



**IOBTC 2016 at  
University of Winchester  
July 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Submission Template**

**SUBMISSION GUIDANCE**

- \* Remove all identifying properties from this document \**
- \* All files must be saved in PDF format \**
- \*Please include ALL supplementary text at the end of this document\**
- \*Only one document should be submitted\**

**Submission Template for the 2016 IOBTC  
International Teaching Conference for Management Educators**

**1) Title of Proposal:**

Encouraging student learning through partnerships with nonprofit organizations: Team projects

**2) Abstract:**

Come and learn about ways to *involve students* in utilizing skills they develop in management-related courses to help community organizations. Best practices towards initiating local partnerships between students and nonprofit organizations will be discussed, as will the benefits of including service-learning or applied projects in your courses. Project-based learning can aid in building students' motivation levels as well as the meaningfulness of our course content while providing relevant student experiences with actual organizations. Additionally, specific examples of actual student projects will be provided towards the goal of understanding how these partnerships can work best in your courses.

**3) Keywords:**

*Use three or four keywords to describe your session.*

Service-learning, project-based learning, nonprofit organizations, partnerships

**4) Format**

Activity or exercise

General discussion session

## 5) Time Requested:

- 20 Minutes  
 30 Minutes  
 60 Minutes

## 6) Planning Details:

*Does your session have any special requirements for space or materials?*

No special requirements are needed.

## 7) Learning Objectives or Goals for the Session:

*What are 2-4 specific learning outcomes that participants will get from your session?*

1. Participants will learn about ways to *involve students* in utilizing their skills they develop in management-related courses to help community organizations.
2. After the session, participants will have at their disposal best practices towards initiating partnerships in their community between the students and nonprofit organizations.
3. Participants will also learn about the benefits of including service-learning or applied projects in their management or industrial-organizational psychology courses.

## 8) Management or Teaching Topics:

*Describe what management and/or teaching topics are relevant to your session, and why. Please include theoretical, disciplinary, or theoretical foundations that will help reviewers understand how your ideas fit within the broader field of management.*

This proposed session is unique in that it will provide strategies for engaging students in a wide range of management topics through the use of service learning/applied projects. These projects can be built around the core structure of any management-related course. During this session, I will describe projects that my students have done towards developing professional packets of best practices for a nonprofit organization in the New England, USA area. This specific nonprofit organization indicated the below list are all issues for which they wanted current empirical-based information. Partnerships between local organizations (especially nonprofits) allows for a mutually beneficial opportunity for students and organizations in that small organizations that typically do not have the funds to hire consultants about management practices have the ability to learn about research-based best practices and students have the chance to utilize the knowledge they obtain in the classroom to a larger extent than traditional classroom assignments can offer. Research across many education settings has shown students' motivation levels as well as that both perceived relevance of course content and meaningfulness can be improved through project-based learning in general (Fernandes, Mesquita, Flores, & Lima, 2014; Kanigolla, Cudney, & Corns,

2013; Tobias, Campbell, & Greco, 2015). This may be improved even further when given the opportunity to share this knowledge with an organization in need. Management-related topics which were the basis for projects created by teams of students are listed below.

1. Gender diversity, especially in regards to management
2. Training on technology; understanding how to encourage and motivate older workers to use technology whom are unfamiliar with it
3. Cultural diversity awareness
4. Improving communication in the workplace
5. Understanding person-job fit
6. Providing feedback to subordinates

## **9) Session Description and Plan:**

*What will you actually do in this session? What activities will you facilitate, how long will they take, and how will participants be involved? Reviewers will be evaluating how well the time request matches the activities you'd like to do, and the extent you can reasonably accomplish the session's goals. Reviewers will also be looking for how you are engaging the participants in the session. Include a timeline for your session.*

1. Discussion time for *participants to explain* why they are interested in a session regarding student-nonprofit partnerships. This will allow me as the presenter to have an idea of what the participants plan to get out of the session: 3 minutes
2. Provide clear and specific strategies for initiating partnerships in local communities: 5 minutes
3. Explain my use of partnership-based applied projects in management and industrial-organizational psychology related courses: 10 minutes

While doing step 3 above, I'll pass out best practices packets (actual packets created by teams of students and given to partner organizations) and examples of student presentations (in printed PowerPoint format) so participants in the session can see examples of student work with nonprofits while I am explaining these projects verbally.

4. Explain next steps towards even more meaningful future partnerships and wrap-up (including engaging participants in a time of questions): 2 minutes

## **10) For Activities and Exercises:**

*Attach any materials needed to run the activity and debriefing questions. Evidence for effectiveness may also be included.*

N/A

## **11) Implications for Teaching or for Teachers:**

*What is the contribution of your session?*

The contribution of this session is to motivate educators to engaged students in service or project-learning opportunities with local nonprofit organizations by collaborating with nonprofits as a significant aspect of a management-related course. Additionally, this session will provide tools to actually implement these projects as well as providing concrete student examples to encourage educators to begin creating their ideas about utilizing these meaningful projects in their own courses.

## **12) Application to Conference Theme:**

How does your session fit with the overall IOBTC theme of *Elevating Aspirations*?

This session appears to be a natural fit this year, especially as related to the first two subthemes of elevating aspirations in the classroom and elevating aspirations in the wider student experience. The purpose of this session is to encourage other educators to develop meaningful and relevant partnerships with local nonprofit organizations towards the end goal of inspiring students to make use of the knowledge they are learning in management courses by putting it to practice in a way that is useful to the community around them. This initiates a deeper level of learning and likely a more profound impact on their curiosity as well as overall student experience than would a more traditional assignment solely housed within the context of the classroom. The goal both with my session and the theme of this year's IOBTC is to enable students to have experiences within their education that not only align with what they learn in the classroom but that more importantly motivate them to want to seek out more information AND experiences later. Instilling a sense of urgency towards sharing their knowledge with the community in need is essential in elevating students to a world beyond the classroom. I am enthusiastic about this year's *elevating aspirations* theme as it is closely linked to my goals within management and industrial-organizational psychology education.

## **13) Unique Contribution to IOBTC:**

*Have you presented the work in this proposal before? If so, how will it be different? Is this proposal under current review somewhere else? If so, please explain. How will your proposal be different for the IOBTC conference?*

I have never presented this work prior and it is not currently under review anywhere else. This session topic seems to closely align with the objectives and current theme of the IOBTC which is why I felt it was relevant to submit this year.

## 14) References and/or Additional Materials:

The nonprofit involved in the partnership explained throughout my proposal is the **National Able Network**, focusing specifically on the New Hampshire, USA division. This organization's main purpose is to provide low income individuals age 55+ with the opportunity to build additional skills relevant to obtaining new career pathways.

Link to their website: <http://www.nationalable.org/>

### References:

- Fernandes, S., Mesquita, D., Flores, M.A., & Lima, R.M. (2014). Engaging students in learning: Findings from a study of project-led education. *European Journal of Engineering Education*, 39, 55-67.
- Kanigolla, D., Cudney, E.A., & Corns, S.M. (2013). Employing project-based learning in six sigma education. *The Journal for Quality and Participation*, 36, 34-38.
- Tobias, E.S., Campbell, M.R., & Greco, P. (2015). *Music Educators Journal*, 102, 39-47.