

Georgia Grant Professionals Association

E-news

July 2014

GEORGIA

Hello,

Conference Attendees Offer Insights for Future Gatherings

With the completion of this year's annual Southern Regional Grant Conference under our belt – the second of such gatherings – and with planning underway for next year's conference, GGPA is listening to the needs and wants of grant professionals and responding with on-point speakers, sessions, panel discussions and conference materials.

GGPA tallied the results of a survey given to attendees of the 2014 conference, which took place on April 10 and 11 at the Sheraton Suites Galleria in Atlanta. Accommodating both novice and expert-level grant professionals from all arenas of the field – government, nonprofit, K-12, higher education, healthcare and consultancy – the conference was attended by 51 members of the Grants Professional Association and 26 nonmembers, for a total of 77 attendees. While the majority came from Metro Atlanta, grant professionals came from as far away as Kentucky, North Florida, South Carolina, Maryland and the Washington, DC area.

We are happy to report that attendees were overwhelmingly satisfied with the conference.

97.22% were satisfied – most of them very satisfied – with the speakers and presenters.

100% were satisfied – most very satisfied – with conference materials.

97.15% agreed – many strongly agreed – that the content of the conference sessions was appropriate and informative.

And eight out of 10 attendees (79.41%) plan to attend next year.

Participants had this to say about what they liked about the conference:

“So nice to be with other grant professionals that speak the same language as I do.”

“I especially liked some of the ‘surprise’ content sessions, like the vision boarding and

getting published.”

“I was glad to see a mix on private foundations and federal grants.”

High compliments were given for Barbara Alford, President of Wiregrass Foundation (“It was so nice to learn about the grant process from a funder’s perspective”); Alma Christian, Grant Manager for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant program (“She literally walked us through what the agency is looking for from a proposal”); and Steve Harrington, Grant Services Director for Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, who provided a case management study of a South Carolina community renovating an old high school into a state-of-the-art community center. And one attendee called for “more presentations by Danny Blich!” who is Grants Manager for the City of Roswell and gave presentations on helpful websites and tools.

Critiques included these comments:

“Don’t assume every attendee is from Georgia; the funders’ session was too focused on local funders.”

“Construction noise during some presentations made hearing speakers difficult.”

“No time to linger at the end of the day because of the dash to avoid Atlanta’s horrendous rush hour.”

Attendees offered these ideas for future sessions: crowd funding 101 grant opportunities; evaluation/logic models; developing case statements; software options; work-life balance; career transitions; presentation by Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta; facts, resources, and useful pieces of information; and grants to assist baby-boomers. One person suggested the next conference include a small job fair and vendors.

This year attendees assembled into Special Interest Groups for lunchtime discussions. They spread out among the SIG tables as follows: Consulting 25%, Nonprofit 25%, Healthcare 16.67%; Government 16.67%; Higher Education 12.50%; and K-12 Education 4.16%.

GGPA will take into consideration all ideas and remarks, not only for the 2015 Southern Regional Grant Conference, but also for the national 17th Annual Grant Professionals Association Conference which we will host in Atlanta in 2016, serving grant professionals from across the country. Please contact Amanda Day at aday@alpharetta.ga.us with your ideas for next year’s conference. As one attendee commented about this year’s conference: “I thought it was a very good conference and the Georgia Chapter is well on its way to hosting a great national conference in 2016. Kudos!”

Grant Professionals Day Seeks Volunteers

The Grant Professionals Association is looking for volunteers to serve on a new GPA committee, the Grant Professionals Day Committee, which will be starting up this month.

GPA is naming a day and/or week as National Grant Professionals Day/Week. Grant Professionals Day/Week recognizes and celebrates the work of grant professionals, administrators, consultants, managers, grant-makers, and writers for their beneficial contributions in service to people, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, by engaging the social entrepreneurial spirit and advancing the grants field. The first Grants Professional Day will be on a Wednesday in the spring of 2015 during Grant Professionals Week.

If you are interested in serving, contact Danny Blitch, GPA Board member, at dblitch@roswellgov.com, or Kelli Romero, GPA Membership Director at membership@grantsprofessional.org.

New Job Opportunities

[Grants Administrator - Bartow County](#)

[Grants Specialist/Manager – Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Corporate Grants Administrative Assistant – UPS Foundation](#)

[Grant Writer – Savannah College of Art and Design](#)

Upcoming GGPA Meetings

All meetings take place at 10 a.m. at the Atlanta Food Bank, 732 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. The parking is free!! The networking is priceless!!

July 22: Val Porter, Director of Foundation Center

Aug. 26: Deborah Lazare White, Operations Manager, Charitable Giving for Georgia Power

Sept. 23: David Broussard, Grants and Research Officer for Wellstar Foundation and GGPA Treasurer, Program Related Investments

Still time for Early Bird Registration Rate for National GPA Conference

The 16th Annual GPA Conference, "Building Bridges," is taking place Oct. 15-18, 2014 in Portland Oregon. The keynote speaker will be Dr. David Shoultz, director of grantee & partner engagement for the Gates Foundation and a member of the foundation's leadership team. Discounted Early Bird Registration rates expire on July 31. Members can register for only \$499 until 7/31; after that the price goes to \$575. For more information on the conference, see <http://grantprofessionals.org/professional-development/conference>.

Also the Grant Professional Certified Institute seeks 12-15 GPCs to help with updating the GPC exam on Wednesday, October 15, from 8am-6pm at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland. Current GPCs interested in helping out can receive a \$75 honorarium to help offset the cost of an extra night at the hotel. You must be able to attend the entire day's training. The process will be overseen by a psychometrician and members of the GPCI board. The purpose is to confirm test questions are current or update them if necessary, ensuring a psychometrically sound exam. If you are interested in this process and would like to volunteer, or find out more details, please contact Bonnie Houk, GPCI Vice President, at bonnie.houk@greenbush.org.

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Have a great day,

