Honors Enrichment Scholarship Award Report
Nikki Buhrdorf
First-Year Experience Conference
Orlando, Florida
This past month I had the honor of attending the First-Year Experience Conference in Orlando, Florida. This experience contributed to my education in many ways including the development of my thesis work, learning about upcoming practices in the field, professional development, and providing networking opportunities.

There were many sessions throughout the conference regarding the information surrounding a peer supervision model. My senior thesis will focus on the effects of peer supervision and the influence on the supervisee’s perception of self-efficacy. I learned about the few programs that utilize this model, including the University of South Carolina (USC). I had the opportunity to connect with the Assistant Director of First-Year Programs at USC to learn about her work in peer supervision. I also requested her advice on my own thesis work in this subject. She gave me many different possible avenues of research and improvements that I will continue to pursue.

I also had the opportunity to talk with several Ph.D. students about their work on developing self-efficacy questionnaires. This is a method that I am considering to gather data for my own thesis. I am very thankful that I was able to connect with these individuals and gather their advice and expertise. I will also continue to stay in contact with them as my research continues.

Every day I attended between five to seven sessions about various practices in the student affairs field. One of the specific topics I especially enjoyed learning about was the benefit of having first-year seminars on campus for all first-year students. I learned about potential curriculum topics, implementation, and organizational structure for seminars. In addition to this information and more on other various topics, I shared these data and materials with the Orientation and Transition Programs office at Colorado State to continue to share this knowledge and bring it to our university.

These are several specific examples of how my experience at the First-Year Experience Conference impacted my current education and the pursuit of the continuation of my education in the Student Affairs and Higher Education
field. I am incredible thankful to have had this experience. Thank you for helping make this possible.