



### CONGRATULATIONS ...

We were honored to recognize our 2022 Alumni Award Recipients on March 24th on campus. This year's Rising Star winners were Andrew Bunyard, Brittany Burzinski, Victor Jones, Kellie Niemerg, and Dwayne Reed. The Leadership and Service winners were Stephanie Cascio, Deanna Dalby, Mike Hudson, TJ Sargent, and Ken Wetstein. Mary Janz was recognized as our Lifetime Achievement winner. Due to the pandemic starting in March of 2020, we also recognized our 2020 award recipients that evening as well. A huge thank you to everyone who nominated a deserving alumnus, as well as who came out and celebrated with us that evening.

### GRADUATION...

Graduation is quickly approaching. We will be recognizing the graduates of the College of Education on Saturday, May 7th at 4:00 p.m. in Lantz Arena. Mary Ann Catt, a Business Education student, was chosen to give the commencement speech. Cindy Rich, Jen Buchter, and Heidi Larson will be the College of Education faculty members carrying our banners.

### GRANT AWARD....

Recently the College of Education received the news that we were the recipients of a \$750,000 grant. This grant was part of the Congressionally-directed spending request The College of Education submitted to Senator Dick Durbin.

### COLLEGE HAPPENINGS....

- The College of Education had its' annual research fair on March 28th. The college had over 25 students and faculty present their research.
- Professor Jay Bickford has partnered with Urbana High School. Dr. Bickford is going into classrooms to partner with teachers and focus on common curriculum, anti-racist curriculum, and African American History.
- On March 15th EIU hosted "I'll Teach: Exploring the Power and Possibilities of Teaching." It was a free online conference to anyone considering becoming a teacher.
- EIU's Special Education Department participated in Charleston's Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. Congratulations to The Special Education Department for raising the most money out of all the participating teams!
- The Minority Teacher Education Association hosted a Panel Series: Hearing from our Past to Motivate Our Future. EIU Alumni shared their years of experience as minority teachers on February 28th.

### HATS OFF....

Hats off to our Special Education Department! Two of their programs were once again nationally recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children.



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

## MINORITY TEACHER IDENTIFICATION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ...

The MTIEP Program is back for the second year. We are excited to welcome students from all over the state to explore education as a profession as well as earn college credit. Students will be living in residence halls, enjoy practical experiences with children, and participate in social activities in the evenings and weekends. For more information contact Dean Henderson at lhenderson2@eiu.edu.

## ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING..

The Academy is looking forward to a couple of nature-themed programs at Douglas-Hart Nature Center this month. Birding by Ear, on 4/22/22, will introduce tips, and resources, for identifying the calls of common backyard birds, and migrating songbirds. An easy bird hike on the property is planned. Prefer wildflowers? You are welcome to join our group, 4/27/22, to learn about native spring ephemerals, and why they are so important. This program will also include a walk through the woods to identify a variety of species. Bring your camera! If interested, please call the Academy at 217-581-5114 to save your place.

## STUDENTS AND ALUMS DOING GREAT THINGS ...

- Alumni Abigail Schmitz has been promoted to principal at Carl Sandburg Elementary School. Abigail will start her appointment effective July 1st. Abigail is a two time EIU graduate and is currently the Assistant Principal at Carl Sandburg.
- Current student, Chuck Clabaugh has collaborated with Dr. Jay Bickford to insert local history in the social studies curriculum, starting at Urbana High School. Clabaugh is a non-traditional student in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.
- Eastern softball player and COE student Megan Burton was one of 30 players named as candidates for the 2022 Senior CLASS Award. Megan was the OVC Player of the year in 2021 and had a 4.0 GPA in teacher education. Way to go Megan!
- Congratulations to alumni, Alan Zuber, on being awarded

the Friends of Education award by the ROE 11. Alan has served in a variety of capacities with region-wide impact for decades. After retiring from the classroom Alan has served on the Edgar County Board and has represented his county on their Regional Office of Education Committee.

- Current students, Sami Carter, Megan McClure and Mercedes Tate-Bierman, were recently awarded the Williams Travel Grant to support their presentations at the Illinois Counseling Association Annual Southern Conference.
- Current Student, Norriana Hayes, was the winner of the Frances Meyer Hampton Scholarship.
- Current student, Austin Eichhorn, was named a Hamand Graduate Scholar. Being selected as a Hamand Graduate Scholar is the Graduate School's highest level of achievement.
- Ashlee Robison and Chuck Clabaugh, current students, were awarded the Spring College of Education Development Grant for Student Research. Their projects were selected by the Research Committee.

## FACULTY DOING GREAT THINGS ...

- Dr. Jay Bickford and Molly Bickford recently published "A Guided Inquiry into America's White Hegemony, Yesterday's Terror and Today's Horror" in the social studies journal.
- Dr. Jen Butcher was recently published for her work "A 10-Year Systematic Review of Participant Diversity of Single-Case Studies Published in Two Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Research Journals
- Dr. Carole Collins Ayanlaja was a guest speaker for Marion Technical College. She gave a presentation on "The Kid in the King-Defiance, Determination, Decision, and Destiny."
- Dr. Carole Collins Ayanlaja was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations to Dr. Collins Ayanlaja for this accomplishment!

