

The GAMbit

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Gifted Association of Missouri

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Ms. Christine Nobbe joins MO-DESE as Director of Gifted Education

The past few months have seen several positive developments for gifted education on a statewide level, including the passage of HB 112 and continued funding for the Missouri Academies.

Another exciting event was Ms. Christine Nobbe's hiring as the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Director of Gifted Education. Ms. Nobbe draws upon prior experiences as an award-winning gifted educator, a STEAM teacher, an advocate for space exploration, and an adjunct professor. Her official bio can be found on the following page.

Christine Nobbe

Director of Gifted Education

STEAM Educator

NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador



Ms. Christine Nobbe, EdS
Missouri Department of
Elementary and Secondary
Education

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Twitter: @NobbeChristine

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

-Alan Kay, Computer Scientist

Bio

Christine Nobbe is a dedicated master educator: a gifted education specialist, STEAM educator, and adjunct professor. Christine's passion area is space exploration, especially the dream of living and working on the Moon.

Christine began her career in education as a Learning Disabilities Specialist in Hallsville, then as an Educational Resource Teacher in Columbia. She transitioned to gifted education in Columbia and helped create the Center for Gifted Education and the twice exceptional gifted program. A move to St. Louis landed her in Brentwood as the gifted education specialist. For many years, Christine taught in Rockwood School District's gifted program. At the Center for Creative Learning she racked up many adventures and experiences. Christine focused on space exploration, robotics, and enrichment math topics (binary numbers, for example), becoming a STEAM teacher before it trended.

She retired from full-time teaching in 2013 to focus more on space exploration and has enjoyed doing public outreach. In the past five

years, Christine has spoken to almost 10,000 students about the wonders of the Universe and has hosted events at the St. Louis Science Center, St. Louis County Libraries, Archon, and Venture Cafe'. These experiences led her to be selected as a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador, a volunteer position. She also worked part-time at Grand Center Arts Academy, a public charter school, as the gifted education specialist. Christine continues to be an adjunct professor at Webster University.

Christine has always been active in professional and non-profit organizations: GAM, NAGC, Project MEGSSS, NSS, and AAUW are a few. The common thread among these organizations is advocating for the "underdog" - gifted learners, enrichment math education, human space exploration, and equity for women and girls. Through this advocacy, Christine developed leadership, planning, and collaboration skills.

Over the years she's won several outstanding educator awards, most recently the Challenger Learning Center Inspiring Teacher Award. In 2012 she won the Gifted Association of Missouri Outstanding Educator Award.

The opportunity to come to MO-DESE as the Director of Gifted Education catapulted Christine into a new adventure. She looks forward to assisting school districts to develop, implement, and grow programs for the gifted. Christine is excited to meet with interested groups and individuals to develop strategies to meet the needs of gifted learners. She anticipates many opportunities to visit school districts to provide knowledge and resources; she can throw in an "out-of-this-world" talk on space exploration to boot! Christine hopes to collaborate with all to invent the future of gifted education in Missouri.

Letter From the President

Peggy Pennington



What an honor it is to represent the Gifted Association as President. For the past 14 years I have been volunteering my time for this organization in different capacities alongside a great group of teachers, administrators, and parents. Why do we all give time to this organization? It is because we know that the education of our gifted students is important. We became members and we volunteer our time to assist teachers of gifted students in having innovative lesson ideas, ensure that legislation supports our state's gifted students, and network to become a support system for each other.

If you are a teacher of gifted or you have a gifted child in your life, I would love to have you as a member of GAM. We more members we have...the more voices we have...the more we can affect positive change for gifted students. Whether parent, teacher, or administrator, you are welcome to our organization. You can join with the link on our website--www.mogam.org. This is also a place to find out more about what events are happening all over the state. Check it out often!

Our recent GAM Day at the Capitol was a great success. It was wonderful to see the Missouri capitol rotunda filled with individuals there to support gifted education. One current piece of legislation, House Bill 112 (Chrissy Sommer), which would require school districts with over 300 students to have a gifted program (but also makes it easier to have state approved gifted programs in those small school districts) has overwhelmingly passed the house and now goes to the Senate. Your calls to your representatives that helped this bill be successful to this point Please be watching your email for Action Alerts for updates on movement of this bill.

