

A. Title Page

Professional Development Grant Report

Arkansas Tech University

Participation in the 2009 Annual Meeting Mid-South Educational Research Organization

by

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

In 2009 I was privileged to serve as the Vice-President/President-Elect of the Mid-south Educational Research Association (MSERA). This was the first stage of a three-year commitment to the Executive Committee of the MSERA Board of Directors. In order to fulfill this commitment I will be required to attend the Annual Meeting in November of each year. Since travel funds were not available through my department, I applied for and received funds to enable me to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting of MSERA. The Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors, a three-day research symposium, and the MSERA Annual Business Meeting are all part of this four-day event. It was held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on November 3-6, 2009.

C. Review of the professional enhancement opportunity

Consistent service to the profession through MSERA has contributed greatly to my own development as a researcher and an administrator. I have grown professionally since I joined this organization as a junior faculty member, serving in the following capacities: Membership Committee Chair 2001-2003; Secretary 2004-2006; Arkansas State Representative 2006-2008; Local Arrangements Chair 2007; and Program Chair 2008; 2009 Vice-President/President-Elect. These experiences will serve me well as I continue on the MSERA Executive Board of Directors as the 2010 MSERA President.

D. Summary of outcomes

MSERA was formed in 1972 as a nonprofit incorporated educational organization with the stated mission "to encourage and provide results of quality educational research in elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher learning". The organization produces an internationally peer-reviewed journal, *Research in the Schools* which boasts an acceptance rate of 25% or less. The work of this organization is intrinsic to my work as a professional preparing pre-service elementary and high school teachers.

It is truly an honor to reach this level of professional recognition in an education research organization of this stature. It brings honor to Arkansas Tech University to have one of its own faculty members serving on the MSERA Executive board.

The funds provided by the ATU Professional Development Grant allowed me to be execute my role as MSERA Vice-President, ensuring a successful Fall meeting of MSERA. Documentation is recorded on the organization's website. Proceedings of the 2009 Annual Meeting are available at: <http://www.msera.org/proceed.htm>. A copy of the minutes of the board and the business meetings are available at the same website: <http://www.msera.org/business.htm>. 2009: [Spring Board Meeting](#) | [Fall Board Meeting](#) | [Business Meeting](#)

E. Conclusions

Thanks to the funding provided through the ATU Professional Development Grant I was able to successfully fulfill my commitment to serve as MSERA Vice-President/President Elect in 2009. This

experience has prepared me to assume the top leadership position in MSERA for the 2010 Annual Meeting. My goals as 2010 MSERA President are to:

1. Restructure the organization hierarchy to provided institutional interlacing of duties such that the organization will not be crippled with the sudden absence of any one of its Board members.
2. Continue to expand the influence the organization through membership expansion.
3. To make the operations of the executive board of the organization more transparent to the rank members through sharing of Board Minutes and a Committee Fair at the 2010 Annual Meeting.
4. To prepare for the MSERA 40th Anniversary Celebration at the 2011 Annual Meeting.