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Professional Development Grant Report

Arkansas Tech University

Participation in the 2010 Annual Meeting Mid-South Educational Research Organization

by

Linda C. Kondrick

Associate Professor of Physical Science

Department of Physical Science

29 August 2011

B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

On January 1, 2010 I began my tenure as President of the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA). As president of the organization I will preside over the 2010 MSERA Annual Meeting to be held in Mobile, Alabama November 2-5, 2010. The focus of this meeting is a three-day research symposium for the dissemination of research in all fields of education. Other major events include the 2010 Fall Board Meeting on Tuesday, the Keynote Luncheon on Wednesday, the 2010 Business Meeting on Thursday, and the Distinguished Awards Presentations on Friday of that week.

My duties will not end with the 2010 Annual Meeting. I will continue to serve on the MSERA Executive Board as the Immediate Past President. Therefore, I will also need to attend the 2011 MSERA Spring Board Meeting which serves as a planning session for the 2011 MSERA Annual Meeting to be held in Oxford, Mississippi. That meeting will mark the 40th anniversary of the organization.

MSERA was formed in 1972 as a nonprofit incorporated educational organization with the stated mission "to encourage and provide results of quality educational research in elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher learning". The organization produces an internationally peer-reviewed journal, *Research in the Schools* which boasts an acceptance rate of 25% or less. The work of this organization is intrinsic to my work as a professional, especially the preparation of pre-service elementary and high school teachers.

The funds from this Professional Development Grant will allow me to fulfill my three year commitment to the MSERA Executive Board. Serving the profession in this capacity represents a tremendous opportunity for my own professional development.

C. Review of the professional enhancement opportunity

Consistent service to the profession through MSERA has contributed greatly to my own development as a researcher and an administrator. I have grown professionally since I joined this organization as a junior faculty member, serving in the following capacities: Membership Committee Chair 2001-2003; Secretary 2004-2006; Arkansas State Representative 2006-2008; Local Arrangements Chair 2007; and Program Chair 2008; 2009 Vice-President/President-Elect; 2010 President. These experiences have served me well. I have grown from a graduate student to an Associate Professor during my years of service to MSERA. My experiences in climbing the leadership ladder at MSERA have given me much expertise and confidence. I have applied these skills in service to Arkansas Tech University in a variety of roles in that same period of time.

D. Summary of outcomes

It is truly an honor to reach this level of professional recognition in an education research organization of this stature. It brings honor to Arkansas Tech University to have one of its own faculty members serving on the MSERA Executive board.

The work of this organization is intrinsic to my work as a professional preparing pre-service elementary and high school teachers. MSERA fosters research in all areas of education. The conference proceedings are evidence of the quality of research disseminated at the Annual MSERA Meeting. The spring board Meeting, the Fall Board Meeting, and the Fall Business Meeting are essential to planning and executing this function of the organization.

The funds provided by the ATU Professional Development Grant allowed me to be execute my role as MSERA President, ensuring a successful Fall meeting of MSERA. Documentation is recorded on the organization's website.

1. Proceedings of the 2010 Annual Meeting are available at:
<http://www.msera.org/meeting.htm>>2010 Conference Proceedings now available: [click here](#).
2. Minutes of the Spring Board, Fall Board Meeting and Fall Business Meetings are available at:
<http://www.msera.org/meeting.htm>> <http://www.msera.org/business.htm>>2010: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#).

Conclusions

Thanks to the funding provided through the ATU Professional Development Grant I was able to successfully fulfill my commitment to serve as the 39th MSERA President. This experience has been the apex of more than ten years of dedicated service to the profession. My goals as 2011 MSERA Immediate Past-President are to:

1. Identify rising leadership potential within the organization. Prepare a substantial slate of nominees to the MSERA board. And preside over the election of a new slate of officers and directors for 2012. This role of the Immediate Past President is vital to the continued health of the organization.
2. Work with the MSERA President to continue to restructure the organization hierarchy to provide institutional interlacing of duties such that the organization will not be crippled with the sudden absence of any one of its Board members.
3. Work with the Local Arrangements Committee to Facilitate the MSERA 40th Anniversary Celebration at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

2011 MSERA Annual Meeting Information

2011 Annual meeting will be held November 2-4, 2011
at The Inn at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS.

- Information about housing at The Inn at Ole Miss:
 - Link to hotel web site: click [here](#)
 - Room rates: \$104 (single/double)
 - Reservations (888) 486-7666 (be sure to mention MSERA meeting when making reservations)
 - Hotel email: hotel@olemiss.edu
- Shuttle service is available, by appointment, to/from Memphis airport
 - \$60 1way/\$100 round trip.
 - Call the Inn to make arrangements: (888) 486-7666
- Information about [Oxford, MS](#) (not to be confused with that older town "across the pond")
- Annual Meeting Registration form: [Click here](#) (Note: Discount for advance registration ends October 15)
- *Important Note: The official program will not be mailed in advance of the conference, in the MSERA Researcher, as has been the case in past years. Instead, a printed copy will be furnished on-site at registration. The web site will also have the official program posted electronically.*
- 2010 Meeting Update: What happened?
 - Constitution changes were approved. Click [here](#) to see amended version.
 - Board of Directors vacancies filled. Click [here](#) to see 2011 Board membership.
 - Election results:
 - Vice-President/President Elect: Julie Holmes
 - Secretary: Kathleen York
 - Alabama representative: Nancy Fox
 - Arkansas representative: Pam Broadston
 - Kentucky representative: Ron Skidmore
 - Louisiana representative: Michelle Haj-Broussard
 - Mississippi representative: Rose Jones
 - Tennessee representative: Vinson Thompson
 - RIP awards were made to 11 presenters! MSER Foundation has pledged to help support up to 16 for 2011 (Grad students: This means you!).
- 2010 Conference Proceedings now available: [click here](#)
- 2010 conference program (pdf format): [click here](#)
- 2009 conference program (pdf format): [Wednesday, Thursday, Friday](#)
- 2008 conference program (pdf format): [click here](#)
- 2007 conference program (pdf format): [click here](#)

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MSERA Board and Business Meetings Records:

The MSERA Board of Directors holds meetings twice annually, usually on a Friday-Saturday schedule early in the year (Feb-Mar), then a second time on the Tuesday afternoon/evening prior to the annual conference. Elected officers, editors, and committee chairs attend.

The MSERA Business meeting is held on Thursday afternoon/evening during the annual conference. All MSERA members are invited to attend. During the meeting, elections are held to fill positions of officers or board members, recognition of contributions to MSERA are made, and awards for outstanding paper and thesis/dissertation are announced.

In 2009, the Board of Directors requested that the minutes of meetings be posted on the MSERA web site. Thanks to the assistance of the former secretary of MSERA, Donna Herring, this is now possible. Minutes may be found by clicking on the links below:

2010: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

2009: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

2008: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

2007: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

2006: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

2005: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

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