

James Holland

**Graduation Year:** Junior

**College:** Engineering

**Major(s):** Computer Science

**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?** I wouldn't have been able to go without CUSE funding

**Project Title:** 2018 TechShift Conference Attendance

**Project Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**ND Faculty Mentor:** Prof. Shreya Kumar

**Project Type:** Conference - Attendance

**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]:** A Little

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

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

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

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:**A Little

**Tell us about your experience.**

At the TechShift conference, I met with representatives from groups from other universities that focused on the intersection between computer science and social good. These universities included Stanford, Brown, University of Chicago, Georgia Tech, and several other universities. Throughout a number of meetings, we learned from the success and failures of other groups, while focusing on the strategies these clubs used to grow and sustain their membership base. We also had productive discussions about the relationship between social advocacy and social service. Additionally, we listened to talks from local groups that are using data science in order to improve other people's lives.

Our takeaways from the meeting are that we, as a club, would like to focus more on service, as this fits the mission of the University of Notre dame as well as our membership base. We also learned a number of organizational strategies regarding growing our club, which will be essential, as we are a new organization.

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

As a student-scholar, I was able to discern what exactly I wanted to do with regard to my activities in the club, as well as how I wanted to apply my skill with computing technologies. Specifically, I would like to use my education to help groups in the local community, as well as run the CS and Social Good club effectively while managing a number of projects.

The other group members who attended the conference seemed to have a similar experience, and are also applying what they learned to their leadership decision making. We were also able to transfer some of the knowledge we gained at the conference to other members of the CS and Social Good club.

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

An overarching message of the conference was that it was possible to pursue a successful and lucrative career in technology while simultaneously working to improve the lives of those around us. Thus, I would like to do so, and plan on searching for jobs in the tech industry with companies that have a positive and socially impactful mission.

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

For students who are trying to discover new ways of applying their skill with technology to projects with a social impact, I would suggest that they meet with members of the local community, or the Center for Social Concerns here at the University of Notre Dame, in order to find open projects that are in need of students to fulfill them.

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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