

FALL 2019

THE GAMBIT

The Official Publication of the Gifted Association of Missouri



GAM Conference a Success!

GAM's annual conference was held October 11th and 12th at Ritenour High School in St. Louis, in partnership with the Innovative Technology Education Fund. Hundreds of students, parents, vendors, and educators of the gifted were treated to fantastic breakout sessions and keynotes from national leaders in gifted education. Thank you to all who attended!

Inside our Fall issue:

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Upcoming Events

#MOCreativity DESE Workshop	January 16
GAM Day at the Capitol	February 26
Gifted Differentiation DESE Workshop	April 1
Socratic Teaching DESE Workshop	April 2
Gifted Pathways Institute	April 4



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Letter From the President

By Peggy Pennington



Struggle = Growth

When I was hired to teach gifted classes in my district 14 years ago, I remember thinking, “Gifted classes are going to be fun to teach.” I was right. My gifted students can find connections, have discussions, design solutions, and create in ways that are far above what happens in the other regular education classes that I teach. As a teacher, watching these thought processes happen is an absolute joy. Teaching gifted students has been very rewarding for me, but something has become more and more evident through the years that I have taught, the workshops that I have attended, and the books that I have read -- gifted kids are an at-risk population.

Just recently I ran into one of my former students who is an adult in my community now. I was pleased that even though he was in a hurry, he wanted to take a moment to share a brief update of what was happening in his life. I have been lucky enough to hear many times in writing and in person, “Your class is what helped me get through middle school.” As much I would love to believe that it was because I was such a fabulous teacher, I know that is probably untrue. He remembers my class and me fondly because my class was tailored to his abilities and needs.

Why are gifted programs so important and why are gifted students an at risk population? Gifted kids do learn in regular classrooms, but what they learn is often accomplished without a tremendous effort. Professional football players get big and strong by lifting heavy weights. They don’t get strong by lifting 5 pound weights. Struggle = Growth. Gifted kids often aren’t used to struggling and struggling doesn’t feel good, especially when students are not used to it. Someone who hasn’t lifted weights for 5 years, probably isn’t going to like the feeling of those weights, but someone who lifts weights daily will have a more positive view of the feeling. Gifted kids need the mental weight lifting struggle that gifted classes provide to fully develop their mental muscle.

My student that stopped me was lucky enough to go to school in a district that recognized and supported his need for gifted programming. Not all students in the state are as lucky. Unless they attend one of the few all day gifted programs in the state, most gifted students spend a large chunk of their day in classes that are not

designed for them. I look back at my years as a full-time regular education teacher, and I rue that I didn't do enough for the gifted students in my classroom. I also think, though, about how stretched I was as a regular classroom teacher for time to complete all that was required of me. As good as my intentions were, I wonder if I would have had the time and creative energy even with a better understanding.

Changing Funding and A Drop in Gifted Programs

The first year that I started teaching gifted classes, my school district received dedicated funding for our gifted program. This was funding from the state that could ONLY be spent on the district's state-approved gifted program. During the next school year, the state altered how schools received their funding. All the money was rolled into one foundation formula. School districts that had gifted programs before the funding change, still received the same money that they did for their gifted programs, but no longer did that money HAVE to be spent on gifted programs. School districts have had more control over that money ever since. In 2003, right before the funding change, there were 333 state-approved gifted programs in Missouri. In 2018 there were 239 school districts with state-approved gifted programs.

Gifted Legislation

Last year with GAM's support, Representative Chrissy Sommer introduced legislation in the Missouri House of Representatives that became House Bill 112. It would ensure that gifted students throughout the state have access to gifted programs. The legislation moved through the house and was voted to successfully move from the house on through an overwhelming majority of Representatives voting for the legislation. The bill stalled as it moved to the Senate and was unable to get another vote in the Senate before the end of the legislative session. Our goal is to give this legislation another try in this year's legislative session. Watch for Legislative Updates and Action Alerts from GAM as the Missouri Legislative Session starts again in January. It is important that we (supporters of gifted students) are willing to contact our Missouri legislators. They can't make fully informed decisions about what is best for gifted students if they don't hear their side.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our gifted students for another year as President of this organization.



