

*66<sup>th</sup> Annual*

KANSAS  
MASTER  
TEACHER  
AWARD

*April 3, 2019*



EMPORIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**Bank of America**



# 2019 Master Teacher Schedule

## April 3, 2019

- 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**  
The Gufler Mansion, 612 West 12th Avenue, Emporia  
Host: Dr. Ken Weaver  
Dean of The Teachers College
- 2:30-3:45 p.m.**      **Seminar – “Kansas Master Teachers CAN”**  
Jones Conference Center, Room 330, Visser Hall  
Coordinators: Shannon Hall  
Office of Field Placement and Licensure  
Dr. Kevin Kienholz  
Department of English, Modern Languages,  
and Journalism
- 5:45-6:30 p.m.**      **Social**  
Webb Hall Lobby
- 6:30 p.m.**      **Master Teacher Award Dinner**  
Webb Hall  
Emcee: John Allison  
Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools  
2018 Kansas Superintendent of the Year

# 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 Charitable Foundation to further support the program and provide each Kansas Master Teacher with 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 members of the 2019 selection committee were: Janet Stramel, Kansas Association of Colleges of Teacher Education; Pete Bastian, Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals; Lauri DeNooy, Kansas Parent Teacher Association; Donna Zerr, Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals; Carol Pitts, Kansas Association of School Boards; Sherri Schwanz, Kansas National Education Association; Kylie MacGregor, ESU Student Representative; and Todd Flory and Chitra Harris, 2018 Kansas Master Teachers.

A committee made up of Emporia State University administrators, faculty and staff is responsible for planning and arrangements. The 2019 committee members were: Roger Caswell, Shannon Hall, Don Hill, Lori Mann, Roy Mann, 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 [emporia.edu/teach/master](http://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.

## 2019 Master Teacher Nominees

**Roletha Barg**, USD 465 Winfield

**Paula Barr**, USD 497 Lawrence

**Kathleen Bastin**, USD 259 Wichita

**Dedra Braxmeyer**, USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden

**Stephanie Garcia**, USD 385 Andover

**Laura A. Gaughan**, USD 489 Hays

**Natasha Goodman**, USD 475 Geary County

**Janie Hachen**, USD 385 Andover

**Michelle Hilliard**, USD 266 Maize

**Lisa Jarvis**, USD 417 Morris County

**Denise Johnson**, USD 490 El Dorado

**Jill Lynch**, USD 253 Emporia

**Jim Mapel**, USD 443 Dodge City

**Carolynn Phalen**, USD 305 Salina

**Dawn Edith Rottinghaus**, USD 289 Wellsville

**Laurie Rue**, USD 229 Blue Valley

**Bernie Smith**, USD 289 Wellsville

**Amy Stolz**, USD 233 Olathe

**Noreen Templin**, Butler Community College

**Linda Vena**, USD 229 Blue Valley



## Paula Barr

Second-Grade Teacher  
Quail Run Elementary School  
USD 497 Lawrence

Paula Barr considers failure a gift because it gives you the opportunity to learn. It also gives her the opportunity to model for her students “failing with grace and a sense of humor, perseverance, grit, rethinking and retrying, [and] searching out the help of others.”

“When students see that I am attempting to grow and change and fail in front of them they realize that stepping into that same role as a student is not only expected but celebrated.”

Barr began her teaching career in 1981 in the Shawnee Mission School District as a first-grade teacher. In the 38 years since, she taught primarily first grade and is currently teaching second grade. Barr has been at Quail Run Elementary in Lawrence since 2005.

Over the years, Barr has evolved from being a keeper and dispenser of knowledge to being a facilitator and guide for her students. “I expect all students to apply and synthesize knowledge. In my experience all students can apply what they are learning if given the tools and support needed.”

Barr earned her bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University in 1981, her master’s in teaching from Webster University (Missouri) in 1994, and has an endorsement in English as a Second Language from Kansas State University. However, her biggest career-changing spark came when she had the opportunity to attend her first national conference for teachers. “Spending four days surrounded by educators from all over the country and the world, joining in conversations and discussions, networking, attending sessions by nationally known researchers changed me forever,” Barr stated.

