Letter from the Founder,

Robin Pollock, CMP

The CSU Academic Resources Conference (ARC) was created in 2002 as a one-day event in Sacramento. Twenty budget & personnel analysts attended from 13 campuses. Seventeen years later, attendees come from each of the 23 campuses and enjoy a fabulous three-day conference. Over 350 CSU staff members now attend and the number continues to grow. They enjoy professional speakers, as well as campus panelists, discussions on best practices, and opportunities for networking with peers from all over the State. What started out as a meeting focusing on budget and personnel issues with a target audience of analysts only, has evolved into a conference with concurrent tracks in HR, Budget, Student Services and Professional Development targeting both Budget Analysts and ASC’s.

I am very proud of each and every conference. One in particular, however, showed how ARC remained flexible with the times and yet created a conference which, although it took a great amount of time and energy, was a great accomplishment for us all. The year was 2010, and everyone was adjusting to furloughs, layoffs, and the possibility of campuses closing. Travel for professional staff development was extremely limited; however, the Chancellor’s Office offered ARC a great opportunity to not only keep the conference going, but helped us succeed in dire times. The System-wide Professional Development staff offered to help us produce a virtual live web-conference with 13 CSU campuses joining via teleconference, as well as staff logging on from their desk tops! The 13 campuses had various people from not only their CSU campus, but other campuses in their area as well. Putting this together required the five-person ARC planning team from my Dean’s Office to work many hours learning complicated systems (e.g., webcams, VOIP, Adobe Connect, Connect Pro Meeting, and privacy pods - just to name a few). Many of these hours were done on the staff’s own time, and I will always be extremely grateful to all who participated. The result was nothing short of a miracle. All 13 campuses came up at the right time, all 148 web-users were able to access the conference, and ARC was able to continue to address the most pressing issues of the times. This experience was extremely gratifying and kept ARC going even in challenging times.

In closing, I would like to recognize everyone who has supported ARC over the years. Whether you were an attendee filling out our countless surveys, (which helped us to develop strong topics) or a Dean or Provost who gave us much needed financial support, thank you. I also would be remiss if I did not give much of the credit to the CSUS SSIS Dean’s Office, who, especially in the beginning years, gave so much of their time and energy to making ARC what it is today. They say, “It takes a village,” which is true; but, I also believe in all of you who said, “If you build a bridge, they will come.” Today, that bridge stretches from Humboldt to San Diego.

I look forward to each year when we make new goals and continue to do the work to make ARC the best conference in the CSU. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

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Kindest regards,

Robin Pollock, CMP

ARC Founder & Logistics Coordinator