

2015 AASP Southwest Regional Conference Final Report

The University of Denver hosted the 2015 AASP Southwest Regional Conference March 27-28. The conference had 55 people registered for the conference and 11 additional attendees (e.g., keynote speakers, faculty, panel members). The conference included 12 presentations, two keynote speakers, and two panel discussions (see attached 2015 AASP Southwest Regional Conference Schedule). The 2015 AASP conference was promoted five times throughout the conference, as well as the AASP website.

The theme of the conference was best practices in applied work, and the keynote speakers reflected the theme. The keynote speakers for the conference were Dr. Cristina Fink and Dr. Vickie Woosley. Dr. Fink is the director of sport psychology services at YSC Sports in Pennsylvania, and has worked with clients that include Olympic medalists and World Champions as well as professional soccer teams. Dr. Woosley is the sport psychologist at Vanderbilt University, where she provides sport psychology services for all intercollegiate student-athletes.

The two panels for the conference were an early career professionals' panel and a hiring process panel. The early career professionals' panel discussed several areas of advice for students in graduate school, as well as when entering the workforce. The early career professionals' panel included two professionals who have earned their doctorates and two professionals who have earned their MA in sport and performance psychology and are working with individual clients as well as youth organizations. The hiring process panel discussed their perspectives on successful sport psychology service delivery, which included areas such as: (a) gaining entry with a team/organization, (b) communication with the coach and other staff, and (d) gaining entry with an athletic department, among others. The hiring process panel included three professionals with doctorate degrees who had worked with collegiate athletic departments, professional teams, and in hospital settings with substance abuse.

Survey Monkey feedback from the conference suggested that the central highlights from the conference were the keynote speakers, variety of abstract presentations, and networking opportunities. The keynote speakers were able to provide an educational and entertaining look into aspects of performance psychology, while engaging the audience with their unique career stories. The networking opportunities included an organized social for students, presence of keynote speakers after their engagements, and several professionals in the field in attendance. Variety in abstracts are represented in the attached schedule.