

Myers graduates from Emporia State University



Special to Pelahatchie News

Plumb Hall at Emporia State University, named after Preston Plumb. Plumb Hall was named after one of the original settlers of Emporia. Plumb was also a U.S. Senator from Kansas from 1877 until his death in 1891.

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Kacey Taylor Myers of Pelahatchie, graduated from Emporia State University (ESU) in Kansas in August 2021.

Myers earned a Master of Science degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

ESU offers over 200 academic programs in the School of Business, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Library and Information Management and The Teachers College. For five consecutive years, ESU

is the only public university in Kansas to have earned national recognition as a College of Distinction, an honor for universities that demonstrate innovative application of high-impact education. In addition, *U.S. News and World Report* data shows ESU students have the lowest student debt of all Kansas public universities. *U.S. News* also cited ESU's School of Business as a best value for both in-state and out-of-state students and ranked the online graduate education program in the Top 100 programs in the nation.

Griffin named PES Teacher of the Year



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Karen Griffin is shown receiving her PES Teacher of the Year award. Pictured (l to r) are: Mijia Ward, assistant principal; Griffin; and Robin Sanders, principal.

By Susie A. Wolfe

Karen Griffin, a 36-year teaching veteran, was named Pelahatchie Elementary School (PES)'s Teacher of the Year in November. She joined PES in 2018 and now teaches sixth grade math and science.

A graduate of Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, she said she became a teacher because "I love working with people...my mom was a teacher...being able to share knowledge with young people is a gift I feel was sent from above." She said she has a true passion for working with young minds, especially ages 9-12.

Her first teaching assignment was in Las Vegas, Nevada, and that turned into a 30-year commitment in which she taught fifth grade. Her last 20 years was at Gilbert Magnet School of Per-

forming Arts in North Las Vegas. This school was the number one magnet school in the nation and received the Dr. Ronald Simpson Distinguished Merit Award as the Top Magnet School in the Nation 2009-2010. It is a moment that will live with Griffin forever.

She enjoys learning new things, especially using technology. Her goals for the future include "loving life and being with my family, and I would also love to travel."

She is married to Eddie Griffin, a 30-year retired teacher from Las Vegas, Nevada, who is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. They have two daughters, Kandis, who is studying medicine, and Kelsey, a graduate of Mississippi State with a degree in Elementary Education, who plans to become a teacher in January. And, they have one grandson, Kendell.



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