

To: Dr. Bell, Head of Curriculum & Instruction

Final report for the receipt of funding from the ATU Professional Development Grant

Submitted:

Head of the Department of Curriculum & Instruction
Dean of the Scholl of Education
Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant**

Title: Teaching and Learning Opportunities for All Children

The Arkansas Tech University Professional Development Grant Committee granted funding for a professional conference in 2006. The conference, hosted by the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), began 2/19/96 and ended 2/23/06. Presenters from early childhood education were David Bell and Byra Ramsey.

Three-Hour Workshop Title: Teaching and Learning Opportunities for All Children

Attendees Received: Copies of a PowerPoint presentation and an 84 page interactive manual that included references for grant writing. Participants learned to use the reading pens and were involved in roundtable discussions.

Problem Researched: When teaching reading, conventional reading strategies work for most students, but not for all students. Presently, brain imaging shows readers and nonreaders having different brain activity. Some individuals learn to read effortlessly, while other readers struggle for a lifetime

- **Procedure:** Students need to be efficient readers or have access to aid them in reading if they are going to progress on grade level and in all subjects matter. To aid struggling readers, the Wizcom Quicktionary Reading Pen II is a new technology that provides a bridge as to enhance learning for all readers in all subjects, regardless of reading levels or publications. In the workshop, attendees were given a review of literature on reading difficulties, sequential steps to becoming readers, *Reading Logs*, a practical online test to use to identify

individual student's reading weaknesses and strengths, lists of grants for possible funding, and instructions for using the reading pens.

Findings: The participants were impressed with the workshop; participants saw the costs of the pens as a deterrent when trying to encourage schools to place reading pens in the hands of their students.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

Findings supported the pens as being beneficial for students, while cost of the pens brought about concerns; debates arose when examining cost vs. benefits for students.

Further research: Additional funding through grants, to place pens in the schools, is needed before conducting longitudinal research studies. Data over a longer period might produce the statistical significance in student learning to demonstrate the long term benefits of the reading pens.

Attendees had many questions and provided positive responses to the overall concept of bridging the gap for readers by using reading pens.

(Attachments)