

**Final Report-Professional Development Grant  
National Rehabilitation Association Annual Training Conference  
“Bridge to Employment: Breaking the Barriers for Persons with Disabilities”  
August 18-20, 2013  
New York, New York**

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### **REVIEW OF ACTIVITY**

The National Rehabilitation Association is one of the major professional associations serving the Rehabilitation Profession and our constituents. Every year the Association offers two training conferences, which offer timely information and provide the opportunity to earn CEU/CRC credits. The request was for funding to attend the National Rehabilitation Association Annual Training conference in New York City, August 18-20, 2013. In addition to multiple general sessions, networking opportunities, and poster sessions, a large number of concurrent sessions were offered.

### **TASKS ACCOMPLISHED**

In addition to attending multiple sessions and obtaining information I can use in the classroom, I accomplished the following:

1. Presented a one hour training session on Ethics and Self Care
2. Met with my research partner from Western Michigan University to discuss an ongoing national study and publication
3. Earned CEU/CRC credits.
4. Attended a non-credit session regarding current legislation affecting persons with disabilities.
5. Networked with management from the Arkansas Department of Career Education/Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). (This is important due to the fact they are a source of field work sites and potential employment for our students).

### **OUTCOMES**

As a result of this training, several outcomes were attained. These were:

1. Presentation included information about our program at ATU and reached a national audience.
2. Put finishing touches on publication to be submitted to a refereed journal.
3. Earned CEU/CRC credits for maintaining my license as a Professional Counselor and Certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor (a requirement of accreditation and service on the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling).
4. Learned about state of the art practice and legislation which I can bring back into the classroom.
5. Reached an agreement with ARS so I can obtain training in their new tracking system and then bring this to our students at ATU.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

This grant allowed me to attend vital training that provided information I can bring back into the classroom, provided a presence at a national conference for ATU, and allowed me to earn vital CRC/CEU credits.