



REQUIRED Cover Page

## APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

**\*\*All applicants please complete this cover page.**

<b>Choose one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Creative activity <input type="checkbox"/> Research activity <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Enhancement activity	<b>Date of Last PDG Award</b> Fall '05 <b>Date of ATU Faculty Appointment (Semester and Year):</b> Spring '04
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1. Project Title: **Components of the Middle Level Education Concept That Are Implemented in Arkansas Middle Level Schools**

2. Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director: **V. Carole Smith**

3. School (abbrev): **Education** 4. Department: **Curriculum and Instruction**

5. Campus Mail Address: **vcarole.smith@atu.edu** 6. PI/PD Campus Phone: **968-0421**

7. Amount Requested: **\$1,148** 8. Total Cost of Project: **\$1448.00**

9. Does this project involve:

10. Duration of Project:

**Yes No**

- ☐ ☒ human subjects?  
☐ ☒ animals/animal care facility?  
☐ ☒ radioactive materials?  
☐ ☒ hazardous materials?  
☐ ☒ biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?  
☐ ☒ copyright or patent potential?  
☐ ☒ utilization of space not currently available to the PI/PD?  
☐ ☒ 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**

*Wanda Bell* 1-19-07  
Department Head Date

*Shawn Schult* 1-19-07  
Dean Date

**This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs**

PDC Committee Award Recommendation: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
PDC Committee Proposal Rank: \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ Total Proposals.  
Recommendation of VPAA: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Recommendation of President: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Award Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation**  
**Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and Future Directions**

**B. Abstract**

The Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation is the largest and most significant conference that is held for Middle Level Teacher Educators. This conference benefits faculty members of colleges and universities, and faculty members of undergraduate and graduate middle level teacher preparation programs. This conference is held every two years, and is sponsored by the National Middle Level Association. The title of this year's conference is "Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and Future Directions."

**C. Objectives**

I will be a co-presenter with Charlene Johnson and Linda Morrow from the University of Arkansas -Fayetteville. The title of the presentation is "The Sociopolitical Context of Licensure/Certification for Middle Level: A Case Study of One Mid-South State"

**D. Significance/Need**

As a Middle Level teacher educator, it is crucial for me to know and understand the latest issues and trends connected with Middle Level Education. In addition, as one of the newest areas of licensure in the state of Arkansas, it is important that I know and understand licensure issues in the state of Arkansas, but also what is occurring in the area of licensure in other states. The information gained at this conference will be used to support "Best practices" in ATU's middle level program with the final result of improving the achievement of middle level students.

Attending this conference will also meet the criteria of the national Middle Level Association standards for Initial Level of Teacher preparation. These standards are:

**Standard 1. Middle Level Courses and Experiences**

Institutions preparing middle level teacher have courses and field experiences that specifically and directly address middle level education.

**Standard 2. Qualified Middle Level Faculty**

Institutions preparing middle level teachers employ faculty members who have middle level experience and expertise.

**Indicators**

1. Faculty members hold advanced degrees in areas that provide appropriate backgrounds to teach in the program.
2. Faculty members have demonstrated their interests and expertise in middle level education.
3. Faculty members are active scholars in middle level education.

Since Arkansas's change of licensure 1999-2000 from grades K-6 to P-4 and 4-8, it is still the most controversial of the licensure areas. Although research indicates that implementing the middle level concepts results in improved student achievement, there have been a variety of approaches from state to state. The discussions regarding middle level education in Arkansas has been overshadowed by personnel administrators seeking to fill classrooms with teachers that would not be considered "highly qualified" in the circles of knowledgeable middle level educators.

Turning Points: Preparing American Youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Published in 1989 made eight recommendations for creating effective middle schools. Four of these recommendations are significant to my attending this conference.

- Middle grades schools should transmit a core of common, substantial knowledge to all students in ways that foster curiosity, problem solving, and critical thinking.
- Large middle grades schools should be divided into smaller communities for learning so each student will receive sustained individual attention.
- Teachers and principals, not distant administrative or political organizations should have major responsibility and authority to transform middle grades schools.
- Teachers for the middle grades should be specifically prepared to teach young adolescents and be recognized distinctively for this accomplishment. (Jackson, 2000)

"Like its predecessor, Turning Points 2000 aims to help bridge the gap between current, unacceptable levels of intellectual development and a future in which every middle grades student meets or exceeds high academic standards and other key indicators of a successful school experience. (Jackson 2000)

The number of schools in Arkansas carrying the name middle school has increased since 1999. However, there is increased pressure in several states, as well as in Arkansas to regress to either K-8 models or K-6 models that were the norm prior to the 1960's middle level movement. (McEwin 2004)

#### **E. Process for attainment of Objectives/Goals**

A Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation is sponsored by the national Middle Level Association. The theme of the symposium is "Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and future directions." The conferences will be held in Destin Florida at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf resort & Spa.

## **F. Dissemination of Results**

I will share information gained at this conference with other Arkansas Middle Level Educators and with ATU faculty that teach in the Middle Level Program. Information gained at this conference will also be used to enhance ATU's Middle Level Program.

