

Professional Development Grant

Dr. Linda C. Kondrick: MSERA Conference and Board Meetings

B. Abstract

Last year, it was my distinct honor to serve as the 39th president of the Mid-South Educational Research Association (MSERA). With the help of a Professional Development Grant from ATU, I was able to preside over the 2010 MSERA Annual Meeting held in Mobile, Alabama November 2-5, 2010. My duties did not end with the 2010 Annual Meeting. This year I continue to serve on the MSERA Executive Board as the Immediate Past President. Therefore, I am required to attend the 2011 MSERA Annual Meeting to be held in Oxford, Mississippi November 1st-4th on the campus of Ole Miss. This meeting will mark the 40th anniversary of the organization.

The focus of the 2011 meeting, as always, is a three-day research symposium for the dissemination of research in all fields of education. Other major events include the Annual Fall Board Meeting on Tuesday, the Keynote Luncheon on Wednesday, the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, and the Distinguished Awards Presentations on Friday of that week. I will have an active leadership role in each of these events.

MSERA was formed in 1972 as a nonprofit incorporated educational organization with the stated mission “to encourage and provide results of quality educational research in elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher learning”. The organization produces an internationally peer-reviewed journal, *Research in the Schools* which boasts an acceptance rate of 25% or less. The work of this organization is intrinsic to my work as a professional, especially the preparation of pre-service elementary and high school teachers.

The funds from this Professional Development Grant will allow me to fulfill my three year commitment to the MSERA Executive Board. Serving the profession in this capacity represents a tremendous opportunity for my own professional development.

C. Objectives

Consistent service to the profession through MSERA has contributed greatly to my own development as a researcher and an administrator. I have grown professionally since I joined this organization as a junior faculty member, serving in the following capacities: Membership Committee Chair 2001-2003; Secretary 2004-2006; Arkansas State Representative 2006-2008; Local Arrangements Chair 2007; and Program Chair 2008; and 2009 Vice-President/President-Elect; 2010 President.

I anticipate professional growth as I serve out the remainder of my commitment to the MSERA Executive Board.

My goals as MSERA Immediate past-President president are to:

1. Identify rising leadership potential within the organization. Prepare a substantial slate of nominees to the MSERA board. And preside over the election of a new slate of officers and directors for 2012. This role of the Immediate Past President is vital to the continued health of the organization.
2. Work with the MSERA President to continue to restructure the organization hierarchy to provide institutional interlacing of duties such that the organization will not be crippled with the sudden absence of any one of its Board members.
3. Work with the Local Arrangements Committee to Facilitate the MSERA 40th Anniversary Celebration at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

D. Significance

Arkansas Tech University is an Institutional Member of MSERA. Each year the College of Education and the College of Natural and Health Sciences jointly contribute \$400 to the support of MSERA. ATU is among 30 other institutions of higher learning that recognize the value of the MSERA and its mission through their support as institutional members. A list of the 2010 member institutions is located in Appendix A below.

It is truly an honor to reach this level of professional recognition in an education research organization of this stature. It brings honor to Arkansas Tech University to have one of its own faculty members serving on the MSERA Executive board.

E. Process for Attainment of Goals

My present three-year commitment to the MSERA Executive Board is part of my service to the profession. In order to fulfill this three-year commitment I will be required to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting in November .

The budget for attending these meetings constitutes the necessity for this grant. My expenses will greatly exceed my allotment of the available travel funds from the Department of Physical Science for approximately \$101.32. Therefore, I am requesting an additional \$997.00 from Professional Development Grant funds.

F. Dissemination of Results

Minutes of the 2011 Annual Board Meeting, and the 2011 MSERA Business Meeting will be posted on the MSERA website at: <http://www.msera.org>.

G. Repeated Requests

This is a follow-up to the grant I received in 2009 to attend the 2009 MSERA Annual Fall Meeting in the office of Vice-President/President Elect and the grant I received in 2010 to attend the 2010 MSERA Annual Meeting in the office of President of the organization. This year I am serving as the MSERA Immediate Past President which will fulfill my three year commitment to the MSERA Executive Board.

H. Budget

The estimated cost to attend the Annual MSERA 2011 Board Meeting and 2011 MSERA Business Meeting November 1-4, 2011 is approximately \$1,098.32. The Physical Science Department will contribute approximately \$101.32. The full amount requested from Professional Development Funds is: \$997.00.

In Appendix B there is attached an Arkansas Tech University Travel Request Worksheet itemizing all travel expenses that will be claimed for the meeting.

I. Bibliography

See Appendix A and B below.

I. Application Vita

Three pages are attached below.

Appendix A

MSERA 2009 Member Institutions

As listed on the MSERA website at <http://www.msera.org/instmemb.htm>

Level 2010 Member Institutions

Sustaining Institutions Arkansas State University

Arkansas Tech University
Christian Brothers University
Lane College
Midway College
Mississippi College
Southern Adventist University
Trevecca Nazarene University
University of Alabama
University of South Alabama

Supporting Institutions Alabama State University

Auburn University
Auburn University at Montgomery
Eastern Kentucky University
Harding University
Jacksonville State University
Louisiana State University
Milligan College
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Murray State University
Northern Kentucky University
University of Memphis
University of North Florida
University of Southern Mississippi
University of the Ozarks
University of the South
Western Kentucky University

Note: Sustaining institutions became members at the \$400/year level.
Supporting institutions became members at the \$250/year level.