Collaboration with Partner Schools and the Community

Professional Development for Partner Schools

The WTEP faculty invests in the professional growth of the P-12 teachers at our partner schools through professional development opportunities at the Northeast Arkansas Educational Cooperative. The cooperative is the predominant provider of professional development for schools in the area. Faculty from WBC that has expertise in writing has presented workshops for teachers that provide instruction in teaching strategies for improving grammar and writing skills for students in grades 4-8. WTEP faculties also assist area teachers in preparation for the AP English exams that are administered in Arkansas. Faculty that has technology expertise has trained partner school teachers in grades P-12 through SMART Notebook workshops, Web 2.0 Tool workshops, Website Creation workshops, and Using Technology to Teach the Multiple Intelligence workshops. These have been presented at the NEA Educational Cooperative every summer since 2009 and have been attended by teachers from numerous partner schools. Another faculty member has presented these workshops at the NEA Cooperative: Pathwise Mentoring Model, Differentiated Instruction, Brain-Based Learning Strategies, and Integrated Lessons for Physical Educators.

In addition to sharing expertise through workshops at the area education cooperative, several faculty members have been involved in writing grants to benefit our partner schools and their teachers. The Northeast Arkansas Region Mathematics Partnership (4th-8th grades) was formed by the NEARK Cooperative in October, 2006. WBC was part of this partnership to provide professional development to the teachers of NE Arkansas. A Math Science Partnership (MSP) grant focusing primarily on Geometry and Numbers and Operations was received to conduct ten-day summer institutes for thirty 4th-8th grade math teachers in 2007-2009. Onsite visits were made twice a year in the classrooms of each participant by the training consultants.

The NEARK Region Mathematics Partnership received another MSP grant focusing on integrating science and mathematics in the high school. This was allocated to conduct ten-day summer institutes for thirty-two 9th-12th grade math and science teachers in 2008-2010. On-site visits were made to the classrooms to observe or collaboratively conduct integrated lessons in math and science.

The Partnership received an Enhancing Education Through Technology grant in 2007-2009 to begin an interactive technology imitative to train teachers and engage high school geometry students in innovative teacher-developed lessons utilizing the Interwrite pad technology. Through a partnership with WBC mathematics faculty and middle level education students, these Interwrite lessons were vertically aligned with the state SLE’s for mathematics.

A partnership was formed by Jonesboro Public Schools and WBC in 2007 to increase the content knowledge of math and math pedagogy for K-2nd grade teachers. Math content was delivered over the course of a three-year MSP grant in a series of three-hour monthly evening seminars for the nine month school calendar and a one week workshop in the summers. On-site visits were made to each classroom twice a year.
The WBC Education Department received a P-16 Education Partnership grant in 2011 from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to provide professional development to Algebra I teachers to improve knowledge and pedagogy in the area of Algebra I as Arkansas transitions into the adoption of the Common Core Standards. Eight days of instruction were completed in the summer and four follow-up sessions in the evening during the fall semester. The instruction was a collaborative effort between WBC math faculty and an exemplary high school teacher from one of our partner schools.

**Collaboration with the Bank of Pocahontas and Alma Spikes Elementary**

The faculty member that teaches ED 3243 Language Arts & Literature: P-4 collaborates with the Bank of Pocahontas and Alma Spikes Elementary School to teach economics to area second grade students through a program entitled “Teach Children to Save”. WBC students enrolled in the aforementioned course use children’s literature and play money in a hands-on economics lesson that is designed to teach second graders to be “smart savers”. In addition to the lesson, each child receives a piggy bank with $1.00 in it from the Bank of Pocahontas. This collaboration allows our students a chance to design a lesson based on Arkansas Frameworks, implement the lesson in a school setting, and then reflect on student achievement and their own teaching practice.

**Collaboration with Greene County Tech and other Partner Schools**

The faculty member that teaches ED 4153 Reading in the Content Area collaborates with elementary and mid-level teachers and administrators at Greene County Tech and other partner schools to assign P-4 and Mid-Level teacher candidates to work one-on-one with a student on a Reading Case Study. During this assignment, teacher candidates administer reading assessments and then teach vocabulary and comprehension strategies to the elementary or mid-level students. Candidates spend a total of ten hours with the students. The faculty member works closely with the partner school teachers to choose elementary and mid-level students that meet specific criteria and will benefit from the one-on-one instruction. Communication that is sent to the participating grade 3-6 teachers can be viewed in the standard three exhibits 3.3a. The specific directions for the Case Study and the expectations for teacher candidates can be viewed in the standard three exhibits 3.3e. The rubric that is used to assess the Case Study can be viewed in the standard three exhibits 3.3f.

**Collaboration with Elementary and Junior High Schools**

In the Music Education P-12 program, faculty collaborates with music educators in elementary and junior high schools in the community. Through this collaboration, teacher candidates in MU 4112/4113 are able to plan and teach two music lessons in an elementary classroom. The teacher candidates in MU 4122/4123 plan and teach one music lesson in a junior high classroom. Teacher candidates have even been asked to teach recorder classes at an area school which resulted in several visits to teach this skill to elementary students.