

Final Report for Professional Development Grant

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College Student Personnel

January 2019

B. Restatement of problem/creative work

In October 2018 I presented at the NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) annual conference in Phoenix, AZ, for a program entitled, *Inspired Stories: What Students Recall Years Later*.

C. Brief review of creative work

This presentation shared information regarding a research I had collected regarding graduate students' recollection of their best and worst undergraduate academic advising experiences. The presentation tied in directly with the conference theme of "Life stories: The art of academic advising."

D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had

In this conference presentation my main aim was to describe how students experienced the most positive and negative advising experiences, and how small things, words, or phrases, stand out to students. It is amazing what students can vividly recall sometimes 20 years later. I shared common themes of both the best and worst advisors. Oftentimes, in higher education we do not want to talk about or address bad advising (or bad teaching) as these seem to be taboo topics, but we do not often consider the lasting impact these may leave on students. In good advising, students remember advisors who went above and beyond, who were positive, and those who showed genuine concern for the students by taking an interest in them. One student said her advisor took an investment in her life. In negative advising, bad advisors sometimes belittled students, made them feel bothersome, and clearly did not enjoy the advising task.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

The session was well-attended and generated a lively discussion. In teaching, advising, and supervising students, we need to continually learn more about our lasting impact on students.

Taking an interest in students beyond the current task at hand is something that they will not soon forget.