



Voice and Speech Trainers Association

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Professor Betty Moulton
Department of Drama
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
President of VASTA 2016-18

Date: September 26, 2016

Subject: Peer review of Colton Weiss' VASTA member presentation at Chicago Conference
August 2016

Colton Weiss was awarded a *Conference grant for Interdisciplinary Engagement* from the Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) in 2015. He used it to attend the annual National ASHA Convention in Denver, CO and subsequently gave a presentation at the annual 2016 VASTA conference detailing his trip. He also wrote a report of his experience for our newsletter, VASTA Voices in January 2016.

His talk and article were titled:

"My ASHA Experience: Building Professional Bridges between ASHA and VASTA"

The funding provided by VASTA for selected members gives the opportunity for them to attend related conferences, to promote collaboration and free exchange of ideas across disciplines.

The guidelines state:

"Awardees will be required to share their findings and experiences with the VASTA membership through a newsletter article, *and* a workshop, video, conference presentation or other appropriate presentation intended to build bridges between VASTA and other disciplines."

It was a pleasure to hear about Colton's trip to the ASHA convention and share in what he learned from connecting to these related voice and speech professionals. He spoke about the organization of the days at the convention, the variety of offerings, the sessions he attended, who he met and the informal conversations he had that augmented his knowledge of what Speech and Hearing Science professionals 'listen for' in the human voice.

He shared how his interest has always been in the science as well as artistic side of the voice world. He plans to intertwine these aspects in his future work in the field, and also to promote this through his work with VASTA.



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The organization of the presentation was good- he used PowerPoint slides with relevant and succinct information on each one. He put his study into the clear context of his interests, education and career work to date. He gave good detail about a few of the sessions he attended that particularly sparked his interest: Hygiene seeking practices, and Corporate Speech Pathology training. He related how these subjects furthered his own knowledge and anticipated positive collaborations he wants to follow up on. His plans for research, comparing artistic and scientific voice practices, were fueled by meeting like-minded individuals at the convention, and discovering similarities of approach or philosophy. His presentation was pitched at 'reporting on his experience' but also was given in such a positive tone that it encouraged members along the way to consider also taking this kind of opportunity. He easily went from the 'prepared content' to a colloquial style that connected to his listeners directly.

Colton used his time well, not rushing the content and leaving a good amount of time at the end for questions. He provided a good list of references for participants at the end of the talk for further investigation of the Speech-Language Pathology field, primarily websites to explore.

Colton presented a pleasing and knowledgeable presence as he shared his appreciation for the opportunity he was given. In his talk he gave a thorough view into the connections he made to his own practice, providing a good example from a young colleague of how cross-disciplinary connections can yield very positive and energizing results.

I enjoyed the presentation and was very pleased that VASTA was able to support him for this trip to a related discipline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Moulton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Professor Betty Moulton
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