

The Center for Mentoring and Induction Director **Lori Bird** and the Mankato Teacher Mentoring Program have won an ***Academic and Student Affairs Award for Innovative Partnering and Collaboration***! This award, given by MnSCU's Office of the Chancellor, recognizes high-level partnerships that make a significant difference. Please join the College of Education in congratulating Lori and the teachers who work with this program!

The Mankato Model:

Minnesota State University and the Mankato Area Public Schools maintain a unique collaborative relationship that benefits both constituencies in many ways. The more than ten-year collaboration has helped area schools to address the shortage of qualified teachers, as well as providing a most effective way to reduce the turnover rate and to increase teachers' longevity in the Mankato district. This collaboration promotes high levels of achievement through its focus on professional teaching standards for all teachers and pre-service teacher candidates.

Minnesota 20/20, a non-partisan think tank, in its publication Growing Gap, Minnesota's Teacher Recruitment and Retention Crisis recognized the Mankato Model for its effective mentoring and induction practices.

Research-based instructional strategies are shared between veteran and novice educators through one on one interactions, classroom observations, informal group dialogue, and structured in service experiences planned and delivered by teacher leaders called TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment).

Some of the practices include professional teaching standards, research-based strategies, classroom observations, informal group dialogue, and structured in service experiences. Mentors are able to earn credits toward a master's degree or additional licensure while assisting pre-service teachers. The Mankato Area Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato partnership represents the fundamental spirit of collaborative work by being flexible, adaptable, and responsive to the needs of teachers and ultimately, to the thousands of students they serve.