Funding for the Missouri Scholars Academy is another legislative issue that we support. The Missouri Scholars Academy is a three-week, residential academic program for 330 gifted Missouri students. It is our goal to have the Scholars Academy be fully funded so that not only can the Academy be held, but also so students of all economic means can attend. The legislature is responsible for setting and approving a budget which the governor then either adopts or edits. This is another way that following the Action Alerts and using your voice to contact your legislator can support gifted students.

Check out the rest of the GAMbit to learn more about what is happening at the Conference on Gifted Education in October and the New Teacher Workshop in July. The committee is excited planning for both events. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

July 22 - 23	New Teacher Workshop at Drury U.
July 23	Board Meeting
Sept. 1	Deadline for GAM Award Nominations
Sept. 14	Board Meeting
Oct. 11 - 12	GAM Conference on Gifted Education
Nov. 7 - 10	NAGC Conference (Albuquerque, NM)

GAM Publication Updated and Available

The handbook *Understanding and Challenging the Gifted and Talented* has been updated, printed, and is now available for purchase. The booklet is a quick 27-page guide to gifted issues ranging from characteristics to program options to summer learning opportunities. It is a great resource to share with parents, administrators, and anyone that is involved with gifted students. The books sell for \$2 each with shipping extra.

Contact Sue Peters to get yours today.

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Legislative Update

Kyna Iman, GAM Legislative Advocate

LEGISLATION: By a vote of 138 to five, the House of Representatives voted to approve House Bill 112, sponsored by Rep. Chrissy Sommer (R-St. Charles)!!

This bill requires school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of 350 or fewer students are not required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, but any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services.

PLEASE THANK YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND THANK HIM/HER FOR VOTING FOR HB112.

Next step is the Senate. Please make sure your State Senator is also in support of HB112!

BUDGET: The Senate Appropriations Committee went with the Governor's recommendation of \$125,000 for the Missouri Scholars and Missouri Fine Arts Academies' funding. This is less than what the House had recommended at \$275,000. The item will have to go to Conference to be worked out.

