

Dear Pua,

I was honored to be chosen as the 2017 scholarship recipient and am grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend the Alliance for Community Media Northeast Region Conference and Trade Show in November.

I volunteer for a small television station, Newington Community Television (NCTV) in Connecticut, along with a handful of regulars who are a dedicated core group of other volunteers that wear many hats and spend many hours of their time bringing quality programming to local viewers. It was a pleasure to meet so many others from across the region at the ACM Conference, and being among so many who have a shared interest in community media felt like coming home.

I enjoyed going to the Trade Show and learning about all the options that are available in sight, sound and programming. I was able to talk directly to the people that made and/or represent the latest products and services, which was an unexpected treat. It was a welcome opportunity and I found it very enlightening.

I found it difficult to choose which seminars I wanted to attend in the conference, because there were so many different and exciting offerings to select from. I tried to choose the ones that would be most valuable to learn about that would bring benefit to our station. I think I was most inspired from the Youth Media in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building a Successful Youth Media Program and Creating a Public Narrative through Storytelling seminars. While it was impressive to see what could be done on a large budget with paid staff, it was also valuable to be exposed to the concepts which could be scaled down to work in our station. They opened my eyes to the possibilities and to new ideas and ways of thinking.

The food and the accommodations of the conference were top notch. Each meal was very different from the last but it was all delicious. The location on the beach was beautiful and the hotel staff were very accommodating and friendly. In addition, I really enjoyed hearing the keynote speakers, who were not only well spoken, but enthusiastic and inspiring as well.

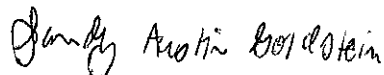
I was also grateful for the opportunity to attend the ACM Northeast Region Video Festival. It was amazing to meet the nominees and to view the winning clips. I also liked hearing the speeches of those who won, especially the speech of an inspiring transgender individual who won a special award.

The Alliance for Community Media awarding me this scholarship was especially valuable this year because it also meant that we could stretch our dollars to have enough money in our station's budget to allow a third person from our station to attend these events. It allowed me to spend more time with my colleagues and get to know them better on a personal and professional level.

I truly enjoyed my time at the trade show, conference, meals and video festival. I am very thankful that the scholarship allowed me to experience these events and to bring back all I learned to my station. I think that I am a stronger, more well-informed and more valuable representative of community media because of the opportunity that the Alliance for Community Media gave to me.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Sandy Austin Goldstein

Newington Community Television (NCTV)