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SERVE Grant Reflection  
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This March I had the privilege of attending the Western Region American MusicTherapy Association's (WRAMTA) annual conference. As a music therapy student, it was an honor to have the opportunity to meet and learn from so many talented and knowledgable music therapists. I was struck by the loyalty of these professionals to their field - some having been working as music therapists for over 40 years - and by their dedication to making music therapy the best and most reputable field it can be. These professionals' commitment to their work was inspirational on its own, but combined with the knowledge they shared in their seminars, my passing for music therapy and calling to this line of work was confirmed.

During the conference I attended four very interesting seminars. One on the use of music therapy in early childhood development; another on the use of music in the emotional healing process of women with post-partum depression; another on the need for continuing research in the use of music therapy for individuals personality disorders; and one more on the use of music therapy along side psychotherapy in treating children who have experienced trauma. The music therapists who presented each seminar had different approaches to music therapy, allowing me to see the wide array of styles present in the field. Additionally, each speaker offered valuable insight into working as a music therapists in their various settings.

I was most impressed by Dr. Becky Wellman's seminar on music therapy and early childhood development. From her I learned important stages of a child's development, creative music therapy techniques, and how music therapists work along side social workers and government organizations for improving children's education and well-being.

From the other three seminars, which all focused on some aspect of mental health, I learned that I am most passionate about this area of music therapy. These seminars confirmed my interested in combing psychotherapy and music therapy. There is so much more that I have to learn, and so much more that must be discovered through research. Still, I look forward to being part of the group of music therapists who play a role in improving people's lives through a thorough understanding of psychology combined with strong musical skills.

Music is a unique tool that accesses parts of our mind that cannot be accessed otherwise. After attending these seminars, I am more convinced of this than ever. I hope, someday, to be a music therapist who makes a contribution to the growing research that demonstrates the healing power of music to the world.