Global Competency Development without Travel



Eleanor Clifton is a fourth-year chemical engineering student at Purdue University. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her plans to study abroad at the University of Magdeburg, Germany and work abroad with her co-op company, Eastman Chemical Company, have been altered. Instead, she is completing the Global Engineering Alliance for Research and Education (GEARE) program requirements virtually and is involved as the Recruitment Director for GEARE Ambassadors.



William Gerstner is a fifth-year computer engineering student at Purdue University. He studied abroad at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and completed a six-month international rotation with his co-op company R.A Jones/Coesia in Bologna, Italy. He has been involved in the GEARE Ambassadors for the past three years and is currently serving as president.



Callista Ohnemus is a senior mechanical engineering student at Purdue University. She has conducted a four-month quality control internship at a sugar factory in Nicaragua and studied abroad at the Universitat Politecnica de Valencia in Spain. She now leads the Spanish conversations group for Purdue's GEARE program and is pursuing jobs focused on humanitarian and sustainability projects in the global workforce.



Joe Tort has 20 years of experience in international education. In his current role as associate director of the Office of Professional Practice, Joe overseas the campus-wide co-op program and the Global Engineering Alliance for Research and Education (GEARE) program. His work involves building connections between university and industry partners, advising and mentoring students, and teaching professional skills and intercultural training courses. He is a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory.