

# SHORT-TERM TRAVEL ABROAD TO UGANDA AND GUATEMALA: A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

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## *A RESEARCH PRESENTATION*

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### **ABSTRACT**

We take a cumulative case studies approach to explore transformative learning in the areas of service learning, global competencies, and leadership through travel abroad course trips to Uganda (May 2016, 2017) and Guatemala (March 2017). These courses took students on service learning trips to educate and develop their knowledge and experiences related to the Central Six learning tenets at UCO. Student's primary emphasis for these experiences is the completion of a service focused project in partnership with a local organization. In addition to these projects, students engage in cultural learning activities and programs focused on local customs and experiences. In Uganda, students partnered with St. Monica's Tailoring School/Sewing Hope Foundation to support their educational and civic efforts in the communities of Gulu and Atiak. In Guatemala, students partnered with Habitat with Humanity's Global Village program. In both tours with different students, we assess whether they exhibited indications of transformative learning by conducting a post experience, transformative learning assessment tool and student journaling. We compare the trips to better assess their transformative potential for students. Our research is valuable as little to no work has examined pairing transformative learning and short-term student travel abroad. We do find indications of transformation in in students on both trips, especially through Global & Cultural or intercultural awareness.

### **SELECT REFERENCES**

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