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Brian Heisterkamp TSSA Fall 2013

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TSSA One-Page REPORT

Submitted by:

Brian L. Heisterkamp

Name of Conference Attended:

National Communication Association Convention

Date of Conference:

November 21-24, 2013

Teaching Skills Studied:

During the three workshops, I studied a variety of teaching skills. The electronic rubrics workshop covered a variety of skills including the development and application of rubrics to online assignments. During the second workshop devoted to teaching communication research methods, we discussed approaches designed to make research methods more accessible to undergraduates. Topics included creating assignments focused on students' career interests and the use of case studies to explain difficult concepts. During the third workshop devoted to teaching conflict communication courses, we discussed ways to engage students in conflict communication concepts through a focus on leadership skills. Leadership skills such as collaborative decision making were discussed as a means to understand conflict interactions.

Impact on/How applied to current teaching:

The electronic rubrics workshop helped me identify criteria for evaluating students' online work, which aids my own teaching and my ability to contribute to the development of online course assignments. Because I include an online component in most of my courses, I am able to apply these tools to many courses I teach. For example, based upon this workshop, I revised a writing assignment in my interpersonal communication course in a way that mirrors the ideas I learned during this workshop. The second workshop on research methods enabled me to integrate certain case studies as a means to discuss complex ideas including experimental research designs. Finally, the conflict communication workshop provided me with some interesting tools for explaining conflict styles (e.g., avoidance, collaboration, etc.) around the topic of leadership.

Date Submitted:

September 16, 2014