PLACE-BASED EDUCATION CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 2017

APPLICANT:

Jessica L. Thompson

Associate Professor (AAUP, tenured, active faculty member)

Communication & Performance Studies

College of Arts & Sciences

Northern Michigan University
STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

CONFERENCE:

PRESENTATION:

BACKGROUND:
This is a three-day conference devoted to sharing scholarship for innovating instruction with place-based learning practices. Place-based learning is a pedagogical approach that engages students through meaningful discovery of their own communities and environments. Similar to service-learning, place-based learning puts the “context” of lessons in concert with the “content.”

I have been actively involved in researching the effectiveness of place-based learning since 2010 when I received a National Science Foundation grant to develop place-based learning strategies about climate change for the National Park Service. Over the past seven years I have discovered the power of place-based learning for adults and I have sought to integrate place-based learning objectives into my undergraduate courses, while continuing my research with the National Park Service.

Most recently, I am in the process of finishing a book—it’s an edited collection—with 28 chapters and case studies about place-based learning. My co-editor, Dr. Ana Houseal (University of Wyoming) and I have gathered best practices for engaging students in meaningful learning experiences in a range of situations and contexts. We have been invited to make a 45-minute presentation about our research on place-based learning, introducing our book and sharing key insights at the 6th Annual Place-based Education Conference at Eastern Michigan University.

This conference is not only a strategic opportunity to “pitch” our book, but it is also an opportunity to gain ideas and build my local network for integrating place-based learning into my courses at NMU. Additionally, it is an opportunity to represent NMU in this nascent and growing area of teaching scholarship.

This is my first application for a TLAC conference grant. If funded, I hope that I would be able to share insights gained from attending this conference, along with content from my forthcoming book, America’s Largest Classroom: What We Learn from Our National Parks with the NMU and TLAC community.
## Proposed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Registration (J. Thompson)</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full conference + Short Course - Traveling Dialogue Session</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging (J. Thompson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 nights in Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation - mileage rate for personal vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>448 miles one-way = 896 miles x .54 cents/mile =</td>
<td>$483.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas &amp; tolls (estimated)</td>
<td>$62.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per diem ($32/day NMU rate)</td>
<td>$128.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Costs</td>
<td>$1,374.00</td>
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EDUCATION
2007 Ph.D., University of Utah, Environmental Communication & Conflict Resolution
2007 Graduate Certificate in Urban Planning, Adaptive Management of Environmental Systems
2003 M.S., University of Utah, Environmental Journalism
2001 B.S., Northern Michigan University, Communication Studies & Public Relations

ACADEMIC POSITIONS
2015 – present Associate Professor, Communication and Performance Studies, Northern Michigan University
2012 – 2015 Assistant Professor, Communication and Performance Studies, Northern Michigan University
2007 – 2012 Assistant Professor, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, Colorado State University
2010 – 2012 Faculty, Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, Colorado State University

SERVICE
2016 – present Planning for Distinction – NMU Strategic Resource Reallocation – Academic Task Force
2014 – present National Communication Association, ECD, President (2016-17); Vice-President (2015-16)
2016 – present National Communication Association, Miller Dissertation Award Committee
2016 – present Sustainability Advisory Council, Northern Michigan University
2016 – 2017 Strategic Planning and Budget Advisory Council, Northern Michigan University
2014 – 2017 Faculty Grants Committee, Northern Michigan University
2013 – 2014 Chair, Executive Committee, CAPS Department
2012/3, 2016/7 Planning, Budget & Communication Committee, CAPS Department
2012 – present McNair Scholars Program, Faculty Mentor
2012 – present Presidential Scholars Competition, Faculty Interviewer
2012 – present New England Aquarium’s National Network of Oceans & Climate Change – Advisory Board
2011 – present National Park Service, Education Committee – Advisory Board Member

HONORS AND AWARDS
2015 Top Paper in Environmental Communication, NCA, Las Vegas, NV
2010 Best Teacher Award nominee, Colorado State University
2009 Outstanding Honors Adviser of the Year nominee, Colorado State University
2006 Top Paper in the Communication and Instruction Division WSCA, Palm Springs, California

SELECTED PUBLISHED WORKS (* = advisee/student mentee at the time of publication)


