

OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARDS

FALL 2018

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The UNO College of Education is excited to announce the winners of the Fall 2018 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).

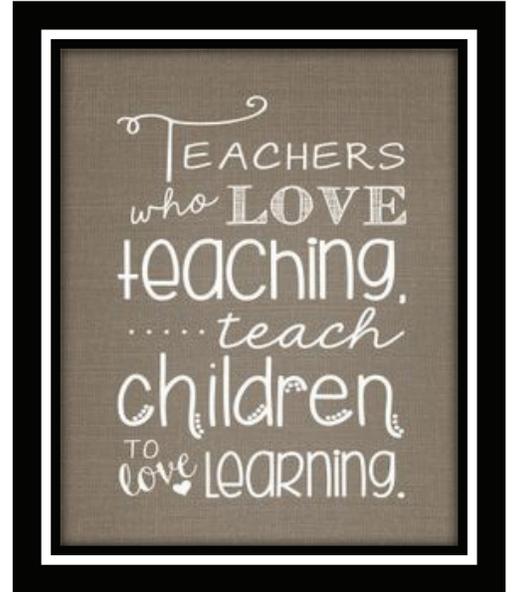


STUDENT PRACTICUM OUTSTANDING MENTOR RECIPIENTS



“Sandy is the best mentor that I've had throughout my UNO experience, and I am so thankful that she was my supervisor during student teaching. She gives helpful and quick feedback. She is always there to answer my questions about anything from lesson planning to classroom questions to homework assignments. She is always so positive, and gives feedback in a kind and helpful way so that I can grow and better myself as a teacher without being discouraged. She is a wonderful person and deserves recognition for her dedication to her students. She is so positive and encouraging”.

Sandy Howard
University of Nebraska Omaha



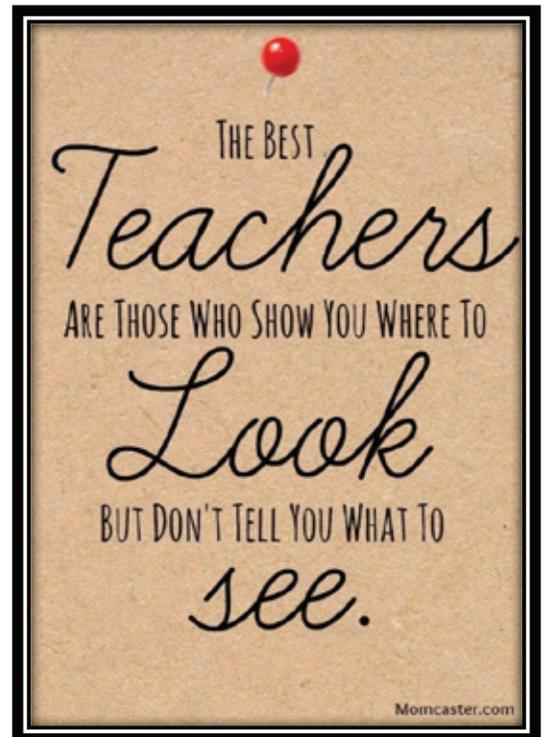
“This mentor teacher is always challenging me to do more in the class room and be more outside of it. Mr. Jablonski has been a staple of this schools community since my arrival and has always gone the extra mile to make me feel both welcome and included in the process. From everything to getting me a seat at the table in meetings to making sure my input is heard to letting me fail by teaching a lesson or doing an activity that does not go the way I planned it. Mr. Jablonski has taken every opportunity to help me. He even got me an interview here at the building which led to my first teaching job up the hall. He has always been extremely flexible with my other content areas of interest yet kept me -on my toes by challenging me to do more and push for deeper understanding and meaning in all of my assignments and lessons.”

Josh Jablonski
Omaha Benson High School



“Mrs. Kully and Mr. Wenger were amazing mentors and I would recommend them to anybody. They were always willing to go above and beyond for me in their classroom and school. They made me feel included as an active member in their team, their PLC, and their data teams. I was also given access to every item in their google drive regarding their classroom as well as their grade book and roster. From day one I felt welcome in their classroom and was able to realize that I had free reign to try anything I felt would go over well in their classroom. Mrs. Kully and Mr. Wenger always provided great feedback on various lessons, teaching strategies, classroom management techniques, etc. When a lesson would flop, they were always there to pick me up and encourage me that it happens and things would get better. Their knowledge and expertise in the field is vast and they shared their knowledge at every opportunity they had”.

