

Association of Teacher Educators 2010 Annual Conference  
***Middle Level Advisory: Exploring Culture and Building Community***  
February 13-17, 2010  
Chicago, IL

Dr. Kandis Croom  
Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, Arkansas

Report to Academic Affairs  
Professional Development Grant

**Professional Development Grant  
Association of Teacher Educators' International Conference  
Chicago, 2010**

First and foremost, I want to thank and applaud the University Professional Development Committee. With budget cuts and traveling restrictions my fellow professors' universities around the country did not get funding for the conference or had limited travel. Arkansas Tech was well represented at the International Conference. I was proud to serve as an ambassador for ATU, as well as Arkansas.

**Objectives**

I co-presented with Dr. V. Carole Smith from Arkansas Tech University. The title of our presentation *Middle Level Advisory: Exploring Culture and Building Community* is based on the work Dr. Smith and I have been investigating for over two years. We have one article published, and are excited about adding to our research. By attending this conference, we have moved forward, professionally and personally, and helped inspire -- Middle Level educators, specifically the middle level Special Interests Group (SIG). Our presentation was especially related to the conference theme.

**Need**

A very important component of middle level education is an advisory program. The advisory program is a key to the adjustment of the early adolescent to the changes in their bodies, their interaction with other students, and their relationship with their school and community.

One of the most important components of a developmentally responsive middle school is an adult advocate for every student. Recommendations have been made by National Middle School Association (NMSA) through *This We Believe*, and the nine cornerstone strategies from *Breaking the Ranks*...report advisory program development for every middle school is a must.

Advisory programs facilitate students becoming involved in developmentally appropriate activities which will help them explore the world that is opening to them. As our society become more diverse, many students have the additional adjustment of changing ethnic and cultural populations within their school and community.

Advisory programs date back to as early as the 1880's. Programs make connections to adults for the young adolescent and also provide a positive interaction with other young adolescents. Active participation by conference participants will lead to a better understanding of the need to use advisory programs to meet the developmental needs of the young adolescent.

**Attainment of Objective**

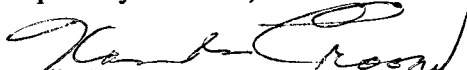
We presented research and findings to our recent survey. We sent our 193 surveys to Arkansas Middle Level Educators. We received over a 70% return. We lead a discussion which informed, and hopefully motivated and inspired educators to reinvestigate the key component of the middle level concept, which I believe is advisory groups.

The conference was the Annual Conference for the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE). The conference was held in Chicago, IL. The international office for ATE is in Alexandria, VA. David Ritchey is the Executive Secretary.

**Dissemination of Results**

I shared information with the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators as a Past-President, Arkansas School Counseling Association, ATU graduate students and the faculty in the Center for Leadership and Learning at Arkansas Tech University

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Kandis Croom

**REQUIRED COVER PAGE**



**APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**\*\*All questions must be completed to be considered for grant award.**

<b>Choose one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research Activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional Enhancement Activity	<b>Application Deadline Date:</b> <u>October 1, 2010</u> (i.e. <u>October 1</u> , February 1, or April 15) <b>Date of Last PDG Award (Semester and Year awarded):</b> <u>Spring 2010</u> <b>Date of ATU Faculty Appointment (Semester and Year):</b> <u>June 1, 2001</u>
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1. Project Title: Middle Level Advisory: Exploring Culture and Building Community
2. Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director: Dr. V. Carole Smith & Dr. Kandis Croom
3. School (abbrev): COE 4. Department: CLL 5. Campus Mail Address: Crabaugh Hall, Suite 124
6. PI/PD Campus Phone: 968.0419 7. Amount Requested: \$1,767.60 8. Total Cost of Project: \$1,767.60
9. Will total funds awarded be expended by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current fiscal year: Yes XX No \_\_\_\_\_
10. If not, what is the total to be expended this fiscal year: \$ 0.00
11. What is the total to be carried over to the next fiscal year: \$ 0 (if approved by the VPAA)
12. Project Completion Date: February 17, 2010 13. Travel Dates: February 12 – 17, 2010 (if applicable)
14. Does this project involve:  
**Yes No**  
  human subjects?  
  animals/animal care facility?  
  radioactive materials?  
  hazardous materials?  
  biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?  
  copyright or patent potential?  
  utilization of space not currently available to the PI/PD?  
  the purchase of equipment/instrumentation/software currently available to the PI/PD?

**NOTE:** If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, the investigator must attach appropriate documentation of approval or justification for use/purchase.

**SIGNATURES**

Department Contribution (if applicable): \$0.00

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Date

School Contribution (if applicable): \$0.00

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Date

<b>This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs</b>	
Previous PDG Award final report received: Yes _____ No _____	
PDC Committee Award Recommendation: Yes _____ No _____	
PDC Committee Proposal Rank: _____ of _____ Total Proposals.	
Recommendation of VPAA: Yes _____ No _____	Recommendation of President: Yes _____ No _____
Award Date: _____	