Christine Nobbe
Director, Gifted Education
Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov
573.751.7754

Greetings from Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Gifted Education! It has been a busy fall with many activities including:

- Hosted two Gifted Education Best Practices Workshops
- Planned a series of five workshops for the 2019-2020 school year (see flyer)
- Worked on an Alternative Identification Plan with one school district
- Participated in budgeting for MSA and MFAA
- Set up the Gifted Education Listserv- <https://lists.mo.gov/mailman/listinfo/gifted-ed> (please join and share the link with others!)
- Participating on the Powerful Learning Conference planning committee and working with five districts on a session on equitable identification of gifted learners
- Working with the Gifted Advisory Council on the biennial report and presentation to the State Board of Education on October 22; visit the Council's website for more information - <https://dese.mo.gov/gifted-advisory-council>
- Visiting Schools -
 - Parkway
 - Frontier Schools
 - North KC
 - Blue Springs
 - Truman University
 - Kirksville
 - Scotland County
 - Webster Groves
 - Metro St Louis Council
 - Affton
 - Hancock Place
 - Brentwood
 - Potosi
 - Pattonville
 - Waynesville
 - Grand Center Arts Academy
 - School District of Clayton
 - Rockwood
 - Maplewood Richmond Heights

- Presenting at Conferences
 - Federal Programs Conference
 - Charter Schools Summit
 - DESE, RPDC, & Area Supervisors Partnership
 - Health Sciences Mentoring Group
 - GAM
 - MCPSA Conference
 - MoASBO Conference
 - MSCA Conference
 - MCTM

I set **four goals** to work on:

- Increase number of alternative identification plans to identify underrepresented students
- Increase services provided to gifted high school students, including increasing nominations for MSA and MFAA from schools currently not nominating students
- Encourage more teachers to obtain gifted certification
- Provide professional development for gifted educators

I have received inquiries about two topics and am **looking for examples to share:**

- Acceleration Process and Procedures (how the school district or charter schools are implementing the Acceleration Policy)
- Parent/Guardian Reviews of Identification Information

If your school has posted this information please send me the link.

I am excited to provide professional development for educators, presentations to parent groups, and talks on space exploration (or on giftedness) to students. Just reach out to schedule a date. I look forward to working with you!



Make Your Summer Extraordinary



SCATS

June 7 - 19, 2020
wku.edu/gifted/scats

A two-week residential camp held in June, SCATS offers high-ability students who have finished grades 6–8 a unique learning environment to explore new ideas, develop concepts, make friends, and share experiences. Students arrive at the WKU campus to challenge themselves academically and to meet like-minded peers with diverse backgrounds and interests.



VAMPY

2020
June 21 - July 11, 2020
wku.edu/gifted/vampy

A three-week residential camp held in June and July, VAMPY offers high-ability students who have finished grades 7–10 a rigorous educational environment that reminds students learning is an enjoyable process as they spend three weeks immersed in a topic of their choosing that ignites their curiosity.

The Advanced Placement Summer Institute



Ritenour High School, St. Louis | July 13 - 16, 2020 | wku.edu/gifted/ap
Pre-AP Institute | Bowling Green, KY | June 29 - July 2

Since 1984, The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU has assisted **more than 9,000 teachers** in better understanding the demands of AP classrooms and high-ability learners. In addition to offering an APSI at WKU, this year we will offer nine workshops at Ritenour High School in St. Louis, MO.

College Board-Endorsed Workshops In

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Psychology
- Statistics
- U.S. Government and Politics
- U.S. History
- World History

GAM Advocacy Platform

In the State of Missouri, “gifted children” means those who “exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum.” RSMo. 162.675

GAM has actively supported the needs of high-ability and high-potential learners in Missouri since 1980. GAM provides teacher training, curriculum development, parent support, regional seminars and workshops, scholarships, student competitions, and awards. Further, GAM conducts an annual state conference for all Missouri stakeholders in gifted education. In addition, GAM employs a legislative consultant to advocate for gifted students at the state level and through the legislative process.

GAM Advocates for:

1. Legislation to support funding for gifted education in all Missouri Public Schools.
2. Legislation to support a mandate to provide gifted services to identified gifted students in all Missouri Public Schools, through a state-approved gifted program.
3. Legislation to require each school district to report annually to DESE regarding the programs or services being provided for gifted students within their district and the number of students being served.
4. A required undergraduate level course in gifted education to prepare future teachers to address a wide range of abilities and to facilitate their use of instructional strategies to maximize their students’ potential.
5. Professional development in differentiation to assure that all teachers are equipped to differentiate the curriculum for a wide range of learners, including students from diverse populations, with a focus on academic rigor.
6. Mandatory Professional Development hours for school personnel responsible for the coordination and administration of gifted programs and services in the areas of Nature and Needs of Gifted Learners and Curriculum and Instruction for Gifted Learners.
7. Initiatives and opportunities which will benefit gifted students beyond high school, (i.e. Bright Flight, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Credit).
8. The support of enrichment programs which go above and beyond school requirements including summer programs, higher education opportunities, Missouri Scholars Academy, Missouri Fine Arts Academy, as well as other programs which support gifted learners.
9. A state-wide Advisory Council with members who have experience with gifted programs to advise the State Board of Education regarding applicable rules and regulations, as well as other issues that relate to programs for gifted and talented students.
10. A full-time Director of Gifted Education position through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