NEW TEACHER WORKSHOP

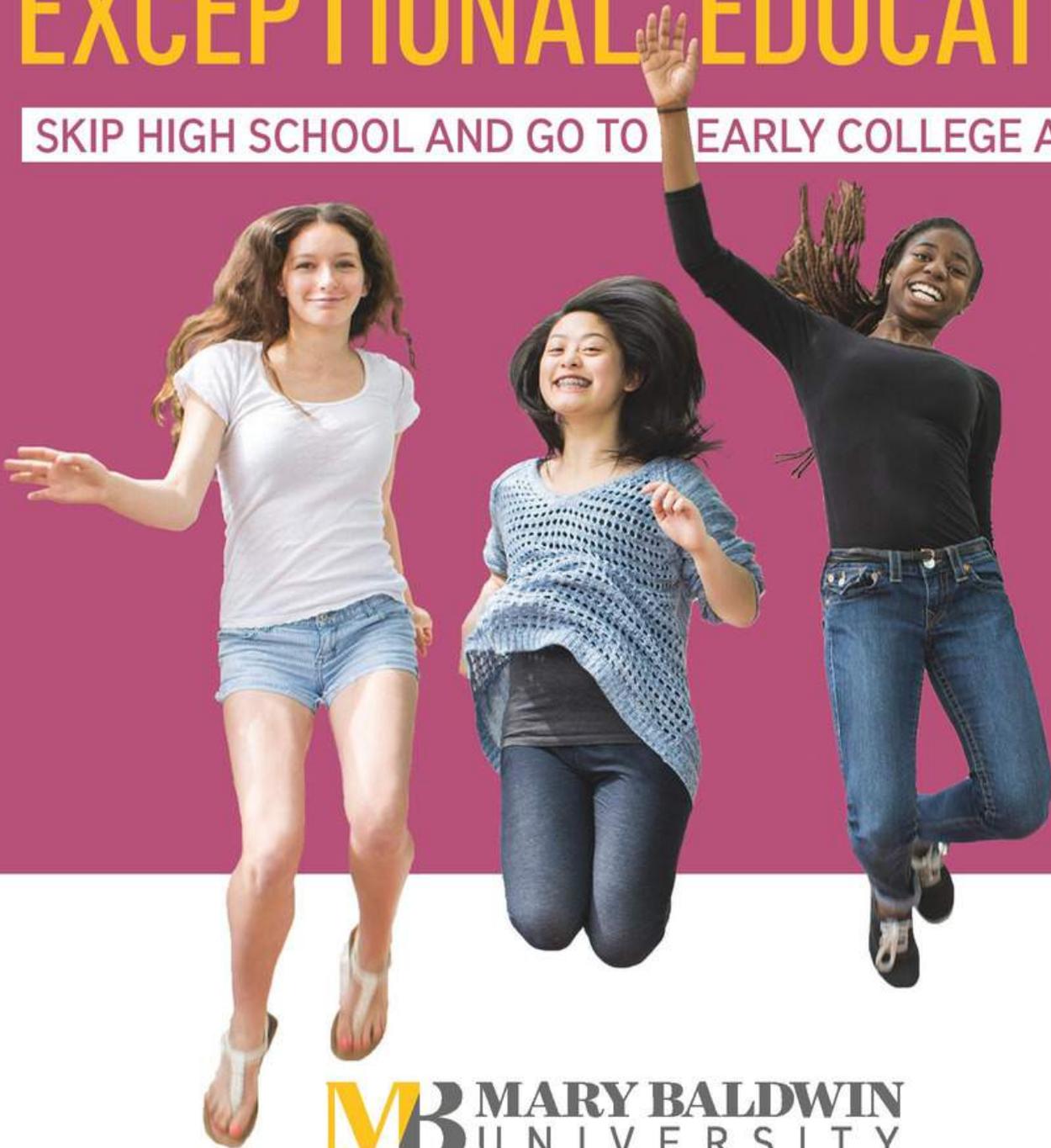
THE WORKSHOP IS FOCUSED ON TEACHERS GETTING READY TO START THEIR FIRST YEAR OR END THEIR FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING GIFTED CLASSES.

JULY 22-23, 2019
DRURY UNIVERSITY

CHECK OUT THE NEW TEACHER WORKSHOP PAGE UNDER THE EVENTS TAB FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Parent of a Gifted Child?

Visit mogam.org/parents.html for special resources, links, and a point-by-point guide to setting up a gifted education parent group at your child's school.



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at Northwestern University is dedicated to helping gifted students reach full potential. CTD's pathways approach leads students on a journey of intellectual, emotional and social growth.

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Vanderbilt University

Dr. Thomas Hébert
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Mr. Brian Stack
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Mary Potthoff, Director
Center for Gifted Education
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mpotthof@drury.edu

A Spotlight on Diverse Learners: Our 2E's

by Megan Pinney: District 7 Director

On April 12, GAM District 7 and Kansas Gifted, Talented, and Creative Region 6 met for a day filled with learning and networking at Cottey College in Nevada, MO. We were lucky enough to hear two excellent keynote speakers from District 7. Dr. Becky Penn, associate dean of Cottey College, welcomed our group of 25 to their facilities. Many education students from Cottey attended our sessions as well.

Peggy Pennington led our morning as the first keynote speaker of the day in a presentation called Special Populations and Gifted: Using Expert Words to Help Our Classrooms. Together, we read articles from experts in the field of twice exceptional students. In groups, we had the opportunity to discuss said articles and discuss ways in which we could bring concrete strategies back to the classroom to implement with our diverse learners.

Dr. Brandi Klepper of A Place To Learn, Inc. led our afternoon session regarding our LGBTQ+ populations. Her presentation Let Gifted Be Themselves; Questions? gave attendees the chance to explore another aspect of diversity in our classrooms. Her expertise allowed for great growth in understanding of these student populations and answered many questions about handling the often sensitive issues which arise in the classroom, school, and society.

