

Professional Development Grant Final Report

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Restatement of Professional Development Opportunity

Funding from the Professional Development Grant enabled me to travel to the Spring 2019 National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Conference in San Diego, CA. NCRE is the largest organization representing rehabilitation educators in the United States and the conference typically draws large numbers of participants from all over the country. During the conference I presented a poster with colleague Robert Stevens entitled, “Generating Interest and Investment: The Use of Seminar Courses in Rehabilitation Science Programs”.

Review and Benefits of Conference

Participating in the 2019 Conference was a rewarding experience as it allowed me to engage in numerous training sessions and networking opportunities. Presenting the aforementioned poster also brought national attention to the Rehabilitation Science program and Arkansas Tech University. Not only were my colleague and I able to exchange evidence-based pedagogical approaches with other professionals, but we were also able to gain insight on the current state of the Rehabilitation field. This information was shared with my other colleagues upon my return and will be utilized within the classroom in future semesters. The most useful sessions were legislative issues, forums concerning the state of undergraduate rehabilitation education, and accreditation updates. One session that I found exceptionally helpful and informative addressed the establishment of the Council on Rehabilitation Accreditation (CORA) which was created specifically to pursue the accreditation of undergraduate rehabilitation programs. This session detailed the accreditation process as it was being pursued with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). As a result of attending the conference I was

able to maintain my continuing education credits for my certification, which is vital to our program's accreditation status and national standing.

Conclusions

Attending and presenting at the NCRE conference allowed me to bring national attention to ATU and the Rehabilitation Science program, as well as expand my knowledge on a variety of pedagogies, legal and accreditation issues, and professional network.