

Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant
Final Report

Association of Teacher Educators Annual Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia
February 16 – 19, 2013

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Annual Meeting entitled *Living and Learning across a Lifetime* was held in Atlanta, Georgia, February 16 – 19, 2013. My presentation was entitled “*Passing the Torch to a New Generation: Teaching for Lifelong Learning.*” Additionally, I presented on behalf of myself and Dr. Regina Thomason, who was unable to attend the conference. This presentation, entitled “Writing Matters: Professionalizing Preservice Teachers for the Workplace,” shared the history of how faculty identified a critical need to address academic writing skills exhibited by preservice teachers.

While attending the conference, I had the opportunity to present with a colleague in the 21st Century Room, a room dedicated to the latest innovations in technology and classroom furnishings. I co-presented on various topics concerning the use of technology in the teacher education program. Topics presented over a period of four days throughout the conference included the following:

- 1) “Explore Great 21st Century Technology Tools for Face-to-Face and Online Teaching and Learning Environments,”
- 2) “Pinterest and PinSanity,”
- 3) “Great Web 2.0 Collaboration Tools for Educators”
- 4) “Explore What’s New in the Educational Technology World”
- 5) “Digital Bulletin Boards: Supplementing Your Online or Face-to-Face Classrooms”

C. Brief Review

As a member of The Leadership Academy, it is crucial that I spend the first day of the conference collaborating with other teacher educators on the topic of how to impact others. The Leadership Academy is a feature of the ATE Annual Meeting, a special day set aside before the official start of the conference where future leaders for the organization are presented valuable information about leadership. These sessions serve to

challenge participants while exposing them to the leadership styles of famous Americans who have served others. This year we toured the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and participated in activities that challenged us to seek leadership roles. My involvement with the Leadership Academy has led to two positions on national committees. 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.

D. Summary of Experiences

I attended many informative sessions where current research was presented, past goals reviewed and future developments in education explored. Besides attending sessions, I enjoyed the interaction with other colleagues in my own sessions. Each of us collaborated on the following topics: teaching techniques, policy and procedures, state and national initiatives and the use of technology in teacher education programs. New technologies were investigated in the “21st Century Classroom”. Common Core, the development of assessments for Common Core, the new teacher assessment instrument and many other topics were investigated.

E. Conclusion

The theme of the conference, *Living and Learning across a Lifetime*, proved to be representative of the sessions, associations and experiences provided that supported the conference. A visit to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, a part of the Leadership Academy, was a bonus feature. The keynote speakers were informative and inspirational. As six Arkansas Tech University faculty members attended this conference, it also proved to be a time for those of us who teach in the same department to spend time together in collaboration.