We were also thrilled to have Connie Phelps of KGTC Region 6 present Creating Supportive Environments for Diverse Gifted Learners. In this session, Ms. Phelps led our attendees in excellent learning about how our classrooms can better facilitate the variety of needs which our diverse learners require. Pieces of Learning company also joined us as a vendor.

Our mini conference was a great success. We would love to have greater attendance next year so that we can build a greater professional network of colleagues. I would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to Brad Johnson of KGTC for helping to plan the conference and to Peggy Pennington, Brandi Klepper, and Connie Phelps for taking time to present at our conference. Finally, I would like to thank Jann Weitzel and Becky Penn of Cottey College for taking us in and providing us with an excellent facility for our conference!

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ED 550G – Introduction to Gifted and Talented (May 28–June 28, 2019)

ED 650G – Identification of Gifted (July 1–August 2, 2019)

ED 651G – Curriculum for Gifted (August 19–December 13, 2019)

ED 652G – Meeting Affective Needs of Gifted Children (May 28–June 28, 2019)

ED 653G – Programming, Planning, and Development: Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs (July 1–August 2, 2019)

Most of these courses are scheduled during the summer months for your convenience.

In addition to these courses, DESE requires “Psychology of the Exceptional Child” for gifted certification, as well as a research course, and an internship. Most teachers completed the Psychology course and a research course during their initial teaching certification, which typically meets these requirements. Truman also offers these courses if you need them. You can complete your internship through Truman at multiple points during the year.

Cost Courses are offered to Missouri K-12 teachers at a special rate of \$210 per credit hour.* That's a savings of \$420 over the normal Graduate rate!

*Online courses charge an additional \$30 fee to support technology costs.

For More Information

PHONE: 660-785-5384

EMAIL: institute@truman.edu

WEB: pd.truman.edu/gifted

Advocate for your Gifted Program

by Ginger Beard, GAM Board Secretary

GAM has been working tirelessly to get legislation passed that would require Missouri schools to serve ALL students, specifically those identified as gifted. State approved gifted programs are falling by the wayside every year and the number of programs keeps decreasing. Many times this is due to school budget issues. This is especially true with the small rural schools across Missouri. That is partially what happened at my school. I really thought it would never happen in my school, mainly because we had maintained a program for more than 20 years and we always had more than the usual 5% population identified, even though we were a small rural school. Also, most of the school board members had kids or grandkids in the program. I taught our gifted K-12 program “half” time and taught ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) the other “half.” We had just built a new addition for our preschool program (two classrooms) and the administrator really wanted to be able to utilize that room and serve more preschoolers. Our superintendent convinced the board that having a full time ECSE teacher would bring in more dollars to cover my salary and we would be serving more preschool students. That meant my 42 identified gifted students would lose their program (at a penalty of \$20,000 to the school for one year) and we would serve about 9 students instead. That didn’t really make any sense to me or my gifted students and their parents. The administration ended up letting us have a Gifted Club after school and paying me a stipend to cover that activity. It is in no way the same as a state approved gifted program with gifted curriculum.

Gifted students should not be left out of our schools when we need to be serving ALL students! This will only stop happening when the state of Missouri puts money into these programs like they used to several years ago. When the money stopped supporting our best and brightest, the state stopped serving the best and brightest! My advice for everyone who has a program is this: 1. Make sure you have a parent network and parent support. I did not have a good system for contacting and informing my parents. 2. Make sure to highlight or showcase activities, products, artwork, research projects to your administrators, fellow teachers, parents and school board members. I gave a report to our board annually, but they never had questions. I put work in the hall and bragged on my students, but probably not nearly enough! 3. Support GAM by contacting your state legislators and representatives about the importance of serving these students.

Searching for ways to support academically talented students?



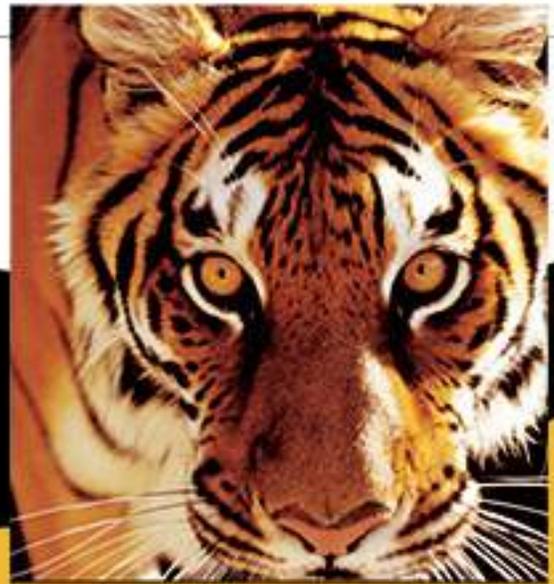
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For more information, contact:

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

SUMMER SEMESTER 2019

- 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 Education Programs (SPC_ED 8410)
- Practicum: Gifted Education (SPC_ED 8946)

FALL SEMESTER 2019

- 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)

"The Play's the Thing!"

by Gina Wyckoff, Phelps Center for Gifted Education

"The Play's the Thing!" shouts Thursday's cast of Troubles with the Tide in Harrowing Waves as they take the stage in front of an assembly at Phelps Center for Gifted Education. "Places!" "Thank you, Places!" This cast of 20 third, fourth and fifth grade WINGS students started with 20 different fifteen minute original concepts, ideas for characters and the ensembles they would form, and 20 original beginnings, middles and endings. Less than 48 hours of instruction later these students formed ensembles, wrote a 5 Act script with each ensemble developing a plot line, workshopped it, rehearsed it, and produced it live for an authentic audience. It even placed 2nd in LAD Fair. To add to this, so did 54 other students on three other WINGS days: Monday's Summer at Camp Enchanted (LAD Fair 3rd Place), Tuesday's Before Today in Wintersville, Wednesday's School of Conflicts: What a Year! Just goes to show what a little imagination and the exuberant energy of gifted students can do together.





Check out the Awards and Scholarships page at mogam.org for full details and application information regarding the following:

The Dede Smith Friend of Gifted Award - To recognize legislators, elected officials, administrators, counselors, regular classroom teachers, those in media, business persons, and mentors for outstanding contributions to gifted education.

The Delma Johnson Outstanding Educator of Gifted Award - To recognize teachers, coordinators, and college professors directly involved with gifted students or teachers of the gifted.

The Norine Kerber Parent of Gifted Award - To recognize parents, step-parents, and guardians of a gifted child for outstanding contributions to gifted education.

The Bob Roach Scholarship for New Teachers, Sponsored by Drury University - To promote the certification of new teachers in the field of gifted education.

Five Teams Score in the Top 10% of the Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Science Competition!

by Erin Nash, Northland Innovation Center

Relevancy in education is important. Ensuring our students engage in meaningful work is a key experience in student learning. Project Based Learning involves integrating real world challenges, scenarios and problems into any curricular area. Through the integration of project-based learning, our students have the opportunity to engage in educational experiences that are deep and long-lasting.

This year in my classroom, I had the opportunity to engage my students in process that was both relevant and meaningful. In addition, my students employed creativity and innovation in a way that was authentic and purposeful. I was able to achieve all of these goals with my students through the Exploravision competition. The ExploraVision program is the largest K-12 science competition designed to build problem-solving, critical thinking and collaboration skills that are central to the Next Generation Science Standards.

How often do you think about the future? Not just your future, but the future of the world around you? Try to imagine what the world will look like in twenty years, and in particular, focus on problems you wish were solved. As you try to imagine this, think of all the higher order thinking skills you are using:

- Envisioning
- Predicting
- Forecasting
- Analyzing
- Synthesizing
- Creating

As we continue to move forward in the world of gifted education, these are the exact type of skills we wish to foster in our students. We want them to be able to effectively collaborate with others, while being comfortable in a state of unknowing, all the while utilizing higher order thinking skills to come up with meaningful solutions to solve the problems of the world. As educators, we want our students to use their learning in situations beyond the classroom to make the world a better place. They may apply (cont.)

these problem-solving skills in future academic endeavors, their jobs, or just in an effort to try to improve the world around them. The Exploravision experience provides a valuable structure to help us, as teachers, accomplish these types of dreams and goals for our students.

