

Trista Kurfman
Louisville Reflection

The Kappa Delta Pi Convocation 2007 in Louisville, KY was an absolute learning experience. Throughout the few days in Louisville I learned and experienced several new things that will enhance my teaching in the future.

On the first day I was at Convocation, I went to two very different sessions. The first one was on using technology in the classroom. I could not believe how quickly this presenter got his class to be able to use the programs; I think that the students could teach me a thing or two! I learned that using technology in the classroom isn't just the teacher using PowerPoint or a Smart board, but it's letting the students create their own videos, presentations, and sound clips. The second workshop that I went to was using Reading Rainbow in the classroom. There are so many episodes that have several books that will relate to curriculum, I could not believe the intensity that the speaker had for using this in the classroom, it was a real eye opener. The motivational speaker for that night was absolutely amazing; I think he should speak to anyone who thinks they are having a problem. If he could not help someone I don't know who else could, it takes a very strong person to do what he did and still does.

The second day was a very long day. The first workshop that I went to that day was on assessment; it helped me in learning different ways to assess students instead of just using paper and pencil methods. The second workshop that I went to was on family, school, and community: building a network of support. This workshop focused on the importance of involving everyone in the school and classroom. The presenter of this workshop had everyone get involved by introducing the other person and then tell about how we would get involvement from the community we were from.

After the luncheon, we did our presentation and during this presentation we prepared for several different things. We had to explain to other Kappa Delta Pi chapters what we did for our project, it wasn't long before we had several different chapters taking our information and listening to us explain what we did for our project. It was really nice to hear people saying that our project was great and really meaningful for those kindergarten students to get that kind of experience at such a young age.

The next day was a long day as well. The first workshop I went to was transforming your classroom to fully engage students, which was great. I learned about the colors that trigger students and the proper ways to set up a classroom to engage students to their best potential. I then went to another workshop called TEAM spirit: Together Everyone Achieves More, which was a great workshop to help promote togetherness in clubs, organizations and classrooms.

Of what value to you was the experience of preparing and presenting your work?

The value of preparing and presenting the work that the Alpha Eta chapter of Kappa Delta Pi did was absolutely amazing. I learned that chapters from all over the nation rely on ideas from other chapters and that we found a lot of ideas from other chapters. I know that by participating in this presentation I learned that presenting at a large conference like this is very meaningful and people value what you do in your time. We had several people ask us how we set up for it and how successful it was and seeing the looks on their faces couldn't have meant more. I felt proud to be in such a great organization, doing this presentation could not have been more of an eye opener for me. For my future teaching, working with others, and being in other organizations I know that I have grown from this experience.