

Leisure, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Educators Teaching Institute
"Planting the Seed, Tending the Vine"
February 17-19, 2011
Rutledge, GA

Cathi McMahan, Ph.D., CTRS
Professional Development Grant Report

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

I attended the Leisure, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Educators Teaching Institute. This Teaching Institute is held yearly and is geared towards educators within the leisure, recreation, sport, and tourism fields. The theme for this year's institute was "Planting the Seed, Tending the Vine", and this year's institute was hosted/organized by a number of educators from the South Carolina and Georgia region. There were over 125 educators registered to attend the three day event at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA.

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

The Leisure, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Educators Teaching Institute was designed to give educators in attendance the opportunity to: re-think instructional delivery paradigms, inspire one's pedagogy, enhance teaching skills, garner student respect, and connect with and challenge colleagues.

The purpose of the trip was to attend the Educators Teaching Institute and to attend all three days of educational sessions hosted by the teaching institute's planning committee. While attending I was provided the opportunity to network with colleagues/professionals in the field and to become more aware of current trends and issues in higher education (especially in my given field). I was also afforded the opportunity to represent Arkansas Tech University's Recreation and Parks program which is something that had not taken place in a long while.

Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had:

I attended the Teaching Institute for a number of reasons. First and foremost: I attended the Teaching Institute in order to enhance my teaching skills and to learn new instructional delivery paradigms. I did attend a number of sessions that afforded me the opportunity to learn new ideas and techniques to be utilized in the classroom in order to heighten my teaching skills. I also was afforded the opportunity to attend sessions that focused on instructional delivery paradigms that in turn could improve instructor/student relationships in the classroom which in turn can create an enriched learning environment. A few of the sessions also focused on new and improved methods of assessing instructional methods and learning outcomes. I found these sessions extremely educational in nature and beneficial to my current knowledge of assessment and to our Assessment Plan for the ATU Recreation and Park Program.

By attending the Teaching Institute I also had the opportunity to connect with colleagues in the field and to discuss issues (not only in a group setting – but also in a one-on-one setting) currently facing not only Recreation and Parks Programs but higher education in general. I met a number of colleagues that I was only familiar with by name (due to textbooks that they had written or articles that they had published) and now feel that I could call upon them if I was to need their expertise on an issue.

I have shared much of the information and knowledge that I obtained at the Teaching Institute with my colleagues here in the Recreation and Parks Program. As we have met for Faculty meetings or as things have come up in the Department I have openly shared information or ideas with fellow faculty members and hope that this information has helped them both in and out of the classroom.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

I am very appreciative to Arkansas Tech University and to the funding provided by the professional development grant for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Leisure, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Educator Teaching Institute and to have the opportunity to represent not only Arkansas Tech University, but also the ATU Recreation and Parks Program. I am looking forward to networking with the colleagues that I had the pleasure of meeting and possibly developing professional working partnerships with some of them (research opportunities). I also am looking forward to regularly attending the Teaching Institute.

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Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, Feb 17: All activities held in Athens, GA. (Atlanta, closest airport.) Spend night: Camp Twin Lakes
Morning/afternoon arrivals (travel directly to Athens or travel from Rutledge to Athens in UGA van)

9:30am – 3:00pm Optional strategic planning meeting for a new educators’ association (ALL are welcome)

Georgia Center, Room T/U (1197 South Lumpkin Street Athens, Georgia 30602 Phone: 706-542-2654)
Parking deck adjacent.

11:30am-2:00pm Optional Pre-Conference poverty simulation w/UGA students (meet at the Athens Regional Library 2025 Baxter Street · Athens, Georgia 30606 · 706.613.3650 Free surface parking available)

3:30-4:45pm Opening Keynote followed by reception on the UGA campus
Georgia Museum of Art, 90 Carlton Street Athens, GA 30602 706-542-4662
Parking deck adjacent or overflow parking deck at 300 River Road

Evening on your own in delightful downtown Athens

Friday, February 18: All activities at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA, all meals included
1391 Keencheefoonee Road Rutledge, GA 706-557-9070
<http://www.camptwinlakes.org/medias/fetch/Rutledge+++directions>

Breakfast 7:45am

Morning educational sessions 8:30-9:30; 9:50-10:50, 11:10-12:10

Lunch 12:30

Afternoon education sessions 2-3; 3:30-4:30

All Group Follow-up 5-6:30 Work with our Keynote and Facilitator, Dr. Lee Anne Bell, plus...Awards Presentation...and State of Our Organization

Dinner 6:30 followed by evening roundtables and “Game Night”

Saturday, February 19: All activities at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA, breakfast and lunch included

Breakfast 8am

Morning educational sessions 8:45-9:45, 10-11

Wrap-up Closing with our Keynote and Facilitator 11:15-12:15

Lunch 12:30

Departures by 1:30 to allow for afternoon flights or travel to Atlanta for recreation

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Conference Registration, Meals and Housing Receipt

Name: Cathi McMahan

Amount Received: \$225

Balance Due: 0

You are confirmed for: cabin for Thursday and Friday nights with Candy Ashton, including B,L,D on Friday and B, L on Saturday.

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Conference Coordination Team:

Denise Anderson, Clemson University

Jeff Turner, Georgia College and State University

Brent Wolfe, Georgia Southern University

Co-chair: Joy James, Appalachian State University

Co-chair: Gwynn Powell, University of Georgia

Contact us: SPRETeaching@gmail.com



