

2-7-2017

Foundation for International Education Global Leadership Conference

Emma C. Lane

Loyola Marymount University, elane4@lion.lmu.edu

Recommended Citation

Lane, Emma C., "Foundation for International Education Global Leadership Conference" (2017). *Grants & Fellowships*. 12. <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/honors-grants-and-fellowships/12>

This Honors Ambassadorial Grant is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors Program at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Grants & Fellowships by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Foundation for International Education Global Leadership Conference

The FIE Global Leadership Conference brings together undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to develop skills in leadership and cultural competency. The conference's headline is *Harnessing the Power of Diversity: Leadership, Inclusion, and Action*, which highlights its goal to encourage attendees to lead in ways that embrace the power of diversity and include outside perspectives. Through keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout groups, the weekend's activities will create a hands-on learning environment for students. Taking place in London, the conference's focus on diversity will be reinforced by the city's multiculturalism. I spent a semester in London in the fall and was particularly impacted by this aspect of the city. I interned at a non-profit that provides educational services for refugee children and families, helping me develop my cultural competency and global awareness. I would love to return to London and further the lessons I learned last semester by attending the Global Leadership Conference. Using leadership to promote inclusivity is a valuable skill, particularly in today's political climate. For those of us who embrace diversity and the global community, it is vital that we find ways to come together and lead cohesively. Through the Global Leadership Conference, I hope to gain insights on how to do just that.

While the conference does not include student presentations, upon my return I would compose a research proposal incorporating the strategies and skills I learned while attending, exploring how they can be used to pursue social justice in an inclusive way. This is particularly relevant considering the current state of U.S. politics, as the Trump administration embraces isolationist and nationalist policies. On January 27, 2017, President Trump issued an executive order that indefinitely barred Syrian refugees from entering the United States, and severely limited the current refugee program, halving the annual number of asylum-seekers accepted into the U.S. The order also temporarily suspended travel to the U.S. from seven predominantly Muslim countries.¹ His emphasis on strong borders and putting "America first" further exemplifies his exclusive intentions. Thus, as our country's leaders withdraw from the global community, it is up to us to find ways to promote inclusivity and diversity. I would explore these ideas in my proposal, as well as connect my previous experiences in London to the lessons I learn at the conference.

¹ "Trump's Executive Order on Immigration, Annotated," *NPR.com*, 31 January 2017, <http://www.npr.org/2017/01/31/512439121/trumps-executive-order-on-immigration-annotated>.