

A Collaborative Fellowship Model for Promoting Global Mindedness in



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Overview

The Tyler Center for Global Studies, established by William H. Tyler III, strives to promote international research opportunities for undergraduates. Florida State University (FSU) assumed the role of coordinating institution from Bank of America, who had previously constructed the grant program parameters and disbursed the program funds.

In the pilot funding cycle (2022-2024), the Tyler Center partnered with seven US institutions and was able to fund 37 students to research and study abroad. While the fellowship program expanded international research opportunities to a wide population of students, evaluation of the program's efficacy highlights areas needing improvement.

By refining fellowship expectations, increasing cohort engagement, and expanding the reach of the Tyler Center, FSU plans to enhance the program's impact on undergraduate research, aiming to empower more students to become global leaders through international research opportunities.

Fellowship Structure

Through a comprehensive selection process, the Tyler Center invites colleges and universities to submit a funding proposal for the Tyler Center for Global Studies Grant Program. Recipients are selected based on a number of criteria, including level of undergraduate research activity, engagement in global education, and geographic location.

The institutions are then required to disburse Tyler Center research awards to undergraduates committed to conducting research abroad. These undergraduates are referred to as "Tyler Fellows".

The Fellowship Program requires Tyler Fellows to design and carry out their research with the mentorship of a faculty member at their institution. At the conclusion of their research experience, Tyler Fellows present their experiences and findings at a Virtual Summit.

Figure 1. 2022-2024 Tyler Fellows



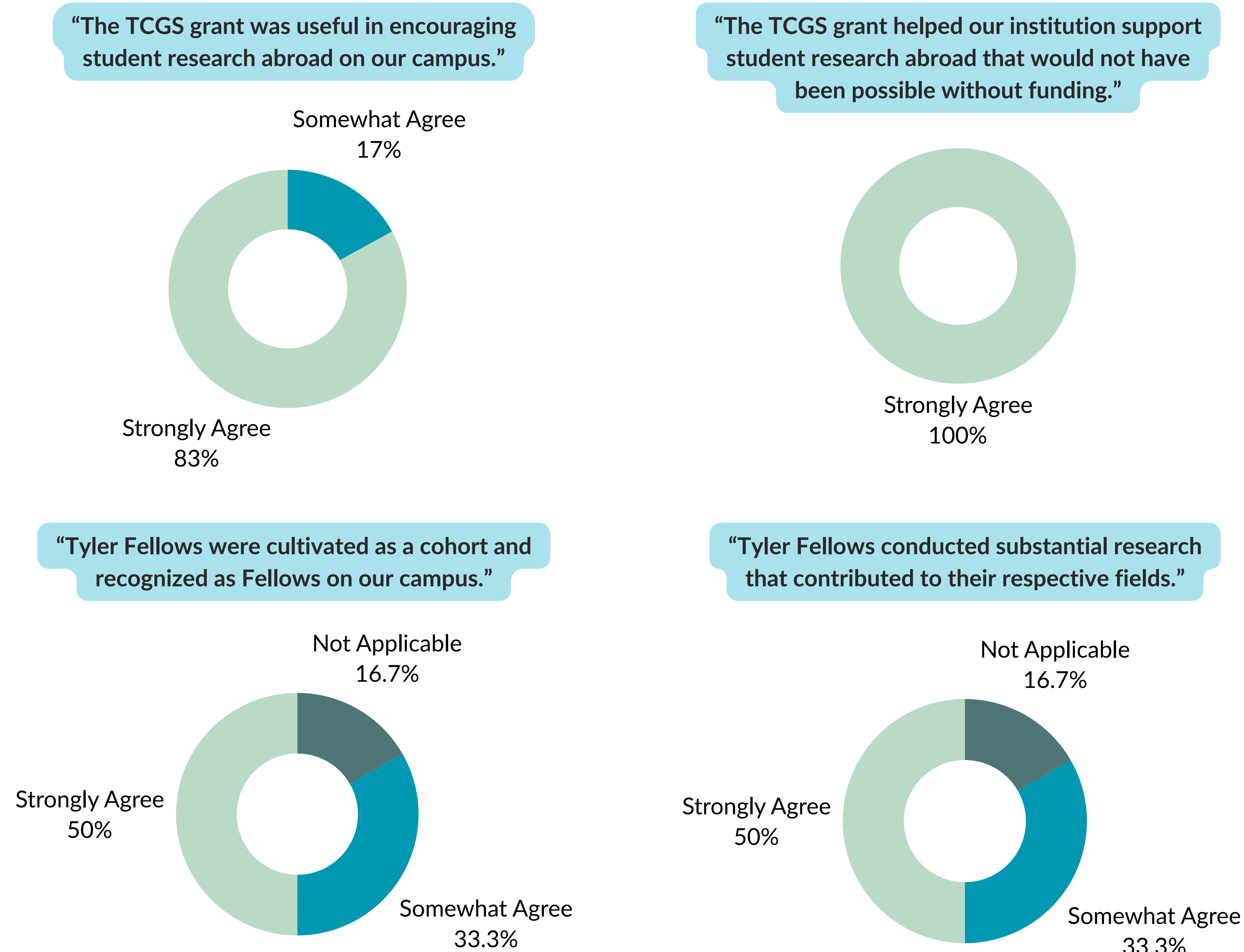
Tyler Fellows Yasmeen Hanon (left) and Michelle Evangelista (center) and Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez (right). Hanon studied media bias in Jordan; Michelle studied environmental justice in Mexico; Angilmarie studied the White Rose in Germany.

