

**The 8th Annual A.C.E.
Professional Development Symposium
Tucson, Arizona
May 20-21, 2010**

The A.C.E. Symposium began on Thursday, May 20, 2010 with a continental breakfast at the Marriott University Park Hotel. After the delicious breakfast, Heather Griller Clark introduced our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Debra Peppers.

Dr. Peppers was a dynamic speaker who didn't beat around the bush about anything. She spoke the truth about herself and her addictions; about her failures and her incarceration. She spoke with the same enthusiasm about how she turned her life around with the encouragement of a teacher at school. "Sometimes you have to hit bottom to see where the top is," she said.

Dr. Peppers was witty, genuine, funny and quite a good singer. Her story was very inspiring.

I attended several breakout sessions and among my favorites were, Dr. Birchak's, 'The Five Golden Rules for Staying Connected to Children.'; Juvenile Alternative Initiative: The Dangers of Detention; Culture Deconstructed; and Gang Awareness.

The breakout sessions were so diverse; it was difficult to choose which one to attend. The presenters were very knowledgeable of the subject matter so the time in the session went by quickly. The breakout sessions are always my favorite part of the Symposium. I like listening to and exchanging ideas with other teachers.

Thank you for providing me with the Scholarship funds that enabled me to enjoy and be a part of this year's Professional Development Symposium.