

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Dr. Theresa Herrick

Attending the National Recreation and Park Association

Annual Congress – October 25 – 29, 2010

For

**Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT)
Accreditation Visitor Training**

Professional development funds were provided for me to attend the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota October 25 – 29, 2010. One of the main reasons I wanted to attend NRPA was to attend training sessions for academic accreditation in order to maintain my training to serve as an accreditation visitor for the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT). I had been a member of the COAPRT accreditation team which visited North Texas State University's Parks and Recreation Program in 2010.

During the NRPA Annual Congress I also attended training sessions on the new COAPRT accreditation standards going into effect in 2013. Arkansas Tech's Recreation and Park Administration Program has been selected as one of six universities in the U.S. to pilot the new standards prior to their full implementation in 2013. Our faculty has to be familiar with, and implement, the new standards before our next COAPRT accreditation visit in fall 2011.

I also attended a number of professional sessions relating to the Parks and Recreation profession. My certification as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) requires that I attend professional development sessions on continuing education to maintain my professional certification.

As a certified Park and Recreation Professional it is imperative that I attend conferences and continuing education sessions for professional development. I try to attend the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress every year to stay current on what's happening in professional practice and research. I have occasionally presented research findings at the national congress. If I intend to stay current on COAPRT accreditation and maintain my status as an accreditation visitor I have to continue attending training sessions.