Figure 2. Map of Tyler Fellows Abroad



In the 2022-24 funding cycle, seven institutions funded a total of 37 Tyler Fellows' travel to 17 countries: Argentina, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador (and Galápagos Islands), Germany, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Spain, and South Korea.

Figure 3. Selected Results from the Partner Institution Survey



Evaluation

Through survey methodology, FSU aimed to answer the following questions:
 Q1. How did schools utilize their Tyler Center funds and engage their respective Tyler Fellows?
 Q2. What kind of research experiences did Tyler Fellows participate in?
 Q3. What effects did Tyler Center funding have on institutional- and student-level outcomes?

The pilot funding round awarded \$120,000 to seven partner schools: Austin Community College, Florida State University, California State University-Monterey Bay, Louisiana State University, State Center Community College District (CA), University of California San Diego, and University of Missouri-Kansas City.

- Fellowship activities ranged from study abroad experiences to group and independent research opportunities.
- Student research awards ranged between \$1,000 - \$5,000.

Students reported positive impacts upon completing their Tyler Fellowship.

- 86% of Tyler Fellows felt their experience contributed to their career development and professional growth.
- 71% of Tyler Fellows felt their experience enhanced their intercultural competencies.

Institutional responses indicate a mismatch of program expectations and results.

- 50% of respondents reported that Tyler Fellows conducted substantial independent research.
- 50% of respondents reported that Tyler Fellows were recognized on campus as "Tyler Fellows".

Discussion and Future Directions

FSU assumed the coordinating role at the evaluation stage of the pilot funding round. Consequently, FSU found it challenging to collect data and engage with the Tyler Fellows and their respective institutions.

These issues will be ameliorated with FSU's involvement in the upcoming funding round. Our efforts are prioritized on:

- Strengthening program parameters and expectations to ensure Tyler Fellows are conducting rigorous independent research.
- Expanding the Tyler Center's reach from seven schools to ten, partnering with public and private two- and four-year institutions.
- Strategically enhancing the diversity of institutions and Fellows included in the network.
- Proactively engaging with Tyler Fellows before, during, and after their research experiences.
- Hosting the Virtual Research Summit to showcase Tyler Fellows' experiences.

The Tyler Center will launch its 2025 Request for Funding Proposals in June 2024. To learn more about partnership and funding opportunities, please contact tylercenter@fsu.edu or visit our website: tylercenter.fsu.edu.