

#BearsTeach Summer Camp  
June 14-18

Missouri State University College of Education received a \$40,000 Teacher Recruitment Grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MO DESE). Funds were used to bring students from across Missouri to the MSU Springfield campus to explore the teaching profession and the programs MSU can offer for teacher preparation. Fifty-one students applied to the program and 223 came to campus on June 14. One student withdrew on June 16.

Students represented the following school districts:

Missouri

- Ash Grove (2)
- Buffalo
- Dexter
- Marshfield
- Nixa
- North Harrison (2)
- Purdy
- Reeds Spring (2)
- Republic
- Springfield Public (Central, Kickapoo)
- Stoutland
- Wentzville
- Willard

Arkansas

- Marshfield
- Texarkana (4)

Students completed a survey at the end of the event (results attached). One student did not complete the survey. The following workshops/presentations were especially well-received.

**Workshops/Presentations**

All survey respondents indicated that the sessions on Exploring the Teaching Profession was valuable. Some students commented they would have liked to attend all the sessions rather than choosing two.

Twenty of the 21 respondents felt the Scholarship Essay Writing Workshop was valuable. In the future, we will incorporate time for the students to search for scholarships so they might put the skills from this workshop to use.

The presentation on Student Success Programs were evaluated as valuable or highly valuable by 20 of the participants.

The sessions on Admissions Process and Paying for College had 19 participants respond the sessions were valuable or highly valuable. These will be offered again in the future.

The Service-Learning session and visit to the technology class were also viewed as valuable.

The session on Internship Academy and Practicum Experiences was moderately valued with 15 students responding that it was valuable to them.

However, only half of the students felt the ACT Boot Camp was valuable. In the future, we will make the Boot Camp an “option” rather than part of the schedule for all students.

### **Social Activities**

It was our intent to help students get to know and enjoy their surroundings on campus as well as the city of Springfield. Of the social activities we provided, the Springfield Cardinals Game was identified as an “Awesome Experience” by 20 of the students. Following close, with 19 responses, were the visits to Foster Recreation Center (on campus) and dinner and shopping at Bass Pro Shop. The other events were identified as either “Fun” or “Awesome Experience”.

### **Mentors/Faculty**

The students had positive comments about the three college mentors (current students in education programs) and the faculty that interacted with them. Some of the notable comments were:

- “They were great. I fell in love with them and I’m sad to leave; however, meeting the college faculty has swayed me to this college. The mentors also gave me a glimpse of the students that go here and I think I will fit at this school perfectly.”
- “It was great, much better than I initially expected. They were all very fun with everything, and engaged in the program with everyone. I’d say the most surprising part about them would be how kind and helpful they were. Extremely good people to be around.”
- “It was great! They were all so kind and respectful. I truly appreciate the effort they put into investing in our lives while we were here.”
- “It was amazing! Everyone was so amazing and kind and went out of their way to make sure everyone was comfortable and happy. 10/10”

### **Impact on Becoming a Teacher**

Students were asked if the #BearsTeach program impacted their decision about becoming a teacher. Nearly all the responses were positive and affirmative or responses indicated their decision was confirmed about attending the event. Some of the responses of note were:

- “It definitely has. It opened my eyes to multiple new directions, and showed me that it’s much easier to become a teacher and do what you love than I anticipated.”
- “Yes it has. It has pushed me further into wanting and thinking about going to MSU and becoming a teacher.”
- “It has. My interest has basically solidified, now I just have to decide what grade to teach.”

- “I think so. I wasn't really sure before I came here, but this has definitely made it my most prominent and exciting option.”
- “It has definitely solidified my decision.”

## **Conclusion**

We believe the #BearsTeach program was successful. We will increase our recruitment efforts for the program for summer 2023. The target goal is 50 high school students next year.