

To: Mike Thomas

From: Kathleen Gasiiecki

Abstract for the NYS APHERD 2017 Conference- Connect, Grow, Do

TEPS Grant: November 2017

I recently returned from the NYS APHERD Conference. While in attendance I attended health sessions that focused on student engagement, assessments, integrating technology, interactive teaching strategies and many more. The focus of the content varied.

As a health educator I was grateful to attend sessions whose focus was on topics that can be both controversial and sensitive. Examples included sessions on mental health issues, human sexuality, and drug education. It isn't always easy to create lessons that inform, inspire change, and are relevant to today's teenagers. Fortunately I left the conference with ideas and strategies that will enable me to reconstruct lessons that focus on student engagement, while remaining content driven and relevant to the 21st century learner.

Additionally attending the conference gave me the opportunity to engage in conversation with others. This opportunity alone is invaluable. Often as health educators we find ourselves working in isolation. It was energizing to share lesson ideas' and concerns with health educators from inner city, suburban, and rural school districts from across New York State.

I extend my appreciation to Dr. Hicks and the TEPS committee for affording me the opportunity to continue to grow professionally while serving the Clarence Central school district.

Kathleen Gasiiecki