

Final Paper
Intro to IMPLAN Pro Workshop
Professional Development Grants

By

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b. Restatement of the professional enhancement opportunity

I attended the Introduction to IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning) Pro Workshop (“Workshop”) from December 13th to December 15th, 2016 in Huntersville, NC. IMPLAN is an economic impact assessment software system. In general, attending a workshop is a professionally rewarding experience to faculty before initiating a new research project using a new software program. Especially, there has been a research grant opportunity presented by the Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism to examine economic impacts of each state park on their local economy and impacts of tourism on the Arkansas economy. Attending the workshop was the first step to pursue the state government grants. In order to grant the study of economic impacts of Arkansas State Parks, this IMPLAN program is an essential tool to researchers who are projecting economic impacts of state parks.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

This two-day workshop was designed to help users best understand the introductory topics and concepts of the IMPLAN Pro software and how to utilize this program to research projects. I learned how to initiate the economic impacts’ study more effectively and accurately and how to interpret the study results correctly using IMPLAN software program.

D. Summary of experiences

IMPLAN is an economic impact assessment software system. IMPLAN software program allows the user to develop local-level input-output models that can estimate the economic impact of new firms moving into an area as well as the impacts of professional sports

teams, recreation, tourism, and residential development. There are several hundred active users of IMPLAN database and software within the federal and state governments, academic institutions, and other private companies. In addition, I studied other states researches of economic impacts of state and national parks.

Through the two-day workshop, I learned how to utilize this IMPLAN program to the project of economic impact of state park. I learned how to utilize the economic impacts' study more effectively and accurately; and how to interpret the study results correctly. To date, no Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration (PRHA) faculty has participated in the IMPLAN workshop. Therefore, I will share knowledge and information about IMPLAN program with other faculty and faculty in PRHA will have more research opportunities in government and federal level grants.

E. Conclusion and Recommendation

I will apply for the 2017 Proposal Assistant Summer Support (PASS) and ATU Faculty Research Fund in Fall semester, 2017 and research the “Dardanelle State Park Economic Impacts.” In addition, I will involve parks and recreation majors to this research using this data and results and I will try a state grant fund from the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. I believe this kind of fund will contribute in our department and we will have a good opportunity to study on “Economic Impacts”.