

**Final Report- Professional Development Grant**  
**Annual Meeting for the Society for the Study of Social Problems – 2015**

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**RESTATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

This grant helped to fund my attendance to the Annual Meeting for the Society for the Study of Social Problems in Chicago, Illinois in August of 2015.

**REVIEW OF THE WORK/PROCEDURE**

I presented research entitled “Sending Sociology Majors Into the World: A Service Learning Approach.” Attending this conference gave me the opportunity to discuss with others about my experience employing a service learning approach in my class and in particular about my experience with the \$100 Solution program. In addition, I served as Chair-Elect of the Lee Student Support Fund Committee for SSSP. I met with my committee during this annual meeting.

**OUTCOMES**

My paper was in a session entitled “Innovative Methods for Teaching about Wealth and Inequality.” In this session I interacted with others exploring new ways to teach. I learned about some fascinating things others are doing in their classrooms and was able to incorporate some of those into my own courses that fall. For example, I have begun doing a guided tour of our campus looking for gender patterns in my Sociology of Gender course. It proved to be a fantastic learning experience for the students. In addition, I was able to meet with the Lee Student Support Fund Committee.

**CONCLUSIONS**

This was a successful experience. From all of my interactions I found new ways to think about my own service learning experiences in the classroom. I received valuable, thought provoking advice, and was able to give my colleagues other material to consider for their teaching methods. Attendance at this conference also enhances my teaching and research skills by attending other sessions. I always return from a conference with more enthusiasm for my discipline and for research. This comes through in my classrooms.