



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY'S MCKENNA DUNN NAMED  
2016 NATIONAL STUDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(INDIANAPOLIS)—McKenna Dunn is the 2016 recipient of the Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)/Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) National Student Teacher/Intern of the Year Award.

Dunn graduated summa cum laude in 2016 from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. She majored in Spanish Language Arts and Reading, and she minored in Teacher Education. Dunn was valedictorian of the 2016 class and was a member of the Alpha Gamma Phi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. She currently lives in New Zealand, where she volunteers at local schools.

Dunn has been described by her professor and honors thesis advisor, Dr. Katie Peterson, as "a source of inspiration and leadership" for her classmates. Peterson continues, "McKenna also demonstrated a remarkable ability to innovate teaching practices so that she met the needs of individual learners. The passion and care that she uses to deliver curriculum makes her students feel comfortable to take risks creating environments where students are able to explore concepts and ideas in developmentally appropriate ways."

To earn the award, an applicant must be an enrolled undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student with a minimum 3.0 GPA and be student teaching/interning full time in a curricular level for which he or she is eligible for certification. The applicant must also submit an application that includes a lesson plan and a 30-minute video, showing the plan implemented in a classroom setting and a reflection of the outcome.

Selected from a competitive applicant pool, the award selection committee praised Dunn's student engagement, energy, and composure and said her project epitomized what they are looking for in an exceptional student teacher.

In sharing the news of this achievement, Dunn wrote: "Being chosen as the national student teacher of the year is an extremely humbling honor. To know that a group of such experienced and talented educators chose me validates that I have definitely made the right decision to pursue teaching as my career path."

KDP and ATE congratulate Dunn and wish her well as she begins her first year as a practicing educator. She will be honored at an upcoming ATE conference with a \$1500 award and the opportunity to address the conference attendees.

Since the award's establishment in 1994, KDP and ATE have named a very select few from around the United States as National Student Teacher/Intern of the Year. The award recognizes one student teacher/intern annually who has demonstrated the ability to plan and develop classroom management skills and instructional strategies that support all students; establish interpersonal relationships with students, parents, faculty, and staff; and reflect powerfully on their student teaching experience. Award winners are acknowledged with a \$1,500 scholarship award.

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**About Kappa Delta Pi**

*Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 625 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.*