



OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARDS

FALL 2017

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The UNO College of Education is excited to announce the winners of the Fall 2017 Outstanding Mentor Awards. These individuals are being recognized for their incredible dedication to UNO's teacher candidates!

Mentors were nominated by their student practicum or clinical practice candidates. Students could nominate a cooperating teacher, a UNO faculty member, or anyone who helped guide them as they gained teaching experience this semester. The top nominees for both clinical practice and student practicum were selected by a panel of reviewers.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

Characteristics of an exemplary mentor may include but are not limited to:

- is available to answer questions, address concerns, and provide guidance.
- is approachable and positive.
- cares about me and encourages development.
- listens and responds to needs and concerns.
- offers support and resources when needed.
- encourages new ideas and supports candidates in trying new things.
- models professional actions and ethical practice.
- demonstrates knowledge of best practice and is a valuable resource.
- provides feedback on strengths and areas for growth (verbal, written, or electronic).



STUDENT PRACTICUM OUTSTANDING MENTOR RECIPIENTS



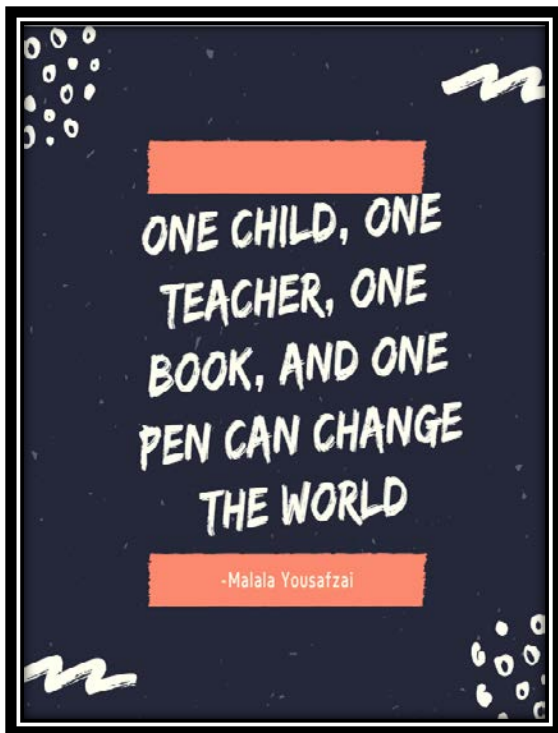
"Mrs. Lebeda is the epitome of an outstanding mentor: she commands students' attention in the classroom, enforces expectations for both her students and herself, includes inquiry learning, is fair with her students and holds them to appropriate goals, and incorporates technology as a tool to assist learning. She really knows and cares about her students, and she relates content to student interests. She provides wonderful feedback and sits with me to talk about how to implement items that I can improve upon in my next lesson. She even expressed interest in continuing to mentor me after graduation. Mrs. Lebeda is truly making a difference in every life that she encounters, and she is inspiring."

Kristen Lebeda-Svehla
Papillion-LaVista High School



"Mrs. Geiken is extremely knowledgeable, professional, caring, and supportive! She is responsive to all questions that I have, and she takes time to meet, organize, and plan with me. She has also provided me detailed background on the personal characteristics and learning needs of the students. Mrs. Geiken has been more than open to sharing her materials for her lessons and has emphasized that I have complete freedom to add my own materials to improve lessons and insert my own personality. While I'm teaching, Mrs. Geiken takes notes and discusses them with me so that I can continuously get better. It's truly amazing to get to learn from someone who cares so much about her students and what she does."

Sarah Geiken
Bellevue West High School

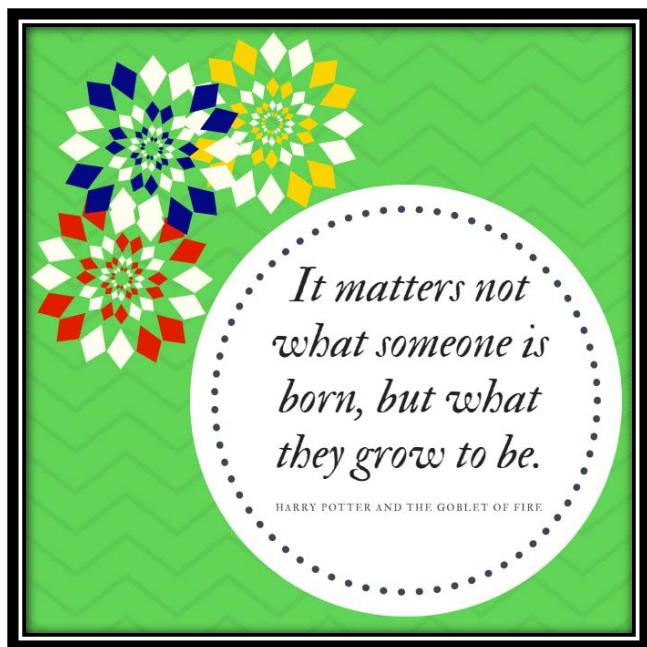


"From day one, Mrs. Brogren-Haynes has gone above and beyond to include me as a part of her classroom and make me feel comfortable as a new teacher. She introduced me as an extension of her and not just as someone who will be hanging out in the classroom, which made me feel so appreciated. She effortlessly finds opportunities where she will include me in a teaching moment or a chance for me to be a leader. Any question I have is answered honestly and thoughtfully. Everything from her classroom management skills to her transitions and clean up—her class runs like a well-oiled machine. Watching Mrs. Brogren-Haynes teach is like magic."

Sarah Brogren-Haynes
Dundee Elementary



CLINICAL PRACTICE OUTSTANDING MENTOR RECIPIENTS



"Ann makes an effort to include me in events at school, going above and beyond to help me be a better teacher. She is always available to answer questions and provide feedback, and she isn't afraid to be honest with me while also maintaining a positive attitude. She pushes me to incorporate new materials and is a great resource as I formulate my own lessons. She is the best listener, mentor, and advice giver I could have asked for, and I know that she cares about my future. She has not only made me better, but she is also always available for the school and for her students. I wish that everyone could have her as a cooperating teacher because she has benefitted me in so many ways!"



Ann Bouaphakeo
Heritage Elementary



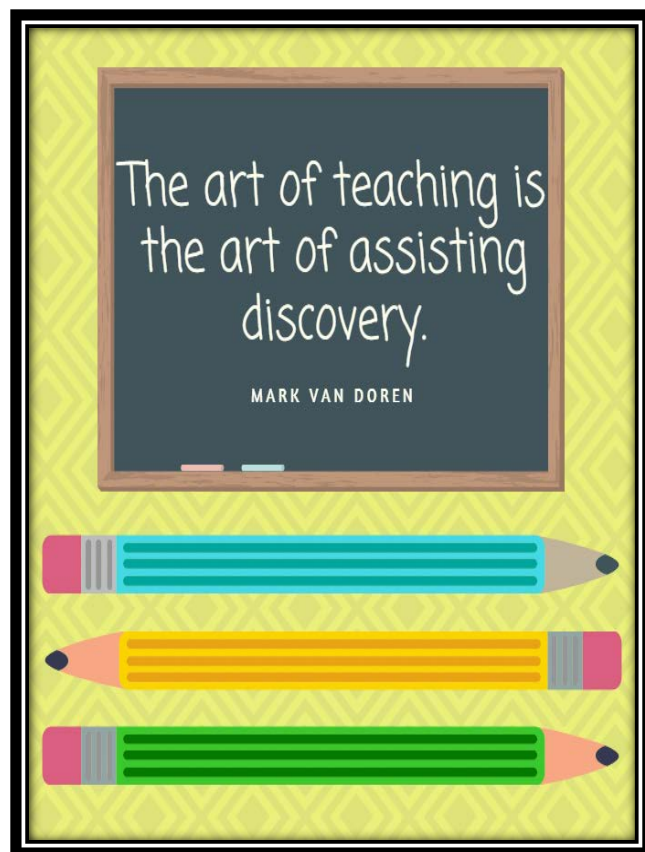
"Lynsey is truly passionate about what she does, and she genuinely cares about the school and each and every kiddo. From day one, she has been encouraging, supportive, and welcoming. She is a great example of what it means to be involved and invested in the school, and because of this, she has shown me what goes on beyond the classroom. She has invited me to attend extracurricular meetings that have enriched my experience outside of class. In the classroom, she pushes me to grow as an educator by talking about how to improve my lessons and helping me think outside of the box. I know that I will be a better educator because of my time spent with her."

Lynsey Sharon
Reagan Elementary



"Bailey is a passionate teacher who brings fun and excitement into her classroom. She models professional actions with her students, their parents, and colleagues. Her positivity and approachable nature make her an ideal mentor teacher. She has always been available to listen and give advice to help me learn and grow as a teacher candidate. She has provided steady encouragement for me to find new, creative ways to teach. Bailey is always willing to provide feedback on my lessons' strengths and areas for growth. She cares about my success and demonstrates knowledge in all areas of teaching: classroom management, curriculum, professional development, and building relationships with students and parents. She deserves to be recognized for her dedication to helping me grow."

