

Scholarship Winners Highlight Value and Express Gratitude

A Chain of Events

Thank you for the scholarship that made it possible for me to attend and present at NASAGA for the first time. I have been working with Dr. Richard Powers, whom you probably know from past conferences. We co-teach a class at Portland State University called Playing with Conflict where we use games and simulations to teach conflict resolution concepts and skills.

Richard has been encouraging me to attend NASAGA for the 3 years we've worked together, but I had no idea what I was missing. There's a little game I brought to our class and Richard encouraged me to submit it to NASAGA's recent book effort. I protested but Richard is stubborn and kept at me.

Then I was asked to present it at NASAGA. Again, I protested that I could not afford it, as much fun as it sounded, and Richard told me to apply for a scholarship. Good job, Richard! You got me there, and now I won't need prompting to return!

There was such a wealth of things to learn at NASAGA that I felt downright silly teaching a workshop when there were so many people there with so much more experience and wisdom in the field to learn from. Working with people like Richard Powers and exposing myself to the amazing people contributing to NASAGA, I look forward to what might mature for me, in myself and in my career. Thanks again for such an inspirational conference.

Kat Kirkpatrick

Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time, Diana Ng received a group email message from Ken Bellemare describing the North American Simulation and Gaming Association (NASAGA) Conference. Diana was curious about the information. When Diana read the word simulation, she thought about mannequins with heart beats and arms that one could practice inserting intravenous needles into its forearms. You see, Diana has a nursing background. However, she became energized upon discovering the parts on storytelling and interactive learning activities. She was sold on the conference when she came to the part about a scholarship being available.

Diana thought she would complete and submit the scholarship application to see what would happen. She was told at the enthusiastic interview with Marla Allen that she was the successful candidate for the scholarship.

It was an incredible experience for Diana meeting all the keen educators, trainers and facilitators with a love for active learning. Conference goers from America, Europe and Canada participated as both deliverers and recipients of the interactive exercises. They openly shared their experiences offering their insights and joy for knowledge.

The highlight of her four days' event was learning and having fun with so many friendly and open people. It was really easy being with this group. Like-minded folks worked and conversed creating synergistic relationships, truly a sum more than its parts.

There cannot be enough said about the NASAGA board for the obvious hard work that went into organizing this spectacular conference. Service delivery at this venue was excellent, waiters were approachable. Food was fresh and delicious. The keynote speakers were provocative and "out of the box." The auction and improv were delightfully entertaining. Thiagi and his team were truly magical with their presentations; they are clearly facilitation experts to emulate.

So thank you, a huge thank you to you all from the conference announcement writers to scholarship reviewers to global participants to workshop presenters to friendship offerers and more. A sincere thank you to you all for introducing and making this occasion one of a kind to be remembered.

Diana Ng