An avid reader of the words of great minds in education, she shares her book studies and presentations with colleagues. While she has found guiding and supporting many pre-service teachers very rewarding, her greatest pleasure is in working with novice teachers.

“She is always trying something new to engage her students in learning. Whether she’s bringing her goats to school or transforming her classroom into the *Titanic*, she strives to make learning meaningful, memorable and fun for her students,” said a colleague.

### 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





## Dedra Braxmeyer

Mathematics Teacher  
Manhattan High School  
USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden

**D**edra Braxmeyer enjoys the cycle of planning, teaching, assessing, and reflecting on lessons. But while she likes routine, she knows ongoing innovation is essential because, “Who wouldn’t get bored teaching the same properties of logarithms the same way for twenty years?”

When introducing a new skill to her students, Braxmeyer begins with low-risk classroom activities. Strategies such as “speed-dating” with exponential functions and playing cards that introduce new vocabulary, give students a chance to become familiar with a unit’s main ideas and builds the foundation for new concepts to be introduced.

“Ultimately, I am more effective each year because I continue to learn, create new curriculum materials, and adopt new strategies,” she said. If she were to give titles to each year, they might include “The Rise of the Mini-Quizzes,” “The Unit Packet: A One-Stop Shop,” or “Hello, Canvas.” “None of these were mandates,” she said, “But each one, and countless others, changed my teaching and students’ learning for the better.”

Braxmeyer earned her bachelor’s degree in secondary education, mathematics, and computer science from Kansas

State University in 1999. In 2001, she completed a master’s degree in education, instructional technology from Peru State College (Nebraska). She has been at Manhattan High School since 2006.

“I hope every student leaves my course with an appreciation for mathematics and a belief that mathematics is a series of interconnected ideas that they can apply in lots of situations,” she said. She invites students to, “put their skills to work in real life scenarios and activities using math concepts,” writes a current student.

As her principal describes her, she is, “the ‘Total Package.’ She understands and relates well to students, has the trust and respect of parents, and maintains good relationships with her colleagues and her superiors in addition to [having] a high level of admiration across all constituency groups.”

For a teacher who deals with numbers, functions, and formula, Braxmeyer never forgets the secret to reaching students is “the immeasurable day-to-day interactions [that] make all the difference.”

### 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



## Laura A. Gaughan

Elementary Reading Specialist  
O'Loughlin Elementary School  
USD 489 Hays

"Life itself will provide enough challenge in a child's lifetime that I don't ever want reading and writing to be one of those struggles," states Laura A. Gaughan, an elementary reading specialist for O'Loughlin Elementary School in USD 489 Hays.

"Success can be so small at times yet so significant," Gaughan said. In her daily one-on-one work with struggling readers, Gaughan delights in every bit of progress made. "If [the student] feels confident in knowing what to do when [they] read and now enjoys reading, then we are both successful!"

Gaughan earned an associate's degree in 1987 from Barton County Community College and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Kansas State University in 1989. After teaching upper grades, then primary, for five years, she participated in Reading Recovery® training which "changed my professional career," and motivated her to complete a master's in elementary education with an emphasis in reading in 2001 from Fort Hays State University.

This did not just impact her career but the direction of her school district. The district decided to train additional

Reading Recovery® teachers and now, training that was once just for Title I teachers is now being offered to classroom, special education, and ELL teachers.

Concerned about summer reading loss, Gaughan co-wrote a \$50,000 grant recently to fund summer school for 120 kindergarten through second-grade who were struggling the most in her district. Reading, singing songs, dancing, sharing stories, library visits, and meeting with a local author all helped the students' reading levels stay the same or increase over the summer.

Whether she is hitting garage sales to fund her classroom library or giving kids who have never been near a horse a chance to ride one on her farm, Gaughan is all about providing students with opportunities they might not otherwise have.

