Example 1 - Travel to Conferences or Competitions

Conference Information
- **Sponsoring Agency:** Northwestern Medicine
- **Conference Title:** PTCOG-NA Annual Conference
- **Conference Location (city, state):** Chicago, Illinois
- **Conference Start Date (Month/Day/Year):** October 23, 2017
- **Conference End Date (Month/Day/Year):** October 25, 2017

*If this is a professional meeting, is it:*
- State – Regional – **National** – International

*What is your role in the conference? (Check all that apply)*
- **Presenter** – **Organizer** – **Participant** – **Volunteer**

- **Presentation Title:** Optical Patient Setup Tracking: Using Dynamic Photographic Images to Reduce kV Imaging and Improve Soft-Tissue Alignment

**Anticipated Outcome**
*Explain the significance of your project and its potential to benefit society or contribute to achieving specific societal outcomes (i.e. the big picture).*

*How do you plan for your project to be disseminated? Examples include poster, report, a publishable article or chapter, a performance, a policy recommendation, or other. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. Be as specific as possible.*

This research project will be a poster presentation at the Particle Therapy Cooperative Group North America Annual conference. This research contributes to advanced innovation in cancer treatment. Proper patient alignment from simulation to treatment is a critical aspect in radiation therapy. To minimize patient position discrepancies, Image-Guided Proton Therapy (IGPT) utilizes images to position a patient prior to and during proton treatment. Implementing an optical IGPT system with live feedback may decrease patient exposure to excess radiation, shorten time intensive alignment procedures, and increase patient throughput.

**Student Academic Experience**
*Indicate how the proposed experience is expected to enhance your academic experience and future career.*

This proposed experience is expected to grow my network in the medical physics and Biomedical engineering fields. I will be surrounded by brilliant minds who like me, want to make a difference in cancer treatment and advancements. I will get the opportunity to present my research that I conducted over the summer with the SrOP program. This will allow me to gain more experience presenting and exposing the great research that was conducted. This will
enhance my academic experience by professionally exposing me to advanced research and networks, where I can apply my knowledge to grow within the field.
Example 2 - NIU Faculty-led Study Abroad/Away Programs

Program/Trip/Project Information

- **Title of program/trip/project:** The Role of NGOs in Tanzanian Development: An Engaged Course
- **Destination (include address):** Arusha, Tanzania
- **Start date of trip (Month/Day/Year):** 6/14/2018
- **End date of trip (Month/Day/Year):** 7/13/2018
- **Anticipated project completion date (Month/Day/Year):** 7/20/2018

Anticipated Outcome

*Explain the significance of your project and its potential to benefit society or contribute to achieving specific societal outcomes (i.e. the big picture).*

*How do you plan for your project to be disseminated? Examples include poster, report, a publishable article or chapter, a performance, a policy recommendation, or other. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. Be as specific as possible.*

This Faculty-led trip is considered an engaged learning course as I will be taking it for six (6) Honors credits in PSPA 827 and NNGO 498. It is being offered to both undergraduate and graduate students in which undergraduate Honor students will be expected to complete the same course requirements as graduate students in the Master’s in Public Administration (MPA) program earning credit in PSPA 927 and PSPA 9M2.

The Honors component will enrich my education as I plan to attend graduate school to obtain my MPA in the next 2-3 years and this will allow me to spend a month learning about how government and grass-roots nongovernmental organization relationships work and the challenges and rewards they encounter in this Tanzanian community. In fact, the faculty member who is leading the trip is the department chair of the MPA program at Northern Illinois University, Dr. Kurt M. Thurmaier, which will allow me to meet current graduate students in the program so that I am able to network and see if this would be the right program for me.

As a transfer student who is determined to complete both Lower and Upper Division Honors (27 credits) in two years, this study abroad honors credit will allow me to fulfill this goal of mine as I currently need 9 credit hours to complete Full University Honors by August 2018.

Student Academic Experience

*Indicate how the proposed experience is expected to enhance your academic experience and future career.*

*Karibu (Welcome)! I am a senior majoring in Community Leadership & Civic Engagement with a minor in Public Administration and Social Enterprise. It is my goal to work for an International nonprofit that operates as a social enterprise with its main mission to help women. If we
empower women by offering leadership skills and educational training, they will be able to raise their children and offer them a better living environment.

I plan to travel to Tanzania in the summer of 2018 for 4 weeks to gain more global and personal-growth knowledge. I selected Tanzania because I have never been across the Atlantic Ocean and will have a hands-on opportunity to experience the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in developing countries like Tanzania.

