INCREASING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: AN EVALUATION OF A STATEWIDE, RESEARCH-BASED MODEL OF TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Dissertation

by

NITA JUNE MATZEN

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ABSTRACT

INCREASING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: AN EVALUATION OF A STATEWIDE RESEARCH-BASED MODEL OF TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (August, 2003)

Nita June Matzen, B.S. Ed. Western Carolina University

M. L. S. Appalachian State University

Dissertation Chairperson: Richard Riedl, Ph.D.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of ExplorNet's Technology Centers for Teachers (ENTech) BEST professional development model for initiating teacher change. ENTech BEST is an intensive, seven-day, research-based technology professional development program that models the connection between instructional practices, the curriculum, and the use of computers. Survey data collected from ENTech BEST participants during the pilot year was used to test for significant teacher change in areas of focus explicated in the model: technical skill, awareness and use of educational theories and practices, instructional practices related to the use of computers, and general instructional practices. The study used a time series, quasi-experimental design with a pre-, post-, and follow-up survey. Results indicated significant changes in teachers' level of technical skill, awareness of educational theories, and instructional practices related to the use of computers. These findings suggest that use of effective, research-based, professional development practices may initiate teacher instructional change and increase the impact of technology professional development.