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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose one:</th>
<th>Application Deadline Date:  October 1, 2010 (i.e. October 1, February 1, or April 15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Creative Activity</td>
<td>Date of Last PDG Award (Semester and Year awarded): Spring 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[x] Research Activity</td>
<td>Date of ATU Faculty Appointment (Semester and Year): June 1, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[x] Professional Enhancement Activity</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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_


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 30th 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 VPAAP)

12. Project Completion Date: _February 17, 2010_  13. Travel Dates: _February 12 – 17, 2010_  
    (if applicable)

14. Does this project involve:
   Yes  _XX_  No
   [ ] [X] human subjects?
   [ ] [X] animals/animal care facility?
   [ ] [X] radioactive materials?
   [ ] [X] hazardous materials?
   [ ] [X] biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?
   [ ] [X] copyright or patent potential?
   [ ] [X] utilization of space not currently available to the PI/PD?
   [ ] [X] 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

This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs

Previous PDG Award final report received: Yes  _XX_  No

PDC Committee Award Recommendation: Yes  _XX_  No

PDC Committee Proposal Rank: _XX_  of _XX_  Total Proposals.

Recommendation of VPAA: Yes  _XX_  No  Recommendation of President: Yes  _XX_  No

Award Date: ___________________________