

2016 Final Professional Development Grant Report

FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium

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Emmitsburg, Maryland

Dr. Sandy M. Smith

Associate Professor and Head

Department of Emergency Management

Arkansas Tech University

B. Professional Enhancement Opportunity:

I participated at the 18th annual FEMA Emergency Management Institute Higher Education Symposium in Emmitsburg, Maryland by co-presenting and facilitating 5 different sessions during the 4-day symposium. The sessions I either presented or facilitated were:

- Accreditation Focus Group – Final Report
- ATU DEM's presentation: Challenge Met: Increasing Academic Rigor While Integrating Program Core Competencies in Expanded Discipline – Specific Required Credit Hours
- Next Generation Emergency Management Core Competencies Focus Group Report
- Developing and Sustaining Bachelors Level Emergency Management Programs
- Toward a Substantive Dialogue: The Need for a Code of Ethics in Emergency Management, Part 2

Included with this report is the Agenda for the Symposium. The sessions I led were on June 7, 8, and 9.

C. Brief Review:

The annual FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium seeks to “bring together representatives of colleges and universities which have an existing hazard, disaster, emergency management program in place to provide an environment that encourages a robust dialogue and supports networking on a variety of topics, issues, successes and challenges related to emergency management higher education delivery” (2016 EMI Symposium invitation). This stated purpose was achieved during the 18th annual symposium. Not only is the symposium free to EM educators (no conference or housing fees) but it is quite remarkable as it provides one the ability to connect with a number of scholars in the field. Our team's presentation went very well and resulted in numerous dialogues with various educators throughout the country. It was gratifying to be able to share the work we had done and to visit with others about the challenges we encountered in redesigning our undergraduate curriculum.

D. Summary of Experience:

The FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium provided our faculty team a venue to not only present and share about our program's undergraduate curriculum but also a means for our team to dialogue with others committed to emergency management education. Additionally, I was able to present the work of 2 FEMA Focus Groups, lead a working session on developing a Code of Ethics for EM, and to serve as a panelist sharing ATU's bachelor's EM program. As the symposium was 4 days, it provided me with numerous opportunities to visit with a number of scholars in the field as well as to network with other emergency management department heads.

E. Conclusions and Recommendations:

The 2016 FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium was highly successful and I was able to achieve my goals of collaborating with other EM educators and to purposefully engage with not only our Tech DEM faculty team but also with other EM educators regarding how to continue to improve our program. I highly encourage that the University continue funding the opportunity for faculty to participate in national venues for the purpose of sharing information with others and for dialoguing with other scholars in similar fields.