### **Bibliography**

National Middle School Association. (1998). *This we believe*. (5<sup>th</sup> ed.).

National Middle School Association (2003) *This We Believe: successful Schools for Young Adolescents*

Jackson, A. & Davis, G. (2000): *Turning points 2000*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press

Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development. (1990). *Turning points: preparing American youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. New York. NY: Carnegie Corporation.

McEwin, K.C. & Dickinson, T. (2004). *Programs and Practices in K-8 Schools: Do They Meet the Educational Needs of Young Adolescents?* Columbus, Ohio: NMSA.

### **Professional Organizations and Journals**

National Middle School Association

Journals: Middle School Journal

Middle Ground

Web site: <http://nmsa.org>

Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education

Web site: AAMLE.org

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

Journal: Educational Leadership

Web site: ASCD.org

Arkansas Department of Education

Web site: [arkedu.state.ar.us](http://arkedu.state.ar.us)

**Proposed Budget  
Faculty Research Grant**

<b>Hilton Sandestin February 8- 11<sup>th</sup>. 135.00 per night</b>	<b>449.55</b>
<b>Airline Ticket</b>	<b>440.45</b>
<b>Registration</b>	<b>189.00</b>
<b>Ground Transportation</b>	<b>45.00</b>
<b>Parking</b>	<b><u>24.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1148.00</b>

**Food expense is not included in this total.**

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## A Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation

### Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and Future Directions

**February 9-10, 2007 - Destin, Florida**

**Registration Deadline: February 1, 2007**

**Housing Deadline: January 16, 2007**

*Come share the latest information, trends,  
and best practices to enhance the quality of  
middle grades education.*



You are cordially invited to attend the Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation presented by National Middle School Association. You are the cornerstone of middle level teacher preparation, and we would like you to join us for two challenging and thought-provoking days.

#### Who will benefit from this symposium?

- Faculty members of colleges and universities
- Faculty members of undergraduate and graduate middle level teacher preparation programs
- Administrators of colleges, schools, and departments of education
- Policymakers
- Members of state departments of education
- Anyone who participates in the preparation of teachers of young adolescents

Excellent middle grades teacher preparation is critical to the success of education. Whether you are just starting a program for middle grades educators or are involved in an established program, this symposium will meet your needs.

[Middle Level Teacher  
Preparation](#)

[Features](#)

[Core Content](#)

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[Housing](#)

[Registration](#)



**National Middle School Association**

**Headquarters Office** 4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 300 Westerville, Ohio 43081  
TEL 614-895-4730 FAX 614-895-4750 1-800-528-NMSA [www.nmsa.org](http://www.nmsa.org)  
**Washington, DC Office** 1940 Duke Street, 2nd Floor Alexandria, Virginia 22314

December 19, 2006

V Carole Smith  
907 Kings Ct  
Russellville, AR 72801

**Re:** Co-Presenter Acceptance Notification

**Control #:** 7534

**Contact Presenter:** Charlene Johnson

**Session Title:** The Sociopolitical Context of Licensure/Certification for Middle Level: A Case Study of One Mid-South State

**Session Date:** February 10, 2007

**Session Time:** 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM

**Facility:** Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa

Congratulations!

On behalf of the National Middle School Association (NMSA), I am pleased to inform you that the above presentation has been accepted for the Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation to be held in Destin, Florida, February 9 – 10, 2006.

By accepting to co-present, you agree to register for the conference as well as pay all of your additional expenses.

Next Steps:

1. Please complete the enclosed registration form. Presenters using the enclosed form will receive a discounted presenter registration rate.
2. Return the form with payment to NMSA by January 31, 2007.
3. To make hotel room reservations or to get more information on the Symposium, go to the NMSA web site at <http://nmsa.org>.

The closest airports are the Okaloosa County Airport (VPS) which is about a 45 minute drive, and the Panama City Airport (PFN) which is about a 1 hour drive.

All future correspondence regarding this session will be sent to the Contact Presenter. The Contact Presenter has already been notified of the specific date and time of this presentation.

Thank you for your willingness to present and share your expertise in the development and preparation of middle level professional development and preparation. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at [dherlensky@nmsa.org](mailto:dherlensky@nmsa.org) or via telephone at 1-800-528-6672 ext. 206.

Sincerely,


Douglas Herlensky  
Program Specialist

# A SYMPOSIUM ON MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHER PREPARATION

## Co-Presenter Registration Form

Registration Deadline: **January 31, 2007**

### Registrant Information *(One form per registrant. Form may be duplicated.)*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE ☐ College Level Administration ☐ University Professor ☐ State Department ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Home ☐ Work  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_ Country (if other than US) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check here if you require special assistance while attending this event. 

