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Taylor University faculty member receives grant to support local immigrants



facilitate critical service learning.”

UPLAND, IN – Kiplangat “Chip” Cheruiyot Bii , director of Taylor World Outreach, was awarded a Faculty Fellowship grant worth \$5,000 from [Indiana Campus Compact](#), a partnership of higher education institutions that prepares college students to advance the public good. Bii will work on a collaborative research project with other Faculty Fellows from across Indiana, as well as an individual project titled “Mapping immigration locally to

With his project, Bii aims to create the infrastructure to help students support immigrants in their local communities. Every year, about 200 Taylor students participate in overseas trips through programs like Lighthouse Service Trips and Spring Break Missions. Students serve overseas communities through a wide variety of projects and return from these trips with stories of being overwhelmed and transformed by what they see. However, according to Bii, students often perceive the issues they experience in other countries to be particular to those localities, and have difficulty seeing how those experiences can inform their community engagement locally.

“Our current international service-learning trips allow students to come face to face with issues of immigration abroad, but they have limited exposure to immigrants locally,” Bii said. “This project will create room to restructure assignments in the class taken by students in preparation for their international trips. Assignments will be reimagined to include aspects analyzing root causes of global

displacement and local resettlement. Students will learn to connect their international experiences to local community needs.”

Bii and his students will work closely with Immigrant Connect, a national organization with a local presence in Marion County, to help grow their programming areas and build meaningful relationships with their staff and program participants.

In his letter of support, Dr. Skip Trudeau, Vice President for Student Development at Taylor University said, “Chip has recognized the tremendous personal impact of the international experiences on the participating students, but he has also realized the challenges returning students have in translating their international experiences into local context and response. Through the fellowship and partnership with Immigrant Connect, Chip will build the pathways for engaging the newly-inspired students in local service opportunities. Supported by this faculty fellowship, the improvements to Taylor World Outreach programming have the potential to optimize student experiences for a life-long sense of civic responsibility and empowerment.”

Taylor University is adding \$1,500 in matching funds to the \$5,000 Faculty Fellows grant from Indiana Campus Compact. The university’s contribution highlights its commitment to leveraging its resources to benefit the community.

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About Indiana Campus Compact

Indiana Campus Compact is a partnership of Indiana’s public, private, and community college higher education institutions focused on advocating, implementing, and improving service engagement, so that students graduate as well-informed, engaged and productive members of society, who are fully enabled to provide leadership and service that advances the public good in their communities. For more information, please visit www.indianacampuscompact.org.