

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
CARL H. LINDNER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 03/01/2020

PROJECT TITLE: Cases for Experiential Learning

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**Project Description**

Area of Research: Problem-solving enabled, Experiential learning

Project Description: A decade ago, US ranked quite low on the scores on standardized tests among students from industrialized nations, especially the countries from the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This trend is slowly but surely changing and a survey by TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Assessment) from 2015 eloquently reports that. Yet, the Department of Education in The United States recognizes that US faces a crucial gap of robust problem solving skills among its recent high school graduates (and therefore the entering College students). This gap can be potentially addressed by exposing students to case-based, experiential learning methods right at high school level or at least at the onset of their college years.

Project Objective: The objective of this project is to write cases in the field of Economics and other areas of management analysis primarily which draw upon the problem solving skills that are crucial in STEM subjects. In addition to the benefits of active learning (which are well documented), it creates a thriving learning environment and a better future workforce. Although there are many cases already available, this project is unique in addressing a vital area which is currently unaddressed. There are not many cases available that are local and therefore relevant to the students in a particular community. The objective of this project is to create cases focusing on local community issues, with a step-by-step approach that will lead through a learning experience to come up with a potential solution. For this project, we will partner with a local non-profit organization, The Partnership for Innovation in Education (PIE).

Expectation from the Faculty mentor and Student: The student will work with community partners for collecting data to form the basis of the cases that will be written under the close supervision of the faculty mentor. There will be weekly meetings with faculty mentor to discuss the nature of data collected and in the techniques of writing the case in such a way that it fulfills its primary objective of providing material to enable case-based, experiential learning. The student is required to have a background of keen interest in the field of economic research, ability to convert data collected through interviews and reports into analytical cases and a strong ability in written communication.