

Jordan Holloway, Wins 2012-2013 Outstanding EXL Student Award

The Outstanding EXL Student Award is given annually to a student who holds a distinguished record of service in the EXL Scholars Program. As part of the Honors Strategic Management class, Jordan Holloway led a team of students in a project for a Nashville company exploring the possibility of their company entering the Chinese construction market. According to Professor John Lipinski, "Jordan went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our client received a world class end product. Jordan did an excellent job of synthesizing his team's background research and helping his teammates to identify the key problems that would need to be addressed in order to enter the Chinese market." When the team discovered that most of the research conducted on the Chinese market was only available in Chinese, Mr. Holloway recruited a Chinese exchange student to help. Professor Lipinski added, "With Jordan's encouragement, the exchange student became an integral member of the team and even enabled the team to set up Skype chats with Chinese construction executives where the exchange student served as an interpreter." At the conclusion of the project, company officials reported that the team's end product was on par with those of professional consultants. In reflecting on his experience, Holloway stated, "the classroom must reach beyond the lectern and engage students on another level. Experiential learning meets this need as it offers students the opportunity to not only listen, but use their knowledge in hands-on tasks reflective of the real world, speaking to them with much more engagement. This involvement allows students to better comprehend and retain those hard skills necessary for the real world, as well as gain exercise in the soft skills such as teamwork, leadership, and communication. Per my time in Dr. Lipinski's class, EXL brought me out of the narrow perspective of the lecture and into a much broader and engaging learning environment."