CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

2008 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Growing and Sustaining Our Own: The Power of PDSs in Preparing Professionals

APRIL 10-13, 2008
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

college of Education
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
challenging the status quo ... exceeding expectations
are regularly reviewed by the principal, the student teacher liaison, the mentor teacher, and the university course instructors. Besides receiving guidance from these practitioners, the teacher candidates also incorporate teaching strategies learned in grade-level study groups. We will also discuss other activities in which the teacher candidates have been engaged which serve to enhance student learning.

**Integrated Research Projects: Growing And Sustaining Inquiry Across The Curriculum**

*Mary Beth Allen and Pat Pincotti, East Stroudsburg University*
*Craig Downey, Lincoln Elementary School*

There has been a surge of research and, consequently, practical information reported in recent years related to using more informational texts in the reading classroom. Current research supports the notion that many students enjoy, and actually prefer to read, non-fiction texts (Mohr, 2003; Worthy, 2002). This information has spawned a plethora of books, magazines, and websites available for students to explore topics of interest.

With the availability of so many quality informational texts, and the need to help P-12 students become proficient at reading non-fiction pieces, we wanted to help our pre-service and in-service teachers create and implement purposeful, focused research projects that allow the K-6 students to inquire, investigate, and inform others about their findings. Using this stance, we have created a process to support the teachers as they create effective research projects to help their K-6 students read, write, and create visual pieces to help them learn about and share information from the content areas. These projects promote integration among the content areas of social studies and science with reading, writing, listening, speaking, and the visual arts.

This session will focus on the process used to guide the teachers to plan and implement research projects with their students. Additionally, we will share the types of research projects the teachers have created and the impact these projects have on the K-6 students’ reading and writing performance and attitudes.

**Integrating Field-Based Methods Courses At PDS Sites**

*Cassandra Matthews and Janita Richardson, Nesbit Elementary School*
*Laura Smith and Susan Swars, Georgia State University*

The focus of this presentation is to describe how three teacher preparation methods courses in mathematics, science, and elementary language arts were successfully implemented on site at an elementary Professional Development School in Georgia. The block of courses was taught during one semester with the same cohort of elementary pre-service teachers. The session will highlight: 1) the on-site context and schedule; 2) the collaboration between university faculty, PDS teachers, teacher interns, and P-5 children; and 3) the advantages and constraints of teaching and learning on site. Products and photographs from specific classroom practices, such as the collaborative Science Fair Projects,
November 19, 2007

Dr. Mary Beth Allen  
Elementary & Early Childhood Education  
East Stroudsburg University  
200 Prospect Street  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Dr. Allen:

On behalf of the Conference Program Committee it is a pleasure to inform you that your proposal: **Integrated Research Projects: Growing And Sustaining Inquiry Across The Curriculum** has been accepted for a Forty-Five Minute presentation at the conference. The Conference Office assumes that you intend to present your accepted proposal. If this is not correct, please notify the Conference Office immediately.

Enclosed are presenter registration materials which are required in order for you to confirm your place on the Conference Program. In order to be included in the Conference Program, your Presenter Registration Form and registration fee must be received no later than February 8, 2008. It is imperative that we have correct contact information for each presenter. If you are with a P-12 setting, DO NOT list your university partner's information. You will be notified in writing in February of the day and time of your presentation. Please do not make airline reservations until you have been notified. Please note: Unfortunately, refunds cannot be made on paid registrations.

Because of the overwhelming response to the Call for Proposals, we have added concurrent sessions on Thursday, April 10, 2008 to the schedule. If you absolutely cannot present on that Thursday, please notify the conference office by email (pdsconf@gwm.sc.edu) no later than February 8, 2008. All Student Poster Sessions will remain on Saturday.

Name: Mary Beth Allen  
Registration Type: Team Presenter  
Amount Due: $275.00

All rooms are arranged theatre style, with a presenter table and chairs for presenters and participants; we cannot adjust this room arrangement. All presentation rooms will be equipped with a projection screen only. If you require any audiovisual equipment, you must make that request in writing by no later than February 8, 2008. Only overhead projectors and LCD projectors are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please email audiovisual requests to pdsconf@gwm.sc.edu with the subject of A/V Request; include presentation title in body of text. The conference planning committee will make every attempt to meet your request. If you have handouts for your session, please prepare 50-75 copies.

Please keep this letter handy for general information about the conference. Contact the Wyndham Orlando Resort to make your accommodations or if you have questions regarding your accommodations. Area visitor information will be available at the registration desk once you arrive. The conference registration desk will be open at 7:00 am, Thursday, April 10, 2008 and throughout each day of the event.

Conference Site: **Wyndham Orlando Resort**  
8001 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
(407) 351-2420  
You must make your hotel reservations by **February 15, 2008** in order to receive the conference rate.

The conference program is shaping up nicely - one which will provide an event you'll find both professionally and personally worthwhile. Please feel free to contact the conference office by e-mail: pdsconf@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-4807 if you require any assistance prior to the conference. Thank you again for your interest in and support of the Professional Development School initiative and educational renewal.

Sincerely,

Jason Kinsey,  
Conference Coordinator
January 17, 2008

Dr. Mary Beth Allen
Elementary & Early Childhood Education
East Stroudsburg University
200 Prospect Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dear Dr. Allen:

The 2008 Professional Development Schools National Conference, scheduled to be held April 10 - April 13, 2008, is just around the corner! Your presentation:

**Integrated Research Projects: Growing And Sustaining Inquiry Across The Curriculum**

is scheduled for **Friday, April 11, 2008, from 10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**
Audio/visual equipment: **Screen**

Please note: All rooms are arranged theatre style, with a presenter table and chairs for presenters and participants; we cannot adjust this room arrangement. All presentation rooms will be equipped with a projection screen only unless A/V requests were submitted and approved.

If you have any changes to your presentation team, please contact the conference office immediately at 803-777-1515. If you have not already sent in your presenter payment, your fee is due by February 8, 2008. If your fee is not received by the due date, your presentation(s) will be removed from the program.

**Amount Due:** $275.00

While every effort was made to meet everyone's requests for audio/visual equipment and day of presentation, it was simply not possible to accommodate every request. If your request was not honored, please accept our apologies. **Unfortunately, the schedule is so full that it cannot be changed.**

The conference program is shaping up nicely - one which will provide an event you'll find both professionally and personally worthwhile. Please feel free to contact the conference office by e-mail: pdsconf@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-1515 if you require any assistance prior to the conference. Thank you again for your interest in and support of the Professional Development School initiative and educational renewal.

Sincerely,

Jason Kinsey,
Conference Coordinator