

Kiera Dwyer

Graduation Year: Junior

College: Engineering

Major(s): Chemical Engineering

Minors(s): Bioengineering

Scholar Group Membership: n/a

Did you received other funding for this project?: n/a

Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No

More details on CUSE funding assistance?

Project Title: Development of a phosphate biosensor using the optical density and pressure of growing yeast

Project Location: Univeristy of Notre Dame

ND Faculty Mentor: Holly Goodson

Project Type: Conference - Presentation

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Prepare for graduate school (MA or PhD), Career discernment and/or preparation

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]: Yes

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

[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Very Much

Tell us about your experience.

During this experience, I helped to organize a symposium, presented and attended a variety of sessions at the American Chemistry Society (ACS) National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The symposium I helped organize at this conference was entitled, "Analytical Chemistry in the Developing World." The sessions were divided into four sections according to topic: water, food/nutrition and medical applications. Speakers from all over the country traveled to speak about their research and how it can be used in developing countries where tools and supplies are limited. During the conference, I assisted in setting up the presentations and organizing the speakers. In addition, I presented the research I conducted in over the summer at Notre Dame at the poster session during the Analytical Chemistry and Sci-Mix sessions. I also had the opportunity to attend the lectures given in the "Analytical Chemistry in the Developing World" symposium as well as in other symposia.

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

This experience was extremely impactful to me, especially as a young researcher. First, I was able to practice preparing/printing a scientific poster and presenting this data to a live audience. At first this experience was stressful; however, by the second poster session I felt so much more comfortable interacting with professor who stopped at my poster to ask questions. In addition, I was able to learn a lot about the quality of research done by graduate students as well as the new, cutting-edge topics occurring in varying fields of research.

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

I am extremely interested in attending graduate school to pursue a doctorate in a field related to chemistry or chemical engineering. Therefore, this experience not only provided me with the opportunity to practice presenting complex data but also allowed me attend sessions about research I am interested in pursuing in a graduate school.

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

For students planning to attend other national conferences I would advise them to travel in a group, both for safety reasons and to mitigate the cost of hotel and taxi rides. In addition, when attending different sessions I would also suggest researching the lectures before going and planning out a schedule to follow. One thing I learned was that it was extremely difficult to attend several sessions back-to-back at different locations. Therefore, I would advise a student to find a couple of central sessions that is of particular interest and attending the sessions at that particular location. Otherwise, if sessions start early or run late, one is not going to miss the sessions of particular interest.

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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