



# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

**Education Renewal Zone  
Advisory Board Meeting Notes  
April 26, 2013  
10:30 am - 12:30pm  
Arkansas Union 513-514**

- General Updates:
  - The ERZ received funding from the Arkansas Department of Education to continue for another year! Thanks to partner schools for making our work possible.
  - Decatur will be added as a partner school district.
  
- Common Core State Standards Model Lesson Institute on April 27th:
  - This event provided local teachers with an opportunity to present their model lessons to colleagues. Forty-six educators registered to participate in ten sessions throughout the day. This may be repeated in the fall.
  
- Adopt-A-Classroom
  - Ten faculty/K-12 teacher partnerships have continued throughout the semester. UA faculty have taught in partner school classrooms at least three times this spring.
  - A few Adopt-A-Classroom partnerships were highlighted (see Power Point presentation for pictures):
    - Kathleen Lehman, Head Physics Librarian, worked with a fifth grade class at Gentry Intermediate School to build water filtration systems.
    - Janet Penner-Williams, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education and Health Professions took termites to Elkins Primary School to illustrate how termites utilize sense of smell instead of eyesight.
    - Ben Chamberlain, Director of Athletic Bands, developed an extensive partnership with the Gentry High School Band. In February, he visited GHS to teach classes all day. In March, UA seniors and graduate assistants went to Gentry to conduct master classes. The Gentry band came to campus later that month to practice with the Razorback band and tour campus. The ERZ brought the band and their parents to the University Band Concert in April where Karri Altrogge, Gentry band director, was guest conductor of the Razorback Band. At the Gentry High School band concert, Ben was also a guest conductor and he was the featured speaker at the Gentry Band Banquet.
  - A Celebration Reception was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> to share and celebrate stories of successful partnerships. The ERZ plans to continue Adopt-A-Classroom next year and hopes to include more K-12 teachers and UA faculty.

- NWA P-20 Task Force:  
The NWA P-20 Task Force held its second meeting in February to create a mission statement (included in the Power Point Presentation attached). The task force desires to create a feedback loop throughout P-20, pairing student data with students through college and the workforce and research a move towards competencies instead of traditional Carnegie units. The task force is planning its next meeting for June but awaiting confirmation that representatives from the Arkansas Department of Education will be able to attend.
- Table Discussion on ERZ Goal #2: Rigorous, intentionally aligned P-16 curriculum
  - What types of more rigorous curriculum opportunities would you like to see in the coming year?
    - Ongoing professional development in content areas
    - Create opportunities for real world applications
    - Providing access to low-cost texts
    - Curriculum maps in content areas
    - Assessment in content areas
    - Connecting TESS to what schools are doing in the classroom
    - Demonstration STEM lessons
    - More rigorous opportunities for those not going to college
    - Job shadowing opportunities for all students
- Recruiting Future Teachers:
  - The ERZ is working with the College of Education and Health Professions' Admissions Counselor, Jake Ayo, to create a plan for recruiting future teachers. Jake is available to speak to classes and host students for campus visits. He can be contacted at [ayo@uark.edu](mailto:ayo@uark.edu). Additionally, we are planning a Future Educator's Day for the fall to host students interested in education for an in-depth look at becoming a teacher.
  - Dr. Janet Penner-Williams provided information about a grant she has written to fund opportunities for paraprofessionals to obtain licensure. She is currently looking for a funding agency for this grant.
- Next Generation Science Standards Update:
  - Lynne Hehr, University of Arkansas, Director of Center for Math and Sciences Education (CMASE.)
    - CMASE can help teachers write grants for supplies and professional development.
    - CMASE has math and science specialists available to help with professional development.
    - Direct questions on NGSS to [Michelle.snyder@arkanas.gov](mailto:Michelle.snyder@arkanas.gov) or [tracy.tucker@arkansas.gov](mailto:tracy.tucker@arkansas.gov).
      - The final version of NGSS is available at [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org)
      - The NGSS has not been adopted. The State Board of Education will ultimately determine if they will be adopted.

- This summer NWAESC and CMASE will offer a one day professional development opportunity titled “Planning for Next Generation Science Standards: Understanding the Vision.”
  - The Arkansas Science Curriculum Frameworks are still being taught and assessed until further notice.
- Literacy Design Collaborative/Math Design collaborative implementation:
  - Several schools in the ERZ will be implementing LDC/MDC next year and the ERZ will connect those schools to implementation resources.
  - If other schools are interested, contact Elizabeth for more information.
- University of Arkansas Resources:
  - Aixa Garcia Mont, from the Office of Latino Academic Advancement & Community Relations presented information concerning summer camps for Middle School students. For more information, contact Aixa at [agarciam@uark.edu](mailto:agarciam@uark.edu)
  - Dr. Rita Littrell, Director, Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education:
    - Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education on campus offers professional development. Teachers can come to the center or the training can come to them.
    - Dr. Littrell spoke about an upcoming professional development opportunity: Empowering Entrepreneurship Education (see handout attached to e-mail).
    - For upcoming programs in Economics Education visit their website: <http://bmcee.uark.edu>
  - NWA Writing Project, Dr. Chris Goering, Director
    - Distributed materials for two opportunities for teachers to participate this summer in the NW Arkansas Writing Project. Contact [cgoering@uark.edu](mailto:cgoering@uark.edu) to learn about application procedures.