

I want to thank the graduate student senate for the support to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Western Institute of Nursing Research Conference. It was very engaging to hear expert predictions and prescriptions for the next 50 years of nursing research, practice, and education.

The presentations on building community-academic partnerships and including minorities in health disparities research both advanced my thinking on conducting research on housing-related health disparities in this region. I really enjoyed hearing the details on my Montana State University and OHSU colleagues' research plans as well. I attended the podium presentations by Sandy Kuntz, Linda Torma, and Patti Holkup and think they did a marvelous job representing MSU. Likewise, the theoretical constructs panel by the OHSU doctoral students was excellent.

The presentation of my research poster also went well; it is always fun to see who will come out of the stream of passersby to engage in a conversation about rural, environmental health research. It was a particular pleasure to visit with Dr. Jaynes from the University of Colorado and learn about her experiences working with urban-rural continuum codes in rural research. It was an "idea and information exchange" indeed!