

## 2013 North American Society for Sport Management Conference (NASSM 2013)

### From Mentoring to Networking: Laying the Foundation for the Future of Sport Management

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**Professional preparation**

**Saturday, June 1, 2013**

**60-minute symposium,  
roundtable, or workshop  
(Room 406)**

**Abstract 2013-290**

**2:35 PM**

At the 2008 NASSM conference in Toronto, several colleagues presented a roundtable about the need for a more collaborative environment within NASSM. Basing their roundtable on Dan Mahoney's Zeigler speech, they attempted to foster an environment that would address his concerns and provide opportunity to network regarding collaborative opportunities. We continue to see the need to expand our research through collegial collaboration and continued professional development in an effort to energize the profession.

Himmelman (2002) defined a collaborating relationship as three strategies for working together: networking, coordinating, and cooperating. He contends that "each of them build upon each other along a developmental continuum" (p. 1). He defines networking as a mutually beneficial exchange of information, coordinating as the exchange of information and modifying actions to attain goals, and cooperating as an addition to the definition of coordination: the idea of "sharing resources for mutual benefit and to achieve a common purpose" (Himmelman, 2002, p.2). We assert that this is what professional conferences like NASSM are intended to foster. Through the momentum garnered from sharing our current projects with colleagues who share a common focus we will be able to grow our network and establish future collaborative efforts which in turn will strengthen our profession, add to the literature in sport management and foster collegiality.

For some time, the concepts of professional development and collegiality have fostered a debate in academia (Cox and Mayorga, 2010; Hoerr, 2008; Murray, 1999). Many researchers have discussed the pros and cons of collegiality as an assessment of worth for faculty (Hatfield, 2006; AAUP, 1999). But Cipriano (2011) claimed that a collegial culture can create synergy, but is all too often absent from academia. Easterling (2011) labeled collegiality a "valued ideal in higher education" (p. 1). It is our contention that we gain momentum from our yearly gatherings at NASSM, but then retreat to our comfortable place once we are home, where all too often cooperation and collegiality wane.

If collegiality and collaboration are critical for developing faculty, how do we create a paradigm shift that engages current and new faculty members? This roundtable discussion proposes to highlight the various networks and collaborative opportunities available to both seasoned and freshly hooded professorate. Panel members will embark on a journey through the various network opportunities such as chair-faculty, professor-industry, professor-professor, student-professor, and social networks. Panel members have already established an initial collaborative networking Facebook page with the hopes of sharing pedagogy, case studies and research projects. This page is open to NASSM members. Time will be set aside after the panel discussion to begin face to face discussions for potential collaborations.