

JENNA SMITHSON

SPRING 2023 SIBBERSON FINALIST - SCHOOL OF APPLIED STUDIES

Jenna will be graduating with a Bachelor of Education degree. She is specializing in the Elementary Education licensure of K-6. She is pursuing a Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE) through the completion of a Leadership Studies minor. She is completing student teaching in a fifth-grade classroom in the Topeka area and has committed to a position at the elementary school level.

Jenna has been recognized as a President's Honor Roll recipient for every completed semester at Washburn. Her overall undergraduate GPA currently is 4.0. She was recognized as one of the top ten Top Bods of 2022. Jenna is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, NONOSO Honor Society, and Mortar Board. She is an active member in many on campus organizations including Dancing Blues, Lunch Buddies, Washburn Next Generation Educators (WNGE), Young Life College, and the Leadership Institute.

Jenna has held many leadership positions while at Washburn. During her sophomore year, in 2020, she became a Resident Assistant for Washburn Residential Living. She was admitted into the professional education program within the College of Education in Spring 2021. The following school year she was a Resident Assistant for the Leadership Learning Community. In conjunction with the Leadership Institute, Jenna cultivated a culture foundationally focused on the formation of leadership traits and skills. Additionally, Jenna was a member of the Student Leadership Council (SLC). She was the team lead for Socials and Homecoming for the Leadership Institute. Jenna organized all Homecoming events and planned engaging campus activities throughout the school year for the members of the Leadership Institute. As a senior, Jenna volunteered her services as a leader for Young Life College, leading a small group of college age students. Jenna has been a member of the Washburn Dancing Blues dance team her entire academic career at Washburn. She has held the role as captain for both her junior and senior seasons.

Jenna has been involved in many civic engagement opportunities over the course of her time at Washburn. Jenna was invited by the Leadership Institute to attend the 2021 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). She has volunteered for the Leadership Challenge Event (LCE) hosted by the Leadership Institute since 2020. Jenna helped develop a Social Innovation Grant, through her coursework in the Leadership Institute and in a partnership with United Way of Greater Topeka. This grant proposal focused on increasing on-grade level achievement for elementary level students, through the increased access of non-English translated resources, to tailor to the students' individual needs.

Jenna received the Clella Hahn Elementary Education Memorial Scholarship, Kansas Board of Regents Teacher Service Scholarship (2021, 2022, 2023), Jephson Leadership WEA Scholarship, Washburn Alumni Association Scholarship (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), Norman and Betty Wilson Academic Scholarship, Washburn HERF Grant, Summers Chamberlain Education Scholarship, Sheafor Leadership Scholarship WEA, Topeka WEA Scholarship, Huggins Academic Scholarship WEA, Betty Rea Burnett Academic Scholarship, and the Dancing Blues Scholarship (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).