For further information concerning advocacy please contact:

Kyna Iman, GAM Legislative Consultant, kynaiman@earthlink.net
Michael Dragoni, GAM Legislative Public Issues, dragonim@ritenourschools.org

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Kyna's Corner - Legislative Updates

Hello GAM Advocates – GAM is preparing for the upcoming 2020 State Legislative Session. At the GAM Conference, advocates wrote over 200 postcards to their State Representative and State Senator asking them to support gifted education programs in ALL Missouri schools. You can help do your part by writing your legislators before session starts in January (if you don't know who they are, you can look them up at <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx>).

Check out the GAM Advocacy Agenda to educate yourself on GAM's legislative priorities! We need your Voices to make a difference for gifted students. If not you.....who will?

Thank you!

Kyna Iman

Legislative Consultant

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY
BY CONTACTING YOUR
STATE LEGISLATORS ABOUT
GIFTED EDUCATION**

GAM Day at the Capitol

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Join us at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City
to support gifted education in Missouri!



GIFTED ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

2020 State Advocacy Agenda

The Gifted Association of Missouri requests your advocacy on the following issues:

FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Support legislation that requires every school in Missouri provide state approved gifted education programs for students identified as “gifted” under section 162.675 and that all program services are provided by teachers with a valid certification in gifted education.

MISSOURI SCHOLARS ACADEMY & MISSOURI FINE ARTS ACADEMY

Support state funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy and Missouri Fine Arts Academy for June, 2021.

- The Scholars Academy is a three-week residential program at MU for 330 high school juniors who are academically gifted;
- The Fine Arts Academy is a three-week residential program at MSU for 150 rising high school juniors and seniors who are gifted in the arts.

MISSOURI SCHOOL FOUNDATION FORMULA FUNDING

Support increased funding for the Missouri School Foundation Formula. Support \$3.9 billion appropriation in House Bill 2 for the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

OTHER GIFTED FACTS & FIGURES

- \$24,870,104 was appropriated for gifted education in FY2006. There were 295 school districts with state approved gifted programs. In FY2007, this amount was rolled into the new foundation formula. Without this line item providing earmarked funding for state approved gifted programs, those funds can be spent on other programs, and there are now only 215 school districts offering state approved gifted programs.

2020 GAM DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AT 11:00 AM

You can find your legislators by visiting the Missouri Senate website.
Legislative Look-Up: www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx
It will give you contact information and a webpage on your Legislators.

If you have questions, please contact GAM's Governmental Consultant, Kyna Iman, at kynaiman@earthlink.net

Kick it Up a Notch: Differentiated Curriculum for Gifted Learners

- Christine Nobbe, DESE Director of Gifted Education
- Thursday, September 26, 2019
- 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- Governor Office Building, Room 470, Jefferson City
- In this session, gifted educators will review current research on gifted education curriculum, study NAGC programming standards, and work to develop standards that can be used in gifted classes with gifted learners.

Register: <https://differentiated4qt.eventbrite.com>

Gen Z: Meeting the Needs of Gifted Adolescents

- Dr. Beth Winton, NBCT
- Tuesday, October 29, 2019
- 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- Governor Office Building, Room 460, Jefferson City
- In this session, teachers of middle school and high school gifted learners will work collaboratively to share and develop techniques for gifted students in grades 6-12. Educators will share their best practices, as well as learning from Dr. Winton.

Register: <https://giftedsecondary.eventbrite.com>

Socratic Inquiry and Seminar Teaching for All Learners

- Dr. Rick Courtright, Duke TIP
- Thursday, April 2, 2020
- Governor Office Building, Room 450, Jefferson City
- 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- For this session, gifted education teachers are encouraged to partner with general education teachers and come together as a team. Learn how Socratic Inquiry and Seminars can develop critical thinking in all students.

