



BYU
College of Nursing

Awarding Cultural Diversity Grants: Helping to Open the World

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Purpose:

- Describe the process and benefits of implementing Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Cultural Diversity Grants to Brigham Young University (BYU) College of Nursing STTI undergraduate students to help support an international experience.

Background:

- 75% of STTI student members participate in an international travel study program
- International experiences generate diversified experiences within our chapter membership
- Cost of average study abroad experience is \$3,000 which can be financially challenging and prevent some students from participating

Goals of Implementing Grants Program:

- Support missions of STTI and BYU College of Nursing
- Increase STTI visibility and understanding of STTI's mission within the College of Nursing
- Help students understand the common ideals between the College of Nursing and STTI
- Provide financial assistance to students participating in the travel study program
- Promote learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses by improving cultural awareness within the nursing profession
- Create opportunities for grant awardees to share cultural diversity experiences within STTI venues



Student Selection:

- Based on student reported financial need and student advisement center financial information
- *"My wife and I first decided that I should go on this trip to Ecuador back in October. Things changed somewhat as we found out we were pregnant later that month. The anticipation of a new baby changed our financial plans. As one can expect, there are many extra expenses that come with a wife who is 6 months pregnant ... The total cost of the trip is \$2,900 which has been very difficult to pay but my wife and I have struggled and worked hard in order to pay this cost ... This [grant] would be a welcomed relief to me and my wife (and our little girl)."*
— Diversity Grant Applicant

Outcomes:

- Allows 5 students to participate in international experiences that may not have the financial ability
- Enhances understanding of culture and its influence on society and healthcare
- Allows participants to present at professional meetings including STTI venues
- Promotes STTI mission assimilation during student international experiences
- Increases student involvement in STTI venues
- *"One overarching truth I learned is that one culture is not superior to another. During this trip I came to realize many of my personal biases and stereotypes. The way I am accustomed to doing things is not necessarily the best way. It is solely different than the way someone from another culture would do a similar task. These differences make us stronger and provide opportunities to learn from each other. To gain access to the heart of someone of another culture I must first understand their culture. Only then will we be fully able to work collaboratively for the common good."*
—Diversity Grant Recipient