SUU Student Completes EDGE Global Project in Japan

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Senior student, Tyson R. Moosman, of Southern Utah University has completed his EDGE Global Project as of August 2016. His EDGE Global Project consisted of studying abroad in Japan as an exchange student for one full year. This amazing opportunity was made available to Tyson thanks to an exchange program between SUU and Meiji University in Tokyo. Tyson was the first student from SUU to attend Meiji University as he worked on his EDGE Global Project.

When asked about his purpose in Japan Tyson said, "with my EDGE Global Project the goal was to contribute to greater international awareness, knowledge, and/or empathy for Japan by sharing in the culture as I learned Japanese. To achieve this, I had to become a global citizen. A global citizen involves becoming aware that the world is much broader than just the limited scope of one's local community. Everyone naturally becomes a national citizen entirely by accident when born, so in order to voluntarily become a global citizen I had to develop a sense of belonging to a broader world community. Belonging to a world community involves taking into consideration, and acting in a way that builds upon, the values and practices of said community. Japan was the perfect place to discover my global citizen potential."

While in Japan, Tyson studied about written Japanese and immersed himself in the culture for his EDGE Global Project. Meiji University offers courses in Japanese studies that helped Tyson learn about 1,000 Kanji (Japanese characters) as well as learn more about the country and its people.

Tyson took advantage of many opportunities to interact with the locals and participate in cultural activities. One of his favorite activities involved traveling to the UNESCO World Heritage site shrines and temples of Nikko. The UNESCO World Heritage site of Nikko consists of beautiful natural surroundings and 103 ancient buildings and structures.

Southern Utah University's EDGE program is a required curriculum for all students that attend the school to graduate. It allows students to create unique experiential learning outcomes outside the realms of their normal schoolwork. This affords students an opportunity to accomplish something on their own time while planning, tracking, recording, and reflecting on their progress.

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Tyson R. Moosman

http://www.reclusemoose.com/

tysonmoosman@suumail.net