Register: <https://socraticinquiry4all.eventbrite.com>

Gifted Education Workshop Series

2019-2020

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

all sessions are free; register on Eventbrite

Contact: Christine Nobbe Christine.Nobbe@dese.mo.gov

Teaching for #MOcreativity

- Ismet Mamnoon, founder of Beyonder, and Dr. Cyndi Burnett
- Thursday, January 16, 2020
- 10:00 a.m.—3:00p.m.
- Governor Office Building, Room 470, Jefferson City
- This face-to-face workshop will focus on strategies for teaching content creatively by using the Torrance Incubation Model and for teaching creative thinking as an element of the curriculum. Educators will participate in online modules about creativity before coming to the workshop, the face-to face workshop will be a culminating event to develop #MOcreativity!

Register: <https://mocreativity.eventbrite.com>

Differentiated Instructed for Gifted Classes: Using the Curry/Samara Model as a Tool to Develop Quality Units

- Dr. Rick Courtright, Duke TIP
- Wednesday, April 1, 2020
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Governor Office Building, Room 450, Jefferson City
- In this session, teachers will develop units with a curriculum tool created for gifted education.

Register: <https://differentiatedgifteded.eventbrite.com>





Dr. Cyndi Burnett is an Associate Professor at the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State. Her research interests include the use of creative models and techniques with children, creative thinking in higher education, and current trends in creativity. Her work includes projects working with educators to bring creative thinking into the classroom, connecting communities of creative thinkers via social media, and designing and managing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Everyday Creativity. She was featured in the *New York Times* in an article titled, "Creativity Becomes an Academic Discipline." She is the co-editor of the [Big Questions in Creativity](#) book series and coauthor of the books [Weaving Creativity into Every Strand of Your Curriculum](#) and [My Sandwich is a Spaceship: Creative Thinking for Parents and Young Children](#). She has a Master of Science in Creativity and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning from OISE (University of Toronto), all of which she uses to help ignite creativity around the world.

Dr. Richard D. Courtright serves as Gifted Education Research Specialist for Duke TIP. He has held the positions of lecturing fellow in the Duke University Program in Education and as an adjunct assistant professor in the School of Education at Elon University. A lifelong educator with more than forty years of experience in PreK-12 public education, Rick has been an elementary and middle school classroom teacher, gifted teacher, and a gifted program administrator for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools in North Carolina. He earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has co-written and co-edited several works; has taught a variety of courses and workshops in gifted, general, and special education; and has presented at state, regional, national, and international conferences. Rick has provided consultation to numerous schools and districts interested in delivering quality differentiated programs for gifted and talented students. Rick has served multiple terms of office on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented, which awarded him the Distinguished Service Award for lifetime achievement in 2015.



