

## Awards for Innovation Final Report

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### **Title of Research Study:**

What Would You Do? Developing Teacher Decision Making Skills.  
Authentic Teacher-Related Cases for Pre-Service and Beginning Teachers

### **Investigator, Institution:**

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### **Strand Project Addressed**

Northern Illinois University's School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences addressed the strand of Professional Development for Pre-Service and Beginning Teachers.

### **Overview of Research Study**

The purpose of the research was to identify teacher-related issues of Illinois career and technical education teachers (CTE). Illinois CTE teachers were surveyed and from the qualitative results, the research team developed case studies. The outcome of the research was the development of a case-study instructional book for teacher education and induction programs to use to assist pre-service and beginning teachers in exploring educational dilemmas. The instructional book is titled *Teacher Dilemmas. What would you do?*

### **Objectives**

One CTE teacher educator and two CTE teachers collaborated on achievement of the following objectives:

- A. Survey IL CTE Teachers
  - 1. collect quantitative and qualitative data and analyze for descriptive statistics and themes

*A. Objective.* The team of researchers modified an existing survey (Boone & Boone, 2007) to collect the data. Specifically, the survey was put online using SurveyMonkey.com and distributed electronically to Illinois CTE teachers. The survey asked participants to describe teacher-related problems they have encountered. Dillman's (2000) survey method was utilized in collecting the data.

B. Develop case-study instructional book:

1. From themes, develop authentic cases
2. Write 50-60 cases with guided questions
3. Prepare a preliminary book (with three sections: Classroom, Lab, Professionalism)
4. Send to four teacher educators/induction program coordinators for peer review
5. Incorporate feedback
6. Finalize and prepare for publication

*B. Objective.* From the results, the team of researchers used the problems identified among survey participants and turned their responses into case studies with guiding questions. Sixty cases were developed and divided into three sections: Classroom, Lab, and Professionalism. The lead researcher pinned a rationale and 'how to use' section, compiled the case studies, and formatted the case-study book for peer review. The feedback from the peers was incorporated and the book was prepared for final publication. The instructional book is titled *Teacher Dilemmas. What would you do?*

C. Develop and deliver a workshop

1. Designed for teacher educators, induction program coordinators, pre-service teachers, and beginning teachers
2. Focus: what is case-based instruction and analysis of cases
3. One-hour interactive workshop
4. Assess pre- and post-competency level of workshop participants
5. Travel to Bloomington/Normal, IL in February for delivery

*C. Objective.* The team of researchers developed an hour long workshop for teacher educators, induction program coordinators, pre-service teachers, and beginning and veteran teachers. The workshop was conducted as a session at the IACTE Conference in February in Normal, IL. The content of the workshop included the importance of identifying teacher-related problems, using case studies as an instructional strategy, shared the results of our study, and participants participated in the discussion of cases. An informal survey was taken prior and post workshop.

D. Data analysis:

1. Mixed methods: qualitative and quantitative survey of IL CTE teachers and workshop participants

*D. Objective.* See Objectives A. and C. above for specifics. The qualitative responses were analyzed for themes and the quantitative data were analyzed by frequencies and percentages.

- E. Disseminate the instructional material to CTE teacher educators/induction programs

*E Objective. The Teacher Dilemmas. What would you do?* manual was distributed to CTE teacher educators, induction program coordinators, and principals.

- F. Disseminate research data by submitting one manuscript to a professional journal and one presentation at the 2011 Connections Conference.

*F. Objective:* A manuscript titled: *Problems Encountered by Beginning Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers* was submitted to the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences Education as well as a presentation at the 2011 Connections Conference.

### **Project Deliverables**

- *The Teacher Dilemmas. What would you do?* manual was distributed to CTE teacher educators, induction program coordinators, and principals.
- Submitted manuscript: *Problems Encountered by Beginning Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers* was submitted to the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Presentations: 1) 2011 Connections Conference; 2) 2011 IACTE Conference; and 3) 2011 ACTE Conference (accepted presentation scheduled in November)

### **References**

- Boone, H., & Boone, D. (2007). Problems faced by high school agricultural education teachers. *Journal of Agricultural Education*, 48(2), 36-45.
- Dillman, D. A. (2000). *Mail and internet surveys: The tailored design method* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons.