FINAL REPORT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROPOSAL

Inspiring Inclusion: Integrating Student Services for the Online Community

Presentation to the
2013 ACPA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada
March 4 – 7, 2013

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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 4 - 7, 2013. The grant was approved in support of my attendance, where two colleagues and I delivered a 90 minute presentation to participants of the 2013 ACPA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. 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, “Inspiring Inclusion: Integrating Student Services for the Online Community,” at the ACPA 2013 Annual Conference. The purpose of the presentation was to educate faculty and student affairs professionals on the need to create online approaches to providing student support services. Drs. Austin, B. Giroir, and C. Giroir offered an overview of the topic and theories pertinent to the creation of an ideal online student services model. The goals of this presentation were to encourage participants to:

- Highlight the challenges and possible solutions with providing online student services.
- Enhance the learning and student development competency level for participants by introducing how developmental theories can be modified to address the needs of online students.
- Share recommendations for good practices highlighting common functional areas and the services they are providing to online students at model institutions, and
- Explore the future predictions for online student services and how professionals can prepare now for tomorrow.

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. Understanding how to build appropriate student services to meet the demand of the online student demographic 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 best practices in student services 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.
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

See Program #333 below.

331 IDEAL Involvement: Peer Consultants Inspire Intentional Involvement Assessment, Evaluation, and Research (AEJ) Student Learning and Development Transforming Higher Education

Program Presenter: Jessica Jerman, University of Nevada

Additional Presenters: Brian Camper, University of Chicago; Catherine Pedersen, University of Nevada.

What is true in academic involvement in general holds true for successful peer involvement experiences. A study of students aged 18-30 years found that students who participated in peer mentoring programs had higher grades, better attendance, and higher overall satisfaction with their education than non-mentors. The study also showed that students who received mentorship had a more positive view of their institution and were more likely to recommend it to others. These positive outcomes are also consistent with other studies that have shown peer involvement programs have a positive impact on student retention and success.

332 Inspired Compliance: The Clergy Act, Title IX, and Student Affairs

Program Presenter: Jason Kline, Liberty University

This presentation will cover the current situation and implications for the future of student affairs and compliance with the Clergy Act, Title IX, and other federal laws.

333 Inspiring Inclusion: Integrating Student Services for the Online Community

Program Presenter: Christopher G. Oat, American University

This presentation will explore the integration of student services for the online community. The presentation will cover strategies for creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for online students.

334 Inspiring Student Learning through Controversial Programming

Program Presenter: Donna F. Smith, University of Chicago

This presentation will explore the role of controversial programming in student learning. The presentation will cover strategies for facilitating meaningful discussions on controversial topics.

335 Intersecting Identities, Intersecting Needs Institute: Displaced Workers on Campus (1 of 2)

Program Presenter: Emily D. D. Smith, University of Minnesota

This presentation will explore the challenges faced by displaced workers on campus and strategies for supporting them.

336 Making the Transition from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs

Program Presenter: Lisa A. Thompson, University of California, Los Angeles

This presentation will explore the transition from student affairs to academic affairs. The presentation will cover strategies for building relationships and creating a smooth transition.

337 Building Community and Cultivating Critical Discourse

Program Presenter: Susanna D. Smith, University of Illinois

This presentation will explore the role of community building in cultivating critical discourse. The presentation will cover strategies for creating a safe and inclusive environment for discussion.