

2018 Final Professional Development Grant Report

FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium

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Emmitsburg, Maryland

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B Professional enhancement opportunity

I participated at the 20th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, themed “Honoring our History and Future,” in Emmitsburg, Maryland by co-presenting at two different sessions during the 4-day symposium. The sessions I either presented or attended were:

- Undergraduate curriculum: Application of NGCC, assessment, and accreditation
- Collaborating with practitioners to realize EM student learning opportunity
- Teaching scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) skills
- Mindfulness and purpose
- The benefits and challenges of living, teaching, and working in today’s diverse world
- Theory for homeland security and emergency management
- Teaching complex public policy using case studies
- Emergency preparedness – measuring organizational resilience – theories and tools

Included with this report is the agenda for the Symposium. The sessions I co-presented were on June 5 and 6.

C. Brief review

The 20th annual FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium themed “Honoring our History and Future,” with emphasis on professional development aligns with the theme and symposium overarching goals to:

- “Host dialogues to facilitate the refinement of the body of knowledge that has been rooted in 20 years of passionate development
- Offer workshops and breakout sessions to hone the instructional, research and program development skills of faculty
- Present ‘elders’ from the community to mentor faculty and students
- Strategically look forward to develop the emergency management academic discipline” (2018 EMI Symposium Invitation).

The 2018 EMI Symposium Invitation, further stated, “The symposium offers an opportunity to network with other academics, gain exposure to successful programs and research and learn about new resources and approaches.” These expressed purposes were achieved during the 20th Annual Symposium. Not only is the symposium free to emergency management scholars (no conference or housing fees) but it is quite remarkable as it provides one the opportunity to connect with a number of scholars and professionals in the field. The Arkansas Tech University Department of Emergency Management team’s presentation went very well and resulted in dialogues with various educators and college administrators. To this end, it was suggested that we (Arkansas Tech team) offer another comprehensive workshop on the application of NGCC, program assessment and accreditation in next year’s annual symposium.

D. Summary of experience

The FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium provided me and my colleagues from ATU a venue to not only present and share about our undergraduate's program curriculum but also a means for us to dialogue with others committed to emergency management education and profession. Additionally, I was able to present *Incorporating research into undergraduate hazard and disaster class: A process approach* under the "Collaborating with practitioners to realize emergency management student learning opportunity" session. As the symposium was four days, it provided me with numerous opportunities to visit with a number of scholars in the field as well as to network with other emergency management professionals.

E. Conclusion and recommendations

The 2018 FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium was highly successful and I was able to achieve my goals of collaborating with other emergency management educators and to purposefully engage with not only with Tech colleagues but also with other emergency management scholars regarding how to continue to improve our program. I highly encourage Tech to continue funding the opportunity for faculty to participate in national venues for the purpose of sharing information with others and for dialoguing with other scholars and professionals in similar fields.