

Career Development Synopsis
Tony Graham

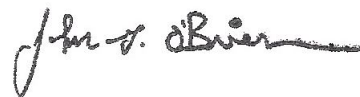
This year for my CDG I attended the ESEA National Conference in Atlanta, GA. The best part of the trip was being present for Tustamena Elementary while they received their Distinguished schools honor.

I was very excited for this conference as I viewed the agenda. Many of the topics included family engagement, school/community involvement, and student success. I was most disappointed with the sessions I attended.

I started the conference with a session about the history of Title 1 and where we are going to go from here. The history portion of the session was dry, but informative. We did not get to where we are going to go as we ran out of time. The next three community engagement sessions I attended centered on the elementary and not the secondary issues when involving the community, which was frustrating for me as a secondary person.

I attended a session that was about early college. This was by far the most beneficial session I attended the entire week. While we have been trying to grow this in our school, many of the ideas that the presenter had reinforced our plans. It was refreshing to hear that we are on the right path and not to let down the guard to continue for this. Many students are able to go on to college but they do not have access nor the family to push them to go toward that future. I understand that not all students will be heading for college. I also understand that we are to prepare students for life whether that entails college or not. I would like to continue to have the option for students to have college classes at SOHI so they can at least attempt them and determine for themselves if they are able to go to college or not.

I am thankful for the opportunity to go on the trip. I do not believe I will attend another ESEA conference, as many sessions were not relevant to me. I will actively look for something else that will be a benefit to my staff and students.



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