

# **Final Report Documentation**

ATU Professional Development Grant

October 1, 2015 Funding Round

Patrick Hagge

### **RESTATEMENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

I presented original research in a paper presentation (“Downtown Cotton: the Impact of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange”) at the 2015 annual meeting of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) in San Antonio, Texas on November 6, 2015.

### **BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

SWAAG, a regional division of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), is a professional organization that represents AAG members residing in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Professional geographers from academia, government, and industry present research via paper presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions. While an array of topics and presenters are expected, the meeting is primarily a conference comprised of academic geographers from the multi-state region listed above, thus representing an important opportunity for future scholarship collaborations. The SWAAG 2015 conference was held concurrently with the 2015 Applied Geography Conference, with both conferences hosted by Texas State University. (See <http://www.sw-aag.org/> for additional details.)

### **SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCES**

The paper presentation session in which I presented was dedicated to Historical Geography, and presenters covered a wide range of geographic areas and time periods. My paper (“Downtown Cotton”) was well-received and generated some interesting questions and

discussions (about the financial aspect of membership requirements on an individual basis, the role of the Federal Reserve cities in post-1913 membership, etc.) Additional speakers at this conference presented their own important ideas which sparked my interest in a variety of research topics. Furthermore, in my particular session, the session chair was a Geography professor from LSU who previously lent his support for ATU's new B.A. in Cultural & Geospatial Studies degree during development of this new ATU major in 2014-2015. (LSU's own mixed Geography-Anthropology approach served as one of several models for the eventual degree path of our B.A. degree here at ATU.) This professor was interested in the status of our new program at ATU, and it was valuable to make this contact in person.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

I am sincerely appreciative for the ATU Professional Development Grant in covering the costs of this conference trip. Attending and presenting at SWAAG 2015 should pay dividends for my own scholarship: the session discussion surrounding my presentation can be addressed as I further develop this research and look towards a future submission of this work to an academic journal in geography with an economic or historical focus.

EVIDENCE OF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE/PRESENTATION