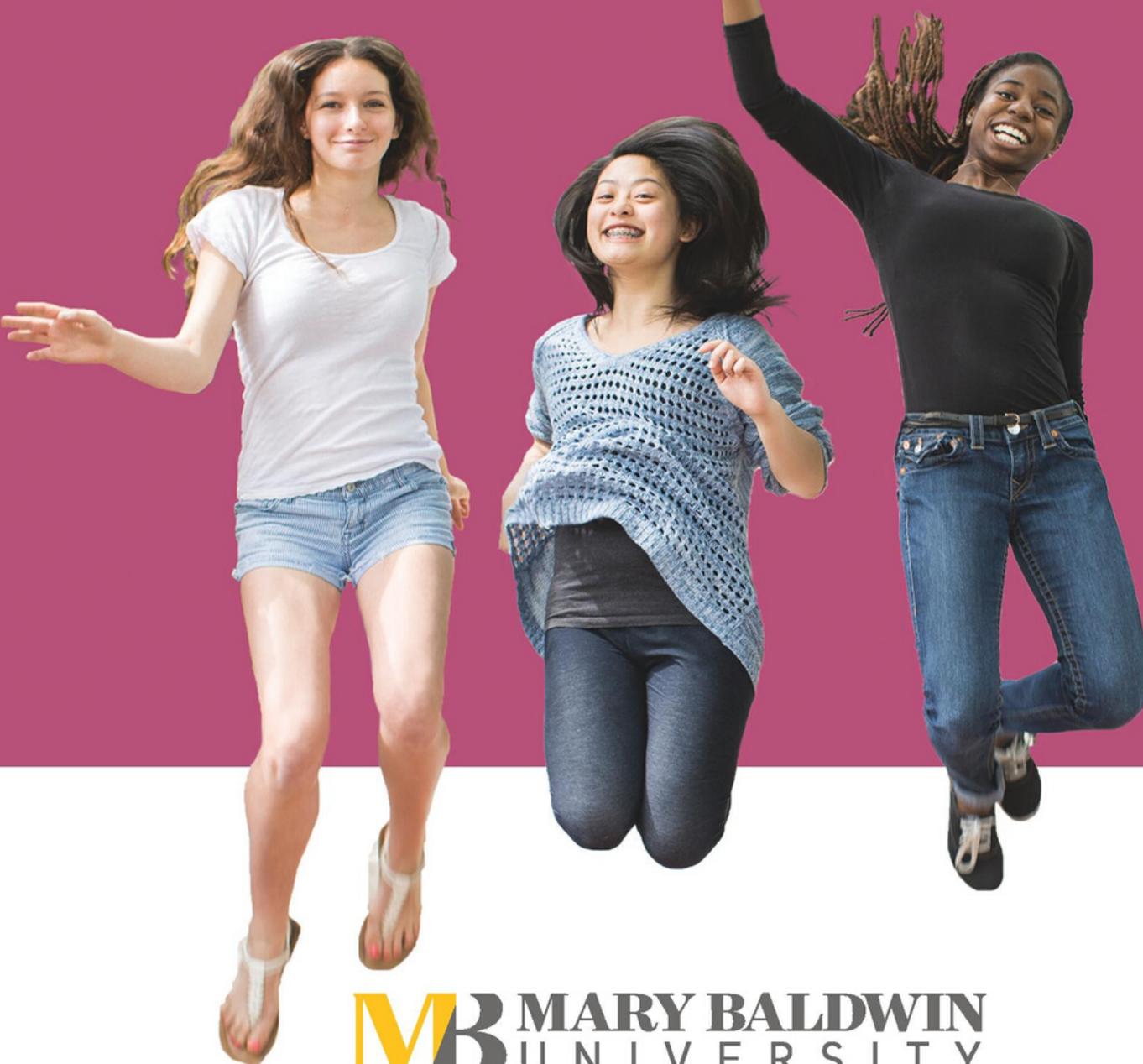
Ismet Mamnoon is the founder of Beyonder. She is a graduate from the International Center for Studies in Creativity at Buffalo State College. As a facilitator, Ismet believes in empowering clients with the ability to use Creative thinking in order to help them use their own expertise to address challenges within their field of work, and their personal lives. Her forte lies in translating the theory of creativity into everyday practice. Besides being a mom to two college students, Ismet currently works as a facilitator and trainer within the KIBBLE group. She also serves as faculty at the State University of New York where she teaches graduate courses in creativity, facilitation, and leadership in their international programs. Ismet has authored several books, a Parenting tool kit, and created card decks related to her work in the field of creativity. As a self-professed "Parentologist" who has been writing about parenting for over 36 year she was invited to speak about parenting at [TEDx](#). She has received the Firestien Family Creative Achievement award, the President's Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student at Buffalo State, and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in her work with creativity. <http://mybeyonder.com/about.html>

Dr. Beth Winton has worked in gifted education for her entire professional career. She graduated with honors from the University of Florida in 1992 with a Bachelor's degree in Education, specializing in gifted education and psychology. She earned her Master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1999 with an emphasis in gifted education. Beth earned National Board Certification in November 2002, and renewed it in 2012. She earned a Ph.D. in Educational Administration at Mizzou, defending a dissertation on underachieving gifted secondary students. Beth was the Supervisor of Gifted Education for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from December 1994 through August 1999 and is a charter member of the state-wide Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Students. This will be her 22nd year in the Columbia Public Schools and her 28th year in public education, having taught gifted students from Kindergarten through high school.



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GAM Conference '19 Recap!

The 2019 GAM Conference was a great success. Over 240 teacher, parent, professor, and administrator attendees were part of the conference that was held at the beautiful Ritenour High School Performing Arts Center in St. Louis on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12. The conference planning was spearheaded by Conference Vice-President Ashli Eaves and Ritenour Gifted and STEAM Instructional Facilitator Michael Dragoni along support from the GAM Board. The conference was a whirlwind of over 60 sessions on a variety of topics such as: competency-based education, twice exceptional (2E) students, social-emotional needs of gifted students, robotics technology, and a variety of classroom teaching units.

