Southern Association for Institutional Research

Southern AIR

Volume 40, Issue 3 Fall 2017 Newsletter

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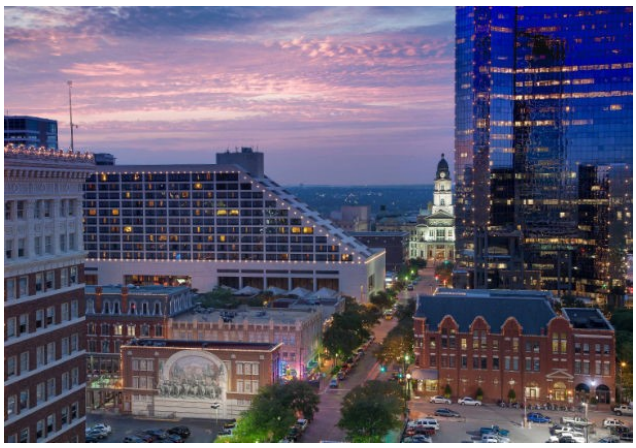
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Lisa Lord, 2016-2017

It's hard to believe the 2017 Annual Conference is less than one month away! While conference arrangements are being finalized, our thoughts are with our colleagues who have been affected by the recent hurricanes. According to The Weather Channel, this is the first time that two Category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the US within the same year, which unfortunately greatly impacted our SAIR region.

It's difficult to transition from the recent events of hurricanes and concern for our members and their families to our upcoming SAIR Annual Conference. We hope you are able to join us in Fort Worth, TX for SAIR 44. To assist SAIR members who were impacted by the recent hurricanes, the SAIR Board will award up to five professional development travel grants for $500 to SAIR members who have not yet registered for the 2017 Annual Conference. Application information for the Professional Development Crisis Fund Travel Grants are on page 12.



Fort Worth, TX - The Worthington Renaissance Hotel

As SAIR President, I am honored to invite you to the President's reception on Saturday, October 7. This reception is open to all conference attendees and is a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues you may not have seen since last year and meet newcomers as well.

Newcomers, I hope you have registered for the Newcomers Workshop on Sunday and will also attend the Newcomers Reception on Sunday afternoon.

The Newcomers Workshop has limited space so please register today. The schedule of events for newcomers can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. Additional conference information, including pre-conference workshops, special event information, and more, are included in this newsletter.

Special thanks to Past President Cara Mia Braswell for coordinating this year's election and congratulations to the incoming Board members and Nominating Committee (listed on page 11). We are grateful to everyone who accepted the nomination to run for office and those that served on the Nominating Committee.

Look forward to seeing you soon in Fort Worth!

Vice President and 2017 Program Chair, Matthew Campbell

DATA-DRIVEN OPINION-MAKING

Our 44th annual SAIR conference is nearly here and Fort Worth is ready to put on a show!

Not to plan your ***entire*** schedule, but after you arrive early on **Friday** to take in the numerous art museums, why not take in Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 at the Bass Performance Hall?

On **Saturday**, after you've enjoyed a couple of great pre-conference workshops and the President's Reception, you simply must head down to the Stockyards for great food and live, championship rodeo—and maybe catch the Scotty McCreery concert at Billy Bob's.

There's two more chances for workshops on **Sunday**, followed by our welcome to Newcomer's, and our Opening Session and Reception where we all get to visit with friends and colleagues old and new.

Monday is SAIR at its best: a full day of great session after great session, and food every 90 minutes. Early that evening you can mosey out to the hotel terrace for the SAIR Special Event featuring the Texas Wesleyan Jazz Ensemble, then finish your night with dessert in Sundance Square.

Tuesday begins with the very important Awards Breakfast. Come congratulate your colleagues on their work, meet your incoming SAIR board, and say thanks to the outgoing board members. There are then two blocks of fantastic concurrent sessions prior to concluding SAIR 44 with our traditional meeting of the state organizations. Finish your day winding through Sundance Square and down to the can't miss Fort Worth Water Gardens.

Of course, that's not *all* there is to do in five days in the **number one tourist destination in all of Texas**, but it should give you a start. See you in FTW for SAIR 44!

