

Final Written Report  
Professional Development Grant

“Government and Politics in Terry Brooks’ Post-apocalyptic  
World of Shannara”

for the

Fortieth International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA)  
Orlando, FL  
15 March 2019

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## **B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity**

This presentation centered on the examples of post-apocalyptic government in the world of Shannara. Specifically, this presentation focused on what Mr. Brooks crafts in *The Elfstones of Shannara* – his second book. One area that Terry Brooks uses included was eco-politics and my paper showed how his book mirrored the governmental and environmental situations in the 60s and 70s and where, specifically, those ideas showed up in his work.

## **C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity**

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA) conference – the Thirty-Eighth International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) brings in scholars from across the USA and around the globe to Orlando, FL, to discuss myriad subjects dealing with the ‘fantastic’ in the arts. My particular area of interest was in governing theme in Children’s and Young Adult Literature (YAL) because I have a minor in YAL. Further, as a “professional enhancement” opportunity, this allowed me to gain some professional development in an area of literature I enjoy and have recently used in the classroom.

## **D. Summary of experiences had**

I have attended this conference before. As I seek to do more work with literature, the YAL/fantasy genre seems to be an area I’m enjoying. My session was well-attended with approximately 22 audience members and a panel that included presenters from the the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Tampa, & Texas State University. This panel had a very good moderator and there were plenty of questions/answers for each panel member and a lengthy discussion after all of the papers were read.

I hope the sessions I attended (including my own presentation) will have a positive impact for students I teach at TECH. I hope to continue using and teaching with Terry Brooks' works in the future.

Overall, the experience was extremely positive and I look forward to applying to the 2020 conference.

### **E. Conclusions and recommendations**

This conference was good for my professional development. I was able to speak with other researchers and writers in the fantasy lit world.

Overall, I think this experience will impact what I do in the classroom here at TECH. I learned a great deal from the younger presenters and have a newfound appreciation for how rapidly things can "go viral" and impact publishing decisions.

My goals for this trip were met. I made a successful, academic presentation to a diverse, academic audience. Further, I was able to pick up on some other current areas of young adult fantasy literature that are being explored. Also, I wrote down some new titles to pick up and read.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Dr. Carl Brucker, Department Head, English & World Languages  
Dr. Jeff Woods, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities  
Dr. Phillip Bridgmon, Interim Vice-president, Academic Affairs