Although NIU offers different programs to go to Europe or Asia, I decided to apply for this African trip because I find it more difficult to visit any African country as I am not familiar with the regions and cultures. Not only will I be able to work with a Microfinance organization that helps women jump-start their business, but also learn the Swahili language and visit the Serengeti National Park. I will be immersed in a rich culture to learn a critical language - Swahili which will encourage me to step out of my comfort zone.
Example 3 - Other Student Engagement Activity

Describe the engagement opportunity in detail:

The Washington D.C Spring Break Trip is an annual run program that hosted by the Department of Political Science. This spring break trip is a small group study that focuses on studying government and politics in the nation's capital. This small group study program allowed 16 students to experience engaged learning with two NIU political science professors for an intensive five-day, four-night, hands-on seminar in government and politics. This trip consists of seminars by the two NIU professors with issues related to American politics and government work. Additionally, students will get hands-on learning with different study tours to many places in the nation's capital. These include touring and meeting officials at the White House, Congress and Supreme Court. Students will have a chance to engaged and networking with different public officials to gain connection, share experience, exchange experience and learn what it is like to work in government and politics. Most importantly, students will have a chance to get connected with the NIU alumni that live in D.C area. There will a reception hosted that allow different alumni to participate and network with the students who participate in this trip. Therefore, students will get amazing opportunity to learn what the NIU alumni have to offer to them, so they can bring back and foster their academic experience at NIU to become even better. Within this spring break trip, students will not be only engaged with professors and others, but students can enroll in a 1-credit hour course. With the course, students have to do a reflection journal every day to summarize their experiences in D.C. They will also engage in different reading materials that are assigned from the professors prior to the trip.

Anticipated Outcome

Explain the significance of your project and its potential to benefit society or contribute to achieving specific societal outcomes (i.e. the big picture).

How do you plan for your project to be disseminated? Examples include poster, report, a publishable article or chapter, a performance, a policy recommendation, or other. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. *Other examples include professional development, the advancement of knowledge in your career field, and more. Be as specific as possible.

This spring break trip will provide many significances to the NIU community especially to students. Since, this spring break trip is an engaged and hands on learning experience, it will allow NIU students to become familiar with engaged learning and understand the benefits of engaged learning to enhance their academic experience. Not a lot of NIU students know about engaged learning, so I am hoping that my experience from this trip will be able to encourage other students to take part in this type of learning. Therefore, they will take this encouragement to participate in different trips not limited to academic study trip but also service based trip such as huskie alternative break (which I participated a year ago). Within this spring break trip, I will enroll in the 1-credit course so with that, I will have to write a reflection journal every day during the trip. In that journal, I will include different experiences that I encounter and different challenges that I meet. As a student leader with different organizations and a community
advisor on campus, I am hoping to plan a workshop that focuses on “The Importance of Student Engagement Activity” program that I can invite different participants who attend this trip includes myself and different participants in other activities. Therefore, this proposed program will open up different opportunities to encourage other students to do the same. I am also a regular blogger online, so I am hoping to share my spring break trip experience by posting it as different articles on my blog to my readers. My blog has a weekly view of between 50 to 100 people and those viewers are not limited only to the U.S and it is worldwide. I am hoping that using my blog to share experiences especially with different things that I encounter during the trip will be able to allow the readers to learn more about the topic, in this case political science. It will allow others to become more aware with politics, understand it and take part in it because politics affects our lives and we also political activities as well. Lastly, not to forget that this spring break is about studying politics and government so within the reflections and blog articles that I am writing will be able to inform the public about not only my experience but also inform them understanding government. This allows the public to know more about government’s works and they will able to pay attention to politics. Most importantly, it will affect my academic performance and other students' academic performance. With the experience I will have, I am able to contribute more into my classes about the discussion of politics and government and the students in the class will learn more about it and expand their knowledge from the political experience that I will have. Lastly, I am aware that if I get awarded with USET Grant, I have to write a final reflection and I am hoping that final reflection will allow other students to learn my experience and take part in it.

**Student Academic Experience**

*Indicate how the proposed experience is expected to enhance your academic experience and future career.*

This experience will strongly enhance my academic experience and future career. As my future career is becoming a diplomat who works with different governments from different countries, this experience will allow me to learn in depth about the American politics and government and especially learning it hands-on experience by visiting different public officials in the government sector, visiting the monuments that fill with American history, visiting the library of congress and more. This trip will also contribute to my academic experience by improving my academic performance in my classes as well. With taking different classes related to government and politics, I am able to have more understanding in the topic that will lead me to become more engaged with the professor and in class discussion. Moreover, with this hands-on learning, it allowed myself and other students to engage in the topic deeply and passionately. Within this trip, I will also be writing a daily reflection journal that allows myself to deeply engage with my activities to develop my personal growth that includes finding my own strengths, weaknesses and what I have to work on when I’m going back to school after the trip. Besides, this trip will allow myself to get connected with different professional alumni and people that are in my political science field. Having this connection will allow my academic experience to become even better. We all live in this globalized world that is interconnected with one another, so getting connected with different people is very important for the future because sometimes these
relationships can be my support or motivation and I can be their support as well. I will not only learn from them, but we can exchange our experiences to enhance ourselves to do better. Additionally, having a professional experience such as this spring break trip will make my resume attractive to future employers and even graduate schools. All the experiences that I will learn from this trip will be able to make my potential employers and graduate schools understand that I have the significant and unique abilities/experiences of what they are looking for. All in all, getting and completing this trip is a golden opportunity for me because of the experiences that I will learn from it can be a platform and background to my future career as to be working in the government sector.