

# FIELD EXPERIENCES NEWSLETTER

## April 2025



### MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD EXPERIENCES DIRECTOR

**Jami Kesling**

As we approach the end of the semester, I can't help but feel a sense of pride in what our students, partners, and the BHSU College of Education have accomplished. This semester, we had 152 students out in the field, gaining valuable experience through practicums and internships. Their dedication has led to successful experiences throughout the semester. Our faculty have been diligently preparing our students in the classroom, ensuring they are well-prepared for their field experiences. Another highlight this semester was the BHSU Teacher Fair's notable success with participation from over 60 school districts. Students ranging from pre-student teachers to those nearing graduation took the opportunity to connect with potential employees, with some already securing teaching positions for the upcoming fall. We are excited to continue collaborating with all our partners and school districts. Thank you!

### BHSU Upcoming FALL 2025

#### Student Teachers Data by Major

17	ELEM Education
2	Early Child/SPED
3	Art Education
1	Comp. Social Science
2	English Education
0	History Education
0	Math Education
5	Music Education
6	Physical Education
0	Special Education

#### Graduate Students

1	Spanish
2	MAT/SPED

37 Total Student Teachers



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STATE UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY *Spotlight*

**Title:** Professor of Mathematics Education

**Years of Service:** 28 years

**University Engagement:** Chair of the College of Education Scholarship Committee (current); CAEP Accreditation Writers & Data Analyst (current); President of Faculty Senate (past); Chair of Multicultural Committee (past); Chair of University Promotion & Tenure Committee (past)

**Honors & Awards:** Distinguished Professor at BHSU (2017); College of Education Teaching Award (2013); College of Education Research Award (2018)

**Places Around the World I've Presented/Attended a Conference:**

Russian Academy of Science (Moscow, Russia)  
United Nations World Civic Forum (Seoul, South Korea)  
Global Studies Conference (Singapore)  
Global Studies Conference (Rio de Janeiro)  
Global Studies Conference (Moscow)  
Global Studies Conference (Granada, Spain)  
Global Studies Conference (Krakow, Poland)  
International Conference on Economics (Durban, South Africa)

**Personal Interests:** World Traveler (64 countries), Avid Cyclist (6-time Dakota 5-0 rider), Triathlete (2 times), Lifetime Skier, Dedicated Swimmer, Choir & Theater Performer, Former Rock Climber & Mountaineer



**Dr. John Alsup**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

### Sydney Kjellsen



This semester we are excited to highlight Sydnee Kjellsen as our elementary student teacher intern. She is currently completing her student teaching internship in the first grade at West Elementary School in Spearfish, SD. Sydnee shared that the biggest lesson she has learned preparing to be a future teacher is that teachers must develop relationships with the students before anything else in the classroom. She emphasized that without taking the time to build intentional relationships with your students, behaviors and content will be very hard to manage.

Sydnee opted to attend Black Hills State University's teacher education program because of their willingness to be flexible with her goal to graduate early. She stated, "BHSU felt like the perfect fit for me!". The faculty members who have significantly influenced Sydnee include Dr. Moore, Dr. Haugland, and Dr. LaDuke-Pelster. She noted, "They lead with kindness, compassion, and truly care about their students. The professors at BHSU are so much more than staff; they quickly become mentors and are easy to build life-long relationships with!".

Looking ahead to her post-graduation plans. Sydnee has accepted a teaching position at West Elementary in Spearfish teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Her future looks promising! Congratulations, Sydnee!

### UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR SHOUTOUT!

Black Hills State University is fortunate to have a diverse group of university supervisors collaborating with student interns and clinical educators to provide an exceptional internship experience. These supervisors are specialists in their respective fields, and we count on their guidance to help our students excel during their internship experiences.

Many of our university supervisors are faculty members from the College of Education, while others are adjunct supervisors with extensive backgrounds in various educational disciplines. This network of university supervisors serves as a vital support system for both our students and clinical educators, and our achievements are largely attributed to their expertise and mentorship. A shoutout to this semester's university supervisors.

