

Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant

Final Report

Association of Teacher Educators 92nd Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

February 11 – 15, 2012

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The Association of Teacher Educators 92nd Annual Meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas, from February 11 – 15, 2012. The theme selected for 2012 was *Creating a Global Community of Learners: Guiding the Future of Education*. My proposed presentation “How do we provide mentoring and support to novice teachers and novice teacher educators?” was accepted. In addition to being accepted as a presenter, I wanted to gain valuable information from additional sessions that addressed:

- a) How are we providing leadership to the educational community in the incorporation of innovative practices?
- b) How do we envision the educational changes that will impact the future of teacher education?
- c) How do we use technology to create new and innovative practices for teaching and teacher education?

Thus this conference provided both the opportunity for presenting and learning on a national level.

C. Brief Review

The 92nd annual meeting not only enhanced my professional capabilities as a speaker, but provided an avenue for me to stay abreast of future trends in education as well as explore advanced uses of technology. While attending the conference I made extensive use of networking to: make professional contacts throughout the academic community; gain valuable knowledge needed for teaching and mentoring; explore dissemination of innovative practices within the educational community; gain insight as to the nature and impact of future educational changes within the educational community; and study innovative uses of technology in the classroom to facilitate both on-campus and distance learning.

D. Summary of Experiences

It was important for me to attend this conference to make a scholarly presentation at the national level. This was a tremendous learning experience for me – developing the presentation, assembling (and

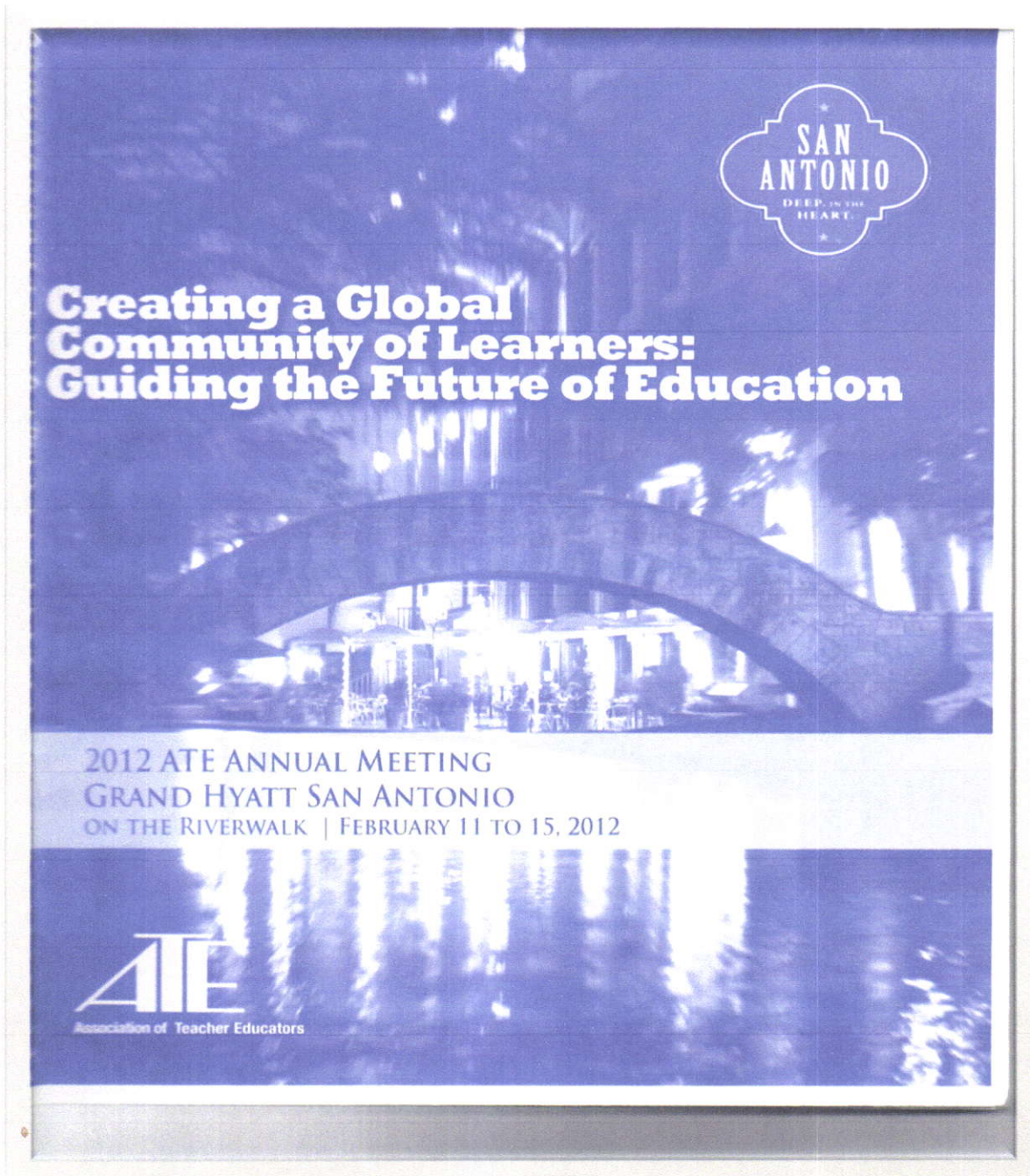
implementing) the technology to facilitate the presentation, and finally delivering the presentation to an audience of my peers. Furthermore, to enhance my professional capabilities, I was able to attend sessions on:

- a) Principles and Practices for Academically Diverse Classrooms
- b) Lessons Learned from Technology-based Educational Improvement
- c) Digital Textbook Initiatives
- d) Digital Storytelling in Teacher Education Programs: A Method for Enhancing Reflective Practice
- e) Surveying Preservice General Education “Methods” Instructors

In addition to sessions noted above, I had the opportunity to attend The General Session and listen to Dr. Chris Dede (Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education). Dr. Dede is truly an exceptional individual and I thoroughly enjoyed his talk.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, I feel that this conference was not only beneficial to me but also ATU students through the enhancement of my teaching and mentoring capabilities. This conference dovetailed nicely with Arkansas Tech University’s Mission Statement and the courses that I presently teach – providing a win-win situation for all concerned.





ASSOCIATION OF
TEACHER EDUCATORS

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