"I know what the research says about what is and isn't important in educating kids," Gaughan said. "I have 27 years of experience, 27 years of students, and 27 years of colleagues I have learned from, and I soak it in and value it all!"

### 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





## Lisa Jarvis

English Language Arts Teacher  
Council Grove Junior-Senior High School  
USD 417 Morris County

“Life is all about choices and I do not think that teaching is any different. The choice I instill in my students and the choice I continue to make every day: **believe**,” states Lisa Jarvis.

Jarvis did not believe, for a while, that she would be a teacher. Not feeling the connection in her first education classes, she changed fields. After graduate school, while looking for a job, she began taking substitute teaching and coaching jobs. “After spending about one year working closely with middle school and high school students, I knew I had found my calling.” At 25, she went back to school and earned her teaching degree.

Jarvis began teaching in 2009 at Emporia Middle School after earning a bachelor’s degree from Emporia State University. She earned a previous bachelor’s degree at Fort Hays State University in 2003 and a master’s degree from Bowling Green State University in 2004. In 2013, she began working at Council Grove Junior-Senior High School.

There, Jarvis works to create a school-wide approach to improving writing—providing staff development, analyzing

student data, evaluating instruction, and creating enrichment opportunities. As her principal said, “She is an independent thinker who provides fresh ideas for improving her classroom and our school.”

In the classroom, Jarvis is quick to point out to students that submitting an assignment does not mean the work is done. To counteract her students’ hurried approach to assignments, Jarvis sets mini-deadlines, provides instant feedback, requires students to revise and redo work, and provides them with adequate time to do it.

Jarvis takes every opportunity to teach her students. A student who did not enjoy public speaking once asked Jarvis to buy a pizza during a fundraiser. Jarvis agreed, but only if the student delivered a speech to the whole class about why Jarvis should buy the pizza. The student took the challenge and later said, “Mrs. Jarvis is one of the first people who has made me overcome some of my fears... I feel like Mrs. Jarvis has helped to make me a better person.”

### 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. Ostenberg, McPherson  
Theodore Palmquist, Turner  
Maxine Sebelius, Northern Valley  
Joy Wigginton, El Dorado  
Lonnie Wood, Independence  
\* Dr. Alex Daughtry,  
Emporia State University



## Michelle Hilliard

Mathematics Teacher  
Complete High School Maize  
USD 266 Maize

“**M**ath is difficult to teach at any school. Math is REALLY difficult to teach at an alternative school where students are all working on individualized contracts,” said Michelle Hilliard, who has taught at Complete High School Maize since 2007. As an alternative school, Hilliard says, there are stereotypes of the students who attend the school. However, Hilliard maintains, “There are 60 to 70 students who are there for 60 to 70 different reasons.”

Hilliard earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Wichita State University in 1994, a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Wichita State in 2003, and second master’s in education, building leadership, from Kansas State University in 2016.

Hilliard began her career in 1994, teaching third grade at Maize Elementary School. In time, she moved to teaching middle school English. Then, she said, “When the alternative school called, I only briefly hesitated at the thought of going back to school [to get high school certification]. Few future teachers go to college with the goal of teaching at an alternative school.”

When a local retirement community needed a general store, Hilliard and her students stepped forward. Students run the store, provide delivery to residents who have difficulty walking and tech support as well. “There is no way to measure the magic that happens when a pink-haired alternative school student with a nose ring and a white-haired senior citizen sit down for their monthly ‘Cards and Conversations’ date, where students and residents play cards and talk,” Hilliard said.

Her presence provides an impact to students and colleagues alike. Of the new teachers Hilliard has mentored, three have won Horizon Awards and one of those received the Milken Award.

If a new teacher asks Hilliard how to connect with at-risk students, she answers, “No matter what, we never, never, never give up on them. Why? Because every now and then, probably more frequently than even we admit, a student will come back and say ‘Thank you for never giving up on me. You were the only ones who never gave up on me.’”

