

# An Invitation to Adult Education Graduate Students

Midwest Research-to-Practice Conference, October 4-6, 2006  
<http://www.umsl.edu/teachers/mwr2p06>

## Roxanne Miller

*Hi! I'm Roxanne Miller, Civic Communications Specialist with University of Missouri Extension and Co-Chair of the 2006 Midwest Research-to-Practice conference. You will be listening to Dr. Mary Cooper, Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis*

## Mary Cooper

Hello. This is Mary Cooper of the University of Missouri of St. Louis. I am one of the co-chairs of the graduate student pre-conference of Midwest Research-to-Practice. This year we're celebrating 25 years of Midwest. It's important that we look at the role of the graduate student in this conference. Previously, you heard from Dr. John Henschke and Joe Levine, two of the members of what I consider my Midwest Research-to-Practice **family**. In fact, Midwest Research-to-Practice, to me, has been family. I have attended for eleven years,, 3 of which I was a graduate student and for the last eight I have been faculty.



Now, it's interesting as we listen to the stories that John and Joe have talked about, especially about technology, that so much has happened in the last twenty-five years. When I originally came to this campus, I was hired because I had already had a number of years of distance education experience with multiple technologies. I share the office next door to John Henschke but found that Dr. Henschke had had some less than positive experiences with technology and also was not very up-to-date or even current on how he used things. Since I've been here, it's interesting, I have had him teaching web-based courses. He now has a high-speed DSL at home, and he's turning into rather a "technie" although he still occasionally needs assistance. I subscribe to the same philosophy that he has in that **it is about the teaching and learning, not about the technology.** However, with new technologies being discovered everyday, it can make a more positive learning experience.



The graduate student pre-conference became a formal part of the conference in 1998 at Ball State University. However, throughout this conference, there has always been a forum for the graduate student. Indeed, in my experience the graduate students are equals and are assisted and are part of every discussion.

For our pre-conference, we will have an introduction, and a little bit about the history or the 25 years of Midwest Research-to-Practice. Then we will have graduate students who will be sharing their experience, and we will have experts who will be there to tell you about the history of Midwest and then to break out and answer your questions and concerns. In fact, if you have things that you really want to know about the graduate student experience, please give me the possible topics before the conference so that our panel of experts can address them for you.

I am looking forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Midwest Research-to-Practice family. I will see you in October.

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