Update on ERZ Activities

- **Adopt-A-Classroom**
  - 16 UA faculty and 16 partner school teachers are participating
  - Held a training for UA faculty on 1/9 and Welcome Reception on 1/31 for UA and partner school faculty to meet and plan for the semester
  - UA faculty should observe class once then teach at least once in February, March, April (and May if possible)
  - UA faculty will have monthly cohort meetings to discuss what is working
  - Adopt-A-Classroom participants and partner school principals and administrators will be invited to the **Celebration Reception on May 9th at 4:30pm**. Please plan to attend to support your participating teachers, if you are able.

- **P-20 Task Force** (in conjunction with the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative)
  - Marcia Sanders, Teacher Center Coordinator at NWAESC, spoke about the first meeting of the Task Force on November 12, 2012.
  - Representatives from all 16 school districts and 5 institutions of higher education on the Task Force
  - At first meeting, identified transitions students face at every level and started creating a shared vision for P-20 education in NWA
  - Next meeting is February 27th at 10am at NWAESC

- **Arts Integration through Arkansas A+ Schools**
  - UA faculty and UA and UAFS ERZ leadership recently visited Arkansas A+ Schools in Little Rock.
  - Arkansas A+ Schools is a research-based whole school network with a mission of nurturing creativity in every learner through an arts-integrated school network.
  - Visit website for videos and more information: [www.aplusar.org](http://www.aplusar.org)
- A+ Model is used at 11 schools in Arkansas, 40 schools in North Carolina, and 70 schools in Oklahoma
- Planning to host Paul Leopoulos, Executive Director of Arkansas A+ Schools, this spring for presentation to interested UA faculty and public school partners. If you are interested, contact Elizabeth.
- An independent research organization in Oklahoma determined that A+ schools outperformed the state average and district averages on state benchmark tests each year since implementation (see chart below).

![Oklahoma Statewide Test Scores](chart.png)

- Also discussed current partnerships for arts programming in schools including the AWE Institute at the Walton Arts Center each summer.

**Discussion of ERZ Goal 1 & 1a: Comprehensive professional development & changes to pre-service education**

- **Suggested changes to our pre-service teacher education:**
  - Help pre-service teachers learn about Teacher Excellence and Support System (TESS) in college so they are prepared for what they will face as teachers.
  - UA Office of Field Placement will work with NWAESC to plan a TESS training for all teacher education faculty
- **What should UA faculty/staff know about CCSS?**
  - Planning training for UA faculty/staff to inform them about CCSS and how it will impact their work
  - Focus on how it should improve remediation rates and adequately prepare students for college
  - Show them the big instructional shifts

- **CCSS Model Lessons Institute**
  - April 27th at UA campus
  - Model lessons for K-8, all subject areas, presented by local teachers and UA faculty
  - Call for proposals will go out to schools in the next couple of weeks. Please send on to your teachers so they can present if they are interested.
  - Registration for this event will be available late March

**UA Resources Available for Local Schools**

- **Office for Education Policy, Dr. Gary Ritter (garyr@uark.edu)**
  - [http://www.uark.edu/ua/oep/](http://www.uark.edu/ua/oep/)
  - Dr. Ritter showed us how to access databases relating to student performance, school finance, and demographics on the Office for Education policy website.

- **Center for Math and Sciences Education, Lynne Hehr (lhehr@uark.edu)**
  - [http://cmase.uark.edu/](http://cmase.uark.edu/)
  - Ms. Hehr modeled a science lesson and informed us that CMASE is available to partner with schools in many ways including model lessons, supplies, and professional development.