

Activities Summary

During the NCTM 2012 Regional Conference and Exposition in Chicago I attended many sessions, workshops, and the exhibitor. When we first arrived on Wednesday, we went to the opening session at 5:30-7:00pm titled Mathematical Reasoning and Proof with the Simpsons and Futurama. This was a great start to the beginning of my NCTM experience. Thursday at 7:15-7:45am, we attended the New Member and First Timers' Orientation. Next, at 8:00-9:00am we went to Conceptualizing Procedural Problems in Mathematics. After, we went straight to Mathematics and Art= Deep Learning that went from 9:30-10:30am. During this session I learned many art ideas to bring into a classroom. At 2:00-3:00pm we watched a session called The Algebraic Solution: Is It Always the Best Solution? It was very interesting, and many people got involved with the discussion. Lastly, we attended our professors Dave, John, and Esters presentation called Making the Workshop Work in Mathematics at 3:30-4:30pm. It was a great opportunity to watch our professors make such a great presentation. On Friday, we went to the debate called Math versus the Real World: Which Matters More? at 8:00-9:00am. This debate was very engaging and entertaining to hear about both sides of the debate. Next, we participated in the workshop New and Preservice Teachers Workshop at 10:30-12:00pm. This was my favorite and an amazing way to end the conference. Throughout these days, we also viewed the Exhibitor. We saw many booths, and participated in the ALEKS Corp presentation, where we got a free T-shirt!

Reflection Essay

My understanding of the academic discipline and profession of mathematics teachers greatly improved throughout my experience at the NCTM 2012 Regional Conference in Chicago. Words cannot describe how appreciative I am to be given this opportunity. Meeting so many people who work in a school and have the same passion about mathematics was just an experience in itself. Then attending the sessions and workshop deepened my understanding for why I am so excited to be a part of such an intrinsically rewarding profession. The sessions and workshops gave me many different creative ideas to bring into a classroom. It was great to hear all the different stories other teachers shared that helped them engage students learning involving math. For many students, math is a hard subject to understand; therefore allowing me the opportunity to hear and see other people's ideas was outstanding. Not only do I feel more prepared to start teacher assisting in this next semester, but I also learned more about why I was so excited to become a teacher in the first place. Sometimes you forget why it is you are doing something, and this conference was a great reminder of why I fell in love with this profession. This conference has enhanced my liberal education in many ways. One being, the approaches I learned in the New and Preservice Teachers Workshop. During this workshop I was able to hear different concepts and ideas other preservice teachers and first year teachers found to be very helpful in a classroom. These concepts could be about anything including technology, classroom management, homework, parents, and many others. This was a great way to meet new people who are at the same level as myself. Also to hear what has worked for them was just so remarkable.

Before the conference our professors and I discussed what I wanted to achieve when attending the conference. Then after every session I explained what I learned, thought was interesting, and how it pertained to my goals at the beginning of the conference. This was a great way to maximize my experience and to keep on track what exactly I wanted to get out of this amazing experience. Then on the ride home, we reflect on everything we did and learned throughout our time in Chicago.

Overall, I could not have expected a better and more educational experience. This conference made me realize different approaches I could bring into a classroom, and really expanded my liberal education. I cannot imagine a better way to understand the profession, hear other teacher's ideas, and enhance my liberal education. Thank you for allowing me this unforgettable educational experience.