Bailey Riesselman
Willowdale Elementary





OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PRACTICE & STUDENT PRACTICUM AWARDS

FALL 2017

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The UNO College of Education is excited to announce the winners of the Fall 2017 Outstanding Clinical Practice and Student Practicum Awards. These candidates are being recognized for going above and beyond to meet students' needs!

Candidates were nominated by cooperating teachers, speech-language pathologists, and supervisors for four different candidate awards: student motivator, knowledge expander, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) innovator, and humanities integrator. The top nominees were selected by a panel of reviewers.



AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Knowledge Expander Award

- Teaches strategies to support reflection on learning process
- Uses a variety of techniques to maintain interest and momentum
- Is concerned with having participants learn and demonstrate understanding of meaning rather than memorization
- Creates appropriate alternative ways to proceed when faced with any given scenario; he/she can quickly spot the relevant patterns and issues

Humanities Integrator Award

Uses art, music, language arts, and/or social science to

- Incorporate the contributions of varied cultures and multiple perspectives into teaching and learning
- Engage students at multiple cognitive levels
- Promote the analytical skills of the students

STEM Innovator Award

Uses science, technology, engineering, and/or math

- In innovative ways to engage others in learning
- To employ different techniques and instructional strategies
- To emphasize higher order thinking skills and metacognitive strategies

Student Motivator Award

- Is upbeat and gets others excited about learning
- Thinks about all the factors that might affect a situation or person
- Creates a supportive environment
- Shows awareness of those who feel left out and makes an effort to include them
- Demonstrates concern for others' emotional and physical well-being on a daily basis
- Volunteers for and participates in activities outside of the work day

CLINICAL PRACTICE KNOWLEDGE EXPANDER RECIPIENTS



“Laura has implemented strategies to help students self-monitor their communication and reflect on their own performance and learning. Laura continually develops new ideas and materials in order to keep students interested and motivated to put forth their best efforts. She has also created wonderful visuals to help students better understand social communication. These students are better able to participate in structured conversations with the use of the visuals Laura developed. Laura’s strong teaching style is evidenced through students’ progress toward IEP goals.”

Laura Midday
Speech-Language Pathology



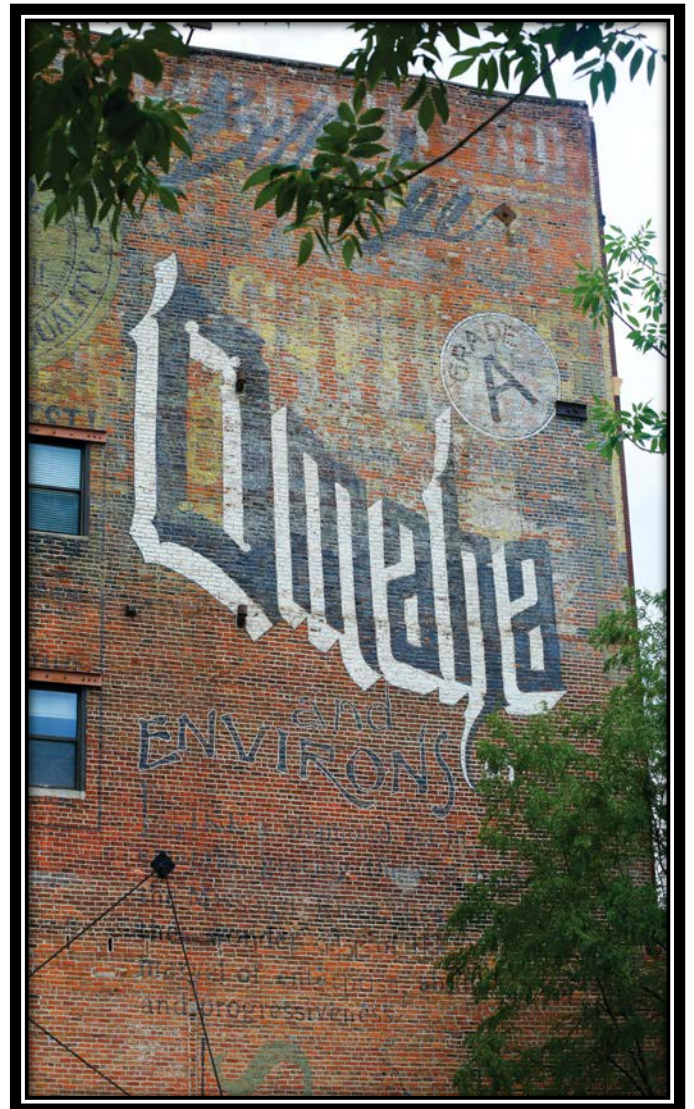
“Alexis is amazing at using a variety of techniques to keep students engaged during both our math and reading blocks. She often stops to ask for student clarification and always has students explain ‘their way of thinking.’ She guides the students who need more assistance and challenges those who have already grasped the concept. Her superior classroom management allows her to engage the students for longer periods of time and ensure learning for ALL students. Alexis is an outstanding teacher.”

