Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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Transforming Professional Development for Today's Educational Environment

Date: June 13, 2019
Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Place: WEB 101 EdCollabitat

Abstract
Professional development is vital to education. It provides an opportunity for continued growth and learning for educators throughout their career. While teachers earn credentials and certification through a university, professional development is intended to hone skills and help teachers evolve in an ever-changing landscape. The changing landscape may involve technology, generational needs, or broader societal interests. This research is an analysis of the implementation of transformational professional development in one large suburban Midwestern school district and one large Midwestern high school. It analyzes data regarding professional development and examines literature that studies teacher participation, attitudes, and transfer of professional development. The research concluded that when teachers are choosing professional development, they are looking for something specific and targeted, and there is significant increase in transfer incentivized to try something different. The research presents the results of data collected before, during, and after the creation and implementation of two professional development plans and attempts to answer the following questions:

- How can professional learning be designed to meet the varied needs of all educators and ensure the application of learning to the classroom?
- How can social-emotional support for teachers become part of the school culture?

Through mixed-methods research, it was found that adjustment to the content and delivery of professional development could increase the efficiency and transfer of professional development while simultaneously creating a positive school climate and culture.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Phyllis Balcerzak, Ph.D., Chairperson
Theresa Coble, Ph.D.
Amber Candela, Ph.D.