

To Teach is to Touch a Life

By Michaela Forkenbrock and Brittani VanWinkle

Emporia State University is considered to be one of the top four colleges in the nation to attend in order to pursue a career in education. So it was a great opportunity for the three students in Mrs. Nina Flax's Teaching as a Profession class to visit with college personnel about options which would be open to them in the future. Mrs. Flax has taken her teaching classes to ESU for several years now. "Emporia State always does a great job of visiting with the students about programs that are offered and what options would be open to them if they decide to pursue a career in teaching," said Mrs. Flax.

Because students discover that they sometimes need more information, or that they may wish to rethink some of their previous ideas, they got to have firsthand experience at visiting with admissions counselors and students from their area of interest. Maddi Smitha met with a math faculty person, and Lauren and Aimee met with a professor from the school of education. They also got to navigate their way around the college, learn about classes they should take in high school, and get a taste of college atmosphere.

In addition to all of that, they got free lunch at the college cafeteria, a free t-shirt, and a free small drink from Starbucks. To top of the day, Mrs. Flax was generous enough to provide them with Orange Leaf! Mrs. Flax added, "I feel honored to escort these young adults to an experience in career exploration. It is important to look at many options and this is a great chance for them."

To reflect on the field trip, students answered questions to let us know how they benefitted.

What was the most meaningful thing that you learned during your visit to ESU and how will it help you prepare for college?

Maddi Smitha: I learned that college is a good experience and I shouldn't worry about it too much. Everyone at ESU is friendly and helpful. They were able to answer all of my questions

very thoroughly. This will prepare me to go into college stress free because now I know that the people there are willing to help me out.

Aimee Lemmon: The main thing I learned was the amount of money it costs to go to college and the types of classes teaching majors are required to take. I know what classes are in store for me and an idea of the cost of college.

Lauren Volkman: I learned that you become a student teacher during your junior and senior years of college. I was also informed on what classes would be required. This information will help me prepare for college because I now know which dual credit classes I should take during my high school career.

What was one thing that motivated you to want to become a teacher?

Maddi Smitha: Working with children is something I've always liked to do and seeing the kids' reaction when they figure something out is great. Teaching is a very rewarding career and it will never go out of style.

Aimee Lemmon: I've always felt like teachers play a rather large role in a kid's life. A good teacher will influence the way you learn for the rest of your life. I want to become a teacher so I can help students get on the right path of learning.

Lauren Volkman: Our group was told that most teachers will be retiring within the next few years so the demand for teachers will be high. If more students my age don't go into the teaching profession, then there will be a shortage of teachers and students won't have many opportunities to learn.

Aimee added, "If you are looking into being a teacher, ESU is a great place to visit!☺"