This was challenging work. Students had to learn to collaborate effectively and resolve conflicts to move forward as a team. They were often in a state of uncertainty because they were striving to predict something meaningful and envision a new idea. However, they thrived within these various tasks. Because student teams were built upon problems individuals wanted to solve, each student had a personal connection to the topic. One of my students asked me if we could try to get their ideas patented. Another student begged me to make sure we compete in this experience next year! Throughout this process, they demonstrated innovative and creative thinking, all the while exploring the world of science and technology and its impact on the future.

Is this project a time commitment? Yes. Is it initially difficult for teams to develop feasible meaningful ideas? Yes. However, these difficulties were worth the growth I observed in my students throughout the process. Try it – it is worth it!

Our students also had a great deal of success with the program this year. This year 22 teams of 4th and 5th graders from the Northland Innovation Center participated in the 2018-2019 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision science competition. The teams were led by SAGE teachers Erin Nash and Julie Goldsberry. The ExploraVision competition challenges students to do real world problem solving as they brainstorm ideas, research current science and technology, and envision and communicate a new technology 20 years in the future. This work engages students to think critically and collaborate, skills that are central to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Congratulations!!!

**Toshiba/NSTA
ExploraVision**

**HONORABLE
MENTION
Awards**

Top 10%

Bionics and Beyond



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Sydney Tittor
Arianna Yi

Wicked Rock Wall



Madison Skinrod
Rahand Abdulla
Lydia Mendenhall
Owen McKenna

BioBright



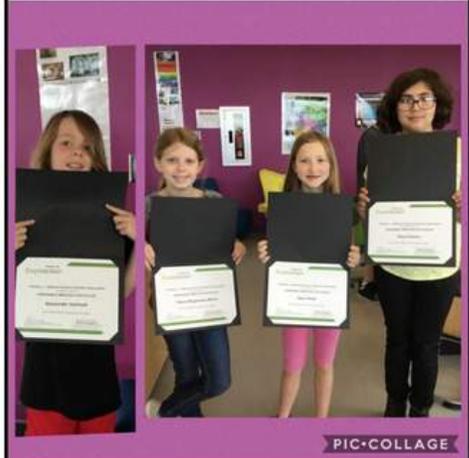
Emily Horwitz, Charlotte
Johnson, Esther Taylor

The EEC



Nate Johnson, Ian Williams

D. Polymorpha Eliminator



Zaina Hanon, Alexander
Hartnett, Neve Nash, Tatum
McGinness Wood-

Editor's Note: Introductions!

Hello,

My name is Alex Pagnani and I hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of The GAMbit. It's an exciting time with many positive things happening in gifted education in Missouri these days, and I'm pleased to say that I'll have the chance to bring you that good news by editing future issues of The GAMbit. I'll need your help too of course - anytime you have an article idea, want to report on a recent event, or would like to advertise, please email me at pagnani@ucmo.edu.

To introduce myself a bit, I'm an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Central Missouri and my doctoral focus was gifted and creative education. My major research interests are early college entrance programs and the reading habits of gifted boys. My family and I live in Lees Summit and have been here in Missouri now for eight years. I'm originally from New Jersey and my wife is from Costa Rica, but we actually first met in a gifted education course in Georgia.

Enjoy the start of your summers and I look forward to getting to know you all better!

-Alex Pagnani, Ph.D. (pagnani@ucmo.edu)

Submit an Article to The GAMbit

The GAMbit is the official publication of the Gifted Association of Missouri.

Have something exciting to share about your gifted program? Submit an article to The GAMbit. Use the contact us link to start the article submission.

Advertising opportunities are also available.



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GIFTED EDUCATION

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