SAIR Limited Hotel Rooms

Note: SAIR has held in reserve a very limited number of hotel rooms in the SAIR room block. These rooms are available at the discounted conference rate of $179.00 per night, plus tax. ASAP please contact program chair Matthew Campbell (campbmw@auburn.edu) for more information.

For more information on SAIR 44, including how to register and to make your hotel reservation, and to find updates before the SAIR conference, visit www.sair.org for all things SAIR. **See you in Fort Worth!**

#SeeFortWorth

SAIR
Southern Association for
Institutional Research
http://www.sair.org

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2015-2017 Newcomers and Travel Grants
Alice Simpkins, Member-at-Large

Calling All Newcomers – Welcome!!

The **SAIR 2017 Conference, October 7-10, 2017**, has numerous activities and events awaiting newcomers as you join us in Fort Worth, Texas, the City of Cowboys and Culture. We are excited about the opportunity to not only offer you time to network with other colleagues in the institutional research profession but also give you an opportunity to hone your skills by attending numerous concurrent sessions presented by your colleagues in the various conference tracks. We know that these sessions are rewarding, and we invite you to come early so that you may take advantage of the numerous preconference workshops which are half-day to full-day sessions aimed at targeted areas in assessment, effectiveness, and research, one of which is designed specifically for you.

The following events have been planned especially for newcomers in this year's conference:
Saturday, October 7
6:00 – 7:00 PM – President's Reception, Terrace: Join SAIR President Lisa Lord for this reception for all early arrivals and newcomers. You will also have the opportunity to go to dinner afterwards where you can network with your colleagues.
Sunday, October 8
9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Workshop 24 – Newcomers' Workshop, Trinity Central: The workshop will provide an introduction to institutional research, its principal components, and the practices of institutional researchers including the sourcing of data, communication and reporting of data, and the role of institutional research in supporting the assessment and accreditation. The workshop will also address how institutional research offices function and how to be an effective practitioner of institutional research. **Cost: $30**
Sunday, October 8:
3:00 am - 6:00 pm, "Get-to-Know" the Sponsors/Vendors, Ballroom: Newcomers who do not attend the Newcomers' Workshop are invited to "Get to Know" the sponsors/vendors who are looking forward to meeting and engaging with you.
5:00 – 5:45 PM – Newcomers' Reception, Ballroom Foyer: Newcomers are invited to join the SAIR Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Special Interest Groups representatives, and other SAIR members for this reception designed to welcome and thank you for attending this conference and becoming a part of our professional organization. **For our introductory activity, please bring a coffee cup(s), pencil(s), pen(s), small notebook(s), water bottle(s), etc. that contain the name of your school to share with other newcomers. When you enter the Ballroom Foyer, place your item(s) on the designated table and pick up one from another institution. Members of the SAIR Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Special Interest Groups representatives, and other SAIR members are also invited to participate in this activity by bringing something from your institution.** Take advantage of the opportunity to get some refreshments in addition to meeting and greeting others attending the conference.

We are anticipating an eventful and enjoyable conference in Fort Worth, Texas and certainly hope that you are making plans to join us during this timeframe. Our SAIR Program Chairs and President-Elect have been working diligently to offer sessions conducive to learning and activities to allow us to have fun together. We are looking forward to meeting and greeting you at **The Worthington Renaissance Hotel, Fort Worth in October 2017!!**

Thank you to **Travel Grant** applicants. Recipients will be notified immediately upon final selection.

SAIR By-laws proposed change

The SAIR Board has recently reviewed our organization's bylaws. We are recommending a change in the section on eligibility of SAIR members to become Vice-President. On behalf of the SAIR Board on September 9, 2017 members were invited to review the proposed change to SAIR's By-laws:

Article IV Elections Section 1. Eligibility. Only regular and distinguished members shall be eligible to become officers. ~~The Vice-President must have served on the Board of Directors.~~ The Vice-President candidate must have served on a board of directors or in a similar role for a state, regional, national or international organization.

A full copy of the by-laws can be found at http://sair.org/about_sair/ByLaws-2013.pdf . In accordance with our Articles of Incorporation, the Board is responsible for submitting the proposed changes to the voting members thirty (30) days prior to the annual business meeting as stipulated in: http://sair.org/about_sair/ArticlesIncorporation.pdf

A formal vote will be taken on the proposed changes at the SAIR Business Meeting on Tuesday morning, October 10, 2017 at our Annual Conference. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Past President, Cara Mia Braswell at cbraswe2@aum.edu.

