

Professional Development Grant Report
American Educational Research Association Annual Conference
Washington, DC
April 8-12, 2016
Dr. Tennille Lasker-Scott

AERA – American Educational Research Association is the largest gathering of scholars in the field of education research. It is a showcase for ground-breaking, innovative studies in a diverse array of areas -from early education through higher education, from digital learning to second language literacy. It is a conference to encounter ideas and data that will shape tomorrow's education practices and policies, and where to connect with leading thinkers from the U.S. and around the world. The applicant is a tenure-track faculty in Professional Studies and is requesting funding to cover the registration and travel expenses to this national conference being held in Washington, D.C., on April 8-12, 2016, where she will present her dissertation research and assist the Chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee in facilitating the Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender special interest group forum.

My attendance at this national conference allowed me to further advance my scholarship in the field of adult education, specifically in the promotion of race and ethnicity, social class, and gender being critical lenses utilized when performing critical reflection and evaluations of educational theories and practice in institutions of higher education.

Also as a participant in the Graduate Student Panel (the proposal was accepted before the successful defense of the dissertation), I discussed my dissertation research and the dilemma I experienced, conducting qualitative interviewing within minority populations, discussing race, gender, and social-economic boundaries, from both insider and outsider perspectives. As an African American conducting research within my race, I assumed fewer challenges in establishing relationships with participants. However, my perceived status of being “educated” prompted various assumptions regarding my credibility, trustworthiness, and positionality. These assumptions interfered with my attempts to obtain truthful and thoughtful responses from the participants. These actions resulted in feelings of isolation and being an outsider to my own

culture. I informed the students of how my mentorship with my major professor was vital to me journaling about and understanding those feelings and also attributed the positive mentorship with being a major reason I was about to complete my dissertation.

After the presentation, I met and established a mentoring relationship with peer from other universities that translated into a conference presentation the fall of 2016 and being invited by the current chair of the SIG- *Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender*, Dr. Juanita Johnson-Bailey, to speak about mentorship at the 2017 AERA conference.

Reference

Lasker-Scott, T. & Alston, G. D. (2016). Roles of Mentorship: Mentee, Peer, Mentor and Friend.

Proceedings of The 40th Adult Higher Education Alliance Conference, The University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL