

Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant Final Report – 2014

A National Study of Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs:

What is the Current State and Where Do We Go from Here?

Presentation to NASPA Student Affairs Administrators

in Higher Education National Conference

Baltimore, MD

March 16 - 18, 2014:

Christine E. Austin

Associate Professor of College Student Personnel

*This final report outlines the results of a professional development grant that funded travel, lodging, and meals during travel to the national conference from March 16-18, 2014. The grant was approved in support of my attendance, where a colleague and I delivered a 60 minute presentation to participants of the 2014 NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD. A copy of the program page on which this presentation appeared is included at the end of this report.*

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

This faculty member traveled to a national conference in order to co-present a program entitled, “A National Study of Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs: What Is the Current State and Where Do We Go from Here,” at the NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education National Conference. The purpose of the presentation was to educate faculty and student affairs professionals on the current state and make-up of student affairs graduate preparation programs in the United States. Drs. Austin and Underwood offered an overview of the topic and findings of their multiyear survey research.

This session disseminated the findings of a nationwide survey, first conducted in 2011 and updated in 2013, on higher education graduate preparation programs at both the doctoral and master’s level. Findings offered an overview of student/faculty demographics, program characteristics and foci, as well as an overview of program delivery methods, admissions requirements, and program options available to aspiring graduate students. The presenters will engage the audience in a conversation about the strengths and weakness of current educational trends.

Outcomes of the presentation for the attendees included the following:

- An awareness of the characteristics of higher education graduate preparation programs, master’s and doctoral levels, currently offered in the US.
- Knowledge of student enrollment and faculty numbers within graduate preparation programs.
- An understanding of the requirements for admission, program focus, and options, as well as program delivery formats.
- An appreciation of current trends and emerging innovations in graduate preparation programs.

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

The presentation allowed the presenter to build upon professional skills and networking opportunities that are key to keeping current in the student affairs field. Understanding how to build appropriate student services to meet the demand of the online student demographic is vital to the continued success of the Arkansas Tech University, College Student Personnel program since it is a predominantly online degree and this presentation details the work that the program faculty undertake daily to engage with their students. The presentation served to create strong networks for future research projects, bring Arkansas Tech University into a supportive network

of schools of character, and offered opportunities to highlight Arkansas Tech University's technological initiatives and reputation at an international conference.

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

This presentation was selected as one of 500 from a pool of over 1500 programs. This successful presentation sparked conversations among participants about the state of master's and doctoral programs of student affairs and higher education administration. It also served to place Arkansas Tech University as an innovator among College Student Personnel graduate preparation programs in its provision of holistic online education.

A copy of the program cover and the presentation listing is provided at the end of this report.

#### **E. Conclusions and Recommendations**

The presentation served to create strong networks for future research projects, to bring Arkansas Tech University into a supportive network of schools of character, and to offer opportunities to highlight Arkansas Tech University's technological initiatives and reputation at an international conference. I offer my extreme gratitude to the Professional Development committee and to the Office of Academic Affairs of ATU for providing opportunities for my professional growth as well as enabling me to set up future opportunities with other professionals in my field.

APPENDIX

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Tuesday, March 18

TUESDAY, MARCH 18  
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

FEATURED SESSION

**260 Educationomics: Navigating in the New Marketplace for Higher Education**



**Jon McGee**, Vice President for Planning & Public Affairs, College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University  
Convention Center, 316

Colleges and universities across the country have entered a new world of increasingly complicated choices. Three important disruptive forces have converged and intensified in recent years: demographic disruption, economic disruption, and values disruption. Together these forces have changed and will continue to change the environment for higher education, often in ways that challenge our sense of mission, our approach to the market, and our management practice. This session for senior student development leaders will examine the effects and consequences of the market forces of disruption and present an integrated and holistic framework for strategic decision-making in the face of change.

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**261 Enhancing Student Success in Online Higher Education: Findings for the NASPA-UPCEA-InsideTrack Study**

Convention Center, 343  
Brian Sponsler, NASPA  
Jim Fong, UPCEA  
Dave Jarrat, InsideTrack

**262 "What DIDN'T I learn?" Student Stories of Co-curricular Learning**

Convention Center, 319  
Mimi Benjamin, Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Ann Gansemer-Topf, Iowa State University  
Laura Davis, Cornell University

**263 A National Study of Student Affairs Graduate Preparation Programs: What is the Current State and Where Do We Go from Here?**

Hilton, Holiday Ballroom - (5)  
Susan Underwood, Arkansas Tech University  
Christine Austin, Arkansas Tech University

**264 Animal House Revisited: A Team-based Approach to Curbing High-risk Social Host Practices Off-campus**

Convention Center, 338  
Stephanie Adamec, University of Scranton  
Jessica Adler, University of Scranton

**265 Best Practices for Supporting Veterans in Community Colleges**

Convention Center, 332  
Eric Wheeler, Monroe Community College

**266 Beyond the Bachelor's Degree: Revolutionizing the Philosophy of Student Support in Graduate and Professional Degree Programs**

Convention Center, 346  
Lynne Arric, University of South Florida  
Heather Petrelli, University of South Florida-College of Pharmacy  
Katherine Hall-Hertel, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, The Graduate School  
Cherokee Layson-Wolf, University of Maryland-School of Pharmacy  
Jill Morgan, University of Maryland-School of Pharmacy

**267 Blurring Boundaries: Building Faculty Partnerships for Student Success**

Convention Center, 321  
Jeff Grim, Southern Methodist University  
Lori White, Southern Methodist University  
Ann Batenburg, Southern Methodist University  
Michelle Madsen, Southern Methodist University

**268 Building Communities of Support with Families in Higher Education**

Convention Center, 324  
Teresa Bill, University of Hawai'i, Manoa  
Ileana Haunani Ruelas, University of Hawai'i, Manoa  
Angelina Likolehua Manginsay, University of Hawai'i, Manoa

**269 Building Supportive Student Veteran Communities: Innovative and Effective Strategies**

Convention Center, 314  
Dennis Wiese, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Brad Bayer, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Phillip Morris, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Alison Jenner, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**270 Change We Can Believe In: Building and Sustaining a Culture of Assessment in Student Affairs**

Convention Center, 342  
Darby Roberts, Texas A&M University  
Nathan Lindsay, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Michael Jasek, New Mexico State University

**271 Changing Demographics and New Strategies: Risk Management and Counseling Chinese Students**

Convention Center, 323  
Siu-Man Raymond Ting, North Carolina State University at Raleigh

**272 Collaborative Support for Students from Foster Care: You Can't Do It Alone**

Hilton, Key Ballroom - (10)  
Madalene Day, Western Michigan University  
Rachel Naasko, University of Michigan  
John Emerson, Casey Family Programs  
Brittany Bartkowiak, Eastern Michigan University  
Joi Rencher, Eastern Michigan University

**273 Consider the Possibilities: Career Opportunities at Small Colleges and Universities**

Hilton, Holiday Ballroom - (4)  
Jerry Price, Chapman University  
Barbara Avery, Occidental College