

The **BEST** program:

Butler/**E**mporia **S**tudents to **T**eachers

A 2+2 Collaboration between Butler
Community College and Emporia State
University

Kenneth A. Weaver

J. Phillip Bennett

Emporia State University

The BEST program provides candidates in the Wichita area the opportunity to earn their Elementary Education degree without coming to the main campus

Started Fall of 2004

Emporia State University (ESU) brought its Professional Development School (PDS) Model to Butler Community College (BCC)

Years 1 and 2: Students complete the Associates degree from Butler Community College (BCC).

BCC and ESU have articulation agreement that specifies which BCC courses transfer as general education requirements to the ESU program

Student applies to ESU's Elementary Education program at end of Year 2

Year 3: Elementary Education faculty travel to BCC to teach courses

Year 4: Internship at a PDS in the El Dorado/Wichita area with supervision during the one-year, full time clinical experience.

Program requires 136 hours.

Classes are offered in a combination of days and afternoons, and weekends with some courses over the Internet.

The PDS requires the entire school day.

Application and Program requirements, financial aid, tuition and fees, and program assessments are the same.

Block 2 Interns take classes and work in the classroom during the first 10 weeks of the semester and then are fully immersed in the classroom for the last 6 weeks

Block 3 Interns are fully immersed in the school every day for 16 weeks.

Interns follow the district's calendar and schedule, not the university's

Each Intern is assigned an elementary teacher called a mentor and also works collaboratively with the other teachers at the site.

All mentor teachers receive training in supervision, conferencing, and feedback

Assessments include videotapes, observations, lesson plans, thematic units, integrated planning, and Teacher Work Sample

Ongoing analysis ensures that intern performance is the same at the Butler and Emporia campuses

Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, recommendation is made to the Kansas Department of Education for licensure as teachers of grades K-6.

Licensure is conditional and a performance assessment must be completed to obtain a professional license.

The BEST program received the AACTE Best Practice Award in 2008 for collaboration with a community college.