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E Report Submitted to TRC for TSSA Award (Winter 2009)

By

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I received a TSSA award to attend the international conference of the Society of Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) held March 1-7, 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. At the conference, I focused on learning strategies that support multiple pathways.

The movement of multiple pathways is not new. However, it did not seem draw attention of many educators until, in recent years, the need of professionals in workforce comes to surface. There is a definite need in preparing students for their careers or/and in increasing their awareness of career paths so that they may be prepared for the workforce in the areas of science, mathematics, engineer, and technology. The 2009 SITE conference committee invited several recipients of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovative Technology for Teachers and Students (ITEST) grant to share how they prepare students for their careers through the grant activities. The author attended all of the invited sessions and studied strategies they used to help learners. Strategies included, but were not limited to: (1) Increase teachers' awareness of multiple pathways and assist them in integrating multiple pathways into their current curriculum; (2) Expose students to real world experience via field experiences by collaborating with business sectors; (3) Develop formal learning as well as informal learning in schools.

The conference was very beneficial for me. It helped me not only better understand the strategies facilitating the multiple pathway movement but also better prepare me for revising the grant proposal.