

Hayley Buchheit
Kappa Delta Pi Convocation Reflection

Attending the 2007 Kappa Delta Pi Convocation in Louisville, Kentucky was the greatest educational experience that I have ever had and was one that I will never forget. I cannot even begin to measure how much information that I learned from attending the different sessions that varied from English Language Learners to how to make sure that you get a teaching job, hearing the professionals speak about building relationships with students to using technology in your teaching and meeting educators, professors and preservice teachers from all over the United States!

One specific aspect that I really felt was enforced and talked about greatly was about forming relationships with students. There were several of the speakers that talked about this subject and reinforced over and over that building relationships with students is so crucial to your teaching and their learning. This is because if you form relationships with the children and find out what makes them unique, you can use that information in your teaching to help them connect to the material in their own life and showing the importance of it. Also, by forming and building upon the relationships with students means that if they respect you and feel that you as a teacher care about them, then they are going to want to please you and will want to learn and strive to do their best! I am definitely going to incorporate and use this information in my own teaching by making sure that my students know that I care about them and want them to learn and be successful in school and their lives!

Another idea that I learned from this conference is about teaching in general. I learned that no matter where you teach whether it is in California, New York or even Missouri, all children are the same and the terms that we are learning now as preservice teachers are the basically the same wherever you go. When attending the small sessions

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at Convocation, I noticed that a lot of the education terms that they were talking about, I knew and had had experience with them in my course work at SEMO. Adding to that point, the people that were discussing these terms were not from Missouri but from Brooklyn, New York; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Savannah, Georgia, which means that the education that I am getting from Southeast Missouri State University is very valuable and up-to-date information that I feel prepares you to teach anywhere. Leaving Convocation on the last day and looking back on everything that I learned really made me thankful of the education that I am receiving at SEMO and that I made the right choice to receive my degree from this institution!