Supported by a grant from the Innovative Technology Education Fund, conference organizers had the opportunity to bring in featured speakers Chris Holmes (Former Missouri Teacher of the Year), Dr. Donna Ford (Vanderbilt University Professor), Dr. Thomas Hebert (University of South Carolina Professor), Dr. Erinn Floyd (Director of Professional Learning--NAGC), Dr. Kathryn Fishman-Weaver (Mizzou Academy, Director of Academic Affairs and Engagement), Karen Brown (Educational Consultant and Gifted Program Mentor) as well as many other wonderful presenters from within and outside our state.

Our vendor hall was packed to the brim this year with groups offering books and materials suitable for gifted classrooms, organizations for gifted students and parents, and colleges and universities that offer gifted program and gifted certification programs.

New Gifted Association of Missouri Board of Directors were elected at the Friday Caucus meetings held by region. The new Board of Directors are:

- Region 1 Crystal Koenig (D), Brein Bishop (AD)
- Region 2 Tiffany Rogers (D), Justine Rogers (AD)
- Region 3 Cassie Fogel (D), Jennifer Blank (AD)
- Region 4 LeeAnn Collier (D), Tracy Murphy (AD)
- Region 5 Breanne Preston (D), Sophie Chambers
- Region 6 Jennifer Hawkins (D), Michelle Bobo (AD)
- Region 7 Kayla Fultz (D), Megan Pinney (D)
- Region 8 Tracy Bednarick (D), Hannah Noale-Ruebling (AD)
- Region 9 Marissa Cochran (D), Jennifer Wahn (AD)

Congratulations to our new board members and thank you to those that participated in the board during the last year.

Saturday's luncheon offered the opportunity for Gifted Association to honor the following people that were nominated for our GAM awards: Vicky Bennett Outstanding Student Scholarship--Aden Cox, Sikeston R-6 School District; Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award--Dawn Tedrick, St. Clair School District; Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator Award--Deborah Clary, Springfield Public Schools; Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers of Gifted (Sponsored by Drury University Pre-College Programs)--Deborah Dorman, North Kansas City Schools. Nominations for the 2020 awardees are open. Deadline for the Vicky Bennett is May 1 and the remaining awards have a deadline of September 1.

We would also like to thank our major sponsors for the event: Innovative Technology Education Fund, Ritenour High School, Maryville University--Center for Access and Achievement, Drury University Pre-College Programs, Springfield PAGE Parent Group, Toth and Associates, the St. Louis Robotics Association, and Duke TIP.

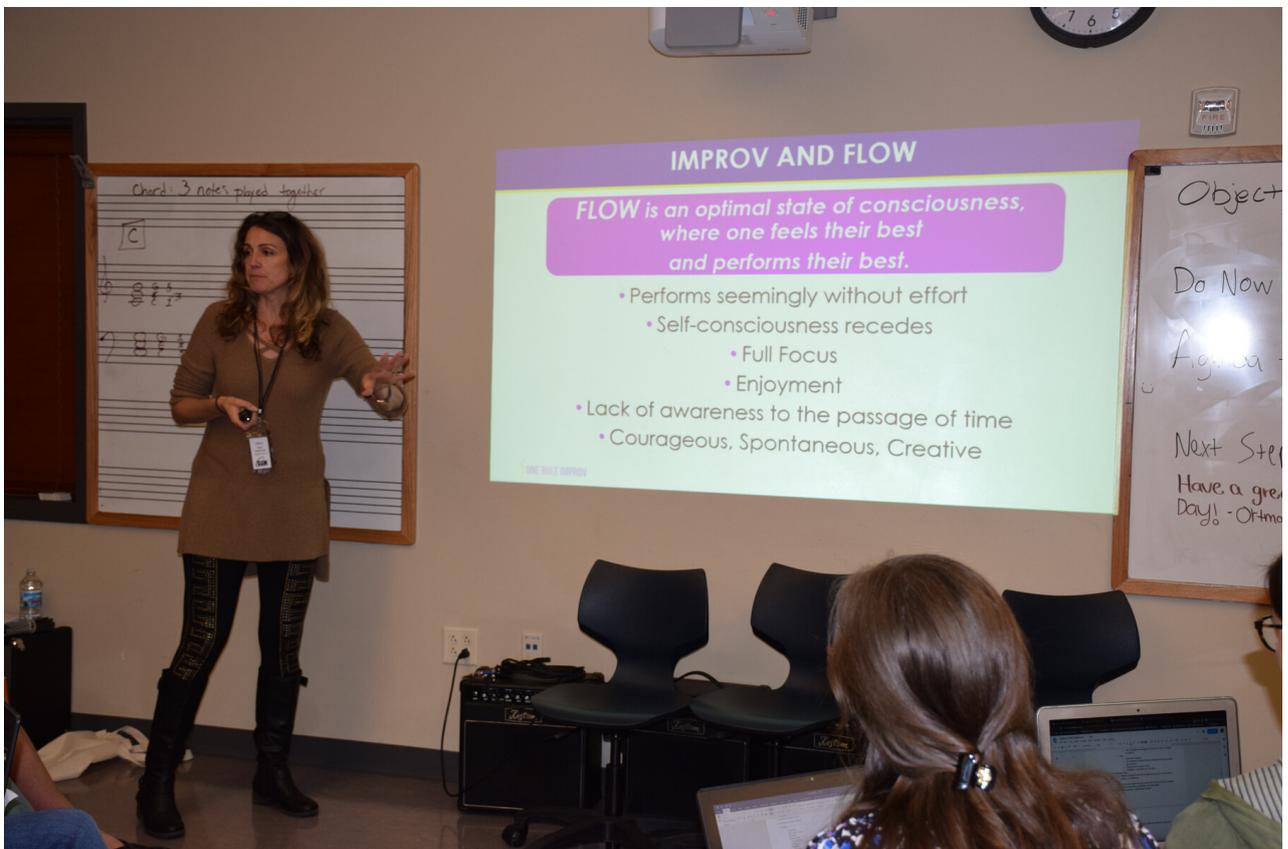
To find out more about applying for a grant through the Innovative Technology Fund, check out their website at <https://innovteched.com/>.



Photos from GAM Conference '19!







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TIP provides educators and parents with research-based resources to help support their gifted students. Our Talent Search helps high-ability students identify strengths, explore interests, and celebrate achievements. In the past year, we distributed over **\$4.1 million** in financial aid so that students from all economic backgrounds could participate in our programs. Visit tip.duke.edu to learn more.

Duke TIP



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Courses may be taken in any order beginning in any semester.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Nancy Gerardy
Gifted Education Program Coordinator
Special Education Department
GerardyN@missouri.edu
573-268-7766

SPRING SEMESTER 2020

- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC_ED 8350)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8405)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

SUMMER SEMESTER 2020

- Research with Exceptional Children (SPC_ED 8350)
- Nature and Needs of Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8380)
- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8391)
- Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs (SPC_ED 8410)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

FALL SEMESTER 2020

- Curriculum Methods for Gifted and Talented Students (SPC_ED 8391)
- Assessment and Evaluation in Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8405)
- Differentiating Instruction: Reaching Gifted, Typical and Struggling Learners (SPC_ED 8406)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

2019 GAM Award Recipients

Vicky Bennett Outstanding Student Scholarship

Aden Cox

Sikeston R-6 School District

The Gifted Association of Missouri acknowledges one student each year to receive the Vicky Bennett Student Scholarship. This \$250 scholarship was designed to recognize student achievement in academics, leadership, and/or the arts. We believe the scholarship like Vicky, inspires children to achieve their fullest potential, while highlighting high-ability students, and drawing attention to the educational needs of our nation's gifted and talented students.

This year's scholarship recipient was Aden Cox from Sikeston. Aden's teacher, Anne Crader wrote, "It's Aden's well-roundedness that sets him apart. Yes, he is involved in school activities and academic teams, but it's his community involvement that demonstrates his maturity. Aden is a deep-thinker and he will make a difference in the world."

Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award

Dawn Tedrick

St. Clair School District

Norine Kerber was a parent of gifted children and instrumental in founding the GAM organization in 1981. Her tireless work is memorialized in the Parent of Gifted Award presented annually at conference.

This year, GAM recognized Dawn Tedrick, St. Clair School District. "Dawn is a huge advocate for gifted education and teaching ALL kids to meet their full potential. In addition to serving as our PTA president, she speaks to teachers, administrators, and board of education members about the importance of gifted education and offers tips for recognizing twice-exceptional students. I'm very thankful for Dawn's constant support and dedication to gifted education and our gifted education program."



Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator Award
Deborah Clary
Springfield Public Schools

Delma Johnson was a teacher of gifted and a founding member of the GAM organization. Her passion for gifted education is memorialized in the Outstanding Educator Award presented each year at conference.

GAM recognized Deborah Clary, Phelps Center for Gifted Education, Springfield Public Schools. "Mrs. Clary is always looking for ways to make meaningful connections with her student she takes the time to form person-centered relationships with her students. Once a child is in Mrs. Clary's class, they are her student for life."

Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers of Gifted
Sponsored by Drury University Pre-College Programs
Deborah Dorman
North Kansas City Schools

In 1999, GAM created the New Teacher Scholarship to promote the certification of teachers in the field of gifted education. In 2007, the GAM Board voted to rename the scholarship after the Gifted Educator and Advocate, Bob Roach. In 2010, the gifted community lost this life-long educator and friend. In his memory, the Gifted Association of Missouri continues to award the Bob Roach Scholarship each year to a teacher new to the field of gifted education.

This year, the Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers of Gifted was awarded to Deborah Dorman, Northland Innovation Center, North Kansas City Schools. "Deborah treats each one of her students with great dignity and respect. She is dedicated and compassionate. Deborah's ability to listen responsively to students and staff has contributed to the respect she is granted by those who work with her. It is an honor to work with her."

Congratulations to all of our 2019 Awards and Scholarship recipients! Please remember to apply and/or nominate candidates for the 2020 GAM Awards and Scholarships. Information can always be found on our website: www.mogam.org.



Dawn Tedrick

Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award Recipient

To the board of GAM...

I was reflecting today on the GAM conference and all the incredible information shared there. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience this weekend and in retrospect wish I had taken a moment to say thank you to the organization and teachers for all the work you do for our kids. I was so honored to be named as the recipient of the Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award. When I received the letter with the news I was deeply touched (and surprised) to have been nominated, and then selected to be the beneficiary of the award. So, thank you!

I also feel the need to share those thanks to my sons Cameron and Kyle without whom I would not have found the voice to fight for and support gifted programming. Their unique needs have prompted my involvement and participation. Their struggles and successes have, in reality, been a gift to me. I also want to take a minute to shine the spotlight back on you. Without GAM and all the amazing teachers we have in our gifted classrooms, our kids would not have the many non traditional and enriching opportunities they have.

GAM plays a monumentally important role in promoting and securing funding and legislation for gifted programming, without which, this award would not exist. But we can't overlook the many dedicated teachers who work with our kids every day. Constantly finding unique and challenging opportunities to keep them engaged and passionate about learning... Encouraging them to reach for the stars and explore their potential... Staying late on countless nights, giving up untold personal (and unpaid) time to travel with them on weekends and evenings for competitive experiences, and tolerating all their quirks and idiosyncrasies with love and compassion.

It is easy to be a supportive parent. I have a vested interest and a great desire to see my kids grow, be challenged, and find success. It is those of you who are making personal sacrifices for the collective gifted community that deserve the thanks. It is the very least I can do to support that journey in any way I can, which really has not been a burden for me. I have enjoyed (almost) every minute of the many experiences I have gotten to share with Mrs Hawkins and the kids in our district's program. (Even unloading all those competition props from the bus at midnight...) My efforts and time spent supporting from the wings is intended to demonstrate my gratitude for all that you do to benefit my children. I was humbled and deeply touched to receive the award. My thanks and gratitude to GAM, to our Gifted teachers and to everyone who fights for the futures of these kids.

Sincerely,
Dawn Tedrick



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Springfield Student Advocates for the Homeless

Carter Meints, a 7th grade student in the Springfield Scholars Program, was recently interviewed on KOLR 10's Ozarks Tonight program for his work advocating for the homeless. "I don't like injustice and inequality," Carter stated, "for example, if somebody is brave enough to serve our country in the military, then I don't think it's right that they would have to sleep on the street, or in a shelter, and have no place to call home."

Carter has been involved in fundraising and advocacy efforts for this issue for over four years and received an award last year for his accomplishments.

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Gifted Educator wins Teacher of the Year

Amy Kruger, teacher of the gifted at Maplewood Richmond Heights School District, won the Middle School Teacher of the Year Award this past September. Amy's principal described her as being continuously focused on both students' academics and their socioemotional well being and praised her for reaching out to students and creating an "instant sense of belonging."



SAVE THE DATE

April 4th, 2020

9:00:11:30 A.M.

Gifted Pathways Institute: Create, Innovate & Advocate

A Gifted Family Day, sponsored by GAM & PAGS
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Parents of
Academically
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Submitting an Article

Want to share an interesting lesson or activity? Have good news to pass along? Interested in telling us about your students' successes or what's happening with gifted education in your part of the state?

Please contact Alex Pagnani at pagnani@ucmo.edu about writing a short article for the next issue of The GAMbit!

