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Terri Nelson TSSA Spring 2014

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TSSA One-Page REPORT

Name, Department, and Email address:

Terri J. Nelson
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Name and Date of conference attended:

GLS 10 (Games + Learning + Society National Conference)
June 10-13; University of Wisconsin at Madison

Teaching Skill(s) Studied:

- * ARIS Summit (one day workshop with presentations of other ARIS projects)
- * Different techniques for using games in classroom settings
- * Different aspects of game design
- * Discussions of games and cognition (including critical thinking, digital (& other) literacies, assessments and multiple intelligences

Impact on Current Teaching (How was this info applied)?

What an amazing conference! I can't remember the last time I was this energized (and this exhausted) by a conference. Frankly, I never even made it to happy hour (part of the conference) because my brain was completely worn out by 5 PM. I met such an interesting group of people: GLS is attended by game designers, game developers, academic researchers and teachers. There were discussions that were highly theoretical (why do X), as well as completely practical (how to do X). I networked with a group of ARIS game developers from around the country-- including the ARIS team-- which means that I now have colleagues to contact when I get "stuck" in my project development. I also heard some inspiring talks by leaders in the field (the keynotes were great!) and have a bibliography of useful resources for my own professional development (which is applied multimedia pedagogies for foreign language learning).

I can't give you specifics about how this info will be applied within a specific classroom (except that my Spring 2015 course on Occupied Paris will use the ARIS game I am developing) but there will definitely be an impact on my teaching from this conference-- whether that be a more thoughtful approach to scaffolding tasks or integrating some of the motivational principles from games to non-game tasks.

I appreciate the opportunity I had to attend this conference with TSSA funding. It's important to have moments like these that inspire us as teachers and help regenerate our enthusiasm for trying new approaches to the classroom. Thank you!

Date Submitted: August 26, 2014