



Institute for Education *2024 fall newsletter*

The Madison St. News: Adrian College

Students are WHY We Exist!

Hear from Adrian College Professor and Director of the Institute for Education, Dr. Kyle Griffith, on why he chose to take on the role as Director as well as what it means to him.

Last spring I had the opportunity to step into the role of the Director of the Institute for Education, and I admit as a professor with two years of college experience and thirty-two years in K-12 as a teacher, principal and superintendent that I had a very limited idea of what the Institute meant and entailed. I did check out the AC site and discovered, “The Institute for Education equips STUDENTS with education grounded in innovation, research and practice of professional excellence. STUDENTS are exposed through classes, seminars, guest lectures, experiential learning and activities to support their content areas and standards of excellence in their profession.”

With STUDENTS being the focus of the statement surrounding the Institute for Education, the decision to accept the role of director was made much easier. Ultimately, all opportunities and challenges ahead revert back to assuring that our STUDENTS are set up for success from the day they arrive on campus to the final swing of the mallet to ring the MTTC victory bell located outside Shipman Library.

As we embrace another year we will continue to remind ourselves STUDENTS are why WE EXIST!

- Dr. Kyle Griffith



Professor Spotlight:

Help us welcome the newest team members of the AC Teacher Education Dept!



Danielle Gilbert

Professor Danielle Gilbert is a dedicated educator with over 15 years of experience in the K-12 school system where she enjoyed teaching upper elementary and middle school science. Danielle is married to Ryan Gilbert, and together they have three children: Layla, Mariella, and Miles. When she's not working, Danielle loves spending quality time with her family, encouraging them in all their pursuits, traveling, and enjoying the outdoors. Beyond her family, teaching and building strong relationships with students to help them achieve their goals is one of her greatest passions. She first came to Adrian College to serve as the Placement Coordinator and Certification Officer, where she has successfully fostered many partnerships for our students. Professor Gilbert now steps into the classroom to share a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to fostering student success with our future teachers here at AC.



Professor Krista Schindel

Krista Schindel is currently in her first year as a Teacher Education Professor for Adrian College. She has spent the last 12 years of her teaching career teaching math and science in grades 4-9. She has been in four different school districts, spending the majority of her years in the Washington Local School District at Jefferson Junior High. She came to Adrian College after spending one year at Madison Middle School teaching 8th grade science. Krista has always been passionate about education and is excited to bring her experience and knowledge to the higher education community at AC. Krista has been married to Bill Schindel for 10 years. Bill is currently the head wrestling coach at Adrian College. Together they have 3 daughters: Delaney (8 years old), Avery (5 years old), and Anniston (2 years old). Their favorite time is time spent together as they raise their girls to be resilient, brave, and kind. They love supporting the Adrian College athletic teams any chance they can. Go Dawgs!



It's Accreditation Time:



The Teacher Education Department annually assures that it is a nationally recognized and accredited by “The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).” CAEP is a non-profit, non-governmental agency that accredits educator preparation providers (EPPs). CAEP reviews departments, schools, and colleges that prepare teachers and other educators within higher education institutions. CAEP’s accreditation process aims to ensure the quality of educator preparation and support continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.”

The AC/TED team is currently and will be gathering three cycles of data from the Spring 24’, current, and Fall of 25’ terms. This data includes insights from our students, clinical teachers, college supervisors, as well as school administrators. Information gathered guides decisions and future direction and is critical to our continuous improvement goals and growth.

We look forward to sharing aspects of findings with you as we continue on the accreditation journey.



Adrian College has created a unique partnership with Michigan International Speedway to create an opportunity for students in grades 5-8 to learn about key concepts in nature near Onsted, Michigan. The program continues to grow and change every year to incorporate more information about animals, water quality, invasive species, and the physics of the track. The mission of Track and Explore, as a nature-based educational program, is to inspire future generations of students to explore and discover the wonders that science has to offer while maintaining a never-ending curiosity and an unwavering respect for the great outdoors, humanity, and all living things.

This summer, eleven students (ten future teachers) led over 1,000 students from three counties with engaging learning activities. **Jaclyn Hildebrand, Bria Hirschman, Alyssa Kamm, Shelby Boden, Mallory Wood, Ethan McLaughlin, Mackenzie Simpson, Emma, Dalzochio, Katie Berry, Teagan Bergeron, and Lauren Falzaone** ALL represented Adrian College demonstrating to our regional school partners the talent, drive and desire to do great things for others.





UPCOMING HAPPENINGS:



ACAEM: Adrian College Aspiring Educators of Michigan

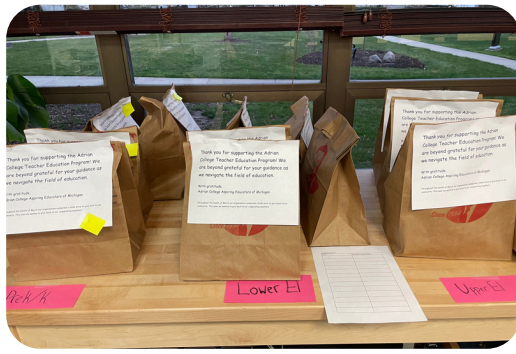
ACAEM has a busy future ahead of them, as they plan on welcoming MEA state organizer Annette Christiansen to come in towards the end of October, leading a professional development session about grant writing. Annette spent 20 years within the classroom and now serves as the state organizer of all of the AEM chapters throughout the state.

In November, AEM is also putting on a free conference at MEA Headquarters for all members in which members will have the opportunity to experience several professional development sessions, get their resumes reviewed, and have an opportunity to go through interview strategies. "This is a really great opportunity for us to connect with chapters across the state," said ACAEM President Kayla Beecherl. "I am really excited for this and hoping that a lot of our members take advantage of this opportunity available to them. I think that a lot of the professional development opportunities provided through AEM are really unique and provide great knowledge to start adding to our educator tool belts now."

Additionally, ACAEM has several social events and opportunities planned for community outreach throughout the semester. Allison Tenhove (secretary) and Beecherl attended a Leadership Training Retreat over the summer at MEA Headquarters. Here, they were able to get a lot of great information, connect with board members from several other colleges, and plan out what they wanted for the school year.

"As we are heading into this upcoming year I am really excited for ACAEM, a huge part of our goal for the year is to create a tight-knit community across the teacher education department as a whole," said Beecherl. "We are really hoping to hone in on the AEM pillars of educator quality and community engagement."

Towards the end of last year, ACAEM celebrated "Love Teaching week" with the entire department, hosted interview and resume skills PD, went horseback riding with the equestrian team, and held a March reading month book drive to give back to the community. Beecherl expresses her joy and anticipation for what's to come, saying, "I am really hopeful for us to get a lot of new members this upcoming year and I cannot wait to see all that we can accomplish as a group."



Remember:

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system."

