

Final Report

Developing Professionals through Effective Student Affairs Practicums

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B. Restatement of Problem: The purpose of this professional development grant was to support the travel necessary to present at the NASPA IV-W Annual Conference in Denver, CO on Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

C. Brief Review of Research Presented: A survey was conducted in the Fall of 2011 which addressed the components of an effective practicum from the view of practicum students and site hosts. The results of the research were presented to an audience of student affairs practitioners.

The following objectives were met:

- the elements of effective practicum experiences from the perspectives of students, student affairs professionals, and faculty members were discussed
- the participants understood the potential contribution practicum students can make to programs and services when a practicum experience is well designed
- the participants were provided with suggestions for how to think creatively about practicum projects/assignments for on campus and distance student affairs graduate students

D. Outcomes and Experiences: A number of current student affairs professionals benefited from the information collected and disseminated. A lively discussion at the end of the session led to the development of additional insights for the presenters and participants. Finally, the presenters were able to promote the Master of Science in College Student personnel degree at a regional conference.

E. Conclusion: Two faculty members, representing and promoting Arkansas Tech University, were able to share their research with current practitioners in their discipline. The session participants gained worthwhile insights into how their student affairs programs/services could benefit from hosting practicum students. The professionals also had an opportunity to reflect on how their mentoring can contribute to the development of the next generation of professionals.