



Conference & Event Schedule

April 9, 2026

Conference Schedule

Registration (8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)

Location: Discovery Park Entrance Hall

Amenities: Coffee and snacks provided by The Willow Tree Catering

Oral Presentations (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Location: Reelfoot Room, Learning Center, and Tennessee Room

Lunch, Keynote/Workshop, & Poster Session (12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Keynote/Workshop: “From Vision to Voyage: A Workshop on How to Design and Launch a Faculty-Led Education-Abroad Program”

Presenters: Anthony R. Delmond, Joseph A. Ostenson, and James Yuan

Location: Reelfoot Room

Amenities: Lunch provided by The Willow Tree Catering

Oral Presentations

TIME	ROOM	SESSION
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Reelfoot Room	Beyond the Classroom: The Opportunity Engine and Experiential Learning in Online Business Education <i>Elmer Ragus & Tina Camba, Athens State University</i>
	Learning Center	A Rural Ministry Helping Adults with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities Meet Their Vocational Goals: A Case Study of the Canteen and Trading Post <i>Julie Harstin, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Tennessee Room	My Therapy Called Sport Management <i>Jason Earley, East Tennessee State University</i>
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Reelfoot Room	Understanding NIL Behavior: An Empirical Analysis of Representation, Financial Literacy, and Fair Market Value Perceptions <i>Laura Hatch & Nell Gullett, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Learning Center	More Than a New Projector: Adding AI to the Educator’s Toolbox <i>Amanda Batts, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Tennessee Room	Managing the Moment, 5 Experiential Strategies for Better Classroom Management <i>Anthony Branch, Independent Educator</i>

TIME	ROOM	SESSION
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Reelfoot Room	Comparative Analysis of Online and In Person Context Showing Graduate Students' Cycles of Growth in Decision-Making Through Experiential Learning <i>Anna Sule, Tennessee Tech University</i>
	Learning Center	Learning by Doing: Integrating Service Learning to Build Early Professional Identity in a Freshman Seminar <i>Bryan Sandor, Lily Pharris, & Olivia Fernandez, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Tennessee Room	Online Research Courses Can Work! Strategies for Teaching Courses to Master's-level Students in Counseling and Educational Research <i>Harriette Spiegel, Derrick Shepard, & Covington Hanley, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Reelfoot Room	From Classroom to Interview: AI Enhanced Training and Certification Pathways That Strengthen Student Employability <i>Elmer Ragus, Tina Camba, & Cyndi Lovelace, Athens State University</i>
	Learning Center	From Theory to Community Impact: Using the Data Cycle and SPARK Symposium to Deepen Assessment Learning <i>Darcie Finch & Joe Fitzgerald, Belmont University</i>
	Tennessee Room	Using the Campus as an Organizational Lab: A Scavenger Hunt Approach to Experiential Learning <i>April Rowsey, Union University</i>
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Reelfoot Room	An Experiential Framework for Financial Statement Analysis and AI Adoption Risks in Corporate Financial Reporting <i>Shannon Chi, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Learning Center	Rooted in Community: The Power of Service Learning for Rural High School Students <i>Austin Ferrell, Mary Giles, Austin Brooks, & Ali Harris, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Tennessee Room	From Observation to Optimization: The Waste Walk Experience <i>Lorie Jones, University of Tennessee Southern</i>
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Learning Center	Documentary Film Making as a Tool for Student Engagement <i>Amanda Burkhart, University of Tennessee at Martin</i>
	Tennessee Room	Engage Every Step: SEL Meets Experiential Learning <i>Simyka Carlton, Cumberland University</i>

Workshop/Keynote

From Vision to Voyage: A Workshop on How to Design and Launch a Faculty-Led Education-Abroad Program

Overview

Education abroad is among the most transformative experiences a university can offer to its undergraduate students, yet many faculty who wish to lead these types of experiences are either apprehensive or unsure of where to start. This hands-on workshop demystifies the entire process of developing an education abroad program, including choice of destination, development of curriculum and interactive site visits, and student recruitment. Drawing on presenters' experiences developing programs for economics, agriculture, the humanities, and the sciences, this workshop will leave participants with practical tools and a concrete action plan for launching their own.

Workshop Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- **Plan the core elements of a study program**, including identifying appropriate locations and shaping meaningful learning experiences.
- **Develop the practical framework for implementation**, such as partnerships, logistics, and budgeting considerations.
- **Understand the steps needed to launch and sustain a program**, including recruitment and institutional approval processes.

