The Action of Action Research:
An Analysis of Action Research Projects
Completed in the UNT/Denton ISD PDS
Codi Potter
Teacher Education and Administration
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies EC-6

Professor: Dr. Jeanne Tunks
Teacher Education and Administration
Action Research in a Professional Development School (PDS)

- “Action research is learning by doing.” (O’Brien, 1998, p.3)
- Partnership between a university and a public P-12 school
- Standards created by NCATE
  - Inquiry based research that will “identify and meet the students’ learning needs” (NCATE, 2001, p.4)
UNT and Action Research

- Formed in 1994 – Reconstructed in 2002
  - At this time action research was not being practiced
- Action Research started in 2008
  - Based off of NCATE standards and Townson University
  - Must have collaboration between schools and university
Purpose and Question

Purpose
- Examine 300+ completed Action Research projects between 2008-2011 in UNT/Denton ISD PDS for trends

Question
- What are the trends in Action Research studies, conducted across multiple years in a PDS partnership?
Data Analysis

- Started with 300+
- Pulled out 100 projects with insufficient data
  - No participation by school
  - Not enough information
  - No cooperation
  - Did not do
- Categorized through NVIVO
  - 14 categories – questions
  - 7 categories – methods
Comparison to NCATE standards

- Standard 1
  - Element: Work and Practice are Inquiry-Based and Focused on Learning
- Beginning
- Developing
- At Standard
- Leading
Trends

- Models
- Questions
- Methods
- Implementation
Current Practice

- 30 interns
- 14 elementary schools

Semester 1: August-December
  - 4 methods courses
  - 2 days/week full day observations

Semester 2: January-April
  - 2 rotations lasting 6-8 weeks each
  - Complete action research
Contact Information

Codi Potter

Codi.Potter@yahoo.com