

# **Final Paper**

**Professional Development Grants**

**2017 KAHTEA Conference**

**By**

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**A Tenure-Track Position of Assistant Professor**

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### **Restatement of problem researched, creative work or professional enhancement opportunity**

I attended the 2017 Annual Korean American Hospitality Tourism Educators Association (KAHTEA) Conference at the Tropicana Las Vegas, Nevada from April 20 to 23, 2017. From the conference, I learned new hospitality subject topics; bring recruiting opportunities from potential internship and permanent job position sites to our hospitality administration (HA) programs; attended the keynote speakers' sessions and the field tour session; and supervised seven HA students to the conference.

### **Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity, creative work, or research procedure**

The annual KAHTEA conference presented about 50 informative refereed presentations including undergraduate research, both stand-up sessions and poster presentations, regarding the latest in industry and educational research. The event included exciting displays at the KAHTEA and provide many networking opportunities among educators, researchers, and industry professionals. I attended to network with industry professionals and to discover a fresh research idea as well as to become motivated to work, teach, and research more efficiently.

### **Summary of findings, outcomes or experiences had**

As an assistant professor at the university, I may have more opportunities to network with colleagues from other universities as well as industry professionals. First, for our department students, I tried to make connections with industry professionals for students' internship sites and job opportunities. This year, I supervised and brought seven Hospitality Administration (HA) students to the conference. The names of students attending: Mr. Ahmed Alabdan, Mr. Josue Ayala, Mr. Jonathan Williams, Mr. Alex Clark, Ms. Megan Spivey, Ms. Miyu Fujita, and Ms. Amber Light. Ms. Megan Spivey and Ms. Amber Light presented their research paper in Undergraduate Student Research Forum (USRF - stand-up and full paper session). The title of research paper was "Food Waste Perceptions among College Students in University Foodservices." And, in 2017, our undergraduate research papers were awarded "the Best

Paper in USRF” and “the Second Best Paper in USRF.” Las Vegas, NV is the one of best hospitality industry destinations. Students have good experiences visiting Las Vegas as a “Field Trip.” KAHTEA provides a field trip opportunity every year.

Second, as a college professor of higher education, I need to learn new trends in the hospitality industry and bring new teaching techniques to my class. In hospitality education, a gap between lecturing and real industry experience still exists. I have attempted to bridge these two realms. In addition, I always try to connect my lectures with the real world of hospitality, and the KAHTEA conference used to enable me to better do this by updating me on what is currently occurring in the industry. Lastly, I tried to learn what others in this field are doing, which can lead to new ideas and help me to develop new research ideas that recently I sketched. Research is a motivation and a factor in job satisfaction for a college professor. The opportunity to attend the KAHTEA conference indeed brought many benefits to our students, department, college, university, and me.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Through the KAHTEA conference, I had the excellent opportunities to meet with hospitality industry professionals and educators from other schools. I shared the information about the current issues of the hospitality, tourism, and culinary industries. I made the best use of the opportunity to gather information to improve my teaching techniques and to deliver updated knowledge in the classroom. I further will try to develop my research ideas so that I may submit a paper to an academic journal this year for the benefit of my academic career.