

Statement of the aims and objectives of the project

I am requesting funds to travel to Cleveland, Ohio (March 26-31, 2018) to attend the 88

as required by the conditions outlined in the policies and procedures related to internal awards

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Importance or value

Presentation at professional conferences has the benefit of disseminating research to the wider community and offers a means of enhancing the reputation of Stockton University. The annual AAPA meeting, in particular, is the most important and well-attended conference in my discipline (i.e., paleoanthropology). It provides an invaluable opportunity to confer with colleagues from other institutions and to create new professional relationships that can potentially produce future research opportunities for me and my students. Given my research interests, it is critical to maintain a strong presence at professional meetings to facilitate continued access to fossil specimens. All of the fossils that I use in my research are African specimens, many of which are under the control of the researchers who originally discovered them. Promoting my research at professional meetings increases the probability of forging new and/or stronger collaborations with biological anthropologists who are actively engaged in fieldwork and constantly making new fossil discoveries.

Attendance at professional meetings is also crucial for staying up-to-date on the latest developments in my field. Staying informed enhances both my research and my teaching, particularly in BIOL 3240 (Human Evolution), an upper level course for biology majors that I teach every Fall. Moreover, the excitement of attending highly anticipated talks about new fossil discoveries and connecting professionally with scientists from around the world carries over into my classroom, where my own enthusiasm promotes greater engagement with my students.

Project outcomes

One of the stated outcomes of my sabbatical (AY 2015-16) was to present all resulting research at future professional meetings. Since the KNM-ER 45510 project described above grew directly out of my larger sabbatical project, presentation at the upcoming AAPA conference will help fulfill one of my explicit sabbatical goals. My AAPA presentation will also undoubtedly