

Arkansas Tech University

Professional Development Grant Final Report-2017

Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop 2017 and  
International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting 2017

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## Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop 2017 and International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting 2017

*This final report outlines the results of a professional development grant that funded travel, lodging, registration, and meals during travel to the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop from July 9 – 12, 2017. The grant was approved in support of my attendance through which I was to deliver a presentation to attendees and convene the Gender Disaster Network. The presentation was to be delivered to the International Committee on Research on Disasters meeting which is traditionally scheduled immediately following the Workshop. Unfortunately, changes in federal travel guidelines resulted in the IRCD meeting being rescheduled for another venue outside of the US. Instead of presenting my research, an abstract of my project was included in the Workshop handbook distributed to all attendees. A copy of this abstract as it appeared in the handbook is included at the end of this report.*

### **B. Restatement of professional enhancement opportunity**

The Annual Natural Hazards Workshop attracts researchers, academics, government agency representatives, and public sector, private sector, and non-profit research funding organization representatives. The opportunity to present one's research, exchange ideas, and develop positive relationships with the program directors of multiple research-funding grantor organizations is unique within the field of disaster research and emergency management education. As a co-convenor of the Gender Disaster Network, I also have the opportunity to establish closer professional relationships with researchers focused on the study of social vulnerability, disaster, social capital, community resilience, and the intersection of these topics with gender.

### **C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity**

This opportunity to network with prominent scholars, practitioners, and grant program directors allowed me to solicit essential feedback from emergency management community as I prepare my work for scholarly publication. Attending other presentations and interest sessions, combined with less formal conversations, informed my own scholarship and teaching by identifying current trends and areas of needed study. This benefit was coupled with opportunities for collaboration with scholars outside of ATU and identification of potential funding opportunities.

My participation at this conference provided benefit to ATU and the Department of Emergency Management in multiple ways. ATU was highly visible and in position to strengthen our reputation as well as our national and international professional network. The networks and peer relationships established through participation in this conference can support a multitude of projects at ATU encompassing both undergraduate and graduate students. We bring several recognized speakers to our departmental Emergency Management Conference each year as well as invite guest

lecturers to our classes and student organization meetings. Many of these scholars and professionals are willing to travel to Russellville for little or no stipend and/or interact with our students virtually because of their familiarity with our program, faculty, and scholarship activities. In order for our reputation to be maintained or enhanced and our networks to continue to strengthen and expand, participation at this meeting is critical.

#### **D. Summary of experiences**

Despite the cancellation of the ICRD meeting and my full presentation, the publication of my abstract resulted in multiple discussions with other scholars and potential grant providers. I also received invitations for involvement in additional related research opportunities. Interaction with multiple government agency, private sector, and non-profit organization representatives has increased the likelihood of internship placement nationally for our undergraduate and graduate students.

#### **E. Conclusion and recommendations**

I received valuable feedback from established scholars within the discipline of emergency management. I have incorporated this feedback into my current research project involving Community-Based Organizations and disaster resilience in developing societies. I also had the opportunity to participate in a Roundtable session regarding the delivery of emergency management education. My participation in this session not only served to provide new ideas regarding the pedagogy within emergency management, but also resulted in an invitation to serve as the co-chair of a FEMA-sponsored focus group/task force charged with examining the scholarship of learning and teaching within emergency management. Involvement in this national task force also strengthens the national reputation of our program. Through my involvement in the Gender Disaster Network, I was asked to contribute to the Annual Workshop through the planning board. As a member of the planning board, I will have the opportunity to expand the standing of the ATU program at the international and national level. I am hopeful that my involvement may also increase the recruitment of graduate students into our program at ATU.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Professional Development committee and the Office of Academic Affairs for supporting my involvement in this important and influential workshop and research community. I believe my involvement enhances my personal professional development and serves to expand our department's standing in our discipline.