

**2012 Annual ICHRIE Summer Conference
“Sailing into the Future of Hospitality and Tourism
Education”
Providence, Rhode Island
August 1-4. 2012**

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

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

I attended the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) Summer Conference in Providence, RI on August 1 – 4, 2012. This Conference is held yearly and is for educators within the Hospitality and Tourism fields. The theme for this year's conference was "Sailing into the Future of Hospitality and Tourism Education". This conference afforded me the opportunity to attend professional education session focused on the ACPHA Accreditation Standards and current trends and issues within the Hospitality profession and to network with other Hospitality and Tourism professors from around the country.

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

International CHRIE continues to be the leader in providing a forum for and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, ideas, research, industry trends, products and services related to education, training and resource development for the hospitality, tourism and culinary arts industry. This exchange is noticeably prevalent through the energetic and thought-provoking dialogue which occurs at ICHRIE conferences and Federation meetings each year.

The purpose of the trip was to attend the ICHRIE Conference and attend all education sessions focusing on the newly revised ACPHA Accreditation Standards. I also had the opportunity to network with other institutions that have accredited programs and visit with their program directors to see how they address the standards. I met a number of hospitality and tourism educators, which was invaluable to me, since I am fairly new to the role of Department Head for Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration.

Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had:

I chose to attend the ICHRIE Conference for a number of reasons. First and foremost: I attended the Conference in order to enhance my knowledge of the ACPHA Accreditation Standards (since we are presently working on our self-study and will have a visit next fall) and to meet faculty from other accredited programs in order to share ideas/knowledge with them. Secondly, I had the opportunity to attend a number of educational sessions which supplied me with a wealth of ideas to bring back and utilize in the classroom (ideas to also to share with faculty).

I have shared much of the information and knowledge that I obtained at the ICHRIE Conference with my colleagues here in the PRHA Department, 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 ICHRIE Conference and to have the opportunity to represent not only Arkansas Tech University, but also the ATU Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration Department. 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 ICHRIE Conference