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Education Graduates are True STARRs

1/16/2008

Each year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education picks a select group of teachers throughout Missouri to help other teachers use authentic instruction, performance-based assessment and Missouri's new academic performance standards.

This year, all the teachers selected for the program in the St. Louis region are graduates of Lindenwood University. They are Susan Bergman (MA '05), Sherri Sampson (MA '02) and Laura Grayson (MA '01). St. Louis is one of nine regions in the program.

The program, called STARR (Select Teachers as Regional Resources) was created under provisions of the Outstanding Schools Act. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education launched the program during the spring of 1994.

After teachers are selected for the program, they undergo a series of in-service workshops emphasizing authentic instructional techniques throughout the school year. After each workshop, the teachers return to their home schools to practice the techniques they have learned.

Throughout the year, they meet in statewide or regional groups for feedback, further development of skills and other follow-up activities.

Finally, after a year of preparation, the teachers are housed at nine regional development centers and travel to various schools sites near their base, where they provide in-service workshops for teachers throughout the state throughout the year.

“These three outstanding teachers represent the best and the brightest of the St. Louis region,” said Cynthia Bice, assistant dean of education. “For the Education Division, this is powerful validation about the positive influence that we have had and continue to have in preparing future teachers to be teacher leaders who make a difference. This positive influence is wide-reaching and essential to the future success of our children as productive members of society.”