

TSSA 2017 One-Page REPORT

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Name of conference attended: Western Psychological Association Terman Teaching Conference

Dates: April 26, 2017

Teaching Skill(s) Studied: The Western Psychological Association Terman Teaching Conference attendees and presenters included faculty members from a variety of regional universities who study topics related to psychology. Presentations covered topics such as making statistics accessible and fun for students, model teachers, the ethics of conducting research with animals, deep learning, alternative models for learning, and teaching about human sexuality.

Impact on Current Teaching: The most impactful presentation at the convention pertained to model teachers. The presenter, Dr. Aaron S. Richmond, addressed a wide range of topics including how to construct the most effective syllabus, course content, instructional methods, and assessment tools. For each topic, he presented only information that was empirically supported. For example, contrary to popular belief, students prefer lengthy, thorough syllabi. As such, I have expanded on my syllabi to include resources and information that will help students excel on assignments. Dr. Richmond also discussed tailoring assignments to meet Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). Although I was already doing this, I learned how to do it more effectively. For example, he encouraged professors to incorporate assessments for each specific objective into our courses. I also learned about a book, "An Evidence-Based Guide to College and University Teaching" and have been slowly making my way through it. I've been implementing several of the strategies and recommend that every professor read it.

The final presentation of the day pertained to the hurdles of teaching human sexuality. My research program is focused on intimate relationships and human sexuality is a theme covered in several of my courses. One of the strategies mentioned at the conference was to maintain strict boundaries when addressing these topics in class. The presenter mentioned that several of her students rely on personal experience and religion when discussing sexuality topics; she recommended referring back to the empirical literature as a way to maintain appropriate boundaries. Overall, this conference was very applied; the attendees were not just listening to lectures but were discussing the strategies being taught.

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