



## Dissertation on Internet lesson plan use receives recognition, encouragement

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A study of West Virginia teachers' use of lesson plans published on the Internet has earned Dr. Kammi Kai Hefner regional recognition. Hefner was selected as the 2004 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Phi Delta Kappa's Region E by the West Virginia University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa at Elizabeth Moore Hall Sunday afternoon.

Region E includes West Virginia, northeastern Ohio and part of Indiana.

It is one of seven regions in the country that presents these awards.

"We include a number of major institutions in our region besides WVU," said Dr. Patricia Harris, chapter president of Phi Delta Kappa. "It's quite a compliment to the work here at the University and to our organization that she was selected."

As a part of this honor, Hefner was awarded a \$500 check and a certificate of recognition.

Hefner's dissertation was entitled "Assessing the Factors Affecting West Virginia Pre K-12 Teachers' Use and Non-Use of Lesson Plans Published on the Internet."

"I think what makes her dissertation stand out is that she hit on a topic that people are really interested in," Harris said.

Hefner lives in Fairmont and is the senior software engineer and training specialist at Electronic Warfare Associates, Inc. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Fairmont State College and master's degrees in computer engineering, software engineering and computer science from WVU.

Although Hefner started working on her dissertation three years ago, she had been interested in the topic for a while.

"The conditions to conduct

the study really weren't right until about three years ago," Hefner said. "I had actually looked into doing the study about 10 years ago. I started my doctoral program in 1987 and it wasn't until a few years back that people had enough access to computers and Internet that I was even able to conduct the study."

Hefner's study is one of the first to be done through the Internet. She used three Web-based questionnaires to collect data. Teachers from 42 West Virginia counties were invited to complete a questionnaire. Out of 750 possible teachers, 600 volunteered to participate.

This honor has encouraged Hefner to submit her work for other possible awards. Her doctoral committee has asked her to submit her work to the American Educational Research Association. She has also been invited to a conference in Phoenix, Ariz., in March to present her research.

"I think the best thing about it is the fact that it's a tribute to the university, the quality of the professors that are here, and also the access to the research resources," Hefner said. "It's a tribute to everybody here."

The dissertation can be viewed online at [https://etd.wvu.edu/etd/etdDocumentData.jsp?jsp\\_etdId=3474](https://etd.wvu.edu/etd/etdDocumentData.jsp?jsp_etdId=3474)

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