Trevor Wenger and Denese Kully
Russell Middle School

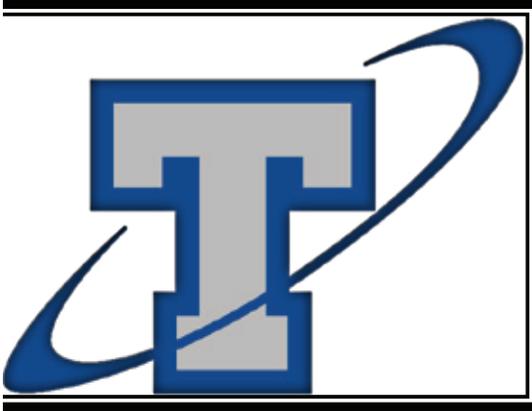


CLINICAL PRACTICE OUTSTANDING MENTOR RECIPIENTS



“Mr. Burchard is my mentor teacher in the field for my last practicum. Not only does he provide an excellent role model of a positive teacher with good classroom management whose students genuinely like him, he is constantly teaching myself and my partner. He will point out the logic behind certain classroom decisions, boost our confidence when we aren't sure of how a lesson went, and gives us pointers for long-term growth in our future classroom. Every morning we are able to go over plans and ask questions even though he has plans of his own to work on. He is also very responsive over e-mail which I know isn't easy. He is flexible with his planning and has moved his schedule around countless times for our lessons. Mr. Burchard deserves to be recognized for the great teacher and mentor he is.”

Ted Burchard
Upchurch Elementary



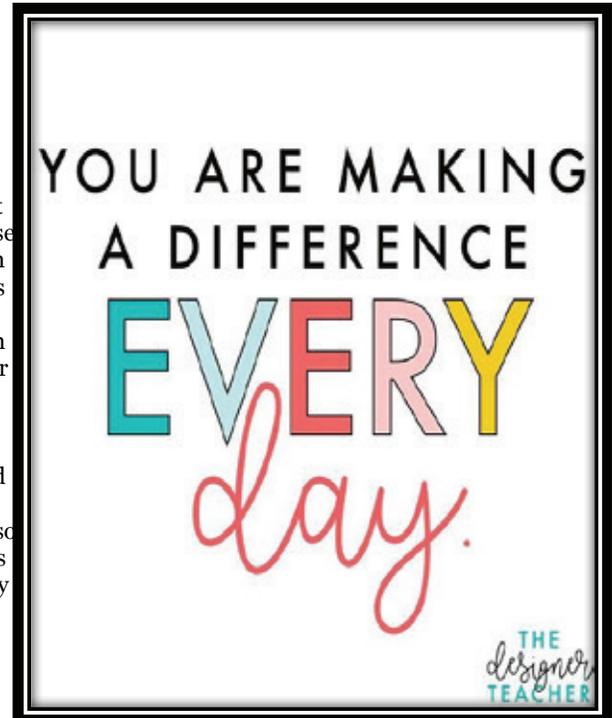
“Mr. Stirtz has done an amazing job with making me feel welcome in this practicum placement. He has introduced me to as many people as I have come across at the school and let me be a part of meetings that I haven't had a chance to experience (department meetings, IEP meetings...). Another thing that he does to help me grow as a teacher is lets me take over as much teaching as I want to. To go along with that, when he has something to add while I'm teaching, he says it in a way that doesn't make me look unreliable to the students which is awesome! When we talk about lessons that I taught, he gives me feedback that helps me decide how I'm going to do things for the next lesson that I teach. The resources that he gives me, as well as the flipped classroom style of teaching show me something that I've never seen before, even as a student! Another thing I really appreciate is how involved I get to be in the assessment evaluation of students. I've gotten to help grade quizzes and tests, so I'm actually able to see where misconceptions are with students, and then use that to teach.”

