugees.

Woolfolk attended Abilene Christian University and graduated from Newman University with a bachelor’s in education in 1994. In 2005, she earned an ESL certification from Fort Hays State University, and in 2012, completed a master’s in education leadership from Kansas State University. She has taught in Garden City, Dodge City, and at Dodge City Community College.

Whether it’s using meditation to interest students as they study the Transcendentalists in American literature or dancing to “Thriller”

as a brain break, Woolfolk uses any method available to engage and challenge students to meet – and exceed – expectations.

Providing students with the ability to see the potential in themselves is key. A former student had dreams of college but no idea how to achieve that goal as a first-generation American with parents working in the local beef-packing plant. Woolfolk encouraged her to apply to the Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS). She did, and in April 2002, she was notified she was the first student from Dodge City and the only one from Southwest Kansas to be in the 2002 GMSP class of 1000 students across the U.S.

Woolfolk is passionate, whether it is campaigning for a school bond measure or school board member, leading students and their families on international trips, hosting foreign exchange students, volunteering to organize 5Ks, or teaching others how to be good digital citizens.

“Everything she does, she does with enormous passion, and it is contagious,” a former student states. It also may help that Woolfolk is described as “effortlessly hilarious.”

Echoing many supporters who share the sentiment of wanting to emulate her, one colleague summed it up best, “Laura is all things good. In life. In community. In school. In person.”

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

2015

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

* Special Award

• W. A. Black Endowed Chair Recipient

