

# Professional Development Program Ideas



At their best, chapters complement their institution's professional development offerings through events helping to meet the needs of both pre-service teachers and practicing educators. Submit your chapter's programming in the [Semester Celebration Report](#) or e-mail your RCC.

**Think Outside Education:** Bring in an outside speaker or non-education faculty member to share their expertise on an area that impacts the education field, such as local government officials, non-profits (homeless shelters, youth and community centers, child protective services), psychology professors, or legal and conflict resolution experts.

**Conference/Workshop:** Invite faculty and experienced educators to present on areas of expertise during a full-day conference, scheduled on a weekend or holiday. Open the sessions to all of the school of education and local educators. Host a themed day—classroom management, difficult situations, edtech, special education inclusion, etc.

**Teacher Panel:** Host a panel consisting of new teachers, teacher leaders, content area experts, urban/suburban/rural educators, how to panels for dealing with difficult students or parents, culturally responsive pedagogy implementation, or standardized testing and evaluations.

**Utilize webinars and create takeaways:** Use a KDP webinar with a discussion guide, a TED talk, or other educational experience, then expand the discussion into a practical experience—do a craft, panel, or solution-focused conversation as a takeaway.

**Combination Professional Development and Community Service:** Combine two projects into one event to double the impact on participants and an organization. Tie in pedagogical experiences into a service project preparation or implementation, do a book or supply drive for teachers speaking during a workshop, or combine a clothing swap with discussing green classrooms.

**State Teacher of the Year:** Bring in one or more of the STYO to discuss their story or a specific topic. Include a discussion on the changes they have seen since becoming a teacher, a Q & A time, and/or a discussion following to help members personalize the advice given to their careers.

**Documentaries:** Watch a documentary and host a panel or discussion following the film.

**Professionalism and Job Search workshops:** Discuss interview and dress codes via a fashion show (often hosted by a local store or Dress for Success), resume review panels, mock interview, or mock evaluations.

**Partnerships:** Partner with another organization on campus to swap expertise and share in planning an event. Partner with social work or nursing clubs to discuss mental health, physical health, bullying, sexual assault, or other topics touching on multiple disciplines.

**Test Preparation:** Discuss EdTP portfolio and Praxis readiness strategies, include experts on the topics from outside agencies. Make it a fundraiser and raffle off prep books and tutoring. Some chapters included a stress-relief station during finals for members to color, chat, or drink coffee.

**Education Networking Night:** Bring in administrators and educators from all types of schools and fields to meet and get to know KDP members, either as a panel discussion or as a social-type event.