This proposed change was submitted to the Secretary of the SAIR Board on 9/7/2017.

Cara Mia Braswell, SAIR Immediate Past President
Jayne Perkins Brown, SAIR Secretary

2016-2018 Awards and Recognition - Maren Hess, Member-at-Large

Nominations for SAIR Awards have been received and are under review.
The following **recognitions and awards** are under review:

James Montgomery Outstanding Service Award - This award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to SAIR over an extended period of time.

Distinguished Member Award - Distinguished Membership may be awarded to members or former members who have made distinguished contributions to institutional research.

Special Recognition Unsung Hero Award - This award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a member of SAIR and the field of institutional research and planning in the broadest sense.

The Best Electronic Factbook and Best IR Website submissions are already under review. **Please bring your hard-copy** of the Best Factbook or Best Mini-Factbook to Fort Worth for entry into the award competition.

All awards will be named at the SAIR Awards Breakfast on October 10.

2015-2017 Sponsors and Exhibitors - Kathleen Morley, Member-at-Large

SAIR Conference—Fort Worth, Texas
2017 Sponsor/Exhibitor Information

For this year's conference, the Exhibit Hall will be located in the Grand Ballroom of the Worthington Renaissance. As of this publication, we have thirteen sponsors with 12 of these sharing information about their products/services in the Exhibit Hall.

Exhibit Hall hours:

Sunday, October 8: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 8: Opening Reception, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

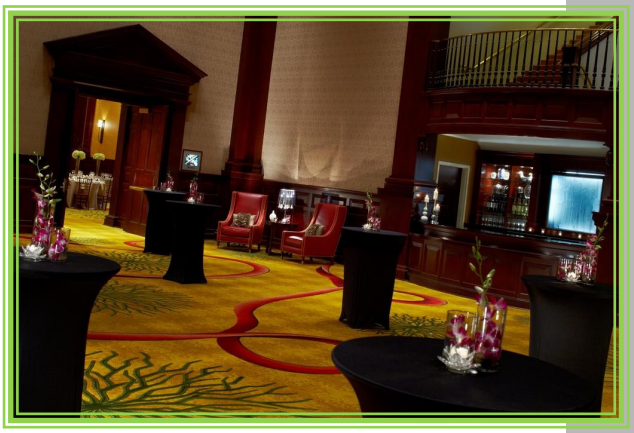
Monday, October 9: 7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Please note that the Exhibit Hall will close Monday, October 9 at 5:00 pm
SAIR profoundly thanks our Sponsors/Exhibitors for their contribution to the 2017 conference!!

Platinum	Gold	Exhibitor	Special
Qlik/DI Squared	Equifax	AIR	EvaluationKIT
	National Student Clearinghouse	Campus Labs	
	SAS	Rapid Insight	
	Scantron	Smart Evals	
	US News Academic Insights	SREB	
		Taskstream-Tk20	

SAIR Conference 2017
October 7-10, 2017

Sponsor/Exhibitor Contact:
Kathleen Morley
Kathleen_Morley@baylor.edu
(254) 710-8837



2016-2018 Professional Development

Did you Sign-up for a Pre-Conference Workshop?

By Rick Burnette, Member at Large

Plan to join us for the 2017 SAIR Pre-Conference Workshops on Saturday, October 7th and Sunday, October 8th. We are offering a comprehensive set of workshops that should include a topic of interest to you. All workshops will be held on-site in the conference hotel – the Worthington Renaissance in Ft Worth, Texas. Make the most of your SAIR conference attendance by learning and networking in one of these small sessions. Some sessions are getting near capacity, so you should register for these workshops as soon as possible (as part of your SAIR 2017 Conference Registration). If you have already submitted your Conference registration, you can use your confirmation number to add workshops to your registration. **Below is a listing of all pre-conference workshops; for additional details including costs, please check the Pre-conference Workshops site – http://louisianau.com/sair17/sair_program_list_workshop.php.**
Participants will need to bring their own laptops for sessions requiring software.

