

A. Title Page

Faculty Professional Development Grant Report

AWP 36th Annual Convention

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B. Restatement of Problem

This grant allowed me to attend the 36th annual convention of the Association for Women in Psychology on March 3 – March 6, 2011 in Philadelphia, PA.

C. Review of the Work/Procedure

At the convention I made 2 poster presentations with students from Arkansas Tech University and a colleague from Louisiana State University. The first poster resulted from student-initiated research project in an independent study course on attitudes to reproductive rights, involving undergraduate students and professors in Behavioral Sciences Department. The second poster is a result from teaching the course of psychology of women and other psychology courses (introductory and developmental) collaborated with a colleague in a Louisiana university. We brought with 20 copies of handouts for each poster and they were distributed at the poster sessions and a few were sent to interested readers through email.

The list of presentations:

Farrar, C. L., McFarland, D., Zeng, Q., & Huss, S. (March 2011). Psychological effects of abortion and attitudes toward reproductive rights. Presented at the 36th Annual Convention of the Association for Women in Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

Zeng, Q. & Dai, Y., (March 2011). Learning about identifying sexual harassment: The case of “Reasonable Woman Standard”. Presented at the 36th Annual Convention of the Association for Women in Psychology, Philadelphia, PA.

D. Outcomes

At the convention, while presenting our research projects, I also received the opportunities to not only exchange critical ideas and information on similar problems and research areas, but also attended the important speeches given by nationally and internationally prominent scholars /activists in the field of psychology of women such as Dr. Hilary Lips, Dr. Lisa Bowleg, and Ms. Holly Kearn, which broadened my views on ways to improve my research and teaching skills. A manuscript based on Chelsea Farrar et. al presentation was submitted to the academic journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly*. The second poster is being reviewed for further study, with suggestions received at the conference.

E. Conclusions

This grant gave me the opportunity to attend the AWP convention, gain knowledge, and meet other researchers to exchange information that would not have been possible otherwise. It encourages me to continue with the research program with my colleagues/collaborators in pursuing to further my scholarship.

*A student attendee response by Darci McFarland is attached.

Darci McFarland

AWP 2011 National Conference

After working diligently on our research project since October, my research partner, Chelsea Farrar, and I were thrilled when we received an acceptance letter from The Association for Women in Psychology to present our research at the 2011 national conference. AWP is an educational organization that encourages feminist psychological research, theory, and social activism. The conference is designed to build partnerships and grow as a feminist community in order to effectively create social change. Chelsea and I have spent the past year studying the psychological effects of abortion procedures on women. We also investigated the situational contexts of individuals who both support and disagree with abortion in order to see if religious background, political affiliation, sexual orientation, and the participant's parents' beliefs on the subject play a role in determining their opinion on abortion as a reproductive choice. Since this women's health issue has been made into a controversial political issue, we felt as if our study was imperative to better understanding abortion as a reproductive choice. Having strong feminist views and such a passion for exploring this topic that's often avoided by other people has been a challenge in our lives; therefore, it was extremely rewarding and inspiring to be around like-minded intellectuals who are devoting their lives to obtaining social justice. Not only did we get a chance to meet inspirational men and women from around the world and present our research at a national conference, but we were able to attend several lectures on feminist issues and queer theory. This allowed us an opportunity to learn about subjects pertinent to our lives and provided insight to what other activists are delving into in terms of research. We're extremely grateful for

the chance to travel to Philadelphia to attend the AWP conference. It was an amazing experience that was not only an honor in terms of our study, but it was greatly influential in our growth as feminist activists.