

Final Written Report
Professional Development Grant

“ESL Writers and the Benefits of Electronic Portfolio Assessment”
05 November 2017

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B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity

This professional enhancement opportunity was to discuss the ways in which electronic portfolios can aid in the assessment process for ESL students.

C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA) is one of the regional groups of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The goal of the SAMLMA conference is to promote opportunities for researchers to share their interests/findings across a wide-ranging field of languages and associated subjects. SAMLMA hosts an academic conference each year. I submitted a proposal for a session on writing research that was hosted in Atlanta, GA.

D. Summary of experiences had

I have attended several of the MLA regional conferences before. SAMLMA 89 was very much like my previous experiences. The session in which I presented was very impressive. Also impressive was the overall professionalism of the conference. It was quite enjoyable and well-attended throughout the days I was there.

The 90-minute block of time for my presentation was shared with three other presenters and we each delivered a paper for 15-20 minutes and then fielded questions. The other presenters and I took turns reading our papers from the front of the room. This year it was a more casual setting. Approximately 17 people attended the session. Afterward, I was able to answer several questions and then carry on some one-on-one conversations about my work with other scholars.

Overall, it was an enjoyable conference and one I hope to attend again sometime.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The overall conclusion is that attending this conference was good on several levels. It was good for my own professional development to do some research and write a paper that directly reflects (and impacts) what I do in the classroom and a group of students I teach (ESL learners) at Arkansas Tech. It was good for me to present my work to other scholars and have them comment on my research. Making a presentation at SAMLA 89 was also beneficial for Arkansas Tech University.

Thank you for your support.

Copies to: Department Head, English
Dean, College of Arts & Humanities
Vice-president, Academic Affairs