



COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL

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TO: Professional Development Grant Committee

FR: Rene Couture, Assistant Professor for College Student Personnel

DATE: March 14, 2013

RE: Final Report for Professional Development Grant

With much appreciation, I was awarded funds this academic year to cover my expenses to both attend and present at the American College Personnel Association's (ACPA) Annual Convention in Las Vegas, NV, from March 4-7, 2013. As one of the premier associations in our field, it was an honor to be selected by my peers from other institutions to present at this conference.

Arkansas Tech University granted me over \$1,600 to help cover the expenses associated with the conference, including conference registration, lodging, meals, and travel expenses. My program, entitled, *The new normal: Why students have so many transcripts* was well received and recognized as a timely topic.

The program was geared primarily at academic advisors who work with such a wide array of transfer students. Much of the program featured various state and national programs and policies that will have implications for us in higher education. For example, President Obama's 2020 higher education plan aims to have the U.S. regain its position as the nation with the highest proportion of college-educated adults. I also highlighted that some states, including Arkansas, will soon assign state funding to institutions based not on number of students, but on number of graduates. In addition, I explained the newly formulated tiered Arkansas lottery scholarship, which rewards students who persist toward graduation.

Program participants were engaged and remained after the session to continue the conversation. In addition, many of the programs I attended were chosen in ways to enhance my learning and improve on my teaching effectiveness. Meeting and exchanging information with other faculty from similar programs across the country offered me new ideas to bring to my classroom, and to increase my teaching and scholarly effectiveness. Thank you again.