March 21, 2013

TO: Professional Development Grant Committee

FR: Dr. Christopher L. Giroir, Department Head for College Student Personnel

RE: Final Report for Professional Development Grant

I was fortunate this academic year to be awarded funds to cover my expenses associated with attending and presenting at ACPA’s annual conference in Las Vegas, NV, on March 4-7, 2013. ACPA is one of the largest professional conferences in the higher education/student affairs discipline and it is a true honor to be selected to present at a national conference like ACPA. This year, ACPA joined forces and had a combined conference with NIRSA (national association for campus recreation) and saw over 7,000 higher education professionals from all states and even abroad.

ATU granted me over $1,600 to help cover some of the expenses associated with the conference. I was fortunate to have a program entitled, “Inspiring Inclusion: Integrating Student Services for the Online Community,” selected to be included in this year’s program selections. There were over 1,500 program submissions, however only 500 were actually chosen to be presented.

The program was designed to educate student affairs professionals on ways to provide traditional student services to online students. As more universities are looking to expand their online course offerings, many times student affairs is not considered in the mix, thus depriving students of a true holistic university experience. In the presentation, Dr. Austin, Dr. Beth Giroir, and I shared some tips and suggestions regarding the importance of including student services into online academic programs and we highlighted best practices universities are doing to provide traditional student services to their online students. Our presentation took a look at what are some common student services online students need and want and talked candidly about the challenges and benefits associated with meeting these needs.

The program was a success (27 people in attendance) and we had good conversations among the participants concerning ways they providing traditional student services to their online students. I gained some great contact with colleagues from New York and Texas who are really trailblazers with how they are meeting the student affairs component of their online student base. I gathered their contact information and plan to follow-up with them for future research on this topic. The feedback from the program evaluations indicated participants in attendance were pleased with the information presented. One attendee commented to me how important it is to incorporate student services into online education and how it is not as complicated to provide these services to online students. I have attached a copy of the program overview that was taken from the official conference program booklet to serve as documentation of the program being presented. In closing, I would like to say “thanks”
again for your support in my professional development. As a faculty member I enjoy sharing my research with my fellow colleagues attending national conferences. In addition, attending national conferences provide me with exposure to the latest research and “best practices” in higher education. Not only did I have the chance to present a program at ACPA, but I was able to speak with book publishers and offered some suggestions on updates for textbooks. Lastly, I finally had the opportunity to meet one of our CSP adjunct faculty members who lives in Las Vegas during the conference. It was so nice to finally see Dr. Theroux in person and chat with him about his experiences teaching online for ATU.
31 IDEAL volvement: Peer consultants Inspire tentional Involvement

Assessment, Evaluation, and search (AER); Student Learning Development; Transforming Higher Education

Jessica Inman, University of Florida

Sarah Cunningham, University of Chicago; Therine Pedersen, University of Indiana

When it comes to student involvement on campus, student affairs professionals must ask three important questions: How do we involve students? How can we support students to understand the value of involvement? The University of Florida created involvement ambassadors that lead all three questions. Utilizing recent student perceptions, peer consultants work with students to craft an intentional path of involvement that focuses on student learning outcomes.

333 Inspiring Inclusion: Integrating Student Services for the Online Community

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Student Learning and Development; Transforming Higher Education

Location: Planet Hollywood, Celebrity Ballroom 6

Christopher L. Giroir, Arkansas Tech University

Christine Austin, Arkansas Tech University; Beth Giroir, Arkansas Tech University

Universities are offering more online degree programs where students never step foot on campus to meet the needs of today's student. The academic need of these online students may be fulfilled, but are these students receiving the benefits, programs, and services commonly associated with student affairs? In this session, participants will learn general practices and tips to develop effective online student services.

334 Inspiring Student Learning through Controversial Programming

Advising and Helping; Student Learning and Development; Cultivating Critical Discourse

Location: Planet Hollywood, Celebrity Ballroom 7

Avi Zacherman, Wichita State University

Carrie Groogran, University of Illinois Chicago; Kingdon Long, California State University - Northridge

This engaging presentation, based on student developmental framework for best programming practices highlights the importance of controversial programming on a college campus. Learning objectives include: [1] understanding the role of advisors and the resources needed to effectively facilitate student learning and development; [2] the impact of controversial programming and its affects on marginalized populations and how to create the possibilities of social justice within programming; [3] the importance of working students through discomfort to promote growth possibilities.

335 Intersecting Identities, Intersecting Needs Institute: Displaced Workers on Campus (1 of 3)

Advising and Helping; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Integrating Intersectional Approaches to Identity

Location: Flamingo, Red Rock VI

Patty M. Munsch, Suffolk County Community College

Jeanette M. Passmore, Owens Community College

Displaced workers have been a growing demographic on community college campuses. Assisting these students through the process of loss, training, and workforce reentry requires knowledge of adult learner theories, transition theories, attention to detail, and a strong set of shoulders. This session is designed to help student affairs professionals understand the intersecting and changing identities of displaced workers. An understanding of these issues is required to help the students navigate their changing self-concepts and the challenges of life changes.

336 Making the Transition from Student Affairs to Academic Affairs

Leadership; Personal Foundations; Transforming Higher Education

Location: Bally's Las Vegas, Palace 4

Jennifer Lease Butts, University of Connecticut