**Thank you for supporting and mentoring our students!**

Ryan Amys  
Debbie Banek  
David Berberick  
Beth Bury  
Troy Claycomb  
Mary Cooper  
Linda Corey  
Hope Davidson  
Breon Derby  
Sydney Haugland  
Victoria Hogrefe  
David Ireland  
Rudia Kihura  
Cathy McKenzie  
Steve Morford  
Pat Parks  
Lynette Powell  
Nancy Roberts  
Les Schroeder



## Spring 2025 – STATISTICAL REPORT

58	Total Student Teachers in The Field
28	Student Teaching Permits
29	EDFN 295 - Pre-Admission Practicum
4	ED 295 - Reading Pre-Admission Practicum
Fall Only	ECE 328L - Early Childhood Pre-Admission Practicum
13	ECE 495 - Early Childhood Practicum
14	ELED 495 - Elementary Pre-Student Teaching Block
22	SEED 495 - Secondary Pre-Student Teaching
Fall Only	EDFN 595 - Master's Pre-Admission Practicum
Fall Only	ED 695 - Master's Pre-Student Teaching
12	SPED 495 /695 - Sped Pre-Admission Practicum
152	Total Students
176	Total Placements (All Placement Requests Were Accepted)



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Hannah Benson

Hannah Benson is our featured student teacher in the K-12 art education program at BHSU. She has recently accepted the position as the new art teacher at Spearfish Middle School. Currently, she is completing her student teaching at Sturgis Williams Middle School, working with students in grades 5-8. Hannah has learned that flexibility and the ability to adapt expectations for both students and assignments are crucial--particularly in an art classroom. She emphasized the significance of building relationships and investing effort in her students, noting that it can make a substantial difference. Hannah shared, "Even the smallest show of care allows students to see teachers as their ally and then they will show up for you, do better in your class, and encourage other students to do the same. It's truly amazing what a little bit on consistent relationship building can do!"

Hannah chose Black Hills State University because of its strong reputation in education. She spoke with family friends who began their journey at BHSU, taught locally, and then moved to various places, all of whom praised the program highly. Hannah expressed that everyone on campus goes the extra mile for students at BHSU. Additionally, she highlighted the significant impact of BHSU College of Liberal Arts, School of Arts faculty members like Quintin Owens, Desy Schoenewies, and Michael Baum, who provide ample opportunities and actively work to foster connections that help students thrive. They have encouraged her to expand her creative concepts, and each professor has supported her in academic, professional, and personal growth, ensuring her overall success. Congratulations, Hannah!





# ALUMNI

## Spotlight



**Major:** Elementary Education

**Current Position:** 4th-grade teacher in Spearfish School District (SSD)

**Community Engagement:** Science Committee at SSD; South Dakota Mentor Program

**Favorite Memory:** Writing Methods Block - learning storytelling through song & my group did "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus

**Most Influential Faculty:** Dr. Sydney Haugland & Dr. John Alsup



**Q:** What did you love most about the BHSU education program?

**A:** SO many opportunities to get into the classroom and really gain those hands-on experiences

**Q:** What advice would you give to current students in your field of study?

**A:** DO IT! The world needs passionate and caring educators.



## MOLLY AMANN

2024 GRADUATE



### QUARTERLY HAPPENINGS

Field Governance Meeting - Spring & Fall Semester  
BHSU Teacher Fair – Spring Semester  
University Supervisor Trainings – Spring & Fall Semester  
Teacher Workshops – Summer Semester  
Graduation - Commencement Dates – Spring & Fall

April 23, 2025, at 4 – 5 PM - BHSU  
Spring 2026  
January & August  
June 16 – 18, 2025  
May 10, 2025 & Dec 13, 2025

### NEWS UPDATE

Starting fall 2025, the BHSU College of Education will no longer utilize the PPAT assessment model for student teachers, which has been retired by ETS. A new assessment will be introduced to evaluate our teacher candidates during their student teaching experiences. We will provide further updates as these changes are finalized.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Dan Olson for his collaboration, dedication, and leadership. Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for your years of service and commitment to students, teachers, and the community! Congratulations to Mr. Brady Sumners on being named the new principal at Creekside Elementary School of Spearfish School District. We look forward to working alongside you.

**BHSU**

College of Education

# BHSU

## Alumni Social

After the TIE Conference,  
meet up with friends and faculty from BHSU.  
Come BUZZ with us!

**HAY CAMP BREWERY**

**APRIL 28, 2025**

**4:00PM**

**TIE25**  
**CONFERENCE**

# THE KID WHISPERER



JUNE 16-18, 2025

BLACK HILLS STATE  
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## ABOUT

The Spearfish School District, in partnership with the College of Education at Black Hills State University, is proud to announce a special summer training opportunity for current educators and university students enrolled in an education program. This 3 day training on Behavioral Leadership will be held June 16-18 on the campus of Black Hills State University. If you're ready to completely transform how you manage behaviors in your classroom, plan to attend this powerful training.

## REGISTRATION

- Practicing Educators \$150
- University Students \$75

The training will be offered for 2 college credits \$45/credit (undergraduate or graduate). If you are interested in earning undergraduate or graduate credit, please contact:

- Dr. Faye LaDuke-Pelster  
Faye.LaDuke@BHSU.edu  
605.642.6627

## CONTACT

For more information about this training, please contact:

- Lana Main  
Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Spearfish School District  
lmain@spearfish.k12.sd.us  
605.717.1201
- Don Lyon  
Middle School Principal  
Spearfish School District  
dlyon@spearfish.k12.sd.us  
605.717.1215



Scan QR Code to register.

## TESTIMONIES

"I am looking forward to implementing the strategies we learned this summer at our three day workshop with Scott Ervin. I plan to practice control sharing techniques while teaching positive behaviors. I think it is going to help my classroom run like a well oiled machine while still being a fun environment."

- Bailee Freemont, West Elementary

"Attending the Kid Whisperer Conference was an incredibly enriching experience for me as a teacher. The conference was filled with practical strategies that I could immediately apply in my classroom. From learning new techniques for managing classroom behaviors to discovering innovative ways to engage my students, every part of the conference was valuable. I feel more connected to my students and better prepared to create a positive and nurturing environment."

- Kayla Ravert, Mountain View Elementary

"I left the Kid Whisperer conference feeling confident moving into the next school year using some of the tools and strategies presented. A lot of the strategies are very simple, yet very effective. For example, in my middle school Spanish classroom, I will be implementing a strategy called DLO's (delayed learning opportunities). When a student has a behavior that is not appropriate for the learning environment, I can delay the learning opportunity for the student and "teach" them how to appropriately behave during another time in the school day."

-Alexis Quail, Spearfish Middle School



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## *Pursue a Master's Degree*

Fully  
Online



Are you seeking to enhance your expertise or abilities to progress in your career?

Whether you have an educational degree or not, Black Hills State University has a program that will fit your schedule.

### Master of Science in Secondary Education (Project Second)

- Must have undergraduate degree in a non-teaching subject.
- Leads to initial certification in 5-12 secondary in content field.
- Complete in 1 year.
- 35 credits
- Contact Ryan Amys  
[Ryan.Amys@bhsu.edu](mailto:Ryan.Amys@bhsu.edu)  
605-642-6196

### Master of Education in Reading (M.ED)

- Must have an undergraduate degree in Education.
- Prepares teacher literacy leaders.
- Can be completed in 2 years.
- 35 credits
- Contact Faye LaDuke Pelster  
[Faye.LaDuke@bhsu.edu](mailto:Faye.LaDuke@bhsu.edu)  
605-642-6627



**Discover your potential!**

### Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education (MAT-SPED)

- Must have undergraduate degree in a non-teaching subject.
- Leads to initial certification in K-12 special education
- Can be completed in 2 years.
- 47 credits
- Contact Mary Anne Fleury  
[Mary.Fleury@bhsu.edu](mailto:Mary.Fleury@bhsu.edu)  
605-642-6329

### Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction K-12 (MSCI)

- Must have undergraduate degree in a teaching subject.
- Allows teachers to pursue individual areas of interest including but not limited to math, early childhood education, special education, literacy, or science.
- Can be completed in 2 years.
- 33 credits
- Contact Jarrett Moore  
[Jarrett.D.Moore@bhsu.edu](mailto:Jarrett.D.Moore@bhsu.edu)  
605-642-6551

Let BHSU help provide you with the tools necessary to accelerate your growth and empower you to overcome any obstacles in your chosen field.

