Name: Susan Vos

Department/Unit: College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science

Conference Attended: American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Interim Meeting

Date of Conference: February 17-21, 2023

Award Amount: $1500

Briefly summarize how your attendance at the conference enhanced your professional development and allowed you to gain a better understanding of teaching in your discipline or trends in higher education in general.

This conference greatly contributed to my professional development in multiple ways.

1. Exploring culture and how this impacts our units
   a. These sessions taught me the importance of being intentional about how we create and communicate our culture. Defining behaviors, ritualizing the behaviors, selecting people that are the right fit, integration into the culture, communicating our culture to the greater organization, coaching to reinforce our culture, leading by example and driving accountability are critical steps in leveraging our culture.

2. Connected with colleagues from across the country to share practices in student affairs
   a. Because I took my new leadership role in student affairs just before the pandemic, it was incredibly valuable to attend this face-to-face meeting to build my network of student affairs colleagues.
   b. The meeting hosts “conversations” with groups to build connections and these were incredibly valuable to meet others who have similar responsibilities.
   c. Controversies in higher education were discussed through a legal lens during this program. This is valuable for me as I navigate difficult decisions that could result in litigation for the university. Learning how to protect the university and college is very important in these conversations.

3. Learned about strategies to facing challenges of disruption in healthcare education.
a. During these sessions on disruption in education, I took away a few ideas that can help our college. This included considering educational badges and online certificate programs rather than our traditional PharmD, PhD, or MS degrees. We are discussing these options at our executive committee and strategic planning meetings.

How have you been able to share what you learned about teaching with your department, the University of Iowa, and/or beyond?

Because of networking with colleagues, I was able to build a research project with several pharmD students to look at certificates in pharmacy education. The project was an idea at the meeting, but I was able to form a research question and we recently completed data collection. The project abstract will be submitted to national meetings and a manuscript will be completed by the end for 2023.

The conversations on culture have provided valuable insight to me as I work in an office that is under a co-leadership model. This can be challenging to build culture, but the sessions on culture helped me to have a solid framework as we navigate hybrid work environments for our office. I have shared these concepts at our team meetings.

Lastly, at this meeting I was able to gain more insight into technical standards for healthcare programs. This allowed me to finalize a manuscript on this topic which was recently submitted to the American Journal of Pharmacy Education.