

Arkansas Tech University  
Professional Development Grant  
Final Report

Association of Teacher Educators Summer Conference  
Washington D. C.  
August 2 - 6, 2013

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## B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Summer Conference, entitled “Advancing Teacher Education That Matters in Teaching, Learning, and Schooling,” was held in Washington D. C. on August 2 - 6, 2013. My presentation was entitled “Transforming Teachers to Transform Education: Fostering Success in Teacher Education Programs”. Additionally, I presented with a colleague, Dr. David McCarthy, on various topics concerning the use of technology in the teacher education program. These “technology” topics were presented over a period of four days throughout the conference and included:

- 1) “Discover Wonderful New Technology Tools to Enhance your 21<sup>st</sup> Century Face-to-Face or On-Line Classrooms,” (This first title was requested by the president of ATE and was offered as a pre-conference workshop.)
- 2) “Explore the Concept and Creation of QR Codes”
- 3) “Google Docs Forms”
- 4) “SlideShare”

## C. Brief Review

I have been asked to serve on the ATE National Credentials Committee and the Planning Committee for the February 2014 Annual Meeting which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, and, as mentioned in my proposal, the Summer Conference is the venue for making final plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting. My increased responsibilities within this professional organization have allowed me to interact with professionals from across the United States and Canada. Each of my presentations and committee assignments has served to help keep me well-informed about Teacher Education and the current initiatives, both national and international.

## D. Summary of Experiences

The topics discussed at this summer conference dovetailed perfectly with ATU’s current College of Education plans as our department transitions to a new certification, kindergarten through sixth grade. I attended the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) pre-conference workshop in an effort to stay abreast with the organization of the new accrediting organization. On July 1, 2013, the de facto

consolidation of NCATE and TEAC into CAEP necessitated the effort to learn the new structure with its new standards and operating procedures. We strive through these national affiliations, and others, to maintain curriculum parity between our On-Line and Face-to-Face Classrooms.

Besides attending sessions, I enjoyed the interaction with other colleagues in my own sessions. I attended many informative sessions where current research was presented, past goals reviewed and future developments in education explored. Discussion centered on teaching techniques, policy and procedures, state and national initiatives and the use of technology in teacher education programs. One ongoing challenge we face as teacher educators is staying current within our field, keeping abreast of new technology and incorporating it into the college curriculum – seeking to elicit the best from our students while keeping them motivated, without stifling creativity, requires constant vigilance, new ideas and innovative approaches.

#### E. Conclusion

The theme of the conference, “Advancing Teacher Education That Matters in Teaching, Learning, and Schooling,” proved to be representative of the sessions, associations and experiences provided that supported the conference. One of the highlights of the conference was attending the reception for ATE members held at the National Geographic Societies’ (NGS) Explorers Hall on the evening of August 5, where the hosts explained the unique relationship between the NGS and educators. As always, when attending conferences, I attend with the dual purpose of, first, seeking new information to enhance ATU’s Teacher Educator Program and, second, striving to increase my level of professional involvement within ATE’s executive membership.

Name Tag from ATE Summer Conference

August 2 – 6, 2013



“Thank You for Attending” E-mail  
from  
David Ritchey, Executive Director, ATE

