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TSSA 2017-2018 Report
Dr. Nicholas Bratcher
Department of Music
Awarded: Fall 2017
Conference: The Midwest Clinic
December 18-23, 2017

Presented: October 10, 2018

The Midwest Clinic exists to raise instrumental music education standards by advancing pedagogical methodologies; develop innovative teaching techniques; assist those interested in music education in their professional work; presenting the newest available repertoire for bands; and holding clinics to better music education. Among the many clinic offerings at this past Midwest Clinic, were several clinics that greatly benefitted my transition into the CSUSB family, as well as helped better serve the students of my ensembles. The first clinic was “Discussions of Equity, Inclusion, and Access in the Music Classroom.” The second clinic was “Music for All of Us: Reflecting Society Through Repertoire Selection.” The third clinic was “Maximizing Gestural Expression: Movement and Performance Theory for Conductors.” While I attended many other clinics and rehearsal labs, these three particular clinics were of great interest to my teaching methodology.

First, the “Discussions of Equity...” clinic allowed me to examine barriers unintentionally created for minority students. As Director of Bands, one of my duties is teaching Intro to Music Education Methods. Many of my students will soon be in the field as music educators. Being able to create effective learning environments that are inclusive of everyone, regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation is important. Also, as future music educators, many of my students’ students will try to access some college through a partial music scholarship or award. Working collaboratively with my colleagues both at CSUSB and the

surrounding school districts to improve access to higher quality music education regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or race is crucial for tomorrow's music educators.

The "Music for All of Us" clinic gives an overview on different wind band minority composers (specifically African-American and women composers). This clinic has enhanced my programming considerations for our own symphonic band here at CSUSB, and through me, has widened the breadth of composers and works studied in our wind band literature, ensembles, and advanced conducting courses. Many of the current compositions our ensembles perform are written by demographics that do not closely relate to that of our students or myself. The music major courses I teach are upper level undergraduate courses that will be offered in the coming quarters (and the foreseeable future).

The third clinic, "Maximizing Gestural Expression", helped me explore how the coordination of the entire human body is essential to creating authentic gestures. The skills gained from this clinic greatly benefitted my conducting courses by giving students a foundational bank of gestures for their own conducting, as well as provide a better understanding of kinesthetic in the profession.

Thanks to the Teaching Skills and Service Award grant I received from the Teaching Resource Center, the students that we serve here at CSUSB will benefit from the knowledge gathered at this past Midwest Clinic, especially given the nature of student population across local and regional school districts. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have attended this conference.