Workshop 01 - A Primer on SACSCOC Accreditation for IR Professionals: Recent Experiences from Both Sides of the Table

Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. IR professionals both new and experienced may view the SACSCOC accreditation process and principles as baffling, redundant, and compliance driven. The presenter will clarify all things SACSCOC (or most all things) and present how to view the process and principles as value-added best practices. Special attention is given to how this is relevant to IR professionals' jobs. Wisdom gathered over 14 years as being the SACSCOC liaison for two universities AND having served on all three major review committees AND now as a member of SACSCOC Board of Trustees will be shared. Review of the anticipated revisions of the Principles of Accreditation will occur with possible changes that institutions may need to make.
Presenter: John M. Cornwell, Rice University

Workshop 02 - Students Engaging Students to Improve a Campus: Cultivating Students to Gather Insights

Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Conversations with students in focus groups allow us to dig into the mechanisms behind the patterns we see in quantitative assessment data. They can also help us gather new evidence and answer questions with more detail and nuance than we might get from a survey. Through group discussion and planning packets, workshop participants will learn the benefits of this approach, how to create such a program, and the types of projects students can assist with—all without needing outside vendors or resources.
Presenter: Will Miller

Workshop 03 - Project Management Tools in IR: Facilitating Individual and Team Organization and Productivity

Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Today's IR offices find themselves in great demand from multiple stakeholders. Data requests come at increasingly higher volumes and with urgency, many from institutional leaders who use data in decision-making. IR offices now find themselves at the center of institutional and, at times, state policy decisions, and with work that is typically project-based and cross-cutting between IR professionals and others, it is imperative for IR managers to implement tools to facilitate efficient work in their offices. This session will demonstrate a selection of productivity platforms, including Google Drive, Asana, Office 365 (Planner, SharePoint, Teams), and others, giving examples of how these platforms have been used to manage IR projects. Participants will leave with an action plan for implementing one or more project management tools in their IR offices.
Presenter: James M. Hunt, Florida State University

2016-2018 Professional Development

(Continued, Pre-Conference Workshops)

Workshop 04 - Using National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker data for IPEDS Outcome Measures Reporting
Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. This presentation will focus primarily on using the NSC StudentTracker service to satisfy the requirements of the IPEDS Outcome Measures data collection. Additionally, the session will provide other tips for working with the StudentTracker detail file, and will provide an overview of the enhanced features that will be available when "StudentTracker 2.0" is launched in fall 2017.
Presenter: Jason DeWitt, National Student Clearinghouse

Workshop 05 - Practical Predictive Analytics - Part I (Theory and Use)
Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The use of predictive analytics is a growing area of interest in the higher education industry. IR professionals will be the leaders within their organizations to implement these techniques and inform policy changes that come with trying to predict desired outcome metrics. The morning session will focus on when and why to use predictive analytics techniques. We will explore some of the major use cases for predictive analytics in higher education, and discuss how to determine the appropriate analysis methods for a given question.
Presenters: Bart Swecker, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Craig Rudick, University of Kentucky

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Workshop 06 - From Numbers to Pictures: An Introduction to Tableau for Data Visualization
Saturday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. This workshop is designed as an introduction to Tableau as a tool for data visualization in higher education. The focus is on providing guidance on getting started with Tableau and creating some basic visualizations and workbooks. Topics to be covered will include Structuring and Connecting to Data, Creating Charts and Graphs, Using Filters and Parameters, Developing Calculated Fields, and Creating and Publishing Dashboards. Discussion about the elements of data visualization will be included. Examples will make use of a sample dataset of student data which will be provided.
Presenter: G. Marc Turner, Texas State University

Workshop 07: Strategies for Effectively Managing SACSCOC Accreditation
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Successfully managing institutional accreditation activities requires knowledge, skill, patience, organization, and communication. Professionals responsible for preparing compliance reports or the QEP must execute their duties while also navigating changes such as new institutional leadership, uncertain budgets, new policies/procedures, and revisions to the SACSCOC Principles. The presenters of this workshop will explore an effective set of strategies that can be employed to facilitate and demonstrate compliance even during times of change. Participants will participate in small group activities to identify approaches that can improve their ability to maintain and document compliance and apply selected data utilization and communication strategies to demonstrate compliance with selected standards.
Presenters: Katie Busby, University of Mississippi and Lynne S. Crosby, Austin Peay State University

