

A Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation
Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and Future Directions

“The Sociopolitical Context of Licensure/Certification for Middle Level:
A Case Study of One Mid-South State.”

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Abstract

The Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation is the largest and most significant conference that is held for Middle Level Teacher Educators. This conference benefits faculty members of colleges and universities, and faculty members of undergraduate and graduate middle level teacher preparation programs. This conference is held every two years, and is sponsored by the National Middle Level Association. The title of this year's conference is "Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and Future Directions."

Objectives

I will be a co-presenter with Charlene Johnson and Linda Morrow from the University of Arkansas –Fayetteville. The title of the presentation is "The Sociopolitical Context of Licensure/Certification for Middle Level: A Case Study of One Mid-South State"

Significant Need

As a Middle Level teacher educator, it is crucial for me to know and understand the latest issues and trends connected with Middle Level Education. In addition, as one of the newest areas of licensure in the state of Arkansas, it is important that I know and understand licensure issues in the state of Arkansas, but also what is occurring in the area of licensure in other states.

The information gained at this conference will be used to support "Best practices" in ATU's middle level program with the final result of improving the achievement of middle level students.

Attending this conference will also meet the criteria of the national Middle Level Association standards for Initial Level of Teacher preparation. These standards are:

Standard 1. Middle Level Courses and Experiences

Institutions preparing middle level teacher have courses and field experiences that specifically and directly address middle level education.

Standard 2. Qualified Middle Level Faculty

Institutions preparing middle level teachers employ faculty members who have middle level experience and expertise.

Indicators

1. Faculty members hold advanced degrees in areas that provide appropriate backgrounds to teach in the program.
2. Faculty members have demonstrated their interests and expertise in middle level education.
3. Faculty members are active scholars in middle level education.

E. Process for attainment of Objectives/Goals

A Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Preparation is sponsored by the national Middle Level Association. The theme of the symposium is “Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Best Practices and future directions.” The conferences will be held in Destin Florida at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf resort & Spa.

F. Dissemination of Results

Charlene Johnson, Linda Morrow, V. Carole Smith. “The Sociopolitical Context of Licensure/Certification for Middle Level: A Case Study of one Mid-South State.” NMSA Symposium on Middle level Teacher Preparation. Destin, Florida. February, 2007.

Linda Morrow and V. Carole Smith. “The Evolution of Middle Level Licensure in One Mid-South State.” Association of Teacher Educators. San Diego, California. February, 2007.

There are plans to write an article on this topic.