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# NKU honors Lynne Smith as outstanding professor

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Northern Kentucky University has named Lynne Smith the 2006 Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor. The award has been given annually since 1970.

Smith joined the NKU faculty in 1988. Before that, she was an elementary and middle school teacher in Tennessee.

"I was encouraged by my principal to pursue a university career. He believed in my capability and said that I could help more students if I went on to work with teachers," Smith said.

ADVERTISEMENT She took his advice and went on to receive a doctorate in education from the University of Kentucky.

Proving her old boss right, Smith has started several programs and mentored teachers at NKU. She coordinated NKU's Kentucky Reading Project and Northern Kentucky Writing Project.

NKU's Kentucky Reading Project brings selected kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers to a two-week summer institute to improve literacy instruction at their schools. So far, 270 teachers from 60 schools have participated.

"At the end of the year, teachers from all over the state attend the Share Fair (in Louisville) to show other participants what they have done in their classrooms," Smith said. "We have never had to recruit for our project - word of mouth has created interest. We had so many teachers apply this year that we are almost full for next year."

"In the Northern Kentucky region, most, if not all, school districts seek out Dr. Smith as a consultant and professional development expert in elementary reading/ literacy issues," said Carol Ryan, chairwoman of the Department of Elementary, Middle and Secondary Programs in NKU's College of Education.

Smith has also mentored 21 local educators seeking the National Teacher Certification. The certification recognizes teachers who have achieved highly accomplished practices. Fifteen of these have achieved national recognition.

"She doesn't just teach a student in class for a semester, but instead develops and fosters a lifelong professional bond with her students," Smith said.

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