FINIAL REPORT
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

Engaging Students and Informing the Future:
Technology in Grad Prep

Presentation to the
2011 NASPA Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 12 – 16, 2011

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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 12 – 16, 2011. The grant was approved in support of my attendance, where I delivered a 90 minute presentation to participants of the 2011 NASPA (National Association of College Personnel Administrators) Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A copy of the program and 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 present a program entitled, “Engaging Students; Informing the Future: Technology in Grad Preparation,” at the NASPA 2011 Annual Conference. The purpose of the presentation was to educate faculty and student affairs professionals on the many low and no-cost alternatives available to them to enhance and expand their graduate education and provision of services. Drs. Austin and Giroir offered tips and suggestions on incorporating many of these technologies in the areas of communication, collaboration. The goals of this presentation were to encourage participants to:

- gain knowledge of best practices for finding low cost solutions to classroom technology needs, especially as applied to online instruction,
- understand the possible translation of instructional technology to professional student affairs practice to engage current tech-savvy students, and
- evaluate the strengths of the highlighted software for their own purposes whether instructional or administrative.

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. Teaching with technology 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 1200 programs. This successful presentation sparked conversations among participants about the ways in which to incorporate technology in student affairs divisions, and within graduate programs. 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. Participants appeared to have gained a new understanding of the ways to incorporate technology to meet student needs with comments such as, “I have some new ideas to think about and hopefully implement on my
campus” and “good job of presenting the program to address not only the needs of faculty but to practitioners and how we can use it in our office.”

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