### 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



## Carolynn Phalen

First-Grade Teacher  
Grace E. Stewart Elementary School  
USD 305 Salina

“I believe that Mrs. Phalen is the most wonderful and kind teacher,” said one of Carolynn Phalen’s former students, now eight years old. “She was always prepared for anything. She was always there and ready to call the nurse or someone else if someone threw up.”

Beyond providing the special care early elementary students occasionally need, Phalen has learned a thing or two about getting those little bodies to concentrate and focus. But does that mean sitting still? Not in Phalen’s classroom. She has concluded, “Students who have difficulty with concentration and focus benefit from movement, sensory input, comfort, and choice.” Now, her students get to personalize their learning environment through choosing seating of all kinds – including stability balls, bean bag chairs, scoop chairs for rocking, kneeling mats – and an elevated table for anyone who wants to stand to do their work.

As a result, her principal stated, “Carolynn’s classroom is a joy to visit! Students reflect their teacher’s love for learning and kindness for one another.”

Phalen applies a growth mindset to herself, as well as her students. Studying ways to support students’ social and emotional growth, Phalen recently has studied trauma-informed practices in the classroom. Observing a student who seemed to fit the category, Phalen began implementing ideas to help the student, working with her “throughout the day to allow her to feel an environment that is emotionally safe and nurturing. [The student’s] interactions with other students in the classroom started to improve, which has led to an even more inclusive environment within our classroom community.”

Phalen received her bachelor’s in elementary education in 2002 from Kansas State University. In 2007, she earned a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Baker University. She began teaching in the Salina district in 2003.

“I know when my boys are in her care she is treating them with respect and holding them to the highest standards,” said a parent of a former and a current student of Phalen’s. “She is truly changing and inspiring our next generation, one student at a time.”

### 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



## Linda Vena

Elementary Reading Specialist  
Mission Trail Elementary School  
USD 229 Blue Valley

In 1975, Linda Vena began her career teaching first grade. More than 40 years later, Vena is still teaching, and she would have it no other way. “My [first grade] teacher asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up, I chose to be a teacher. I never changed my mind.”

For most of her career, she served as a kindergarten or first-grade teacher. “She was the teacher who dressed up as the tooth fairy, turned centers into thematic events and made the everyday fun,” writes a colleague. Now a reading specialist, Vena “brings passion, fun and delight to the reading intervention space.” She has transformed the room into ‘Camp Read Aloud’—complete with tents, flashlights, and treats to celebrate her students’ learning.

Vena earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Pittsburg State University in 1975 and her master’s degree in elementary education from Northeastern State University in 1988. She completed her reading specialist certification from Emporia State University in 2003.

Though she works primarily with students who struggle to read and write, Vena also keeps an eye on the needs of the entire school. After evaluating the school’s overall reading scores, she noticed vocabulary skills were lacking across all grade levels. In response, she created a Vocabulary Catcher wall outside of her room. Students “catch” the words they do not know, bring them to Vena, and she adds the words and their definitions to the wall—a strategy that is impacting student learning across the building.

Vena continually seeks to find what will motivate each student—whether she is helping a student connect the idea that to play high school sports someday, you need to get in the habit of completing your homework, or simply displaying a kindergartener’s art work behind her desk.

Vena’s heart for education and commitment to children and families is apparent throughout her school community. A former student, who is now a teaching colleague, stated, “Linda’s love for teaching shines through every day.”

### 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

\* Special Award

• W. A. Black Endowed Chair Recipient

**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  
 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 Uthe, 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

**2017**

John Butcher, Blue Valley  
 Melinda Eitel, Salina  
 • Joan Hayden, Geary County  
 Jennifer Hendrix, Dodge City  
 • Kimberly Hett, Andover  
 Brandy Lane, Auburn Washburn  
 Laura Schwinn, Emporia

**2018**

Connstance Allmond, El Dorado  
 Deanna K. Burton, Manhattan-Ogden  
 Abby Cornelius, Blue Valley  
 • Todd Flory, Andover  
 • Chitra Harris, Wichita  
 Matt Irby, Emporia  
 Kimberly S. Schneweis, Hays