Alexis Gibson
Elementary Education



“Instead of just using our second grade grammar book, Mikayla decided to think of our students and make a fun activity. She created an anchor chart that showed the subject and predicate written on the parts of a train. The engine part had the subject, and the caboose had the predicate. Students loved seeing the trains and were able to make a connection right away. They had to apply what they learned about subjects and predicates by writing the subject on the engine, and the predicate on the caboose. Afterwards they the engine to the caboose to make a complete sentence. Students were engaged and had a wonderful project that was hung up in the classroom.”

Mikayla Hatfield
Elementary Education



CLINICAL PRACTICE STEM INNOVATOR RECIPIENTS



“Cydney is a technology innovator, always looking for ways to employ technology to enhance learning. She explored ways to incorporate Moby Max in reading, helping students to master specific skills and to accumulate formative assessment data. At a grade level meeting, the principal asked if anyone had expertise with Moby Max. Cydney volunteered and explained ways to use it to all the teachers present. She is always prepared and tests the technology before presenting it to the class. Through her technology innovations, she has been able to help other teachers in her building start to use some new technology applications to improve student learning.”

Cydney Griffin
Elementary Education

“Sandra does an excellent job of bringing in STEM activities to our 5th grade classroom and to our entire building. To start the year, Sandra was instrumental in sharing ideas and resources for the Solar Eclipse. Not only did she help implement and plan activities with the 5th grade team, she shared ideas and resources with the entire staff. She has also planned daily activities with all students in our class meeting times to challenge students with higher order thinking skills. In science, she has allowed students the opportunity to plan their own investigations challenging their metacognitive thinking skills. Sandra is constantly looking for different ways to bring STEM into the classroom for our students!”



Sandra Jones
Elementary Education

CLINICAL PRACTICE STUDENT MOTIVATOR RECIPIENTS

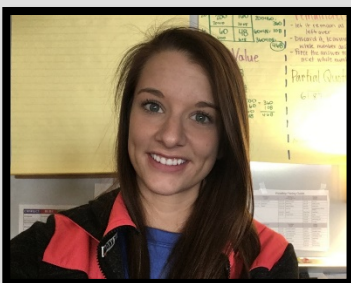


“Nick consistently finds ways to differentiate instruction in his classroom while catering to student interest. As I walk around school, I always see Nick engaged with his kids, sharing love and compassion for them and pushing them at their own pace to succeed. Nick can be seen playing basketball with the kids at recess, having lunch with kids during lunch break and collaborating with other teachers. Nick has not only contributed to the improvement of 2nd grade, but has also contributed to the climate and culture of our entire school.”

Nick Rallis
Elementary Education

“Jacob always strives to connect to the students he is working with by routinely and sincerely asking them about their day/weekend. He genuinely cares for the students and displays a level of patience and understanding that is to be commended. Jacob also tries to instill a supportive atmosphere in small groups, where he tries to get the students to become more understanding and patient of each other. Jacob displays a very positive and upbeat personality, which further helps his ability to connect to his students. They always seem engaged and motivated when he is leading lessons.”

Jacob Mordhorst
Speech-Language Pathology



“As soon as the bell rings, Charity is out in the hallway greeting every student. She makes a point to say every students name both in our class as well as in other classrooms near us. Students are always excited to see her smiling face in the morning. She is also fantastic at building both strong and meaningful relationships. Our school set up a family math night to teach families new math games to build mathematic fluency. Rather than sitting to the side and letting me take the lead, Charity jumped in and took over. She was not only building relationships with the students, but also with their families.”

