

**FINAL REPORT  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**Dr. Brendan Toner  
History and Political Science  
September 20, 2017**

“Southern Association of Prelaw Advisors/Southwestern Association of Prelaw Advisors”  
Joint Conference

September 13-15 2017

Memphis, Tennessee

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

From September 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 2017, I attended the Southern Association of Prelaw Advisors/Southwestern Association of Prelaw Advisors Conference which was headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee at the University of Memphis Law School but which also made stops in Oxford, Mississippi at the University of Mississippi Law School and the Bowen Law School located in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**C. Brief Review of the professional enhancement opportunity, creative work or research procedure**

This conference was a meeting of pre-law advisors from the south and southwest who met to discuss best practices in the field of pre-law. Depending on the day there were 2-4 seminars of about 90 minutes in length. These seminars were led by experienced pre-law advisors along with law school administration and admissions officers.

**D. Summary of findings, outcomes or experiences had**

This conference was a very rewarding professional experience for me. Not only were the seminars very helpful in giving me ideas about how to handle different issues related to pre-law advising. These included tips on how to have students prepare for the law school admissions test (LSAT), how to communicate with law schools for recruiting events and assist students who may have financial or other difficulties in applying to law schools. In addition it was very valuable meeting with fellow pre-law advisors in between sessions about their best practices. All in all it was one of the most valuable professional experiences that I have had during my time at Arkansas Tech University.

### **E. Conclusions and recommendations**

As noted earlier this was a very valuable experience. In the future I would like to attend more SWAPLA Conferences including next year's in Oklahoma. As I become more experienced in the field of pre-law I look forward to taking a greater role in these conferences including giving presentations and/or joining the leadership board. This will help me immensely in my work at Arkansas Tech University for instance I was given advise from faculty at other universities on how to teach my Principles of Legal Study class to help students prepare for the LSAT which I am teaching for the first time this semester as a trial course. Also I was given valuable insight onto how to keep the Pre-Law Society for which I am the advisor at Arkansas Tech University vibrant so that it continues to stay in good standing.