

# Education department recognizes Teachers of Promise

By Tessa Castor  
Staff reporter

The education field has been studied at Southwestern College since the school's founding in 1885. Since then, our education department has awarded countless bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to its graduates. Southwestern is one of 23 Kansas institutions to offer teacher preparation programs and award the Kansas State Department of Education-sponsored Teachers of Promise honor.

During this last semester of students' education degrees, when they are doing their student teaching, the faculty of the department select two outstanding students to honor as Teachers of Promise. This semester, James Boyd, elementary education senior, and Catabrean Bauman, elementary education senior, received the award.

In February, Bauman will attend a two-day Kansas Exemplary Educators Network conference in Topeka. Boyd said he would like to go to the conference, but he and his wife are expecting their second child in February, so he is not sure if he will be able to attend. Recipients of the Kansas Teacher of the Year award, Milken Educator Award, Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, Horizon Award, and National Board Certification will also be attending this event.

Once at the conference, recipients of the Teachers of Promise award will learn about the education policy and be recognized with a framed certificate at an awards celebration.

"This award is a result of qualities shown throughout the [recipients'] education program," said Diane Nickelson, assistant professor of teacher

education. "It's a wonderful recognition they can put on their resumes. It allows them to use that as a marketing tool when they get ready to go into the education field."

Boyd, a recipient of the Teachers of Promise Award, is in Southwestern's Professional Studies program. He is currently student teaching in North Carolina's Scurlock Elementary.

For as long as he can remember, Boyd has wanted to be a teacher. Inspired by two of his elementary school teachers, Boyd began his college experience more than 20 years ago, but found out quickly he wasn't ready for school. Boyd enlisted in the military, where he served for 20 years. Upon his retirement, he returned to school at Southwestern and continued his journey to becoming an educator. After graduation, Boyd plans on continuing his career at Scurlock.

Nickelson said, "James gives 100 percent to his work, his colleagues and his professors. He shows passionate commitment to being the best teacher he can be."

Boyd said he appreciates receiving this award as an accolade to all of the hard work he has completed. He credits

his Southwestern instructors for this success, as they always made sure he understood course content.

"The elementary education instructors go above and beyond to make sure we're prepared teachers," said Boyd.

Bauman, the second recipient of the Teachers of Promise Award, is student teaching at Irving Elementary School in Winfield this semester. She decided to become a teacher around her fourth and fifth grade years, though she says being the oldest of four kids and playing school with her siblings contributed to her passion for education.

Bauman chose Southwestern because of its personable professors and small class sizes. She was also drawn by the program's hands-on experience prior to graduation.

"The best part of Southwestern's education program is the experience in the classroom," said Bauman. "We get to learn hands-on in the classroom, and that's irreplaceable."

Bauman said she has been inspired by Nickelson's relationship-based form of teaching, as well as the ideas and techniques taught by Sheryl Erickson, associate professor of education. She is not sure where she will be teaching after graduation, though she knows she would like to teach in a kindergarten, first or second grade classroom.

"I was excited to receive this award because I know the people who have won in the past are successful in their field now," said Bauman. "It gives me confidence that my professors see me as an educator, and it makes me excited to get in

the classroom this fall."

Nickelson said, "Catabrean has been a leader on campus and in other places besides our program. She is always striving to become the best teacher she can be. If I could see her 10 years down the road, I know she's going to be a teacher leader wherever she ends up."

Nickelson said those who receive the Teachers of Promise award show commitment, perseverance and continual growth. She said, "James and Catabrean are very humble. I think both of them appreciate this affirmation. It's all a desire to make a difference for kids."

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TOP LEFT: James Boyd, elementary education senior, student teaches at North Carolina's Scurlock Elementary School. Boyd received one of the Teachers of Promise awards from the college.

TOP RIGHT: Catabrean Bauman, elementary education senior, shows her students how to count using an abacus. Bauman decided she wanted to become teacher in her fourth and fifth grades years of elementary school.

BOTTOM LEFT: Catabrean Bauman, elementary education senior, is student teaching at Irving Elementary School in Winfield. She received the Teachers of Promise award in tandem with Boyd.

BOTTOM RIGHT: James Boyd, elementary education senior, reads a vibrant story to an audience of expectant children. Boyd enlisted in the military, where he served for 20 years before becoming a teacher.

Tessa Castor/Staff photographer