

Final Paper

Professional Development Grants

By

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A Tenure-Track Position of Assistant Professor

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**Restatement of problem researched, creative work or professional enhancement
opportunity**

I attended the 2013 Annual International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) Summer Conference and Marketplace at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri from July 24 to 27, 2013. From the conference, I will learn new hospitality subject topics; bring recruiting opportunities from potential internship and permanent job position sites to our hospitality administration and culinary management programs; and attend the tutorial session of the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration (ACPHA).

**Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity, creative work, or research
procedure**

The annual ICHRIE conference and marketplace presented about 250 informative refereed presentations, both stand-up sessions and poster presentations, regarding the latest in industry and educational research. The event included exciting displays at the ICHRIE marketplace and provide many networking opportunities among educators, researchers, and industry professionals. I attended the tutorial session for the accreditation renewal process, to network with industry professionals, and to discover a fresh research idea as well as to become motivated to work, teach, and research more efficiently.

Summary of findings, outcomes or experiences had

As an assistant professor at the university, I may have more opportunities to network with colleagues from other universities as well as industry professionals. First, for the department, I attended all tutorial sessions that explain the revised ACPHA requirements and met colleagues

from other universities who recently completed the ACPHA process. Second, for our department students, I tried to make connections with industry professionals for students' internship sites and job opportunities. Third, I did not attend the ICHRIE conference for two years due to personal reasons. As a college professor of higher education, I need to learn new trends in the hospitality industry and bring new teaching techniques to my class. In hospitality education, a gap between lecturing and real industry experience still exists. I have attempted to bridge these two realms. In addition, I always try to connect my lectures with the real world of hospitality, and the ICHRIE conference used to enable me to better do this by updating me on what is currently occurring in the industry. Lastly, I tried to learn what others in this field are doing, which can lead to new ideas and help me to develop new research ideas that recently I sketched. Research is a motivation and a factor in job satisfaction for a college professor. The opportunity to attend the ICHRIE conference indeed will bring many benefits to our students, department, college, university, and me.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Through the ICHRIE conference, I had the excellent opportunities to meet with hospitality industry professionals and educators from other schools. I shared the information about the accreditation process by the ACPHA as well as the current issues of the hospitality, tourism, and culinary industries with department colleagues. In addition, I made the best use of the opportunity to gather information to improve my teaching techniques and to deliver updated knowledge in the classroom. I further will try to develop my research ideas so that I may submit a paper to an academic journal this year for the benefit of my academic career.