

## **Cook Leadership Academy Independent Initiative Funding Proposal**

### **What is it that you would like to do?**

Attend the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Additionally, attend a pre-conference job placement event titled “The Placement Exchange (TPE)”. TPE is a job placement fair for graduate student and professionals seeking to showcase their talents and experiences during in-person interviews to potential employers.

### **Who is this experience through? GVSU? PIC? Another organization?**

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

### **When does this initiative take place?**

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>; San Antonio, TX

### **Specifically, how will this initiative help to advance your career and leadership goals?**

The Placement Exchange (TPE) is a national job recruitment fair utilized by the vast majority of student affairs professionals to find future employment. In addition to finding a job, TPE provides candidates an opportunity to craft their skills and experiences as they relate to public speaking and interviewing. On average, a candidate might interview with ten or more colleges or universities during this time. This not only allows candidates the experience of in-person interviews, but also provides them the opportunity to receive critical feedback from interviews. TPE also has a number of resume workshops, interviewing tips and tricks, and a “bootcamp” to help better prepare participants for their interviewing experience.

The NASPA Annual Conference is an opportunity for young professionals to network and benchmark ideas with individuals from across the country. This conference is one of, if not, the largest conferences held focusing on the field of student affairs. Conference sessions will center around specific functional working areas in the career field allowing attendees the opportunity to continue to grow and develop as professionals in the field. The leadership qualities, skills, and abilities gained during this conference may include professionalism, time management, and continued education on topics related to my future career field.

Additionally, simply writing this proposal as a part of this conference experience is crafting my leadership and professional skills as they relate to articulation and drafting professional documents.

### **Why is this the best program to help you achieve your stated goals?**

This program attracts employers, presenters, and student affairs professionals from across the country. This unique opportunity is unlike any other professional conference or exposition focused on this specific career field. This placement exchange is the best program because it is a national search and placement program highly focused on student affairs professional jobs. Specifically, the majority of these jobs (roughly 75%) are positions in housing and residence life which is the functional area I am looking to work in during my first few years as a professional in the field.

**What do you expect to learn/gain from this experience?**

The most beneficial aspect of attending conferences is the knowledge gained from various presentation sessions. This allows professionals the opportunity to present their work, while attendees gain valuable intel on best practices and procedures related to their job functions. The Placement exchange aspect of this conference is going to provide a potential employment opportunity as well as prepare me for future job searches and potential gainful employment pursuits. Not only am I excited about the experiences listed above, but I am looking forward to the opportunity to network and build connections with colleagues and professionals across the country that I would have otherwise never connected with.

**How can you apply what you have learned following this experience?**

Gained skills and expertise including public speaking skills and interviewing skills will enhance my ability to articulate myself as an alumni of Grand Valley State University (GVSU). Additionally, knowledge gained from conference sessions will guide my work as a graduate assistant in student affairs at GVSU only contributing to the success and development of the institution as a whole. This opportunity will provide me with the proper tools, resources, and knowledge to continue to represent the university and the leadership academy through various initiatives on campus geared at students' academic and social success (ie: programming, presentations, advising student organizations, serving on university wide committees, graduate assistantship duties, etc.)

**How will you report on your experience?**

Reporting on my experience will come in a variety of ways. I can present my experience in the form of a presentation, speech, or simple thank you letter to the Hauenstein Center outlining my travel experiences and for their continued support and guidance in my leadership development. Moreover, as I continue to search for jobs in the future, I will undoubtedly speak to my attributes and accomplishments as they pertain to the Hauenstein Center's Cook Leadership Academy.

**What is your expected budget (all costs/expenditures) for this experience?**

Item	Budget Cost	Additional Information
Registration Fee (The Placement Exchange)	\$89	Registration deadline passed. Fee paid prior, requesting reimbursement
Registration Fee (NASPA Annual Conference)	Covered	Covered
Home2Suites Hilton Hotel San Antonio, TX	\$972.65	138.95/night x 7 nights (March 7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Airfare (GR to TX)	Covered	Covered
Meals	\$140	\$20/day x 7 days (March 7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$1,201.65</b>	<b>Incumbent will still attend annual conference and job fair if partial funding is awarded</b>

**What additional aid are you receiving to participate in this effort?**

I am receiving additional aid through a graduate student organization "Student Affairs Graduate Association (S.A.G.A.)". This group receives funding through the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and has awarded me \$500 for travel and registration expenses. Thus, my budgeted outline included additional expenses I may incur during my conference experience.