

October 1, 2016

CHS Faculty Travel Grant Report: Valerie Thompson-Ebanks

Dear Research Committee Members:

In April 2015, I received a travel grant in the amount of \$750.00 from the College of Health Sciences. These funds were used to partially offset travel cost to conduct a workshop at the 12th Biennial Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Educators (ACSWE), July 6-10, 2015, in Grenada, West Indies. The workshop was entitled 'Destigmatizing disability: The role of social work in addressing social justice and human rights within the Caribbean region'. The workshop presented an anti-stigma practice approach to working with people with disabilities. It focused on understanding the complexities of stigma and how it impacts people with disabilities and identifying practical strategies to reduce disability stigma and promote social justice for this population.

Around 20 individuals participated in the workshop, representing a cross-section of Caribbean and International (Canada and United States) social work educators and practitioners. The workshop on disability stigma was well received by participants, indicated by their willingness to engage with and learn from each other. As one practitioner remarked, "I work in an agency with adults with disabilities and this information is very helpful to me."