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Workshop 08 - Meaningful Partners: The Role of Institutional Research in Enrollment Management
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. A close relationship between institutional research and enrollment management can help assure students who matriculate to campus are well-prepared to be successful. In this workshop, attendees will investigate and discuss the importance of this relationship, ways institutional research can benefit enrollment management, and how institutional researchers can play a more active role in assuring student success on campus. Skills examined will include predictive retention models, predictive graduation models, Clearinghouse file usage, and non-cognitive factors.
Presenter: Will Miller

2016-2018 Professional Development

(Continued, Pre-Conference Workshops)

Workshop 09 - Basic Statistics using Excel
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. This workshop, meant for Excel or statistics novices, will cover the use of Excel to conduct basic statistical analysis, including descriptive statistics, chi square, simple linear and multiple regression analysis. The workshop will also cover the basic theories behind these statistical concepts.
Presenters: Emily Campbell, Louisiana Community & Technical College System and Rene Cintron, Louisiana Community & Technical College System

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Workshop 10 - A Beginner's Guide in How to Track the Revised IPEDS Outcome Measure Graduation Rates
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. IPEDS recently changed the cohort definition to measure outcomes for degree granting institutions. In the past, institutions would measure full-time, first-time entering students and track their progress for 4, 6, 8, and on some occasions 10 years. IPEDS is now asking institutions to include and collect data on part-time degree seeking students, full-time, non-first-time entering students, and part-time, non-first-time entering students. Institutions are asked to track those students over a full year and report the retention and graduation rates of these students no matter if they are full or part-time.
Presenters: Suzanne Simpson, The University of Alabama in Huntsville; Jennifer Moore Mississippi University for Women; Heath Campbell, The University of Alabama in Huntsville; Andrew Garner, Mississippi University for Women

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Workshop 11 - Practical Predictive Analytics - Part II (Application and Execution)
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The use of predictive analytics is a growing area of interest in the higher education industry. IR professionals will be the leaders within their organizations to implement these techniques and inform policy changes that come with trying to predict desired outcome metrics. The afternoon session will delve into specific multivariate methods, such as regression and decision trees. The emphasis will be on a conceptual understanding of the methods as well as practical tips for utilizing them. The session will be geared primarily at the methods more so than the tool.
Presenters: Craig Rudick, University of Kentucky and Bart Swecker, University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Workshop 12 - From Pictures to Insight: An Intermediate Look at Tableau
Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. This workshop is designed for those who are familiar with Tableau but are now looking to take your data visualizations and analytics to a new level. The focus will be on using more advanced calculations including table calculations and level of detail expressions. You should have familiarity with connecting to data sources and building basic visualizations and dashboards. Topics will include table calculations, level of detail expressions, parameters, advanced dual axis charts, and more. Examples will make use of a sample data set of student related data which will be provided.
Presenter: G. Marc Turner, Texas State University

Workshop 13 - Transforming Data into Decision Support using Research Design, Methods, & Statistics
Sunday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The ideal institutional researcher is a master of all disciplines: being skilled in software, databases, mathematics, project management, and business operations. In addition, IR professionals must be subject matter experts in many areas including admissions, enrollment, graduation, finance, HR, and faculty. This workshop provides a review of the hard and soft skills that are necessary for turning data into meaningful, actionable information. Topics covered include research questions, experimental designs, statistics, visualizing data, and decision support. Participants can expect a mixture of lecture, discussion, and group work providing opportunities for networking, idea exchange, and new insights into modern IR.
Presenter: Justin C. Shepherd, Emory University - School of Law

2016-2018 Professional Development

(Continued, Pre-Conference Workshops)

Workshop 14 - The "How" and "Who" of Survey Design: Question Development and Sampling
Sunday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. This workshop examines the "HOW" and the "WHO" of survey research. In the "HOW" segment, we will focus on questionnaire development for optimal impact and response. and detail general best practices. In the "WHO" segment, we will focus on the science and the art of sampling within the context of institutional research and assessment. We will examine best practices for sampling methodologies and their appropriate uses. The presentation will serve as a resource for attendees to enhance their understanding of survey methodology for use in institutional research as well as assessment surveys.
Presenters: Shama Akhtar, Bowie State University and Somer M. Givens, Troy University

