



## For Immediate Release January 17, 2017

### NSE Recognizes the Accomplishments of Michael Kaufman

#### The Award

The National Student Exchange (NSE) is pleased to announce its Student Achievement Awards. These awards recognize students who demonstrate the best use of their exchange participation. While priority is given to academic accomplishments, consideration is also given to social welfare service, contribution to the campus or community environment, and unusual or creative use of time while on exchange. Those acknowledged as honorable mention receive a NSE portfolio.

#### NSE Student Achievement Award Honorable Mention: Michael Kaufman University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez to University of Colorado Colorado Springs Academic Year 2015-2016 | Major: Accounting/Industrial Management

*I was on exchange at Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA this past academic year. There, I immediately acquired a job doing marketing for the National Student Exchange program. Shortly thereafter, I became president of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) student chapter, where I not only reinstated the chapter at a national level, but also doubled student membership and flew in a guest speaker from Puerto Rico to give a conference on cultural intelligence. One of the most important aspects of an exchange, for me, is to make Puerto Rico shine in a positive light wherever I go, and these opportunities allowed me to showcase my beautiful island. I was able to convince the first ever UCCS student to come to the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez (UPRM) on her exchange; she is absolutely loving it. In my second semester of my exchange, I became a Spanish tutor in the campus' language department, where I discovered my love for languages and passion for education. I began learning American Sign Language on my free time. I was able to use my connections with the language department to create a language testing process for prospective candidates to Puerto Rico on NSE.*

*Spanish students were exposed to a Puerto Rican accent for the first time in their lives, and my host coordinators got to learn a bit more about my home and my culture whenever we would converse. The biggest beneficiaries of my exchange were my classmates, who worked alongside an islander and struggled with him through thick and thin. They taught me about their daily lives. What was normal to them fascinated me, like hailstorms, digging their cars out of snow and altitude sickness. In contrast, I could see jealous faces while I spoke about Caribbean beaches and Puerto Rican food, but we laughed all the same. To say my life has changed is an understatement. My life will forever be divided into pre-NSE and post-NSE. I am a more courageous, stronger, better version of myself thanks to National Student Exchange and its unique opportunity.*

#### The Organization

The National Student Exchange provides study away opportunities to students enrolled at its 170 member colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Established in 1968, NSE has provided exchange opportunities to more than 110,000 students. NSE is a study away program that fits into university initiatives for globalization, diversity and engagement. It is a program that takes students out of their comfort zones and challenges them to experience life and learning from a different point of view. See [nse.org](http://nse.org) for additional information.

#### Additional Information

Debra Sanborn, PhD, President  
National Student Exchange  
2613 Northridge Parkway #106  
Ames, Iowa 50010  
515.450.5529  
[info@nse.org](mailto:info@nse.org)

**Home Campus NSE Contact**  
Iliá Vélez  
NSE Coordinator  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez  
787.265.3896  
[iliab.velez@upr.edu](mailto:iliab.velez@upr.edu)

**Host Campus NSE Contact**  
Margie Oldham  
NSE Coordinator  
University of Colorado Colorado  
Springs  
719.255.4552  
[moldham@uccs.edu](mailto:moldham@uccs.edu)