Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant

Final Report

Texas Education Computer Association

2017 National Conference

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

My submitted proposal, "Screencasts Across Content Areas" was accepted and presented at the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) 37th Annual Convention and Exposition held in Austin, Texas on February 6-10, 2017. The objectives of my presentation were to: 1) discuss ways that we can use online tools such as screen casting to conference with students in our higher education classrooms to provide meaningful support thus enhancing their learning experiences and improving their own writing abilities across content areas; 2) to use this as a platform for my teacher education students at Arkansas Tech University who will benefit from new creative ways to receive feedback from their professors and fellow classmates utilizing a digital support system to grow in their own classwork, and additionally to model technology-based interventions to be used in their own future classrooms.

C. Brief Overview

My conference attendance and presentation at the National Texas Computer Education Conference (TECA) was a huge success. This conference included many different technology leaders from across the United States as well as vendor-type representatives including SMART, Microsoft, Samsung, Steelcase and others. Previous to my conference presentation time, I had the opportunity to visit with other teachers and researchers who were presenting and attending. I learned so much about things happening all around our nation. I also had the opportunity to visit with several of the representatives who were at TECA promoting new and upcoming advances with technology integration into the curriculum. I brought back many new ideas that I will implement into my own classes and future research.

In my particular session, I co-presented with Dr. Amber Wagnon, Assistant Professor at Stephen F. Austin University. Our research with screen casting tools in the classroom, in particular Screencat-o-Matic used as a conferencing tool, was the basis of the presentation. Her expertise was with her freshman English classes, whereas my focus was with future teacher candidates preparing to integrate "real-technology" into lesson planning and to promote parent connections. Both of our research promotes this integration to meet the needs of students (and parents) to better prepare for a more globalized society.

D. Summary of Experiences

This was such a meaningful experience for me in many ways; one being that the session that we presented was so well received. Our presentation focused on using screen casting tools (and similar tools) as a: 1) preventative way to communicate and as a 2) responsive way to meet goals. After we discussed pedagogical advantages of the implementation, we showed videos of our own screen casts being implemented. Dr. Wagnon showed videos of her student's peer editing other classmates using screen casting. I showed videos of how I have used this tool to communicate with students in their internship to overcome challenges using a more preventative approach. These videos opened up several discussions among the group in regards to ways this tool was both *manageable* and *worthwhile.*

We provided a QR reader of the presentation to the attendees for access during the session and later back home. This presentation included the basic steps to using screen casting. This allowed for more time to be spent brainstorming

challenges and sharing ideas with one another. Last, we had a laptop for each participant with Screencast-o-Matic preloaded, and we were able to facilitate the group as they created their own accounts and made their first screencast. A few days before our session, we were contacted by the official Screencast-o-Matic company who had received word we were presenting on this tool at TECA. They were excited and gave us one pro-account to give away during our presentation session! This was well-received.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, when attending conferences, I discuss Arkansas Tech's Teacher Education Program and always gain knowledge of other programs across the country. Furthermore, I always grow with my ideas based on the things happening in our nation that I can bring home to support our own mission and vision.

I was extremely excited that the attendance to our session was at full capacity filled with classroom teachers, technology coordinators, administrators, and classroom coaches from several various content areas and grade levels. This is evidence that our topic was meaningful, current and well-received by the attendees. Our session allowed for collaboration and conversation with members throughout the duration of our presentation which allowed for me to share the amazing things we have going at ATU and to learn more about things that are happening across our nation that we can partake in.

Another highlight at the TCEA conference was that I was also able to visit with the vendor Steelcast. Currently at Arkansas Tech in the College of Education,

we have just submitted a grant to help fund a new Steelcast classroom on campus to promote technology integration and pedagogy into our curriculum. I had the opportunity to see the actual classroom we are striving for in the grant fully set up on display. I was allowed to try furniture out and discuss pros of the classroom design with the representatives. This was an unexpected opportunity that I am thankful for.

My attendance at the Texas Computer Education Conference has been an opportunity to share my ideas with others, collaborate with another Professor across the curriculum, and plan for the next step in my research endeavors. I will use my new knowledge to achieve the following goals: 1) I want to bring my fellow colleagues up to date on the newest technology tools for the upcoming years by sharing my resources and discussing what we can do as a college to be first in our state with the newest technology advancements; 2) I want emerge my teacher candidates with new ways to use technology in lesson planning to truly integrate "real technology" across the curriculum and use it as communication tool to help parents stay in tuned with what's happening in the classroom. This can be accomplished by using a tool like Screencast-o-Matic to pre-record casts of a math strategy or a writing session for the parents and students to watch as many times as needed to thus, helping bridge the gap; 3) I plan to further my own research and publications based on the feedback I received from my presentation. I had several attendees ask for our contact information in hopes to help further research in this area. This is exciting as I take information to the next level; 4) I plan to use the

information gained from the Steelcast classroom session to best use our classroom if indeed the grant is funded.

Overall, I feel that my attendance allowed me to grow and furthermore to build connections that are critical to our growth with technology advancements at Arkansas Tech University and to help support the new ways we must engage our students to prepare for the future. It was a wonderful experience representing Arkansas Tech University. I am grateful for the funding of this grant which allowed me to participate, and I am grateful for the University Faculty and Staff that give of their time to make this grant successful part of our campus!

Dr. Latasha Holt-Bocksnick, Spring 2017

Please see below for a copy of my name badge from the TECA Conference: