

Education Renewal Zones in Arkansas

Arkansas State Legislature
Joint Committee on Education
February 8, 2016

What is an Education Renewal Zone?

History

- Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas in 2004
- A P-20 Partnership—schools, education service cooperative, and local institution of higher education
- Purpose:
 - Improve school performance and academic achievement
 - Provide collaboration
 - Maximize economies of scale by concentrating and coordinating resources
- Focus:
 - Building Instructional Capacity
 - Building Organizational Capacity

Adopt-a-Professor

Program Spotlight
Western ERZ—UA Fort Smith

What is Adopt-a-Professor?

- Pairs K-12 teachers with UAFS faculty/staff
- Partners collaborate to plan 3 “learning engagements,” generally one engagement per month during the semester
- Engagements can take place at the school, at UAFS, or possibly in the community
- Expenses covered by the ERZ



Purpose of Adopt-a-Professor

- Strengthen learning outcomes for K-12 students
- Build collaborative relationships between K-12 and higher education
- *UAFS faculty/ staff* offer up-to-date content knowledge and share information about resources in their field
- *K-12 teachers* offer insight into current school practices
- *K-12 students* gain deeper understanding of content and build connections to higher education



Adopt-a-Professor at UA Fort Smith General Stats

Spring 2015

- 10 Professor-Teacher Teams
 - 11 Professors
 - 15 Teachers
 - 460 Students
- 34 Learning Engagements
- 3 Colleges represented
- 4 Districts
- 6 Schools
- Total Student Contacts = 1,075

Fall 2015

- 20 Teacher-Professor Teams
 - 23 Professors (21 profs/2 staffers)
 - 20 Teachers
 - 1,384 Students
- 59 Learning Engagements
- 6 Colleges/Units represented
- 4 Districts
- 10 Schools
- Total Student Contacts = 3,857

People, Time & Money—Fall 2015

People

- Professors = 24
- Teachers = 43
- UAFS staffers = 28
- Parents/Family/Community Members = 44
- **TOTAL = 139**

Volunteer Hours

- Professors = 155.5 hours
- Teachers = 215 hours
- UAFS Staffers = 116 hours
- Parents/Family/Community = 153 hours
- **TOTAL = 639.5 hours**

Financials

- Average cost/team = \$435.64 (\$147.67 per engagement)
- **TOTAL = \$8,712.79**

Publicity

- October 7, 2015—Greenwood Democrat
- October 8, 2015—Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette
- November 4, 2015—KFSM Channel 5 News
- November 4, 2015—Talk Business & Politics
- November 5, 2015—Tweet from Gov. Asa Hutchinson's Office
- November 13, 2015—Southwest Times Record



Adopt-a-Professor Participant Survey

Fall 2015

Highlights

- 45 of 55 participants completed survey—**81.8% response rate**
- 97.78 % responded “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the Adopt-a-Professor initiative achieved its stated purpose *to create opportunities for K-12 teachers and university faculty/ staff to collaborate to enrich learning for Arkansas students.*
- 100% would consider participating in Adopt-a-Professor in the future
- 100% would recommend participation to a colleague
- 80% were “very likely” or “likely” to contact/consult with their Adopt-a-Professor partner

Themes from Data

- Collaboration
- Best Practices
- Real-world applications of learning for students
- Parents' comments—supportive and grateful
- Affirmation regarding teaching practices
- Higher education moves from abstract to concrete—"I'm going to college!"



Dr. Mayo @ Chaffin Junior High, Fort Smith



Dr. Khan & Prof. McKinney @ Chaffin Junior High, Fort Smith

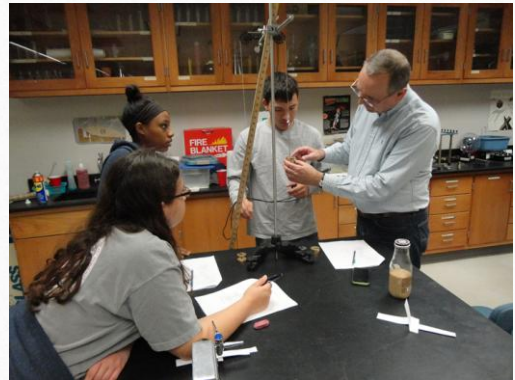
Prof. Elmore, Gattis, Collins-Vazquez
Atecas, and Theobald @ Lavaca
Elementary, Lavaca



Dr. Ree @ Hackett Elementary, Hackett



Prof. Mann @ Alma Middle School,
Alma



Dr. Christiansen @ Northside High
School, Fort Smith

Closing Comments

“Our public schools ROCK! Everyday they face an amazingly diverse set of challenges, yet they continue to deliver a consistent, quality service.”

“I did not have a negative impression before, but this program confirmed for me that good things are truly happening in the local area.”

Presentations and Research

- October 1-3, 2015—National Network of Educational Renewal, Chico, CA.
- November 5 & 6, 2015—Arkansas Curriculum Conference, Little Rock, AR.
- January 15, 2016—FSPS Secondary Collaboration Conference, Fort Smith, AR.
- February 5, 2016—UAFS Foundation Board
- February 8, 2016—Arkansas House and Senate Joint Committee on Education, Little Rock, AR.
- March 8, 2016— *‘Adopt-a-Professor’—A Model for Collaboration in STEM between K-12 and Higher Education* accepted for publication and presentation at Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ (IEEE) Integrated STEM Education Conference at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

Contact Us

Cindy Hogue

Assistant to Commissioner
Arkansas Department of Education
Cindy.Hogue@arkansas.gov
501.682.4240
www.arkansased.gov

Jenn Jennings Davis

ERZ Director
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
Jennifer.JenningsDavis@uafs.edu
479.788.7256
education.uafs.edu/erz