

Final Report

By Shellie Hanna

Recipient of a Professional Development Grant in October 2012

Presentation of Two Papers at the MSERA Conference in Lexington, Kentucky,  
November 6-9, 2012

## **B. Reinstatement of Problems Researched:**

Dr. Sid Womack, Dr. David Bell, Dr. Stephanie Pepper, and I submitted proposals and were accepted to speak at the annual MSERA conference held in Lexington, Kentucky, November 6-9. I had two separate research proposals accepted to present. Dr. Sid Womack and I were accepted to speak on the topic of labor and economic conditions of teachers in Arkansas. The second proposal was accepted in behalf of Dr. Womack, Bell, Pepper, and I. It was related to the growth in intern pedagogical skills. I presented the presentation titled "The Most Effective Use of Secondary Teacher's Time." While Dr. Pepper and I jointly presented the presentation on the growth of intern pedagogical skills.

## **C. Review of the professional enhancement opportunity , creative work, or research procedure.**

For the Hanna-Womack study, data from 485 Arkansas educators of all kinds were obtained from a random, stratified sample of 15 schools districts about labor and economic conditions. These data are now the basis for a book being authored by Sid T. Womack, Shellie L. Hanna, Stephanie Pepper, Mohamed Ibrahim, and Peggy Woodall (Henderson State University). Those data paint an ongoing, evolving picture of the real world of Arkansas educators, a data-based portrait begun by Sid Womack in 1990 and revised in 2002. Arkansas educators work an average of 60 hours per week. Principals, music teachers, and coaches work significantly more. This presentation went into data-based detail about what is taking so much time in the behind-the-scenes labors of educators. It made research-and-experiential recommendations about what can be done to make educators' work more efficient and what can be done to eliminate time-wasting practices. This presentation was from a chapter in our book that is undergoing final editing with Rowan and Littlefield Publishers.

For the Pepper-Womack-Hanna-Bell study on the growth of interns' pedagogical skills, data from 130 early childhood, middle-level, and secondary Arkansas Tech University teacher candidates from the spring of 2010 were investigated. Simple one-way analysis of variance showed that improvements in "student teacher" (intern) teaching skills occurred through the third of four systematic observations, but no further improvements were found on the fourth observations. This finding needs to be publicized during the time when there are calls from some quarters of the teaching profession to extend the internship from one semester to a year-long event. If improvement is already flagging by the end of ten to twelve weeks of supervised internship, how likely is it that another semester will help anything? If the extension of internships is inevitable, the remainder of the time past the tenth week needs to be re-structured in order to avoid stagnation.

#### **D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had.**

As mentioned above, not only have we been able to present the information we learned about the hours and money Arkansas teachers invest into students at conferences, we have also been published in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and have a book related to some of the findings that will be going to print soon.

On the pedagogical skills research, we have not only been able to share this with professionals, but have utilized the information with our students in the classroom as well as with other professionals within our department

Further, by attending other sessions the conference, I learned many other things that I have been able to implement into my classrooms. This has been particularly useful in the area of technology and iPad use. There were several sessions related to this that I attended.

#### **E. Conclusions and recommendations.**

This was a conference with a great deal of high level research presented. There were many opportunities for learning as well as having the opportunity to present our research. The research was well received by our audience as evidenced by the questions asked during the sessions. I felt confident that we will be able to take those findings and continue expounding on them with future research and presentations.