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Workshop 15 - Leading Change: Designing and Implementing a Meaningful Assessment Model
Sunday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. The intent of the assessment process is to enhance programs and services, and also meet increased calls for credibility and accountability. In order to do, institutions have to develop the required infrastructure to instigate real change for establishing a culture of assessment that addresses strategic goals and meets accreditation standards. This workshop provides techniques and tools that can be used to foster a culture of continuous improvement. These include creating efficient processes, building capacity to engage in assessment, and enhancing use of results. Participants will work through hands-on exercises to create their own guide for applying at their campus.
Presenters: Divya Bhati, Karin W. Roof, Cara L. Dombroski and Joshua E. Bloodworth, College of Charleston

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Workshop 16 - The Benefit of Data Analytics: Introduction of using Business Intelligence in IR
Sunday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Using statistics analysis to identify the hidden meanings and patterns becomes the tendency nowadays. So, in the workshop I would like to share my experience of how and when to use business intelligence in institutional research. To better understand the whole analytic process, I will spend time covering the full data lifecycle from beginning to end: from data manipulating, data cleaning, experiment designing, algorithm selecting, scoring, to result visualizing. The purpose of the workshop is not to train audiences so that they can build advanced statistics model, but to show how to think like analysts.
Presenter: Fangyu Du, University of North Texas at Dallas

Workshop 17 - Using Power BI as a Platform for Data Visualization and Online Dashboards (All day)
Sunday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. In an ever-increasing digital world where access to information is rarely beyond one's own fingertips, institutional researchers must transition from their tired reliance on spreadsheets and pivot tables and acclimate to visual reporting and interactive dashboards. In this hands-on workshop, participants will not only be captivated by Power BI's functionality with Microsoft Excel but also by the ease with which their spreadsheets can be transformed into visually-stunning and interactive dashboards. Power BI report templates for graduation and retention rates and semester enrollment dashboards will be provided as take-home resources for each participant. Note: Participants are required to bring a laptop to this workshop and possess access to Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Power BI (available as a free download through your institution's Microsoft Office 365 account).
Presenters: Marcus Brewer, University of North Georgia and Melissa Hunter, Austin Peay State University

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Workshop 18 - Data Visualization for Institutional Research
Sunday 8:30 am - 11:30 am. This hands-on workshop using SAS® Visual Analytics will show you how to explore relevant data quickly and easily. You can look at large amounts of data, uncover hidden opportunities, identify key relationships, and make more precise decisions faster than ever before. You will learn how self-service, ad hoc visual data discovery and exploration put lightning-fast insights within everyone's reach. Whether you're an institutional researcher with limited technical skills, a statistician, or a data scientist, powerful analytics are at your fingertips with absolutely no coding required. Sophisticated analytics, including decision trees, on-the-fly forecasting, and scenario analysis, are seamlessly integrated with ease-of-use features such as auto charting, "what does it mean" pop-ups, and drag and-drop capabilities. Anyone can understand and benefit from analyzing complex data with SAS® Visual Analytics and in this workshop, you will learn how easy that is.
Presenter: John Berry, SAS

2016-2018 Professional Development

(Continued, Pre-Conference Workshops)

Workshop 19 - Strategic Leveraging of Metrics for Institutional Change
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Metrics and accountability are big and evolving challenges facing universities and IR offices. But where does IR fit in this conversation? Are we simply providing data or empowering strategic thinking? At FSU, we have a new strategic plan and countless performance metrics. IR has taken this as an opportunity to create a more strategic role in the implementation. Does the strategy drive the metrics or vice-versa? The presentation shows how metrics shape the implementation of strategic planning and how performance metrics can lead to work groups that are tasked with improving metric performance. Metrics allow us a means to identify success and failure, while metrics themselves inform and drive planning and funding.
Presenter: Galiya Tabulda, Florida State University

Workshop 20 - How to Build and Implement Online Surveys Using Qualtrics Software
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Online survey platforms have become increasingly more useful to IR offices as we incorporate student learning outcomes within our surveys and online assessments. This workshop will demonstrate the components of online surveys and assessments using Qualtrics software. We will cover the basics of online surveys: how to build, distribute, increase response rate, analyze and export results. This will include real survey examples, share ways to avoid pitfalls, and explore tips for success based on first-hand experience with Qualtrics software. All pre-registered attendees will receive a temporary Qualtrics account that will be used during the workshop for demonstration purposes. Attendees should bring individual laptops or iPads with them to participate in the hands-on portion of the workshop.
Presenters: Somer Givens, Troy University; Shama Akhtar, Bowie State University; and Wendy Broyles, Troy University

