

## Kansas Counseling Association Announces 2010 Outstanding Counselor of the Year: Deb Woodard

On March 11<sup>th</sup> the Kansas Counseling Association (KCA) announced that Deb Woodard is the 2010 winner of the KCA Outstanding Counselor of the Year award at the annual convention. Woodard is a dedicated KCA executive board member who most recently served as the Kansas School Counselor Association President and the KCA Professional Development Team Chair. She is currently the Coordinator of School Counseling and Practicum and Internship in the Counseling and Educational Psychology Division of the School of Education at UMKC. Notably, she is the first region or division winner to work in another state while maintaining her ties to her state of origin. Awards committee chair, Lori Kandt, spoke of Woodard's work with both Kansas and Missouri as developing a unique partnership that has allowed the organization to grow in new and different directions.

Woodard's tireless advocacy of all counselors across the state of Kansas was also highlighted. The awards committee emphasized the impact Woodard had on the students she worked with in the urban core, her continued love of teaching the UMKC students, the changes she has made in the UMKC programs, and her support of all counselors. Ms. Kandt mentioned her well known motto, "Everybody Deserves a Counselor" and indicated that Woodard continually works to make sure that **all** people receive the counseling services that they may want or need.

Woodard used the minutes available to remind all of the winners **and** all of the other counselors in the audience that they were all winners because they are all involved in impacting the lives of children, adults, couples, and families. She also talked about the relationship between advocacy and accountability and the need for all counselors to consider their own definition of accountability and to demonstrate it in all areas of their professional lives.

The Kansas Counseling Association is an affiliate of the American Counseling Association. The organization is made up of six regions and eight active divisions, including mental health, marriage and family, and school counselors, as well as counselor educators. The awards process is a yearlong one, which begins with each of the regions and divisions selecting award winners from the nominations of local candidates. The winner of each region or division is then nominated for the KCA Outstanding Counseling of the Year.

Deb receiving award from Awards Chair, Lori Kandt

Deb speaking about advocacy.

Deb with UMKC students, Kathie Mahan and Cynthia Martin

