

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT REPORT

Project Title: National Recreation and Park Association Congress

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Restatement of problem researched or creative activity:

This grant allowed me to travel to Indianapolis, September 24 through September 30, 2007 to attend the National Recreation and Park Association Congress. Attendance at the Congress allowed me to learn, renew connections with other faculty in the field, attend educational sessions, and attend the board meeting of the National Society for Park Resources. I was unable to attend the board meeting of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators as originally indicated in the proposal. However, I did attend that organization's business meeting. I had been the liaison between these two organizations. This is the preeminent meeting for park and recreation faculty and professionals in North America. During the opening session, organization leaders noted that representatives from more than 30 other countries were in attendance.

Brief review of the research procedure utilized:

This was a professional meeting, not a research project. Therefore a research procedure was not utilized. I did attend a number of education and research sessions, meetings, and interacted with and bought lunch with our students who were also able to attend.

Summary of findings:

Again, this was not a research project, so there were not findings in the usual sense. I was able to learn, renew connections, make new connections, talk briefly with a candidate for the Hospitality Administration position for which we are currently recruiting.

Conclusions and recommendations:

I found the meeting very useful. Information from the conference expanded my understanding in several areas that I teach. I have used information from a research session on "A Sense of Place" already in RP 1013 Principles of Recreation and Park Administration. By attending the National Society for Park Resources Board Meeting, I was able to sit with a former director of the National Park Service, the former Director of Indianapolis Parks, the Director of Columbus Ohio Parks, as well as other well placed individuals. A transcript of continuing education sessions which I attended will be available in a month or so. In addition I attended other sessions for which the continuing education credit set-up did not work well for me.

This is a very useful meeting. All Recreation and Park Administration Faculty should attend occasionally if not every year. In the past I have attended this meeting regularly (once a year) using my own funds together with travel funds allocated through the department. It was great to have to have the increased financial support of the University this time. I did not use all of the money allocated through the professional development process.

During spring 2007, I had attended my first National Society for Park Resources in Washington, D.C. using personal resources. It was gratifying to see that a number of these folks remembered me and were very welcoming.

In addition I attended an accreditation visitor training session which may lead to my participation in the accreditation of Recreation and Park Administration Programs at other schools. In the meantime, I now have a better understanding of the NRPA administration process.

Copies of manuscripts, etc. or performance publicity:

As the proposal indicated attendance at a number of functions in conjunction with the National Recreation and Park Association Congress rather than a research project, presentation or a performance, there is not a manuscript or related material. I can make available other evidence of my attendance at this meeting such as the program or notes from many of the sessions attended, should the reader care to see them.