



COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL

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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 and presenting at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators-(NASPA)'s annual conference in Philadelphia, PA, on March 13-16, 2011. NASPA is one of the largest professional conferences in the higher education/student affairs discipline and it is a true honor to be selected to present at these national conferences.

ATU granted me over \$1,400 to help cover some of the expenses associated with the conference. I was fortunate to have a program entitled, "Engaging Students; Informing the future: Technology in Grad Preparation," 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 graduate faculty in college student personnel/higher education administration about no cost to low cost software programs available that can be commonly used to enhance graduate education. In the presentation, Dr. Austin and I shared some tips and suggestions regarding software we use with our on-line teaching to help engage students with discussions via technology. A common trend we are seeing in today's graduate student is an individual who is trying to juggle all their commitments (work, family, hobbies, etc...) with their school obligations, so we are seeing on-line graduate program enrollment options skyrocket. It is important in this day and age for us to embrace technology, but also to find a way to not miss out on the classroom engagement in these distance education courses. Our presentation was a candid conversation of not only the pros associated with using the software programs, but also time was spent on identifying the limitations with each software package. In addition, we tailored the presentation for student affairs professionals by sharing examples of how they can use these software programs to be more efficient in their daily interactions with staff and students on their campuses.

The program was a success and we had good conversations among the participants concerning other ways they are using low-cost/no-cost software at their respected institutions. The feedback from the evaluations indicated participants in attendance were pleased with the information presented. A sample of the feedback from completed evaluation forms included..."I have some new ideas to think about and hopefully implement on my campus" and "good job of presenting the program to address not only the needs of faculty but to practitioners and how we can use it in our office." I have attached a copy of the program overview that was taken from the official conference program booklet to serve as

In closing, I would like to say “thanks” again for your support in my professional development. As a 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 NASPA, but I was able to meet some of our distance students for the first-time in person at the conference. It was nice to put a name and a face together and chat face-to-face. In addition, I made great contacts with other faculty members to collaborate on potential research topics and publications.