Considering a Doctoral Degree?

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Focus Questions to consider...
Today we will...

 Present considerations when pursuing a doctoral degree
 Discuss the type of commitment needed
 Provided suggestions for choosing an institution
 Explain job opportunities after degree completion
Webinar Presenter:

Laurie’s Job Experiences

- Art Specialist school – PreK – 6
- Professor of Education at Fitchburg State University, MA
- Department Chair, Education Department, Fitchburg State University, MA
- Now, retired educator with 35 years teaching experience
Webinar Presenter:

Mary’s Three Jobs

- High school foreign language teacher
- Administrator and program director at Eastern Illinois University
- Now, a college professor at Berry College
Every year we hear this story...

I have several years of experience and a Master’s Degree.

I love teaching but may want to earn my doctorate.

How do I make the decision and what will I need to do?

Where do I start?
PhD is Doctor of Philosophy (in education)

EdD is a Doctor of Education

Programs vary by institution

Programs may vary by research demands
Does is matter where I get the degree?

- Yes, it does.
- Where and how you earn an advanced degree matters.

What do you want to do after you earn the doctoral degree?
What about online degrees?

- The answer is “it all depends”
- Your research productivity; what you do next
- Online degrees may not be considered the same as ones from “brick and mortar” institutions
How?

Level of Commitment

Process:
- Apply to Graduate School
- Choose a field of study
- Enroll in graduate courses
- Select Doctoral Committee Members
- Complete Comprehensive Exam
- Draft focus questions
- Begin Research
- Gather Data
- Write Dissertation
- Defend Thesis

Take it one step at a time
Level of Commitment

Things to consider...

- Length of time to complete
- Cost
- Establishing a network of support
- Personal skills
- Choosing a theme – finding your passion
Do I have to quit teaching to get my doctorate degree?

- No, not necessarily
- Look at advantages and disadvantages
Ask people how they made the move from K-12 into higher education

Read about higher education

Read *First Time in the College Classroom* from amazon.com

Read the *Chronicle of Higher Education*
Scholarship Awards

• 8 Graduate Scholarships ranging from $750 - $1500.

• 10 Doctoral only Scholarships ranging from $1500 - $5000.

• Log onto www.kdp.org for complete list and application information
How does one get a job?

- Local Jobs

- Network with those working in higher education
- Take a student teacher for your K-12 classroom
- Be willing to move
- Read the Chronicle of Higher Education
Job Opportunities

- In school districts
- In state departments of education
- In colleges and universities
- Teaching
- Administration and staff jobs
- Full vs. part time
- Publishing
- Other
Our Best Suggestions

✓ Before earning a doctorate, decide why you are in the program

✓ If you plan to move into higher education full time, do so soon after the doctorate
Would we, do it all over again?

I, Mary grew up on a farm in Illinois
My mother taught in a one-room country school
Absolutely, yes!

I, Laurie am a first generation college graduate
I played being a teacher when I was a young girl
Absolutely, yes!
Your questions?