

# Advancing Kentucky and Impacting the World: Training Resource Center Employee Participates in International University Forum

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## UNIVERSITY FORUM FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT 2016: "LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY AND CHANGING PRACTICES IN HRD IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT"

Katie Ryan Fotiadis, Training Specialist for the Training Resource Center, University Training Consortium, and ECE-TRIS attended an international university forum filled with 4 full days of cutting edge research in the Human Resources, Organization Development, and Leadership fields. This competitive opportunity was awarded to Ms. Fotiadis through the University of Louisville where she is a graduate student in the Organization Development and Leadership program. In addition, the staff Professional Development Fund at ECU was instrumental in achieving this goal.

As ECU's vision is to be a "premier university dedicated to innovative student engagement and success, advancing Kentucky, and impacting the world," it is pertinent that we have a global understanding of best practices in order for our students, staff, and community to adapt and flourish in a dynamic, global society. The work performed by the Training Resource Center (TRC), the University Training Consortium, and ECE-TRIS transforms lives in our communities by strengthening skills of human service professionals,

improving the lives of our youngest children in Kentucky, and by innovative action utilizing the best practices in our fields. At the TRC, our offerings in professional development, quality customer service, facilitation, and partnerships with Kentucky's administrative cabinets are steeped in groundbreaking strategies within Human Resources Development.

The University Forum for Human Resources Development (UFHRD) conference in Manchester, England, was dedicated to international understanding related to focus areas that included:

Workplace Learning Training and Development	Diversity
Learning and Teaching	Leadership, Management, and Talent Development
Critical Approaches	Employee Engagement
Global, Comparative, and Cross Cultural Dimensions	Scholarly Practitioner Research

UFHRD is relevant to the global workplace of the 21st century. This type of knowledge, brought back to ECU, assists in fulfilling our mission for ECU to be a school of opportunity, fostering "personal growth and prepares students to contribute to the success and vitality of their communities, the Commonwealth, and the world." To be a campus in which "intellectual creativity and diversity thrives...characterized by knowledge, scholarly inquiry, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity, all with a global perspective," we must explore diverse and global concepts and practice excellence. Opportunities such as the UFHRD international conference brings this distinction and international networking back to ECU.

Regarding her experience, Katie Ryan stated, "I cannot begin to put into words what an incredible experience and opportunity it was to take in all that the international experience, networking, and UFHRD research brought to my academic, professional, and personal development as well as knowing that I had a wealth of resources to further support the work we do at the TRC, my colleagues, and the university as a whole. I feel honored and grateful to further support ECU in being a premier university; this will serve us long into the future!"