Penn State York Advisory Board,

I gratefully used the 2017 Advisory Board Grant funds I was awarded for the 2017-2018 academic year to attend the An Event Apart (AEA) conference in Washington, DC on July 10 and 11, 2017. An Event Apart (AEA) is a nationally known conference of the top web developers, designers, and strategists in the industry. AEA attendees include UX (user experience design) professionals, web developers, project managers, writer/editors, marketers, strategists, web site owners and clients, instructors, and IT (information technology) academicians. The wide spectrum of attendees speaks to the uniquely comprehensive and multi-disciplinary nature of this event which is a perfect fit with the comprehensive and multi-disciplinary nature of the college I teach in, Penn State’s College of Information Sciences and Technology.

I had initially proposed attending the AEA conference in San Francisco, California, but limited funds required me to scale back the trip to work within the given budget. Fortunately, due to the popularity of the conference, an additional AEA conference was scheduled in Washington, DC and featured many of the same high profile panelists, presenters, and keynote speakers that headlined the San Francisco event. The two-day event supported my research and teaching in the field of web development and programming, an area of specialty within my discipline of the information sciences and technology. The AEA conference provided me with knowledge, tools, and inspiration that I was subsequently able to incorporate into the software and web development courses I teach thereby benefitting both students and my own professional development.

The Washington, DC conference was so successful that they are planning a special AEA in late July/early August 2018 at a new location, Sheraton Pentagon City, which I hope to attend. I wish to thank the Advisory Board for their ongoing support of Penn State York faculty which benefits faculty, students, and the community making us all Penn State proud.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Bartell
Lecturer in Information Sciences and Technology, Penn State York