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The New Practitioners Workshop: A Reflection

"I have never attended any conference where the exchange of information was so vast."

I was blessed this year with a scholarship for participation in the NCSPOD Conference, bestowed by the Western Region of NCSPOD. This experience was fabulous. The instructors were so well prepared for the myriad of questions posed by the participants. Best of all, they paid particular attention to the needs of the group. They started by asking what we hoped to gain from the session, what we could offer to our fellow practitioners, and

followed up by making sure that the session provided all of those elements. With their years of experience they were able to seamlessly incorporate all of the components into a cohesive, informative session. The exercises they incorporated allowed us to brainstorm on the issues at hand while truly getting to know each other.

I was particularly impressed with the notebook they prepared for the participants to take home. It was filled with "real-life" examples of how our contemporaries have dealt with the challenges we face

every day. Although the backgrounds of the people in the workshop were very diverse, the issues they face seemed to be universal.

The best thing of all was how open and generous the NCSPOD members were in sharing their experience and wisdom. I have never attended any conference where the exchange of information was so vast.

Next year the conference will be in Reno. I want to participate in the hope that I can make everyone who attends feel as welcome as they made me feel at my first conference. ■■■

LINDA CHAPMAN

Director of the Center for Academic and Professional Excellence at College of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)



Linda Chapman
College of Southern Nevada