

Letter from the Founder, Robin Pollock, CMP

August 2, 2016

The CSU Academic Resources Conference (ARC) was created in 2002 in Sacramento, with 20 budget and personnel analysts from 13 campuses for a one-day meeting. Now It is our goal every year to have at least one person attend from each campus. What began as 20 people, has now grown to over 250 attendees, representing all 23 campuses

The first meeting held on the Delta King was formed from what once was a two-hour meeting for Budget Analysts who went to the Social Science Statewide Deans' Conference. We quickly realized that two hours was not long enough and that we had our own issues to discuss, separate from the Deans. It was at this point that I approached my Dean with our dilemma. As I remember it he said, "Well you're a meeting planner. Why don't you go out and build your own conference?" The result is what ARC is today: a multi-day conference with professional speakers, as well as campus panelists, discussing best practices and providing many networking opportunities with peers from all over the State.

What started out as a conference focusing on budget and personnel issues with a target audience of Administrative Operation Analysts (now AA/S's), has evolved into a conference with concurrent tracks of HR, Budget, and Professional Development targeting Department ASC's, staff from the Library, Budget Office, Registrar's Office, Extended Education, and various other departments interested in ARC.

Before closing, as I reviewed past ARC files, I noted that I am very proud of every conference. One in particular, however, showed how ARC remained flexible with the times and yet created a conference which although 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 it going, but to help us succeed in these dire

times. The System-wide Professional Development staff offered to help us produce a virtual live web-conference with 13 campuses joining via teleconference, as well as staff logging on from their desktops! The 13 campuses had various people from not only their campuses, but other campuses in their areas as well. Putting this together required the five-person 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 less than miraculous. All 23 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 want 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 didn't give much credit to the SSIS Dean's Office staff, 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 every year where we make new goals and continue 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.

Kindest regards,

Robin Pollock, CMP
ARC Founder & Logistics Coordinator