**Honors Experiential Learning Project Proposal Form – Community Engagement**

Complete and submit this proposal in your e-portfolio (for those with iWebfolio portfolios) or email to honors@uc.edu (if you do not have an e-portfolio in iWebfolio).

**Basic Information**
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College: College of Nursing

Major: Nursing

Title of Project: Marvin Lewis Community Fund Internship

Expected Project Start Date: May 5, 2012

Expected Project End Date: August 15, 2012

**Project Information**

1. **Provide a brief overview/abstract of your proposed honors experiential learning project.**

This summer I am interning for the Marvin Lewis Community Fund. This organization aims to reach out and support our community through various programs and fundraisers that they hold throughout the year. These events help to promote their organization and raise money for their Learning is Cool program and the Scholarship Fund. A few of their big fundraising events are the Golf Classic, Football 101, and the Cincinnati Scurry.

My internship is a volunteer position through which I will work these various events put on by the organization, and also help to complete office work throughout the week. While in the office, I will be working with others to complete various tasks each day, but these jobs will not always be the same. I am interested in this internship because I hope to gain more experience in working with people from various backgrounds in order to better prepare myself for when I enter the medical field.

1. **Substantial Content and Quality within Community Engagement Theme**

The Marvin Lewis Community Fund is a nonprofit organization that strives to reach out and help the citizens of our community. The organization’s two big programs are Learning is Cool and their Scholarship Fund. The Leaning is Cool program is an educational program in various schools throughout Cincinnati that promotes and rewards students for strong academic performance. The Marvin Lewis Scholarship Fund recognizes outstanding male and female athletes from the Cincinnati area, and assists them in paying for their college tuition. The Marvin Lewis Community Fund holds various events throughout the year such as the Golf Classic, Football 101, and the Cincinnati Scurry to promote their organization and raise money for these programs. I will be helping out at Marvin Lewis Golf Classic this month to assist in setting up, directing people on where to go, distributing prizes, and making sure everything runs smoothly.

I believe that as citizens of a community, we should become involved and help those who are less fortunate than us. This is what the Marvin Lewis Community Funds strives to do. Therefore I could not be more pleased to be interning there this summer and I am looking forward to dedicating my time to serving others. Since this is a nonprofit organization, there are many people like me who volunteer their time in order to reach out and help better our community. I am honored to be able to work with staff members, interns, and volunteers who have the same ideals as me while at these events and in the office. As an intern I will also have the privilege of working with citizens within my community, some of which are less fortunate. I believe that we can learn a lot from people like this. They are often very appreciative of the little things, and since they are not caught up in material wealth, they exemplify true happiness. I hope that throughout this summer I will be able to make an impact in my community and grow as an individual through the people I meet.

1. **Connection to Academic Goals and Theories**

As a Nursing student, I will be exposed to a side of the medical profession that most people do not understand or appreciate. Everyone is from a different culture and background; therefore they have different practices and ideals. As a nurse, I have to be willing to accept everyone, remain respectful of their beliefs, and be able to adapt to other cultures’ practices; all of which will take time.

Through the Marvin Lewis Community Fund I will have the opportunity to work with a variety of people from various backgrounds within my community. Therefore, being a part of this organization will broaden my horizons and help to prepare myself for the environment I will face as a nurse. I will also gain further knowledge and experience with interpersonal interaction and communication. As a nurse it is very important to be able to interact and communicate effectively and properly with your patients in order to provide them with the best care.

I plan on putting into practice what I learn from reading *The Power of Serving Others: You Can Start Where You Are* by Gary Morsch and Dean Nelson. This book is a collection of stories about individuals who have dedicated their life to serving others. By reading these stories I hope to gain inspiration, courage, and ideas on how I can best serve my community. There are so many ways in which you can impact the lives of others, and this book stresses that you are able to start serving others where you are. This book talks about the importance of finding fulfillment in what you do and dedicating you whole self to your work. These concepts from this book are important when working in the medical field, because as a nurse your purpose is to serve others.

This past year I was a recipient of the Marvin Lewis Community Fund Scholarship. This scholarship has helped me significantly in paying for my college tuition. I am so thankful for how the Marvin Lewis Community Fund has helped me directly, and therefore I want to be able to give back and help others through this organization. I am also interested in this internship because in a way it is similar to the day to day life of a nurse. As a nurse, I will not be doing the same exact thing every day nor will I always have the same patients. Therefore I need to be able to adapt to changes. This internship will allow me to grow as a person through interacting and working with others to accomplish a goal. This will also be the case in the medical field when I am working with other nurses and doctors. As an intern and as a nurse I hope to better the education and health of our community.

1. **Initiative, Independence and Creativity**

My internship this summer is unique because I have directly benefited from the organization I am volunteering for. I was a recipient of the Marvin Lewis Community Fund Scholarship in 2011. Therefore, it is important to me to give back and volunteer my time to the MLCF since they have greatly assisted me in paying for my college tuition. As an intern I will promote this organization and their fundraisers in the hope that I can get more people and/or companies involved to help in raising money for the scholarships.

1. **Reflection & Dissemination**

I will be reflecting on my experience as a Marvin Lewis Community Fund intern by creating a blog. I will first give a short background on how I became involved with the MLCF and in what ways I will be involved with this organization. I will also make posts to my blog weekly with updates on what I have done that week and explain in what ways I am helping my community. I hope that creating this blog will help me in reflecting on my experiences and that by reflecting, I will be able to put my best effort into serving others. I will connect by blog to my learning portfolio by creating a page with the link so I can show others what I am doing.

Through my blog, I want to demonstrate how this experience is related to my academic goals. Therefore I will reflect on my experience of working with various people, and how they affect me personally. I hope to grow as a person through my interaction with others so I will be best prepared for when I become a nurse.

1. **Advisor (list the person’s name, title, and contact information)**

Amanda Mette, Director of Special Projects & Marketing Manager, (513) 381-5437, amette@marvinlewis.org

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

I will be working part time as a volunteer intern for the Marvin Lewis Community Fund. I began working on May 14st and will continue through the middle of August. I will be working 3 days a week for a total of 15-20 hours each week this summer. I will also be helping out at events run by the organization such as the Marvin Lewis Gold Classic. I will be volunteering a lot of my time is summer to the MLCF instead of working a paid job. Therefore I am asking for the Honors Program to grant me $1,250 to assist me in paying for my college tuition. I would greatly appreciate any assistance that I can receive.