

# Graduate fellows to beef up education

**JONESBORO** — Arkansas State University's Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education Program (GK-12) will place eight graduate fellows as "resident scientists" in sixth- to eighth-grade classrooms in eight area schools.

The graduate fellows are Sarah Thompson of Armored; Annabelle McKie and Kevin Keen, both of Cross County; Mauricio Solis of Forrest City; Scott Chiavacci of Harrisburg; Bryan Reiley of Nettleton; and Seth Schirmer and Katie Lisko of Wynne.

The fellows represent the Environmental Sciences, Molecular Biosciences and Biology graduate programs. Each graduate fellow will work with two mentor teachers.

Those teachers and their schools are Alayna Duren and Kelly Hopper of Armored; Heidi Brewington, Jacob Maxwell, Jennifer McFarland and Melissa Moore, all of Cross County; Alysa Love and Char-

ity McKeen, both of Forrest City; Denise Doyle and Teresa Sanders, both of Harrisburg; Heather Page and Matthew Novak, both of Nettleton; and Gayberia Smith, Cindy Barrett, Marc Griffin and Meredith Schweighart, all of Wynne.

Dr. Tillman Kennon, assistant professor of science education, is a co-principal investigator along with Dr. Anne Grippo, associate professor of biology; Dr. Cynthia Miller, NEA Delta Partnership for Math and Science; and Dr. Karen Yanowitz, associate professor of psychology. Dr. Mike Hall, associate professor of mathematics, is an associated faculty member.

In its second year at ASU, the GK-12 program is designed to beef up science, technology, engineering and math programs in schools throughout Northeast Arkansas. The 5-year GK-12 program funded by the National Science

Foundation will help enrich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in rural public schools.

By basing lesson plans on their graduate research, GK-12 program participants can improve their skills in communicating science to a broad audience while gaining a deeper understanding of their own research. The program also allows for the improvement or enhancement of the knowledge and experience of the classroom mentor teachers, the piquing of student interest in STEM courses and careers while exposing students to an enriched STEM environment and the strengthening of partnerships between ASU-Jonesboro and the public schools of Northeast Arkansas.

For more information on ASU-Jonesboro's GK-12 program, contact Dr. Jennifer Bouldin at [jbouldin@astate.edu](mailto:jbouldin@astate.edu) or 972-2570.