

A. Title Page

Professional Development Grant Report

Arkansas Tech University

Society for Research in Child Development

Teaching Institute and Biennial Conference

by

Dr. Jennifer E. Samson

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Department of Behavioral Sciences

May 30, 2013

B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This Professional Development grant allowed Dr. Samson to travel to the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD) Teaching Institute and Biennial Meeting in Seattle, WA from April 17-20, 2013. At the Teaching Institute, Dr. Samson participated in workshops and roundtable discussions on topics including alternative assessment ideas and using electronic textbooks effectively. She also attended biennial meeting sessions which presented the latest innovations in child development research and methodology. Finally, Dr. Samson was able to connect with more senior researchers who provided feedback on her ongoing work and to maintain relationships which may lead to future opportunities for Dr. Samson and ATU students.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

This was Dr. Samson's third SRCD meeting but her first Teaching Institute. The meeting was, as always, informative and inspiring, and Dr. Samson left with multiple new ideas and motivation to pursue new projects. The Teaching Institute exceeded Dr. Samson's expectations and she returned to ATU with new ideas which will enhance her students' learning,

D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had

This Professional Development grant allowed Dr. Samson to participate in the SRCD Teaching Institute and Biennial meeting. At the Teaching Institute, Dr. Samson participated in workshops and roundtable discussion and left with information which will directly improve her students' learning, including step-by-step directions for using and grading oral assessments that allow students less able to express themselves in writing to demonstrate their knowledge more accurately. At the biennial meeting, Dr. Samson learned about innovations in developmental research and methodology, and connected with other researchers who could potentially provide collaboration opportunities for Dr. Samson and ATU students

E. Conclusions and recommendations

This Biennial Teaching Institute and Meeting brings together prominent developmental teachers and researchers from around the world, and provides attendees the chance to discuss innovations and form professional networks. Attending this conference has allowed Dr. Samson to learn from more experienced researchers and teachers, to form relationships which will lead to her growth in the field, and to learn about ongoing opportunities available for ATU students. Dr. Samson intends to continue attending this meeting regularly.