

Northwest Missouri State University Teacher Education

Northwest Missouri State University joined a prestigious group of institutions of higher learning in fall 2006 when it was named a recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Award for Excellence in Teacher Education. The honor is bestowed on only two universities each year by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Given in recognition of "leadership and innovation in teacher education," the award is named in honor of the teacher who was killed in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger disaster.

The award recognizes Northwest for its value-added teacher preparation program, which is supported by quality-driven processes based on verifiable data collected by the College of Education and Human Services and used in decision-making at all levels.

Teacher education at Northwest also features regular collaboration with representatives from the University's other colleges and educators working in P-12 settings.

Preparing outstanding educators has always been central to Northwest's mission – from its beginnings as a state normal school a century ago to its role today as a comprehensive public University.

The McAuliffe Award recognizes the fulfillment of Northwest's mission as it relates to the legions of graduates who have gone on to outstanding careers as teachers and administrators.

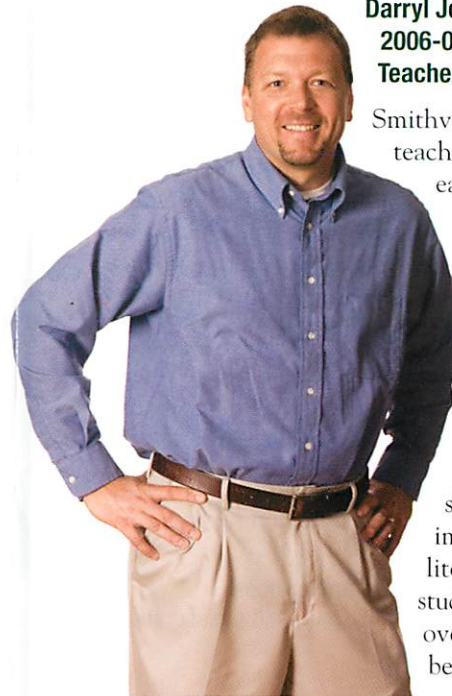
Northwest's excellence in teacher education may be best reflected in a question asked by a public school administrator of a colleague fortunate enough to have Northwest graduates on his faculty.

He asked: "Where are you getting all these great teachers?"

The answer: "Northwest Missouri State University, of course."

A season of winners:

The Christa McAuliffe Award granted to Northwest Missouri State University was only one of the distinctions achieved by the College of Education and Human Services in 2006. Three of the college's alumni earned major education awards for service in the field.



Darryl Johnson
2006-07 Missouri
Teacher of the Year

Smithville High School teacher Darryl Johnson earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in English from the University. His superintendent describes Johnson as a "phenomenal teacher ... a shining star whose impact upon the literally hundreds of students he has taught over the years has been profound."

The Missouri Teacher of the Year award is granted annually by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Christy Compton
2006 American Star Teacher

Christy Compton earned a master's degree in education from Northwest and is in the process of completing her elementary administration certification through a Northwest Outreach program.

An instructional coach at Topping Elementary School in the North Kansas City School District, Compton was named a 2006 winner of the U.S. Department of Education American Stars program. The program honors superior educators who have exhibited excellence in improving student achievement.



Dwight Pierson
2007 Iowa Superintendent
of the Year

Dwight Pierson, of the Forest City (Iowa) Community School District, holds bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees from Northwest. He has served as superintendent of three Iowa school districts since 1988 and at Forest City since 1996.

The state award is bestowed annually by the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI). The professional organization is made up of more than 2,000 Iowa educational administrators.

What is the Christa McAuliffe Award?



The Christa McAuliffe Award was first presented in the 1980s by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

In 2001, the award's focus was changed to more fully

honor teacher education programs able to document the success of their graduates and the positive impact of those graduates on their pupils. The 400 AASCU institutions prepare more than 50 percent of all new teachers in the United States.

Facts about Northwest's teacher education programs:

- Northwest is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
- The University's Horace Mann Elementary School is one of only two laboratory schools in Missouri.
- Northwest offers 34 undergraduate, 18 master's degree programs and one specialist program in education.
- In collaboration with the University of Missouri-Columbia, Northwest offers a dissertation-based doctoral program.
- The Education Outreach program offers graduate level courses in St. Joseph, Kirksville, Joplin and at the Northwest Kansas City Center in Liberty, adjacent to Liberty High School.



About Northwest

In 1987, Northwest became the first public university in the United States to create a comprehensive "electronic campus." All students who live on campus receive a personal notebook computer.

A pioneer in the use of alternative fuels, Northwest has saved more than \$10 million since 1984 when its pellet plant, which transforms waste wood and paper products into fuel, began operation. Alternative fuels now provide more than 70 percent of the energy used to heat and cool the campus.

Northwest was one of the first universities anywhere to focus on quality management. The University has won three consecutive Missouri Quality Awards.

Northwest consistently ranks at the top of the annual Noel-Levitz student satisfaction survey.

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NORTHWEST

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



2006 Recipient of the
Christa McAuliffe
Award
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Teacher Education