Writing Manuscripts for Publication: A Professional Development Workshop for Diversity Researchers Sponsored by the NASSM Diversity Committee

Akilah Carter-Francique, Texas A&M University
Adam Love, Mississippi State University
Nefertiti Walker, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Nicholas Watanabe, University of Missouri

Diversity Saturday, May 31, 2014 60-minute symposium, roundtable, or workshop
Abstract 2014-268 11:15 AM (Conference Center C)

In 1999, Doherty and Chelladurai purported that, “Sport managers must address the opportunities and challenges of managing an increasingly diverse workforce” (p. 281). Researchers and scholars are key persons to aid sport managers with understanding those opportunities and challenges within these institutions. In addition, with the increased mandates of diversity and diversity initiatives and policies, it is imperative that sport managers and organizations embrace, “new and diverse perspectives, ideas, and approaches for success – and even survival” (Doherty & Chelladurai, 1999, p. 282). Diversity research in sport consists of surface-level diversity (e.g., race, gender, age, physical appearance, physical disability) and deep-level diversity (e.g., sexual orientation, religious beliefs); however, there remains a need for theoretically driven scholarship in conjunction with the existing positivistic scholarship (Cunningham & Fink, 2006). Hence the purpose of this workshop is to promote continued diversity scholarship and support NASSM members and their efforts to pursue grants and funding to address diversity in the sport and leisure context.

This professional development workshop for NASSM members provides an opportunity for junior faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and doctoral students to receive constructive feedback on research and grant proposals focusing on diversity within the sport and leisure context. This workshop will offer participants a chance to be mentored and have their work reviewed by leading scholars in the field. These scholars have served as reviewers, editors, associate editors, and editorial board members of leading journals in the sport management field. In order to improve the quality of sport management scholarship, it is imperative that seasoned college and university faculty continue to develop their unique talents and skills for their professional growth, but to also help mentor the next generation of scholars. Mentoring develops the profession, and “by not mentoring, we are wasting talent” (Wright & Wright, 1987, p. 207).

This workshop will consist of a discussion on the significance of diversity in institutions and the importance of attaining grants to address diversity. The second half of the workshop will be devoted to all selected workshop participants receiving constructive feedback on their proposals from invited reviewers and other workshop participants. The workshop is intended to be highly interactive, as participants will discuss their own experiences and challenges to writing manuscripts and grant proposals. Participants will be provided with a packet of handouts providing tips on writing successful research and grant proposals and a list of sites that providing funding opportunities for diversity-related research and programs.

Participating in this workshop will entail submitting a complete research proposal at least one month prior to the NASSM conference. Participants for the workshop will be recruited by sending a message to NASSM members, via the listserv and newsletter, inviting them to submit proposals for consideration. Proposals will be reviewed by senior scholars with expertise in diversity research and will be selected for inclusion in the workshop based on the following criteria: (1) the study would make a meaningful contribution to diversity-related topics within the field of sport management, (2) the research problem, questions and/or hypotheses, and methods are clearly outlined and strongly justified. Due to the intense nature of the review process, it may be necessary to limit the number of proposals selected for the workshop. However, NASSM members whose proposals are not selected for inclusion in the workshop or members who do not submit a proposal for review can still attend the workshop and benefit from the presentations and discussions.

For the purposes of this workshop, research proposals should consist of the following sections and be a maximum of 2500 words:
1. An introduction that clearly identifies a research problem, justifies its importance, and demonstrates how this project will contribute to the sport and diversity literature. (maximum 500 words)

2. A review of literature that provides a strong theoretical grounding for the study and supports relevant research questions/hypotheses. (maximum 1500 words)

3. A methods section that details the process of data collection and analysis. (maximum 500 words)