

Charlie Trense

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Arts & Letters, Business, Science

Major(s): Finance and ACMS

Minors(s): Peace Studies

Scholar Group Membership: Kaneb Family Scholar

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?

Project Title: Three International Business Ethics Case Studies: A Faculty-Student Collaboration

Project Location: Depaul University, Chicago, IL, United States

ND Faculty Mentor: Jessica McManus Warnell

Project Type: Conference - Attendance, Conference - Presentation

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Career discernment and/or preparation

Did your funded experience help you:

[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Yes

[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much

[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: A Little

[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.

Presenting at the International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference was the culmination of a project that began in November of 2016. After my Business Ethics class ended, Professor Jessica McManus Warnell invited some of her students to apply to help write several Business Ethics Cases with her and Joan Dubinsky, former Chief Ethics Officer of the United Nations. I jumped at the opportunity because I found my Business Ethics class interesting and wanted to take the next step to get a chance to understand the material better. There were three groups of three students working with Professor McManus Warnell to write their own mock case, which we presented to several Mendoza faculty members in the spring.

The International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference (IVBEC) was a chance to present our cases to the broader Business Ethics community. My case focused on a business manager in Indonesia struggling to balance concerns about the profitability of his region with the health and wellbeing of his employees as a result of the outbreak of typhoid fever in the area. My group researched several real-life instances which were similar to our mock case so that we could write something that was both realistic and relatable.

Professor McManus Warnell presented at the conference alongside four Notre Dame students,

including myself. While our presentations gave an overview of the cases, one of the overarching takeaways was how beneficial it can be for faculty members to work with students on projects outside of the classroom. Many of the people in attendance were college professors, so we fielded many questions about not only our process for developing the cases, but also the process of working with a professor and some of the most effective ways to learn in the classroom. There seemed to truly be a need for case studies that are recent, short, and easy to access like the ones that we wrote, so it was rewarding to hear from professors that they would like to potentially incorporate our cases into their classrooms.

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

Attending the conference opened my eyes to another realm of academia that I didn't know existed. As Notre Dame students, we were the youngest presenters at the conference, which consisted of mostly professors from around the world. As a student, it's easy to focus on attending class and trying to do well in school. Prior to attending, I was oblivious to the research side of academia. As an attendee of the conference, I realized how many interesting questions and ideas are being researched and debated within the academic community, particularly among professors. The conference challenged my beliefs about the intersection of ethics in business as well as taught me a lot about certain subjects like sin taxes or renewable energy, of which I previously did not have a deep understanding.

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

Attending and presenting at the IVBEC showed me the importance of every decision that I make in my career. Whether I'm at the bottom of the totem pole at a company or a CEO of a major corporation, I should be conscious of the decisions that I make and their ramifications on those around me. For example, seemingly little decisions like whether or not to recycle at the office or whether I should take company supplies to use at home can help determine the culture of the firm. Massive scandals like Enron were not the result of a single action. Rather, they are the culmination of everyday decisions that comprise the culture of the firm. Attending the conference gave me a greater appreciation for firms who make the commitment to go above and beyond the ethical minimum and who hold themselves to the highest standard. As a result of the conference, I became more interested in research and potentially continuing my education. There are so many questions that I ask myself throughout the day while in the classroom. They usually just amount to a quick Google search at the end of the day. Hearing professors present their research and work made me want to pursue answers to some of the questions that cross my mind.

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

My biggest piece of advice to other students who attend or present at conferences would be to engage with the people at the conference. As the youngest people at the conference, our group stuck out from most attendees. This made other people more likely to approach us and speak

with us, but I wish I had had the courage to initiate more conversations with professors whose work I found interesting.

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.
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