

The Statement of Intent

Dear Graduate Professional Council:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere interest to achieve the travel award that Graduate Professional Council offers for graduate students. I am currently selected by the committee of the Regional Science International Association to present my paper at the conference.

The topic of my paper-presentation is “Measuring opportunity for recreation”. According to ongoing researches, greater exposure to opportunities for outdoor recreation is thought to have a positive influence on participation in physical activity. However, given that a range of socio-economic and locational parameters can influence travel behavior and the extent to which individuals are exposed to opportunities, characterizing inequities in access to opportunities outdoor recreation is a challenge. In this presentation, a methodology is proposed for evaluating the extent to which individuals interact with urban biomes and for assessing inequities in opportunities for outdoor recreation. Utilizing GPS (global positioning system) and accelerometry data collected from children in five school districts, the developed methodology is used to characterize their travel behavior and interaction with urban biomes.

Since the conference focuses on the regional impacts of national or global processes of economic and social change, my research related to both transportation engineering and socio-economic parameters overlaps the content of the meeting. Also I will have opportunities for networking with the most successful academics and researchers. Because of these reasons, I am very excited to attend the conference, and contribute my studies in new model designs and impact assessment. Additionally, I am expecting to receive invaluable feedback from the audience, which would be beneficial for improving my academic skills.

As a PhD student, I plan to pursue my career in academia and get involved in transportation analysis and modeling area. This conference, therefore, is a unique opportunity to criticize myself and make sure I am on the right track for developing my academic studies in the future.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the travel award. My travel scholarship application form is enclosed for your review. If you have further questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, -