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Workshop 21 - Data Governance Workshop
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Many institutions struggle with ensuring that their data is accurate, well-defined and secure. Data silos across campus, lack of consistency in data entry and lack of responsibility for data quality can impede accurate reporting. This workshop will prepare you to begin a data governance initiative to address many of the problems surrounding data quality and usage at your institution. This workshop will provide basic data governance theory and leave you prepared to assess the status of your institution and begin a new data governance initiative or breathe new life into a failed data governance attempt.
Presenters: Patricia White and Mary Lucus, Belmont University

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Workshop 22 - Using Unemployment Insurance (UI) Wage Data to Inform Various Stakeholders
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. What happens to students after they graduate? Do they find jobs? How much do they earn? It is becoming critical for higher education to address these questions; however, the necessary data are not readily or consistently available. To help institutions begin to face these challenges, this workshop will share steps the University of Texas System took to develop a data sharing agreement with the state's workforce commission. Secondly, detail about the unemployment insurance (UI) data cleaning and preparation process for analysis purposes will be shared. Lastly, additional analyses demonstrating the utility of wage data to inform students/parents, administrators, and legislators about student success and the value of higher education will be discussed.
Presenter: David Troutman, University of Texas System

Workshop 23 - R101
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Have you ever worked with a data set that had more rows of data or too many formulas than Excel can handle? Do you need an inexpensive tool to assist in your analysis of data? Have you thought about R programming? If you answered yes to any one of these questions, then this session is for you. In this session, the basic functions and operations of R programming will be discussed to provide the attendee with some working knowledge of the software.
Presenters: Barrie Fitzgerald and Sarah E. Hough, Valdosta State University

2016-2018 Professional Development

(Continued, Pre-Conference Workshops)

Workshop 24 - Newcomer's Workshop

Sunday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. The workshop will introduce you to institutional research, its principal components, and the practices of institutional researchers including the sourcing of data, communication and reporting of data, and the role of institutional research in supporting the assessment and accreditation. The workshop will also address how institutional research offices function and how to be an effective practitioner of institutional research.

Presenters: Abby Willcox, University of North Florida and Laura Mills, Armstrong State University

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2016-2017 Immediate PAST PRESIDENT, Cara Mia Braswell

The position of Immediate Past President is like giving and receiving a bonus or lagniappe at the end of your service. My actions this year will impact SAIR for at least the next three years. Those actions include negotiating a conference for 2020, creating a slate of officers, and coordinating by-law changes. I have to admit that the tasks are a bit daunting because you can only hope that what was a special bonus to me (giving back to my colleagues) is also a bonus to those down the road.

While these responsibilities were trying at times, as I contacted each person on the slate of officers, I realized just how much I am going to miss being a part of our leadership. First, for those that were not selected, I reviewed their history and knew that they may be back soon for another leadership election. This was a strong slate with a very large number of nominations. I look forward to seeing those running again for a seat on the Board of Directors. As I was expressing my excitement to those who were elected, it hit me that I won't be a part of what I was describing as a future lively and endearing experience. It was a similar thought and feeling I had as I was helping my first child move out into a home away from me. I was excited for her future. Later, I questioned, "why am I so excited – I won't be there?" But I will be there, that is the purpose of the Dinosaurs' group! This group was behind me throughout the three years and I plan to do the same for those continuing to serve. Congratulations to the following colleagues elected to serve:

New Members of the 2017-18 SAIR Board of Directors And Nominating Committee

Vice President, Julie Fulgham, Retired, IR leaderships positions at Mississippi State University, retired from Scantron

Treasurer, Lynne Crosby, Vice Provost Academic Affairs, Austin Peay State University

Members-at-large

Wendy Kallina, Director of Academic Analytics, Kennesaw State University
Laverne Macon-Jamison, Assistant Director for IE and Research, Livingstone College

Nominating Committee

Andrew Brady, Associate Director for IR, Florida State University
Sandi Bramblett, Assistant Vice President of IR, Georgia Tech
Denise Gardner, Assistant Provost for IR and Assessment, University of Tennessee
Michelle Hall, Director of IR, Southeastern Louisiana University
Jill Triplett, Director of IR, Assessment, and Planning, Spelman College

A special thanks goes to all our members who ran for office. We hope you will consider next year's opportunities on the SAIR Board. I am also grateful to those members who served on the nominating committee: Nerissa Rivera, Andrew Luna, Lynne Crosby, Nijah Bryant, and Mimi Johnson. It was a pleasure to serve as chair of this committee and to serve SAIR.

