

## ATU Professional Development Grant Report

Dr. Kandis Croom Association of Teacher Educators Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency, Dallas, Texas, February 13-18

The ATU Professional Development Grant allowed me to attend the Annual Association of Teacher Educators Annual Conference this February, 2009. While at the conference I presented 3 papers: one focusing on Teacher Preparation and Self-Efficacy, one paper on Action Research and Teaching Strategies, and Educational Leadership Preparation. All 3 papers were well received and great interest in the research topics was shared by all participants.

I also was able to attend the Delegate Assembly for Arkansas and also represent Arkansas Tech University in the International Assembly. There were delegates from ATE Europe and ATE Australia.

I networked with many, many ATE members from states around the country. One interesting conversation I had was with a gentleman from New York. He was telling of over 17,000 teacher lay offs in the state of New York. Our table had a somber, yet lively discussion of the future of teaching as a career. No real answers emerged, but lots of discussion.

During the conference there was a classroom of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century set up. WOW! Promethium boards, brand new shape and form microscopes and document cameras – set up for experimentation, and new learning environment furniture. The class room was amazing and ever so different from the classrooms of today.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to build my professional knowledge, expand my professional network, share presentations of papers with colleagues and represent Arkansas Tech University internationally.

I wanted to report right away, because I am so excited and enthusiastic. Thank you so much for the learning opportunity. The conference was more than I imagined it could be. Thanks again, Kandis Croom

My expense budget is with our secretary, Christy Farley and she is getting it ready to send at this time.