

Professional Development Grant Final Report

Arkansas Tech University

Society for Research In Adolescence

Biennial Conference

by

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity: This professional development grant allowed Dr. Samson to travel to the Society for Research in Adolescence (SRA) biennial meeting in Baltimore, MD from March 31 – April 2, 2016. At the biennial meeting, Dr. Samson presented her own work (Samson, McHugh, & Tanner-Smith, 2016) and attended sessions where other researchers presented the latest innovations in adolescence research and related methodology. Dr. Samson also used the opportunity to network with other researchers and maintain relationships which may lead to future opportunities for Dr. Samson and/or ATU students.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity: This was not Dr. Samson's first SRA meeting, and as usual, it was informative and inspirational. By presenting at this professional meeting, Dr. Samson was able to discuss her current project with other experts in the field and move this project closer to submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Samson was also able to explore the most recent innovations in the field of adolescent research and reconnect with other researchers.

D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had: The professional development grant allowed Dr. Samson to present and receive valuable feedback on one of her current projects (Samson, McHugh, & Tanner-Smith, 2016). In addition, she was able to attend presentations by researchers whose work is considered seminal in the field. Most exciting was a keynote lecture by Dr. Ken Dodge, whose Social Information Processing theory guides most of Dr. Samson's own work. In addition, Dr. Samson made new contacts with researchers who use the Implicit Association Test, the subject of another of her ongoing projects (Tubb, Gifford, Rutherford, Meredith, & Samson, 2016). These contacts, and seeing the latest innovations with this research tool, will be important in advancing this project. Dr. Samson attended multiple presentations on

current bullying research that will help inform her newest project, scheduled to begin data collection in the fall. The IAT and Bullying projects are providing opportunities for ATU students to get directly involved in Dr. Samson's research. Finally, being up-to-date on current research helps Dr. Samson's teaching stay updated and relevant and benefits all students in those classes.

E. Conclusions and recommendations: This biennial meeting brings together prominent researchers from around the world, and provides attendees the chance to discuss innovations and form professional networks. Attending this conference has allowed Dr. Samson to learn from more experienced researchers, to form relationships which will lead to her growth in the field, and to learn about ongoing opportunities available for ATU students. Dr. Samson intends to continue attending this meeting regularly.

Works Cited:

Samson, J. E., McHugh, R., & Tanner-Smith, E. E. (2016, March). *Brief alcohol interventions for adolescents and young adults in emergency department settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

Tubb, K., Gifford, W., Rutherford, S., Meredith, B., & Samson, J. E. (2016, April). *Relationship between IAT scores and explicit measures in children: A meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association, Dallas, TX.