2016-2018 Rick Burnette, Member at Large

SAIR Conference—Fort Worth, Texas

Professional Development Crisis Fund Travel Grants

The **Professional Development Crisis Fund (PDCF)** was established to help SAIR members who were impacted by natural disasters. The purpose is to provide funds to supplement professional development needs. To assist SAIR members who were impacted by the recent hurricanes, we will award up to five professional development travel grants for $500 to SAIR members who have not registered for the 2017 Annual Conference.

Eligibility: To be considered for the Professional Development Crisis Grant, application materials must be submitted to the Member-at-Large for Professional Development. The following information should be included:

A. Applicant's name and institution/organization of employment.

B. A statement explaining the disaster the member was a victim of and a summary of the impact of the disaster.

C. A statement of how receiving the grant will contribute to professional development.

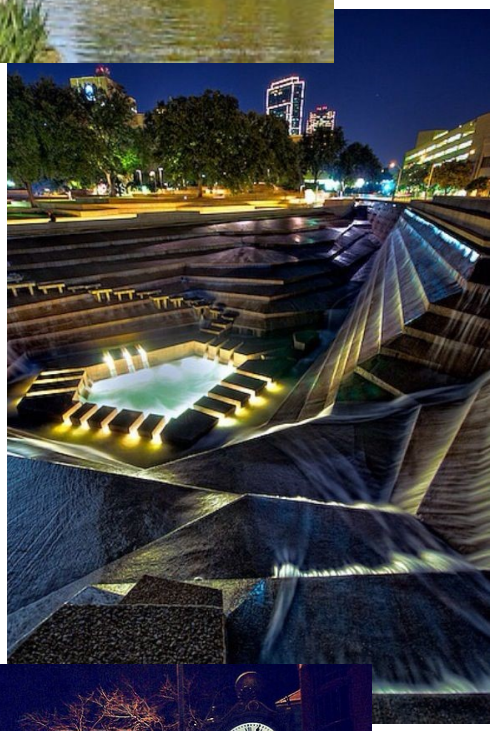
D. The amount of funds requested and a statement describing how the funds will be spent.

Criteria for Awarding of Grants: Recommendations by the Member-at-Large for Professional Development to the Board of Directors for Professional Development Crisis Grants will be based on the information submitted in the application materials.

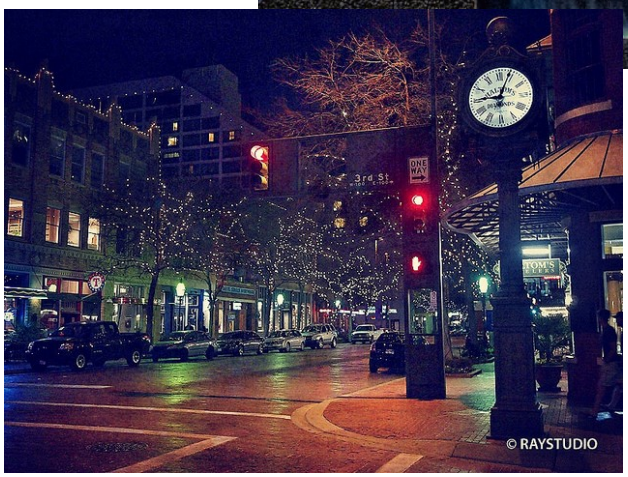
To apply for a PDCF travel grant, please send application materials to Rick Burnette, Member-at-Large for Professional Development, at rburnette@admin.fsu.edu by Wednesday, September 27.

..... Fort Worth Bound

TEXAS WELCOMES ALL



7-10 OCTOBER 2017 SAIR FTW FORT WORTH TX



Sundance Square Plaza, Japanese Tea Garden, National Cowgirl Museum, Water Gardens, Sundance Square shops