### 1 Registration Fees

☐ \$189 Co-Presenter Member Member #: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ \$239 Co-Presenter Non-member  
*(Non-members may join NMSA on this form and qualify for the member rate.)*  
Total Registration Fee(s) ① \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Membership Fees

☐ \$65 U.S./\$80 International — Individual Membership *(Institutional Memberships Available)*  
Total Membership Fee(s) ② \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL FEES

① + ② = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Payment

☐ Check *(Payable to NMSA in U.S. Funds)* Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Valid Purchase Order *(hard copy must accompany this form)* P.O. # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ AMEX ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
(MM/YY)  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## **V. Carole Smith, Ph.D.**

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**Arkansas Tech University  
Crabaugh Building Room 204  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801  
(479) 968-0421**

### **Highlights of Qualifications**

- ◇ 17 years of classroom teaching
- ◇ Twenty years of management and supervision

### **Education**

- Ph.D.** University of Arizona  
Major: Teaching and Teacher Education  
Emphasis: Middle Level Education  
Minor: Educational Psychology  
Dissertation: Easing The Transition From Middle Level Education to High School
- M.Ed.** University of Arizona  
Major: Education Administration
- M.of Mu.** University of Arizona  
Major: Music Education
- B.M.** University of Arizona  
Major: Music Education  
Minor: English

### **Employment History**

#### **Higher Education**

- ◇ Assistant Professor, School of Education  
University of Arkansas- Monticello

#### **Public School Experience**

- ◇ Director of Secondary Education, Littleton Public Schools, Littleton, Colorado

#### **Tucson Unified School District, Tucson, Arizona**

- ◇ Administrator, High School Assistant Superintendent's Office
- ◇ Middle School Principal
- ◇ Music Teacher

### **Presentations**

Smith V. Carole. "Meeting the Criteria of Pathwise Domain – D Teacher Professionalism: Developing a Professional Collegiate Organization." Association for Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. February 2005.

Kandis Croom, V. Carole Smith. "Developing School Leadership Teams: A Professional Development Model." Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators. Nashville, Tenn. October, 2005.

Smith, V. Carole, Tim Carter, Beth Cooper. "Pre-service Teacher and Parent Communication and NBPTS Teacher and Parent Communication." Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators." Russellville, Arkansas. September, 2005.

Kandis Croom, V. Carole Smith. "A Professional Development Model: Preparing School Leadership Teams. Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators." Russellville, Arkansas. September 2005.

Presentation at the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference, "*Mentoring Pre-Service and Experienced Teacher to Participate In Professional Organizations.*" (with Dr. Linda Bean and Dr. Lonnie McDonald). Orlando, Florida. October 2004.

Presentation at the ATE Annual Conference, "*Rubrics: An effective Method To Strengthen Course and Program Assessments of Pre-Service Teachers,*" (with Dr. Gene Dillard and Dr. Max Terrell). Dallas, Texas, February 2004.

Presentation at the ATE Annual Conference, "*Can Middle Level Education Survive No Child Left Behind?*" Dallas, Texas, February 2004

### **Publications**

Smith, V. C., Carter, Tim L. (2006) "Teacher Professionalism: Preparing Middle Level Teachers to Meet the Pathwise Domain D Criteria." The Journal of the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education Vol 1 #1.

Smith, V.C., Terrell, M., Dillard, G., Richards, R. (2003) "*Strengthening Teacher Education: A Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Provides a Fast Track Route for Alternative Certification.*" SRATE Journal Vol. 12. # 1.

### **Grants**

\$2,716 from Arkansas Tech University Faculty Professional Development Grant.  
"Components of the Middle Level Education Concept That Are Implemented in Arkansas Middle Level Schools." Fall 2005.

### **Professional Awards and Recognition**

Selected to review conference proposals for Association of Teacher Educators.  
January – December 2005

President of Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators. January 2006 - July 2007

Secretary and Member of the Board of Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education. 2005 – 2006.

**Professional Organizations**

National Middle School Association  
Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE)  
Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators  
Association of Teacher Educators  
National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education

**Academic Committees**

NCATE Steering Committee (2004)  
NCATE Standard IV Committee (Diversity) (2004)

**Other Committees**

Arkansas Techs Women's Leadership Council Steering Committee (2004)  
New Teacher Orientation Program - Center for Teaching and Learning (2004)  
Portfolio Review Process for Educational Leadership Candidates (2004)  
Portfolio Review Process for Counseling Candidates (2004)  
Meeting for the development of an Arkansas NBPTS code of Ethics (2004)

**Selected Additional Professional Activities**

- ◊ Bridge to Excellence Mentor ATU (2004)
- ◊ Outside Evaluators "Teaching Math Content" University of Arkansas - Monticello
- ◊ Individual Leadership Academy (December, 2003)
- ◊ Facilitate Middle Level Advisory Board (2000 – 2003)
- ◊ Mentor Future Teachers and Walton Scholars (2000 – 2003)
- ◊ Facilitate Middle Level Advisory Board (2000 – 2003)

**State Committees and Boards**

Arkansas Middle Level Association Board of Directors  
ArATE Board of Directors  
NBPTS Advisory Committee Arkansas Department of Education

**National Committees**

Planning Committee for the Association of Teacher Educators  
Association of Teacher Educators Middle Level SIG

**Community Service**

- ◊ Wesley Foundation Age to Age Advisory Board
- ◊ Bridge To Excellence Mentoring Program