

Professional Development Grant Final Report

October 2018

ATE (Association of Teacher Educators) Clinical Practice Fellows Symposium

Flamingo Hotel Conference Center

Las Vegas, NV

February 16, 2018 – February 19, 2018

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), Clinical Fellows Symposium is a space in which a community of educators gather to discuss and problem solve current issues in teacher education.

The purpose of the symposium is to not only collaborate with other educators but to also strengthened our respective organizations' collective voices in order to support our educator preparation program. The theme for the symposium was "Re-Imagining Clinically-Based Teacher Education Programs." Thus, the goal of the of the workshops focused on rethinking the nature of our clinical experiences.

The purpose in taking part of this symposium was based upon my deep commitment to clinical practice in education. As a participant of this select group of teacher educators from across the nation, I was able to discuss critical issues that are affecting our educator preparation program as well as come up with possible solutions

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

Attending this conference provided me with the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with some of the top scholars in clinical practice. The dialogue centered on "turning teacher education upside down" and putting clinical practice at the center of teacher education. Some of the strategies discussed included building a stronger bond with the community surrounding our schools, particularly the K-12 institutions. In building this bridge, it is vital that teachers and principals are aware of the constant changing state policies that affect our teacher candidates, who will eventually be certified teachers in the classrooms.

Attending this conference provided me with the opportunity to share my research and experiences with other colleagues in the field of teacher education and those who are also teaching and researching ways to enhance their university's teacher education programs. As a presenter, I also had the opportunity to attend other sessions and workshops, and professional development programs. I plan to utilize feedback received from my presentation as well as workshops to improve teaching practices as well as for future research.

D. Summary of experiences

It was very beneficial to have been able to network with teacher educators, K-12 school personnel, and clinical field coordinators who have a strong research interest in clinical practice. During the small group sessions, I was able to learn more about what other teacher preparation programs are doing to better bridge the gap between their higher education institutions and the K-12 school systems within their communities. Some of the recommendations that were discussed centered around some strategies that our teacher education program was already implementing. This includes meeting with local school leaders as well as increasing field hours to allow teacher educators more time and experience in the classroom prior to internship. One of the most important outcomes from this conference was the opportunity to network with other teacher educators from across the nation.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations

Attending and presenting at this conference afforded me the opportunity to discuss ways to improve teacher preparation programs as well as find out what other teacher preparation

programs are doing across the country. The sessions and small group networking that I took place in confirms that our teacher education program is on the right track in preparing our future teachers to be effective in the classroom. I will continue to collaborate with other scholars that I met as a way to stay abreast of what is going on in the clinical preparation arena as well as exchange ideas.