Jordan Stirtz
Papillion La Vista South High



“One thing that has stuck out to me about my mentor teacher is how much she cares for these students. Most teachers, of course establish relationships with their students that barely scratch the surface. Ms. Hudson, is not like "most teachers". Ms. Hudson, has given majority of these kids rides home from school or rides to help them pick out clothes if they needed it. Ms. Hudson has paid for a child's lunch money for an entire few months because he couldn't afford it. Ms. Hudson has helped a student make a video to send to their sick parent in the hospital. What teacher does all of this? She definitely isn't getting paid extra, so why do it? Ms. Hudson has, by far, the biggest heart of any teachers I have ever encountered and even have had myself! I have never heard of a teacher taking a kid shopping because they have so many siblings they have no clothes for themselves because they have to share?! This teacher not only deserves this nomination, but she deserves the best teacher of the YEAR award.”

Myra Hudson
Miller Park Elementary





OUTSTANDING CLINICAL PRACTICE & STUDENT PRACTICUM AWARDS

FALL 2018

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The UNO College of Education is excited to announce the winners of the Fall 2018 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



**PUSH YOURSELF
BECAUSE, NO ONE
ELSE IS GOING
TO DO IT FOR YOU.**



“For presentation on our Renaissance music unit in the 8th Grade, Jamie Tran put together a wonderful Google Slides presentation that took students through a UNO choir trip to Lithuania, where she was able to perform a piece of Renaissance music that is by the same composer as one of the songs that the 8th Grade choir is singing. She opened the lesson by teaching students how to give greetings in Lithuanian and gave a brief and compelling explanation of the history of how Lithuania came to be an independent nation and how the relationship between the two sister schools works. Her presentation made Renaissance music relevant to her students and was highly engaging. She also worked in information about the style techniques of that time period and connected that with video/audio examples”.

Jamie Tran
Music Education



“Amy engages her students to learn using many special techniques. She has taken the content of a basal and put the information into a PowerPoint with meaningful pictures/ideas, and/or creates a game for students to play to learn the content. She easily makes learning natural for her students and relates content to their everyday life. Before a unit is taught, Amy digs deep into the curriculum to pull out meaningful lessons for students and makes it relevant to them. She is very skilled in maintaining student interest by implementing the gradual release of instruction for each lesson she is teaching”.

Amy Johnson
Elementary Education

CLINICAL PRACTICE STUDENT MOTIVATOR RECIPIENTS

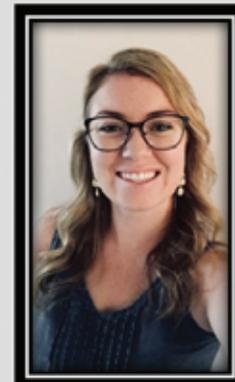


"Sarah does an amazing job at building relationships with her students. She starts each day with a class meeting that includes a greeting and a share. She has gone out of her way to find or create new greetings so that all of the children feel welcome and included. She praises in public and corrects students in private. She recognizes positive behaviors throughout the day and reinforces expected behaviors with SOARing stickers and classroom incentives. Sarah noticed that some children didn't receive positive notes from their parents after conferences, so she wrote a note and left it on their table spot for them to see when they returned from Fall Break. Sarah went out of her way to bring her husband to Cane's Family Dinner Night to show she cares! Sarah is amazing! Sarah is one-of-a-kind! She is kind, caring and reliable. She is hard working and truly cares about her students!"

Sarah Sempeck
Elementary Education

"Ms. Bahle has worked hard to develop relationships with her students. Kayla's ability to connect with her students is impressive. In our classroom, there are many different types of learners. Kayla ensures that each student is getting the instruction they need at their level. Her patience and understanding heart allow her to create a safe place for our students; especially those who are facing hardships at home. Kayla is someone who can collaborate well with teammates and quickly became a hardworking member of our fifth-grade team. Kayla also possesses a positive energy and a sense of humor which she shares with those around her. She embraces the opportunity to learn as much as she can about integrating technology and engagement strategies into her daily lessons to keep the students motivated."

Kayla Bahle
Elementary Education



"Keith has always been enthusiastic when he works with our students. He has worked very hard to get to know the 153 middle school students and has a great grasp of every single student's strengths and weaknesses. This is especially impressive considering that he also works with over 160 high school students. Keith cares about the students and provides a positive environment for the students. He tries to help all students improve and succeed, no matter their talent level. Keith has been in before and after duty hours on many occasions to help me. He is an outstanding student teacher."

Keith Schoening
Music Education

Student Practicum Innovator Recipient

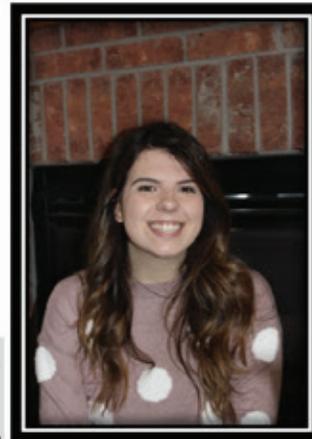


"Obviously as a math teacher, Victoria's math skills are amazing. She knows how to explain things well and in different ways. She's familiar with PowerPoint, word, smartboards, ipads, graphing calculators. Everything we've utilized, she's been savvy with. She used really cool graphics in her PowerPoint to display the real life applications of the algebra we were doing that day. We've discussed other math apps that we haven't used yet in the room but she was familiar with and interested in all of them. Very impressive as a practicum student. Well prepared, takes feedback, works with kids, learned names really fast, and knows math really well. She helps my honors students on any topic even when she wasn't there the day I presented the lesson - she recalls how to do it and helps. Her higher level math skills are great".

Victoria Erdkamp
Secondary Education



STUDENT PRACTICUM STUDENT MOTIVATOR RECIPIENTS



"Maddie has an upbeat, "up for anything" attitude. She knows how to get my entire classroom of students excited about a lesson and totally engaged within the activity. She has obviously planned for things that may go wrong in an activity. In addition, she reaches out to me, as her cooperating teacher, well ahead of time to get any advice, become aware of schedule changes, and so she can integrate her lesson into our current, relevant curriculum."

Maddie Hurley
Elementary Education

STUDENT PRACTICUM KNOWLEDGE EXPANDER RECIPIENTS

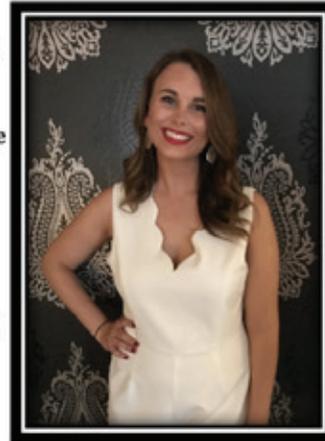
"Bailey will be an incredible educator and an advocate for students. As a student teacher, she has demonstrated sound instructional and planning skills. Bailey sets high expectations for herself and her students. She has an unwavering focus on achieving those goals. If students are not successful at first, Bailey uses this information to inform her instruction and makes the necessary adjustments to assure student success."

Bailey Pofahl
Elementary Education



"Sierra does an exceptional job of getting students ready to learn. She finds ways to get students excited about daily lessons. We have a student on the Autism spectrum and she takes extra care to make sure her lessons flow to have a positive learning experience for him. She is very aware of the kids' feelings and what they need at the time they need it. Coming in from recess can be an emotional time for some of our kindergartners and she isn't afraid to sit with them and ask them what happened and how they can feel better."

Sierra Donaldson
Elementary Education



"While supervising Caitlin throughout the semester, I had the opportunity to watch her pique the interest of all students in various ways. In a small group reading lesson, Caitlin used pictures to help students relate to singular (one star) and plural nouns (more than one star). By using these star visuals, students were able to refer back to them throughout the lesson as a reference to help guide them through changing more singular nouns to plural nouns."

Caitlin Swoboda
Elementary Education



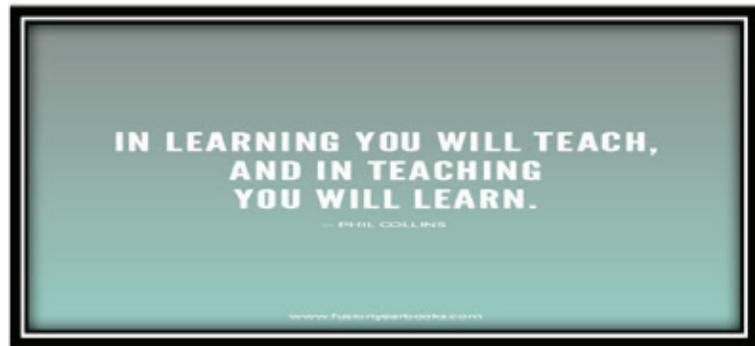
"Joe doesn't teach to the test or try to get students to memorize information....he challenges them to think critically by presenting information in a variety of forms (Power Points, lecture notes, informal quizzes, etc.) and constantly asking questions to draw more knowledge out of students. And his knowledge of the subject matter (WWI) was outstanding!"

Joseph Gorman
Secondary Education



"When Aaron came to Papillion Middle he didn't know anyone's name or know much about the school other than the location. On his first day with students Aaron learned names as if he was going to be their teacher and as if it was his classroom they would be attending during the day. He took full advantage to build relationships with kids that weren't in our class during lunch duty where he was often seen sitting at tables or just talking to students throughout the lunch room. Aaron's personality is so vibrant that it rubbed off on students but also staff members."

Aaron Hixson
Secondary Education



STUDENT PRACTICUM HUMANITES RECIPIENT



“Mary worked very hard to ensure her lessons were filled with various levels of blooms taxonomy and Kegan Strategies. Modeling and demonstrating are essential at all levels (group, small group individual) in art class; and Mary was very attentive to the varying level of needs to all the students. Her lessons were rich in art production wrapped up in an in-depth, thoughtful lesson incorporating history, science, language arts and math. Before Mary student taught she was a para for over 10 years, with much of that time working as the PAC room teacher. In addition to her knowledge in the field of teaching and the arts, she had great discipline management; especially with those students who are often challenging”.

Mary Daley
Art Education

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

Teacher Candidates

Andrea Evans
Amanda Jackson
Nadia Missak
Hector Ramirez
Benjamin Pieper Carder
Zechariah Stangl
Riley Jenkins
Alison McCall
Riley Jenkins
Lance Mattice
Taylor Wilken
Cassidy Sams
Paige Miller
Morgan Johnson
Maddie DeVorss
Andrew Bartholet
Kacie Fischer
Courtney Swift
Lauren Houston
Emily Yoder
Greta Powell
Brooke Ohrt
Madison Verschoor
Kayla Calvert
Courtney Swift
Katie Siedilk
Sara Wordekemper
Maritza Castro
Michael Stennis

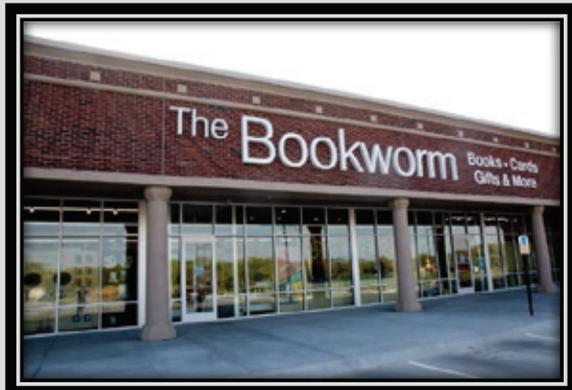


Mentors

Kristi Sexton
Sarah Roth
Shauna Cihacek
Tiffany Eby
Patricia Fox
Debra Harris
Krista Morrison
Annie Catania
Cody Talarico
Michelle Hayes-Roddy
Lesley Sprague
Megan Christensen
Nicole Woodward
Tracy Murnan
Seth Turman
Anna Vandenberg
Calli Shepherd
Emily Kildow
Kristi Bezousek
Ashlee Barnett
Terri Booth
Julie Holmes
Jennifer Lemke
Morgan Stirtz
Suzie Fogarty
Jeff Godek
Brenda Reed
Julia Harris
Maddie Rosonke Hutt
Ben Bails
Nikki Salinas
Cortney McElroy
Scott Pridie
Carissa Stowe
Jordan Paben
Michelle Novak
Myra Hudson
Jennifer Palomaki

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