

Dear Duke TIP Honorees and Parents,

The Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative (KGTC) would like to invite you to a very special presentation on Sunday, June 7, 2009. In honor of your academic accomplishment, KGTC has arranged for you and your family to be part of a fun-filled morning. Monte Selby, a creative and dynamic presenter who stimulates thinking through humor, movement, interaction, and music is back by popular demand.

Monte is a professor at Emporia State University in the Division of School Leadership/Middle and Secondary Teacher Education. We promise he will provide a very informative, insightful, and relaxing way to start off your special day! Please join us on June 7, 2009 (prior to lunch) from 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. in Woodruff Auditorium located inside the Kansas University Union. Please allow 25 minutes for parking and arrival.

KGTC is very proud to be a co-sponsor of the Duke TIP annual recognition ceremony. We are also proud of the following:

- KGTC actively advocates at the local, state, and federal levels for high ability learners
- Annually KGTC awards two Level 1 scholarships to the Future Astronaut Training Program at the Kansas Cosmosphere.
- KGTC has representation on state task forces and the KS Learning First Alliance.
- Our state convention (this year held in Lawrence on October 5-7) is said to be one of the finest in the nation offering information on giftedness and education for high ability learners with special sessions/activities geared toward parents and students.
- KGTC offers one-day regional conferences around the state, a parent handbook, and other resources including our website at ([www.kgtc.org](http://www.kgtc.org)) in our newsletter, *The Bugle*, and other publications including position statements.

The cost for the KGTC Morning Seminar is \$30 per family. To make your reservation, clip and return the bottom portion with your check no later than May 15, 2009. Due to the restraints of the facility, we can only honor the first 500 reservations. We will notify you ONLY IF WE CANNOT HONOR YOUR RESERVATION and we will then return your money.

Again, congratulations on your accomplishments! We look forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions please contact Jenay Weekly at [gweekly@cox.net](mailto:gweekly@cox.net).

✂----- (clip and return with check) -----

Clip and return with \$30 check payable to KGTC,  
c/o Jenay Weekly, 3506 SW Mission, Topeka, KS 66614

Name of Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all Family Members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Monte Makes Duke TIP Memories

The first Sunday in June has been the Duke TIP Kansas Recognition Ceremony for the past few years. While the vast majority of seventh graders and their families drive over from the Kansas City area, other state honorees are inclined to arise in the wee hours of the morning and head to Lawrence in time to spend the first part of their special day at KGTC's Morning Seminar. Why, you ask, would 500 kids and their parents be so willing to go so far so early in the morning? The answer is simple—Monte Selby will be there!

Just as always, the laughter and the merriment begins as soon as he picks up his guitar, with young teens laughing about school, their parents, and even themselves. He is instantly captivating, weaving stories about himself and youngsters (including his own) with lighthearted yet intensely thought-provoking songs. It is almost magical as the entire audience soon becomes of one mind—that of a middle-schooler. Parents happily grin and nod in agreement as he reminisces about awkwardness, hormones, and looking for ways to fit in. The kids are delighted to know that they are not alone with the same feelings; yet seemingly surprised to find mom and dad had those thoughts as well.

Monte's message is easy enough. "Work harder and get smarter in ethical ways. Believe in yourself—that you can do it; have the courage to stand tall; be optimistic; be a rooter for the other guy; have fun—it will attract others; and promote justice tempered with charity. That's what keeps you from getting messed up by others."

Soon a hilarious game of Simon Says has everyone laughing and trying his or her best to win. All wanted to win, but eventually all were ousted. But oh, how they tried and oh, how he had them laughing at their mistakes. And, advised Selby, "a part of being a good problem solver is knowing you are going to make mistakes. You see, mistakes can lead you in two directions. One is to lay blame, deny and make excuses for your actions. The other is to ask what can I learn from this?"

Being bright and talented does not automatically assure ones success. And success is not defined by winning. It is making the connections that count, risking moving outside the lines where things are different and difficult and establishing your own boundaries. "If you want to make a change you always have several options." said Monte. And most importantly, "don't imagine your future is simply out there waiting for you or that someone will take care of it for you. You've got to make it happen yourself. Making mistakes and problem-solving are tools you are going to need to help you achieve your goals."

The ovations erupt immediately and participants are left to remember his discerning messages. All seem to have clapped loudly, many linger for an autograph, and several purchase his CD. Educators describe this exceptional Emporia State professor as '*motivating, practical, and thought-provoking*'. But on Duke TIP Sunday, Monte Selby is simply '*awesome*' and '*way cool*'.