May 14, 2009

TO: Professional Development Grant Committee

FR: Dr. Christopher L. Giroir, Assistant Professor 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 the American College Student Personnel Association-International (ACPA)'s annual conference in Washington, DC , on March 29-April 1, 2009.

ATU granted me a total of $520.28 to help cover some of the expenses associated with the conference. I was fortunate to have a program entitled, "Finding the Courage and Power to Earn your Terminal Degree," selected to be included in this year's program selections. There were over 1,200 program submissions, however only 500 were actually chosen to be presented.

The program was designed to educate individuals on the steps that one needs to take in order to earn a terminal degree in higher education/college student personnel. The approach that was taken in the program was to provide actual testimonies from individuals who have earned their degrees while working full-time in a student affairs professional position. I was fortunate to have colleagues from 2 other institutions assist in the presentation to provide their insight and advice. The team approach for the presentation proved to be successful because each one of the presenters had starkly different experiences that described their journey to earning a terminal degree.   The presentation had a combination of "round-table discussion" of advice balanced with an overview of learning theory that could provide insight for individuals trying to determine what Ph.D. or Ed.D. program would be the best fit for them to pursue.
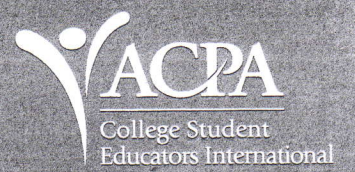
The program was a success with over 47 individuals attending the session.   The feedback from the evaluations indicated that participants in attendance were pleased with the information presented. Feedback from completed evaluation forms included..."extremely helpful information...presenters were very knowledgeable on the material...one of the best programs I attended this conference."

I have attached a copy of the program overview that was taken from the official conference program booklet to serve as official documentation of the program. If you would like a copy of the actual presentation, please contact me and I will be more than happy to provide that information to you.

In closing, I would like to say "thanks" again for your support in my professional development. As a new faculty member working toward gaining tenure, attending and presenting at national conferences provides 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 network with other colleagues to discuss potential research topics and I was given an opportunity to get involved with several standing committees in the organization.

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ACPA
College Student
Educators International

to Act, creating an interactive, efficient, and sustainable Web site utilizing Blackboard Academic Suite to address student's needs.

310 Creating a Powerful Relationship with the Student Organizations you Advise

Advising and Helping
Location: Maryland Ballroom 3
Coordinating Presenter: *Danielle M. DeSawal, Indiana University*

This session will use the results of a national survey (DeSawal, 2007) which identified a new model for understanding the interaction between student organization advisors and their constituents. Participants will explore how they learned to advise student organizations, reflect on where they found information about advising, and look at what characteristics might be associated with their individual approach. Discussion will also include the role of mentors and supervisors as it relates to the professional responsible for advising a student organization.

311 Cutting Too Close: Suicide and Self Injury in Residential Facilities

Crisis Response
Commission for Housing and Residence Life
Location: Magnolia 2
Coordinating Presenter: *Joshua J Dewar, Ripon College*
Additional Presenter(s): *Ryan Dwyer, Ripon College; Marissa Greuel, Ripon College*

Suicide and self injury are two of the hardest issues residence life staff regularly confront. This session will present background information on why students chose to self-injury, how to address issues of suicidal ideation, a history of literature in both fields, and conclude by offering an opportunity to examine how both problems continue to impact larger numbers of students on campus each year. The session is for residence life professionals and aims to meet the needs of live-in staff.

312 Developing Responsible Campus Citizens: Involving Students in the Political Process

Student Learning and Development
Teaching
Location: Chesapeake 4
Coordinating Presenter: *Sara B Rothenberger, Marywood University*
Additional Presenter(s): *Susan Perlis, Mary-*

wood University

In Fall 2008, two courses were offered at a small private university; one FYE core course for first-year students using An Inconvenient Truth (Gore) for summer reading, and a Higher Education Administration doctoral Law and Policy course. Both courses had service-learning requirements. This session explores how to involve students from different departments, at both graduate and undergraduate levels, using current events and civic engagement through service learning to seamlessly bridge academic/student affairs to develop responsible campus citizens.

313 Ethical Issues for Student Affairs Professionals

Ethics
Location: National Harbor 6
Coordinating Presenter: *Anne M. Hornak, The University of Toledo*
Additional Presenter(s): *Sarah M. Marshall, Central Michigan University*

This presentation will explore how ethics and ethical dilemmas are an everyday fact of life for student services professionals. The presentation will review ethical responsibilities and standards of the profession. In addition to the professional focus, the discussion will explore how students develop morally and ethically and how student services professionals can facilitate the development. Finally, the presenters will offer case studies and frameworks for evaluating an ethical dilemma as well as steps in making an ethical decision.

314 Facebook and Myspace: Student Social Network Usage and College Outcomes

Student Learning and Development
Technology
Location: National Harbor 11
Coordinating Presenter: *Amanda M. Blakewood, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
Additional Presenter(s): *Terrell L. Strayhorn, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Increasingly, first-year college students are expected to use technology in their studies. In recent years, students' use of social networking sites such as Myspace and Facebook has been popular. To date, few empirical studies exist that estimate the relationship between students' use of technology and college outcomes. Based on data from over 800 students, this program fills an important gap in our current knowledge.

315 Featured Speaker: Randy Swing

Assessment, Evaluation, and Research
Location: Potomac A & B
Coordinating Presenter: *Gretchen J Metzelaars, University of Maryland, College Park*

Dr. Randy Swing is the Executive Director of the Association for Institutional Research, a professional association of 4,200 members. Until 2007, Swing served as Co-Director & Senior Scholar at the Policy Center on the First Year of College, a Fellow in the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience, and held appointments in Japan and Scotland. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and author on assessment, institutional research, and student success. Prior to 1999, he held leadership positions at Appalachian State University in assessment, advising, Upward Bound, and Freshman Seminar. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

316 Finding the Courage and Power to Earn Your Terminal Degree

Student Learning and Development
Location: National Harbor 7
Coordinating Presenter: *Christopher L. Giroir, Arkansas Tech University*
Additional Presenter(s): *Stephanie S. Roy, The University of Southern Mississippi; Amy Townsend, The University of Southern Mississippi*

It is time to face those fears and conquer the "beast" we call a terminal degree. The phrase "terminal" sounds intimidating and many individuals do not know where to begin with the process, but we know earning this degree will enhance us personally and professionally. Too often we focus on the ending, the dissertation, rather than the beginning steps. This session will be a resource for professionals wanting to advance their education to the next level.

317 First-Year Student Success: MAP-Works on Community College Campuses

Assessment, Evaluation, and Research
Location: Chesapeake D
Coordinating Presenter: *Timothy L. Beard, Pasco-Hernando Community College*
Additional Presenter(s): *Darlena Jones, Educational Benchmarking; Sherry Woosley, Ball State University*

Community colleges face unique challenges when it comes to first-year student success. A number of community colleges are turning to MAP-Works, a unique process that supports