

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **UAM Education Professor Helps High School Students Learn About The Teaching Profession**

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MONTICELLO, AR — With Arkansas facing a severe teacher shortage, the University of Arkansas at Monticello's School of Education is doing everything it can to encourage young people to enter the teaching profession.

Part of that effort involves the work of Dr. Vera Brown, an associate professor in the School of Education. In October, Brown began collaborating with Drew Central High School vocational teacher Melissa Vincent to team teach a class called "Orientation to Teaching."

The class, now in its second year at Drew Central, is designed to acquaint high school students with the teaching profession and the field of education. Brown, a member of the UAM education faculty since 1995, is teaching a series of lessons for the class and has assisted with curriculum content, course frameworks, lesson plan format and suggested resources supporting various topics to be covered in the course.

"I have worked with Melissa for several years with her "Teachers of Tomorrow" club for future teachers at Drew Central," said Brown. "I saw a great opportunity to collaborate and team teach with Melissa, to share with her students how the information they are learning will provide them with a great advantage in learning about the teaching profession before they enter college."

Vincent, a 1998 graduate of UAM's teacher preparation program, called Brown's presence in the classroom "a wonderful experience for our students. They have been very receptive to having a UAM professor teach in their class," Vincent said. "It's been a good experience watching the students interact with Dr. Brown. She keeps them actively engaged for the entire 45 minutes of each lesson."

Outreach programs such as team teaching at the high school level are part of a larger partnership effort facilitated by the Education Renewal Zone (ERZ) Project and the UAM School of Education to attract high school students into the teaching profession, according to Dr. Peggy Doss, dean

of the School of Education and Ms. Mary Jo Barnett, director of the School of Education ERZ. “That’s why we encourage our faculty to become involved in programs like these,” said Doss. “Anytime we can reach out to a young person and let them know how rewarding the teaching profession can be, we are building a foundation for our educational future.”

#### PHOTO CAPTION

Dr. Vera Brown (left) and Melissa Vincent (right) prepare a lesson plan.

