

Arkansas Tech University  
Professional Development Grant  
Final Report

Conference on Academic Research in Education  
2018 Second Annual Conference  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
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## B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

This purpose of this presentation was to analyze ways to enhance the first-year teachers' experiences and improve the retention rate of young, vibrant minds in the teaching profession. The focus is from the perspective of public school principals, specifically, what advice would the principal give to a first-year teacher. Teaching is challenging, especially for first year teachers. The shift from student to teacher is not "seamless." It is more like learning to ride a bike or drive a car. The individual has the knowledge and understanding of the principles of driving, press the accelerator to go, the break to stop, signal turns, control speed, stay in your lane, and all the other things that go into driving, but understanding the principles and actually driving are very different experiences.

## C. Brief Review

The major content of this presentation was to discuss ways to enhance the first-year teachers' experiences and improve the retention rate of young, vibrant minds in the teaching profession. The focus was from the perspective of public school principals, specifically, what advice the principal would give to a first-year teacher.

## D. Summary of Experience

I value the experiences gained through interacting with colleagues in my area of expertise. Additionally, by attending this conference I increased my professional skills and become a more effective educator, allowing me to expand my students' knowledge of teaching strategies, increase their level of professionalism, expand their writing skills, and facilitate their use of technology while learning how to teach within a diverse culture. Moreover, students will be much more thoroughly prepared when they enter the classroom as observers and interns.

## E. Conclusion

In conclusion, when attending conferences, I discuss Arkansas Tech's Teacher Education Program and always gain new knowledge of other teacher education programs across the country. I also learn about various teaching ideas as well as new technology advances in education. I feel that this conference was greatly beneficial to my professional growth. It will have a positive impact on our Elementary Education students at Arkansas Tech University. This conference was a valuable source of information for my teaching. Furthermore, each new experience and new contact in the teacher preparation field, serves to help keep me well informed about Teacher Education and current initiatives

Please see below a copy of the nametag from the CARE Conference:

