

Convocation 2007 Reflection

As a future teacher, I can honestly say that attending the 2007 National Kappa Delta Pi Convocation was one of the best things that I could have done. It provided me with both the opportunity and the tools to succeed and become an effective teacher. Being able to talk with experienced teachers and administrators helped me to see just how much I can do for my students. In talking with other teachers, I came away with lots of wonderful, effective teaching ideas and strategies that will help me to create a positive, effective classroom atmosphere. While attending Convocation, I was able to attend several workshops designed for pre-service and beginning teachers. These workshops were extremely helpful in showing me how to both get a job and be an effective teacher. One workshop that I attended was focused on creating a classroom environment free of judgment. It showed how, as teachers, if we judge our students, we are limiting them. Using special glasses, we were able to see how it feels when all judgment is gone. It was amazing how open and welcoming everyone was. This workshop really helped me to see just how much of an impact students (and teachers) can have on one another. Another workshop that I attended addressed the “Do’s and Do Not’s” of getting a teaching job. The workshop provided me with helpful tips on how to dress, act, and prepare for job interviews. Also, it talked about what to bring along on a job interview. The tips that I received in this workshop will definitely be helpful when it comes to applying and interviewing for jobs. Another workshop that I attended was geared toward helping teachers incorporate active Power Point presentations into their classroom. I thought that the presentation was very useful and would definitely be a great way to help students utilize Power Point presentations in a more active, beneficial way. Overall, I would say

that all of the sessions and workshops that I attended were extremely helpful. I came away from Convocation with many different tools and strategies to implement in my classroom. However, I would have to say that the most beneficial and promising thing that I came away from Convocation with is something that reaches far outside of teaching the basic subjects. I learned that, no matter what people say, it is I who will determine what kind of teacher I am. Although there are many people out there who say teachers cannot be caring, sincere individuals, I have always felt the opposite. I have always thought that a teacher should be a person who genuinely cares about his/her students and their needs and will do anything to help them succeed. Convocation helped me to see that I cannot let the negative thinkers drag me down. Yes, I know I have to be realistic. But, that does not mean that I should not care about my students. Therefore, attending the Kappa Delta Pi Convocation was beneficial to me as both a person and a teacher. I came away with knowledge of my profession and hope for the future that I will carry in my heart forever and share with my students in the years to come. For, as an unknown source once said, "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart."