The Association for Theatre in Higher Education places emphasis on the writing and producing of original plays as a privileged form of Boyer’s Scholarship of Discovery. I am currently researching and developing a play based on the events leading to two Waco gunfights in the late 1890s, exploring the conflicts in the community. My goal is to complete the script this summer for submission to at least two widely recognized staging events, the National New Works Festival sponsored by the National New Play Network (an organization of nonprofit professional theatres) and the Oktoberfest play festival sponsored by the Ensemble Studio Theatre, an Off Broadway theatre organization in midtown Manhattan.

To prepare for these submissions, I am planning to participate in a two week summer conference held by the Ensemble Studio Theatre at a retreat site in Lexington, New York. The conference is intended as a workshop for playwrights, directors, and actors seeking collaboration and mentorship in developing original work. In addition to the participants and conference leaders, professional members of the ensemble will also provide critical guidance. Past member-participants have included Horton Foote, Romulus Linney, Arthur Giron and other established playwrights. I am seeking funding to cover the cost of the conference.