Background
Providing students with quality preceptors is an essential part of a successful experiential program. Although several methods have been used for preceptor training (Figure 1), live, face-to-face Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is one way to enhance the training of preceptors. With the majority of preceptors located across the state of Iowa, it is challenging to offer a cost-effective CPD program focused on preceptor training that meets the needs of both the preceptors and the college of pharmacy.

Objective
Describe preceptor development programs held across the state over three years, assess whether it met the CPD needs of preceptors, and examine the cost effectiveness of these events.

Methods
- Preceptor development programs were held across the state of Iowa during the summers of 2011, 2012, and 2013.
- Locations were selected based on the number of preceptors in the area.
- Programs included: continuing education (CE) program, networking, and dinner. (Table 1)
- Following the program, preceptors were surveyed to determine if the event met their continuing professional development (CPD) needs (yes, no, n/a).
- Annual costs and budgets for the event were recorded using Microsoft Excel®.

Results
- Over three years, 14 events were held in seven cities across the state with one event held via distance technology. (Figure 2)
- Annually, an average of 104 preceptors attended the regional events (range 84 to 119 annual attendance)
- Attendance at each event averaged 17 preceptors (range 3 to 70 per event).
- The cost of each event included CE processing, food, facility, printing, and a small gift for each attendee. (Figure 3)
- Cost per preceptor averaged $39 (increased from $34 to $46. (Figure 3)
- Overall, 91% of preceptors in attendance agreed the program met their CPD needs. (Figure 4)

Limitations
- Cost analysis did not include faculty and staff time in creation, coordination, and travel to the events.
- Attendance at events in the summer may vary due to a variety of activity conflicts.
- Reaching all preceptors through regional events would be impossible, therefore other methods of preceptor development should be used.
- This program does not meet the needs of out-of-state preceptors.

Conclusions
Live, face-to-face preceptor development events held regionally met the CPD needs of preceptors. However, due to the geographical diversity of practice sites, reaching preceptors is difficult. Considering the preceptor’s contribution to education, the cost remains low.