

Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant

Final Report

*The National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development*

Providence, Rhode Island

Rhode Island Convention Center

June 11 – 15, 2011

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## B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

*The 20<sup>th</sup> National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development*, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) was held in Providence, Rhode Island, June 11-15, 2011. I requested the opportunity to attend this conference to gain valuable knowledge needed for teaching and to explore the unique relationship between NAEYC and The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) in preparation for the writing of reports for the Specialized Professional Associations (SPAs) for the upcoming Arkansas Tech University NCATE review.

## C. Brief Review

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting proved to be a valuable experience for me. Additionally, I have been asked to be a reviewer for NAEYC and this venue allowed me to gain insight and training for this new endeavor. “Curriculum, Assessment, and Teaching: Putting It all Together!” was the theme of the conference this year.

## D. Summary of Experiences

It was important for me to attend this conference to gain an understanding of the standards that govern the NAEYC accreditation. Many questions were answered regarding my role as a reviewer. The sessions I attended allowed me to better understand the goals of the NAEYC accreditation process. At the networking reception I met many individuals with whom I

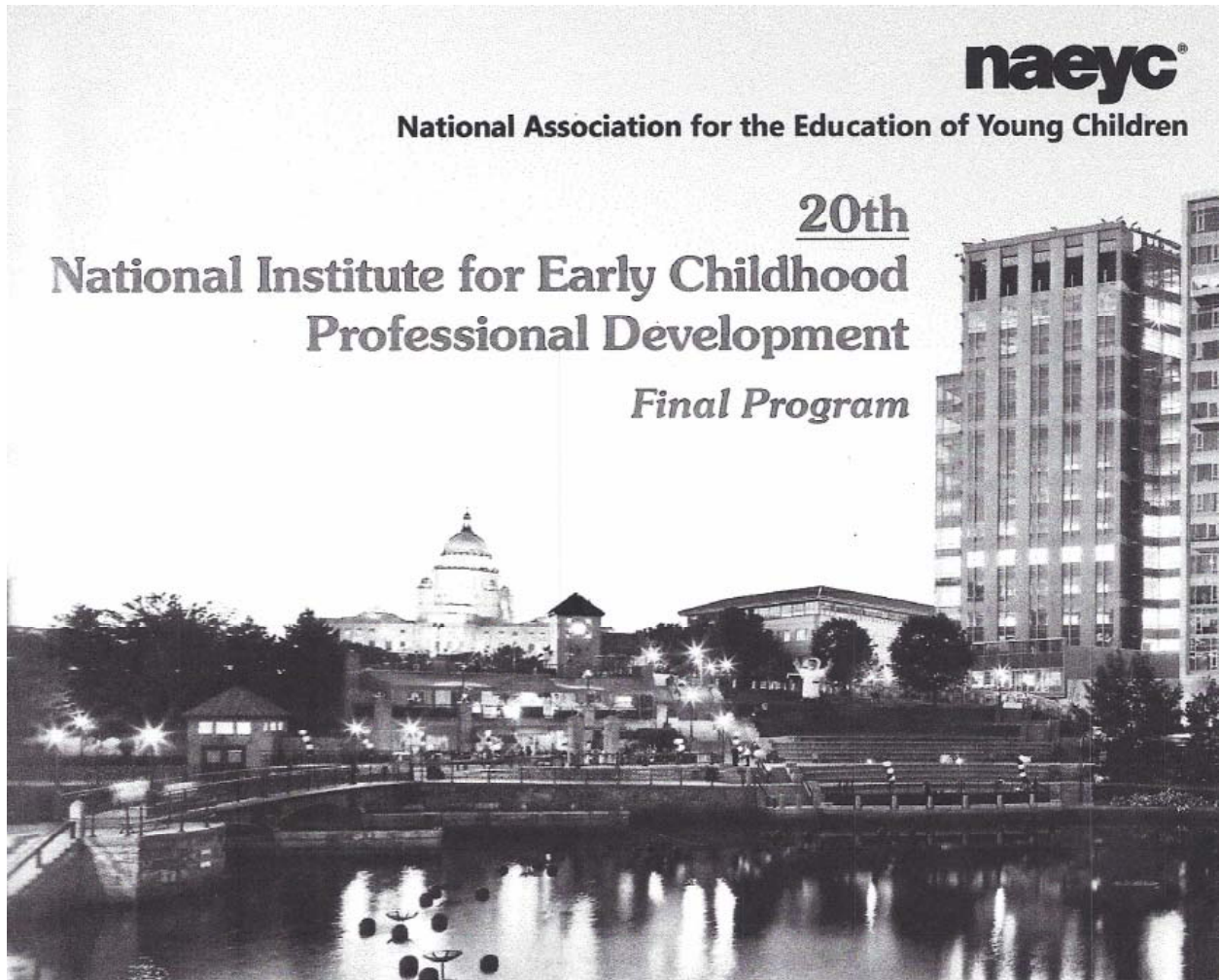
will be working in the reviewer role and I met other college professors who serve in similar teaching positions.

In addition to these topics, current trends in education were examined which affect our students at ATU. Discussion of the Common Core, adopted by Arkansas for grades K-2 for the school year 2011-2012, was a valuable session. The main focus was upon strategies for helping classroom teachers understand the alignment of the Common Core in their planning and teaching.

*Writing for Publication* proved to be an informative session. The 25 topics that will be affecting early childhood in the next ten years proved to be an interesting session for one seeking to conduct research and publish. As a faculty member, this session exposed me to future trends in early childhood education.

#### E. Conclusion

Approximately one fourth of the attendees were professors from colleges and universities across the United States. Teaching practices at the college level were discussed and shared. Overall, this was an excellent experience and I look forward to expanding my role as a faculty member at Arkansas Tech University and as a reviewer for NAEYC.



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**National Association for the Education of Young Children**

**20th**  
**National Institute for Early Childhood**  
**Professional Development**  
*Final Program*

**Curriculum, Assessment, and Teaching:**  
*Putting It All Together!*


**Sunday, June 12–Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

**Providence, Rhode Island**

- Rhode Island Convention Center
- The Westin Providence

NAEYC's 20th National Institute for Early Childhood  
Professional Development  
**Curriculum, Assessment, and Teaching:**  
*Putting It All Together!*

**STEPHANIE PEPPER**  
**ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**  
**RUSSELLVILLE, AR**  
**NAEYC MEMBER**



18 - 930 - 12

RC: MEM      BH: CLEAR      REG: 189301

**June 12-15, 2011    Providence, Rhode Island**