Presenter Backgrounds

Joseph A. Ostenson is the Interim Director of the Center for Global Engagement and Experience at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has developed and curated several long-standing travel programs and is currently the lead administrator for travel programs at his institution.

Anthony R. Delmond is the Director of the Tom E. Hendrix Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise and an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has developed and led full-semester study abroad trips as well as shorter international and domestic travel studies. James Yuan is an incoming Assistant Professor of Marketing at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He is currently developing his first faculty-led travel study program and bring a firsthand perspective on the questions and challenges faculty face when initially embarking on this process.

Poster Presentations

Supporting Professional Nursing Career Decision-Making Through Experiential Learning and Peer Mentoring in an RN-BSN Program

Maria Steele, Athens State University

Beyond Borders and Textbooks: Infographics and Global Mindset Development

Bradley Childs, Belmont University

Adulting Isn't in the Syllabus: A Peer-Led Freshman Life Skills Program

Diana Watson, Charley Crawford, & Bethany Mayers, University of Tennessee at Martin

Can \$40,000 Change a Career Path?

Diana Watson & Sidney Myers, University of Tennessee at Martin

Beyond the Blisters: Why Vesicular Disease Monitoring Matters

Diana Watson & Audrie Washburn, University of Tennessee at Martin

From Planning to Plate: Student Leadership in Community Food Outreach

Diana Watson & Luke Stepney, University of Tennessee at Martin

Bridging the Gap: Reviving Agricultural Awareness Through School-Based Animal Programs

Diana Watson & Katelyn Hood, University of Tennessee at Martin

Agriculture in Action: Exploring Diverse Internship Experiences in an Undergraduate Agribusiness Program

Jessica Crews Garcia & Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin

From Expectations to Experience: Designing and Evaluating a Costa Rica Agricultural Travel Study Program

Jessica Crews Garcia & Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin

Literature Analysis of Common Barriers Canine Owners Face Regarding Heartworm Prevention Protocol

Caroline Cloud, University of Tennessee at Martin

How Winter Blankets Impact a Horse's Temperature and Humidity

Zoe Marshall, University of Tennessee at Martin

HS2HC Grant: Using Hands On Science Experiments to Teach High School Students the Power of Learning by Doing

Simpfronia Taylor, Jacen Moore, & Rebecca Reynolds, University of Tennessee at Martin

Increasing Understanding and Knowledge Application: Utilizing the Creation of Pre-Surgery Course to Enhance Student Ability to Perform in a Subsequent Course

Ambria White, University of Tennessee at Martin

Growing Data Skills: An Experiential Approach to Teaching Machine Learning in Agriculture Programs

Rachna Tewari, University of Tennessee at Martin & Jagadeeshwari Mandapalli, St. Louis University

Elevated C-reactive Protein and Mortality Risk among COPD Patients

Claret Onukogu, University of Tennessee at Martin

Not Just for the Birds: H5N1's Emerging Threat to Cats

Eleanor Freed & Diana Watson, University of Tennessee at Martin

Growing the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders: Tennessee Young Farmers and Ranchers Program

Texanna Steel, Jessica Crews Garcia, & Joey Mehlhorn, University of Tennessee at Martin

Patterns of Study Behaviors Among Undergraduate College Students and the Resulting Academic Outcomes

Haley Goff, University of Tennessee at Martin

AgrAbility in Tennessee: A Case Study

Riley McClain, University of Tennessee at Martin

Virtual Reality, Real Confidence: Transforming Communication Skills with Experiential Learning

Kim Roberts, Athens State University

General Call for Papers

The Experiential Learning and Leadership Institute Educational Journal is the official publication of the Experiential Learning and Leadership Institute, and is dedicated to research, practice, advocacy, education, and policy regarding experiential learning in education.

The journal publishes empirical, theoretical, methodological, and practice-oriented articles and book reviews covering topics relevant to educators. Consideration is given to empirical articles using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodologies.

We encourage articles that:

- contribute to knowledge of experiential learning through research and examination of methodology;
- develop and advance theories pertinent to experiential learning;
- promote the education and training of educators to incorporate experiential learning;
- attend to issues of experiential learning and policy issues related to educators; and
- utilize quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method approaches.

Additional information about the journal, including guidance for authors, is available on the Experiential Learning and Leadership Institute homepage:

<https://www.utm.edu/visit-ut-martin/experiential-learning-leadership-institute.php/>

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically through our submission portal:

<https://ellieducationalblog.wordpress.com/>

We hope you will consider submitting your research to Experiential Learning and Leadership Institute Educational Journal.



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