

Emily Reeve

**Graduation Year:** Sophomore

**College:** Engineering

**Major(s):** Civil Engineering

**Minors(s):** none

**Scholar Group Membership:** no

**Did you received other funding for this project?:** no

**Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding?** No

**More details on CUSE funding assistance?** In July, the NDSEED team made a decision regarding the conference: all traveling team members would attend the Bridge Builder Conference, but non-traveling team members would only attend the Bridge Builder Conference if they received funding for it. As I am one of the non-traveling team members, my attendance at the conference relied solely on assistance from CUSE.

**Project Title:** 2015 Bridge Builder Conference

**Project Location:** Estes Park, Colorado

**ND Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Kijewski-Correa

**Project Type:** Conference - Attendance

**Why did you undertake this project/experience?** Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue

**Did your funded experience help you:**

**[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]:** Very Much

**[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]:** Yes

**[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]:** Very Much

**[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]:** Very Much

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:**Yes

**Tell us about your experience.**

The conference was hosted by Bridges to Prosperity. It consisted of four days of speakers, break-out sessions, discussion panels, and work shops. I learned a lot about all the steps necessary to complete an international bridge project. I also learned many skills that will help me when I travel with the NDSEED team in the future.

**Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.**

I came to appreciate the impact that a bridge can have on a community. I was always excited to be involved in Notre Dame Students Empowering through Engineering Development, but now I have a greater understanding of how exactly we are helping the community in Nicaragua. It gave me so much more motivation for our project.

**Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.**

My ideal career would be to work in disaster relief, either domestically or internationally. I want to use engineering to help communities in need, so learning about building bridges in order to further international development definitely supplements my professional plans.

**What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?**

At first, I was really intimidated by the idea of applying for a CUSE grant. It seemed daunting at the time. But CUSE was very easy to work with, and the opportunity to go to the Bridge Builder Conference was well worth it.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.

undefined

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---