

Dear Application Review Board,

The [REDACTED] and the following [REDACTED] are the leading physics education conferences in North America. [REDACTED] in particular, is the only conference dedicated solely to Physics Education Research for the entire year. My attendance at both conferences will enable me to further contribute to the field.

Beginning January 2017, I switched specialties from particle physics to Physics Education Research (PER). I chose to make this transition, despite being well into my third year of graduate school, so that my personal passion for education and outreach could align with my professional interest in physics. As a newcomer to the field of PER, it is in my best interest to attend this conference, not only to quickly educate myself on the current state of the field, but also to begin building my professional network within the PER community. Nearly every physics education researcher will be in attendance at [REDACTED]

While I am new to the field of PER, my passion and experience in physics education is not- this is a leading reason as to why I switched specialties. From 2012 to 2014, I was a high school physics teacher with Teach For America. It was during this time that I came to understand the importance of an excellent education and strove to provide that for my students. In particular, I am interested in making STEM fields, specifically physics, accessible to young women and underserved communities. I seek to attend the [REDACTED] to enable me to stay on the forefront of this important work.

The Drexel [REDACTED] group has been in existence since January of this year and I am one of its first graduate students. As such, I will be introducing Drexel to the world of [REDACTED] and by presenting a poster at [REDACTED] I will be intruding the new [REDACTED] group from Drexel to the [REDACTED] community at large. This will be the first time a graduate student has presented at [REDACTED] from Drexel.

My advisor did not plan to have graduate students until fall. While it wouldn't be impossible to fund my travel to [REDACTED] the funding would have to come from his start-up grant. I would appreciate consideration for this subsidy to alleviate the unplanned expense.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]