Charity Jaros
Elementary Education



STUDENT PRACTICUM KNOWLEDGE EXPANDER RECIPIENTS

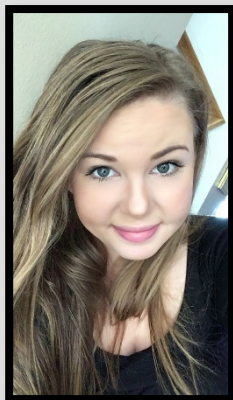


“Maria conducts herself with integrity and goes above and beyond in her work. She connects well with students because she has a sense of humor when dealing with them. She works at engaging with them, yet she also maintains an appropriate professional distance.”

Maria Reyes
Secondary Education, English

“Sarah implemented Kagan strategies throughout her instruction to promote cooperative learning. She also created an inquiry lesson for science, which included place-based learning, 3-dimensional learning, and the DOTS kit. Additionally, she taught a STEAM lesson that had 100% engagement.”

Sarah Schwarz
Elementary Education



“It is very difficult to adapt to new technology, but Kayla dove right in and was quick to pick up on the uses of the technology and science instruction best practices. She truly taught a STEAM lesson.”

Kayla Bahle
Elementary Education

STUDENT PRACTICUM STUDENT MOTIVATOR RECIPIENTS

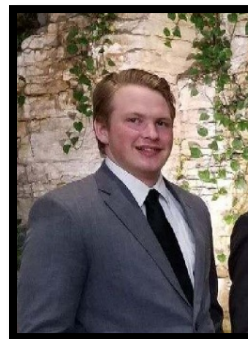


“Jordan has served as a volunteer coach on the cross country team. He has learned from the start that assisting in extracurricular activities is a great way to build positive relationships with students and members of the school community. He consistently checks the students' well-being and that they are keeping up with schoolwork, and he has demonstrated concern and intervened when their academics started to decline.”

Jordan Fuglestad
Secondary Education, Science

“Sam walks into the classroom with a smile and a contagious, positive attitude each day. Sam has the intangible of how to relate to students and knows how students need to be treated. He is also very aware of students' emotions and feelings; he recognizes when a student is in need of some encouragement and helps improve their mood.”

Samuel Palensky
Secondary Education, Math



“In addition to academics, Alexander zoned in on students who were showing emotional needs. One student had been struggling with behaviors, motivation, and general wellbeing in my classroom. Alexander took the initiative to check in with that student on a daily basis and due to that, his behavior has changed. Now this student takes an active role in class, all due to Alexander.”

Alexander Nielsen
Secondary Education, Science



STUDENT PRACTICUM HUMANITIES RECIPIENT



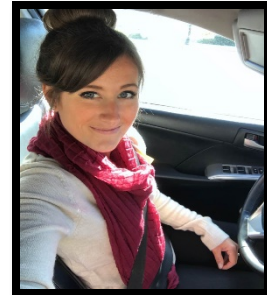
"Michelle asks thoughtful reflection questions for the students to respond to after completion of art projects. Her questions require the students to process their activities fully and analyze their own learning. Michelle is extremely reliable and easily interacts with the students. She is always willing to do what is asked and goes above what is expected."

Michelle Albrecht
Art

STUDENT PRACTICUM STEM INNOVATOR RECIPIENTS

"Rachel has shown me some new review of concepts games to play to show students understanding of material learned about the cell and its parts/functions in Biology. She will also be doing a gallery walk with students and their cell projects to encourage the higher level thinking and learning for mastery rather than memorization in Biology. Rachel is doing a fabulous job!"

Rachel Fleischmann
Secondary Education, Science



"Rebekah came up with an activity over solving real-world problems in which every student had a specific job to do, called Simultaneous Round Table. She is very quick to think of activities that keep every student involved. It is a pleasure working with her. She is actually pushing me to improve on my activities!"

Rebekah Torres
Secondary Education, Math and Language Arts

Congratulations to all of our nominees! Thank you for engaging your students during field experiences and supporting our future educators!

Teacher Candidates

Thomas Cruz
Amanda DeWitt
Kajsa Haines
Sarah Harvey
Nathaneal Hindman
Grace Kimnach
Garin Leehy
Raegan Leslie
Nadia Missak
Heather Showers
Nathan Steele
Ben Sullinger



Mentors

Carol Ariza
Rachel Aten
Sandra Butera
Amy Bystrom
Brenda Gray
Traci Gunter
Heidi Hansen
Lacey Hollrah
Sandra Howard
Kim Macziewski
Terri Metteer-Koester
Emily Schmuecker
Cynthia Seager
Devra Spiegel
Sara Thompson
Kristine Wolfe

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