

SAAIR Conference Attendance Report: Feedback report

This report serves as feedback for the 2016 SAAIR conference I attended under the SAAIR Scholarship.

I am grateful to have been awarded the scholarship to attend the 2016 SAAIR conference. Being a new academic, I have little but growing knowledge of other academics as well as the current academic conversations in the Institutional research space. Attending this conference for the second year in a row has helped me to forge networks with other seasoned institutional researchers. Furthermore, I managed to network with young and emerging researchers from other universities and I was encouraged by the work they are involved in, especially colleagues from UP, UFS and WITS. This experience gave me the courage to employ new methods of analyzing and interpreting data to inform decisions at my institution. In addition, I also greatly benefitted from the SAHELA conference where the focus was on learner analytics. I intend to further develop myself through online courses in preparation for a possible future in big data and learner analytics.

Through my interaction with other conference attendees, I got to know about the other international associations for institutional research such as Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and European Association for Institutional Research (EAIR). My goal is to attend the 2018 Association for Institutional Research (AIR) conference and present at least one paper. Locally, my intention is to present at least two papers at the 2017 SAAIR conference in Namibia.

Logistics wise, all my travel arrangements were perfect. I thank the SAAIR board for affording me this opportunity to network and improve my knowledge in institutional research. Going forward, I can safely say I have made SAAIR my home and I hope to use this platform to grow my career as an institutional researcher.

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