

Professional Development Grant Final Report

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### **Restatement of Professional Development Opportunity**

Funding from the Professional Development Grant enabled me to travel to the Spring 2016 National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Conference in Newport Beach, CA. NCRE is the largest organization representing rehabilitation educators in the United States and the conference typically draws large numbers of participants from all over the country. During the conference I presented a seminar entitled, “Intimate Relationship Treatment Plan Considerations: Increasing QOL through Clinical Knowledge and Comfort.”

### **Review and Benefits of Conference**

Participating in the 2016 Conference was a rewarding experience as it allowed me to engage in numerous training sessions and networking opportunities. Presenting the aforementioned seminar also brought national attention to the Rehabilitation Science program and Arkansas Tech University. Not only was I able to exchange evidence-based pedagogical approaches with my colleagues, but I was also able to gain insight on the current state of the Rehabilitation field. This information was shared with my colleagues upon my return and will be utilized within the classroom in future semesters. The most useful sessions were legislative issues, forums concerning the merge between CORE and CACREP, and accreditation updates. One session that I found exceptionally helpful and informative addressed practical information in how to conceptualize, conduct, report, and publish research pertinent to rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation counselor education within the parameters of federal regulations, publication standards, and the CRC code of ethics. As a result of attending the conference I was able to maintain my continuing education credits for my certification, which is vital to our program’s continuing accreditation status.

**Conclusions**

Attending and presenting at the NCRE conference allowed me to bring national attention to ATU and the Rehabilitation Science program, as well as expand my knowledge on a variety of pedagogies, legal and accreditation issues, and professional network.