

**FINAL REPORT FOR THE RECEIPT OF FUNDING
ATU Professional Development Grant**

**Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant**

The Arkansas Tech University Professional Development Grant Committee granted funding for a professional conference in 2007.

The conference, hosted by the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), began 2/17/2007 and ended 2/21/07.

Presenters: David Bell, Kevin Costley, and Byra Ramsey

Following: Results from three presentations

TITLE of Presentation #1
Childhood Obesity: A Heavy Problem

Attendees Received copies of the points to be noted and the discussion questions

Problem / Procedure / Discussions, Findings, and Recommendation:

Problem:

The number of obese students, of all ages, is rapidly increasing, particularly in young children.

Procedure:

Statistical data and information on growing childhood obesity were presented.

Protocol questions led to a discussion and examining of possible alternatives to combat this problem

Discussions, Findings, and Recommendation:

Active discussions, related to possible changes related to decreasing or alleviating childhood obesity, were explored and several recommendations were made.

Ideas:

1. Nutrition and physical exercise must be part of the regular classroom environment and curriculum.
2. Schools must be encouraged to provide children with more activities during recess.
3. Schools must provide equipment to stimulate and motivate cardiovascular activities.

4. Children must learn that advertisements are attempting to get them to eat unhealthy foods. The responsibility of teaching healthy life styles should not only be left to P.E. classes and coaches to teach, but also should be integrated into other subject areas.
5. Children must learn to make wise choices regarding advertisements aimed to sway them to eat unhealthy foods.
6. It is vital to integrate topics on childhood obesity into all areas of the curriculum and include movement and exercise.
7. Families must “slow down” and enjoy preparing and eating nutritional meals together.
8. Integrating movement and exercise to counter act childhood obesity should take place everyday in regular classroom environments.

Benefit to Attendees:

Attendees were active in the discussion and provided recommendations for future research.

Title of Presentation # 2

Comparing Outcomes of Online Graduates to Face-to-Face Graduates

Attendees Received copies of a research report

PROBLEM / PROCEDURE / DISCUSSIONS, FINDINGS, AND RECOMMENDATION

Problem:

The longitudinal study was to discover if there were differences between face-to-face and online student outcomes

- For the past four years, researchers have collected data involving early childhood face to face and online graduates to ascertain if there would be a significant difference between Early Childhood graduates, who completed their degrees through face-to-face or online instruction.

Procedure:

Data were collected from two groups in a longitudinal study, analyzed, written into a research report, and disseminated to the education community.

Discussions, Findings, and Recommendation:

In the past, courses in higher education were generally face-to-face and faculty-led. With the golden age of technology, opportunities have become available for students to continue their education through online learning. Arkansas Tech University developed an online Bachelor's of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education to meet the needs of students who lived in isolated communities, as well as provide highly qualified teachers as mandated by the No Child Left behind Act 2001. In this study, data weres collected

and analyzed. The coursework for both groups was alike. When comparing scores from the two groups of learners, there was not a significant difference in student outcomes.

Benefit to Attendees:

Multiple questions were asked during the presentation. One member of the audience was apprehensive about online teaching/learning. After the presentation, the person who raised questions regarding online programs appeared to have a new perspective about online degrees and the positive outcomes demonstrated by graduates.

Title of Presentation # 3

Impact/Outcomes/Reports on Student Learning: Simplify Collecting, Organizing, Documenting, and Reporting to Accrediting Organizations

Attendees Received copies of completed reports used in enveloped file and programs for collecting data

Problem

Colleges faced with collecting and reporting the impact of student learning can become a nightmare when data is not available or the software for storing data is not user friendly.

Procedure/ Discussions:

Attendees were given templates, created with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, and shown how data had been collected and stored for easy access for compiling reports. Once templates were shared, attendees were then shown the types of data to be collected and to whom data could be used when compiling reports.

Findings:

Participants were enthusiastic about returning to their institutions and sharing the information with fellow faculty members.