

Professional Development Grant  
Written Summary

For

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Curriculum and Instruction

Arkansas State Special Education Conference  
"Special Show 06"  
July 26-28, 2006  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

**B. Problem:**

Arkansas Tech University is currently in the process of developing a Master's Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education. The Arkansas State Special Education Conference "Special Show 2006" was held in Hot Springs, July 26-28, 2006. This conference is sponsored by the Arkansas State Department of Special Education in even numbered years. This conference is the largest special education meeting in the state of Arkansas. It receives a large amount of guidance from the Arkansas Department of Education. As a result, it usually focuses on ideas/programs/models that are endorsed by the Department of Education. Information from the conference may be beneficial in helping to establish the Special Education program at ATU.

The objective of attending the conference is to gain information that may be helpful in the process of development of the proposed program in Special Education.

**C. Review of Procedures:**

In order to make sure the proposed Special Education Program meets the requirements of the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education, it is important to be aware of the current trends in Special Education emphasized by the state.

Attend relevant workshops/seminars that provide current information on trends, processes, and curriculum development in the area of special education as it pertains to teacher education programs. Network with special educators and Department of Education staff.

**D. Summary of Findings:**

Several informative seminars were attended which indicate the current and future trends in special and diversity. This information will be helpful in developing and fine-tuning the components of the planned ATU Special Education program.

**E. Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Information gained from attending the conference was used during faculty committee meetings as the Master's Program was developed to meet Arkansas State Department of Education guidelines.