



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ...

From teacher's aide to superintendent, Casey Adam has done it all. Altamont's current superintendent has been on the job since July 2021 and is focused on bringing out the best in teachers and creating an improved student experience. As an administrator in a rural school, Adam expressed the ability to build relationships within the school as well as in the community. Casey has also found a community with her fellow administrators and EIU graduates. During her time in the Educational Leadership program she was able to connect with others in the field and has been able to collaborate with her former classmates. She chose EIU due to the close proximity to her home and being able to go through the cohort model with fellow colleagues. Even during challenging times, Casey has viewed it as an opportunity to learn and solve new problems. Casey expressed a series of great teachers as being one of the driving forces that led her into education. She also shared that anyone that is considering going into education can have the same level of influence. Being a superintendent is all about problem solving and considering every outcome Adam shared. Outside of leading Altamont CUSD Casey loves travelling to Florida and cooking. We are so thankful to have alumni like Casey Adam in our school districts and communities being strong leaders and advocates for education!

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION GAME...

Join us on January 29th at the men's and women's basketball games for our educator appreciation event. All educators and their families will get free admission into the games along with popcorn and a drink. Join us for activities between the games and during the men's game. Women's tipoff is at 1:00 and the men's is at 3:30. EIU will play in Lantz arena against Tennessee State. Come out for an afternoon full of fun and support the Panthers! RSVP for the event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1548966702123715?ref=newsfeed>

SUBMIT AN ALUM...

Do you know a College of Education alumni making a difference? Nominate them for the 2021-2022 College Alumni Awards. Deadline is end of December. Nominate an alum at <https://www.eiu.edu/coe/machform/view.php?id=84821>

SAVE THE DATE ...

Save the date for the College of Education's annual fundraiser the evening of March 24th at Doudna here on campus. The event will be from 6-9 pm and feature live music, food, and silent auction. We are excited to be raising revenue for the College of Education's Emergency Student Fund! These funds go towards the costs students face to become a teacher. These costs include background checks, travel, and content test!



"Teaching is a walk in the park.....if that park is Jurassic Park"

POLAR PLUNGE..

Eastern Illinois University Special Education is hosting a Polar Plunge to support the Special Olympic Athletes. The Glow Plunge is February 27th at 6:00 pm at the EIU Pond Pavilion. To join the team and help raise funds, check out <https://soill.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=12404>

STUDENTS AND ALUMS DOING GREAT THINGS ...

- Alumni Adam Clapp was selected as Monticello's next Superintendent. Adam is a 2016 graduate of EIU and was previously Monticello's High School Principal. Adam will begin his new position on July 1, 2022.
- MaryAnn Catt, a current Business Education undergrad, received the Dora J. Beattie Undergraduate Scholarship from the Illinois Business Education Association. The scholarship was founded in 2011 and is utilized to provide scholarships for those who want to pursue a career in business education in Illinois. The Dora J. Beattie IBEA Scholarship was established to encourage outstanding high school and college business students to specialize in business education training.
- Heather Seaton, a '97 alum and current graduate student, received the Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year Award from the Illinois Business Education Association. She is currently a high school business teacher at Paris Community High School. Heather has been a business educator for almost 20 years. Her nominator described her as "Always finding innovative ways to reach each group of students to not only educate, but motivate. She creates unique group projects, real life learning simulations, and uses a variety of student self reflection activities." Congratulations Heather!
- Karis Lee, a current CHE graduate student, was selected by the Awards Committee of the Council on Graduate Studies to receive a Fall 2021 Graduate School Research/Creative Activity Award for their project titled B.I.O.N.I.C.: Empowering Young Leaders to Create a Positive School Climate.

FACULTY DOING GREAT THINGS ...

- Cori More, Angela Yoder, and Catherine Polydore were honored at the Achievement and Contribution Award Reception on November 15th at the Tarble Arts Center.
- Heidi Larson and Josh Norman were awarded the Robert J. Nejedlo Social Emphasis Grant for the EIU Freshman Connection program.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER....

Crystal Smith has been nominated to deliver her speech at the commencement ceremony for the College of Education. Crystal has completed all degree requirements for a BA in General Studies, along with a minor in Psychology. By day, Crystal Smith works at the University of Illinois as the head chef of the largest nonmilitary dining facility in the country; she's been with the U of I for seven years. At night, she is a wife, mother, and college student. Crystal began her EIU educational journey in 2019; after just two years, she has finished her degree with a high GPA. We are very proud to call her one of ours!

ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING...

Did you know the Academy of Lifelong Learning offers gift memberships? A beautiful gift folder with personalized membership card is provided for your recipients. The academy is running a holiday promotion where any gift memberships purchased by 1/5/2022 will receive an extra semester-membership expiration 8/31/203. If you are interested call 217-581-5114

CONGRATULATIONS.....

Congratulations to all of our students graduating on December 18th. We look forward to welcoming over 150 students as new Eastern Illinois University alumni. These students have navigated challenging times, and persevered through the end. Many of our students have jobs lined up to start after graduation. We can't wait to hear all their stories of success!

