

Faculty Professional Development Report on Previously Funded Professional
Enhancement Grant to attend the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media Annual
Conference on April 9-11, 2006 in Hot Springs, Arkansas

Submitted by
Connie Zimmer, M.S.L.S.
Associate Professor of Secondary Education
Coordinator, Master of Education in Instructional Technology
Curriculum and Instruction Department
School of Education
Arkansas Tech University

Professional Enhancement Opportunity

I requested support to attend and participate in the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media Annual Conference on April 9-11, 2007 in Hot Springs, AR. I presented three programs at the conference that were well attended dealing with The Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Awards Nominees for 2006-2007, The 65% Solution and the Possible Impact on School Library Media Specialists, and The Availability and Non-Availability of Technology Services Through School Library Media Centers in Arkansas. I also was able to attend two presentations by Dr. Michael Eisenberg, Developer of The Big6 Essential Information and Technology Skills for Student Success.

Review of the Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The conference was well attended with over 400 participants. The three sessions I did were also well attended. I have been able to use materials from Dr. Eisenberg's presentations in the web LBMD 6013 Reference Materials in the School Library Media Center and EDMD 6233 Administration of Media Services. Information gathered from sessions I attended has also been useful in classes taught during the summer and fall.

Summary

Arkansas Tech's Master of Education in Instructional Technology is the only nationally recognized educational technology program in the state of Arkansas by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology. The Arkansas Association of Instructional Media is the state affiliate of AECT with over 500 members. It is essential that Tech maintain a presence with AECT and AAIM. By attending and participating in AAIM's annual conference, we have contact with the AECT president and other national officers. Attending sessions by Dr. Eisenberg was a professional boon for me since he is one of the foremost library media educators in the country. One of the special moments of the conference was when a Tech student in our graduate program, Ella Collins from Dover, was awarded the AAIM scholarship to continue her education at Tech. I appreciate the opportunity the Professional Development Enhancement Grant gave me to attend this conference. State conferences, especially those dealing with technology, are much more expensive to attend than in years past