Considering a Doctoral Degree?
Dr. Laurie DeRosa, Fitchburg State University, MA
Dr. Mary C. Clement, Berry College, GA

Focus Questions to consider...

WEBINAR
January 27, 2015

Where?

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?
**What?**

**Is it a PhD or an EdD?**

- PhD is Doctor of Philosophy (in education)
- EdD is a Doctor of Education
- Programs vary by institution
- Programs may vary by research demands

**Where?**

**Does is matter where I get the degree?**

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

**What?**

**What do you want to do after you earn the doctoral degree?**

- 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
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**

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**Level of Commitment**

**Things to consider...**
- Length of time to complete
- Cost
- Establishing a network of support
- Skills
- Choosing a theme – finding your passion

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**Do I have to quit teaching to get my doctorate degree?**

- No, not necessarily
- Look at advantages and disadvantages
Where should I start?

- 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

Use Professional Associations

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
- Read the Chronicle of Higher Education
- Take a student teacher for your K-12 classroom
- Be willing to move
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?