

Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant
Final Report

Association of Teacher Educators
2015 Summer Conference
Minneapolis, MN
July 31 – August 4, 2015

Stephanie P. Pepper, Ed.D
Assistant Professor of Early Childhood

B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Summer Conference entitled “Accountability: Making It Meaningful,” was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 31 – August 4, 2015. My presentations were entitled *“Preparing Teacher Candidates to Support Children and Families in Balancing Technology’s Role in Education and Daily Life”* and *“Accountability within the Southeastern Regional ATE (SRATE) States.”* Besides presenting in break-out sessions during the conference, I was asked to be a presenter, along with other colleagues to explain my involvement with SRATE.

C. Brief Review

“Preparing Teacher Candidates to Support Children and Families in Balancing Technology’s Role in Education and Daily Life” was the title of my solo presentation which explained the issues which surround the unwise use of technology by young children. The objectives of my solo presentation were to:

1. Explore current research that warns about the danger of early use of screens with young children.
2. Investigate strategies novice teachers may use to become advocates for sound teaching practices which encourage active learning and active lifestyles.
3. Discuss approaches for maintaining high standards for technology use.

This presentation was connected to Strand 6: The Role of Technology in Educational Accountability.

D. Summary of Experiences

One of the highlights of the meeting was the study of the area surrounding Minneapolis. We took a Mississippi River Cruise and heard of the history of the area. The theme of the ATE Summer Conference, “Accountability: Making It Meaningful,” proved to be representative of the sessions, associations and experiences that supported the conference. As a member of the Southeast Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE), I presented details for the 2017 SRATE Conference to be held in Rogers, AR. This conference afforded me the opportunity to meet many members of the organization and to hear about the

proposals being considered and the issues that are important. I will be the Vice-President of SRATE when Arkansas hosts the yearly conference.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, when attending conferences, I discuss ATU's Teacher Education Program and always gain new knowledge of other programs across the country. I also learn about successful teaching ideas and new technology to incorporate. This conference was no exception.

My increased responsibilities as a member of committees, both the ATE Planning and Credential Committees, demand that I attend the conferences to meet with other leaders. As a reviewer of Early Childhood Programs for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), I am required to remain abreast of current trends in education. Additionally, as a member of ATU's Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee, I feel that my attendance proves beneficial to Arkansas Tech University in allowing me to improve my skills in curriculum planning. Furthermore, each experience serves to help keep me well informed about Teacher Education and current initiatives.

Your Registration Information

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Card Number: *****6886

Card Expiration: 02/01/2017

Billing Address:

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Package & Fees:

Member \$250.00

Printed Program Book \$5.00

Total Paid: \$255.00

(Below please see the group presentation in which I took part.)

Accountability within the Southeastern Regional ATE (SRATE) States



**Nancy P. Gallavan, Stephanie Pepper, Judy Beck, Michael Murphy, Valerie Wright, Barbara Benson,
Sharon Lamson, Terry L. James, and Jane Govoni**

Sunday, August 2, 2015

11:00-11:50am

Lake Nokomis