

## **Original Work ISM Reflection/Self Assessment**

Closing out the first semester, there were definitely moments of stress, frustration, confusion, and accomplishment, while developing the Original Work. However, after working through interviews with professionals and getting to know the field of optometry in more detail, the Original Work seemed to naturally fall into place.

Looking back, the initial idea for the Original Work was to create an eyeglasses drive that would benefit students in need in Frisco, Texas. Even though this idea was more personal and was centered around giving back to the students of Frisco ISD, the idea itself was not feasible and brought up too many complications. After working through some logistics, my mentor and I agreed that a better place to start for the Original Work would be to alter who receives the glasses.

By having the eyeglasses drive connected with the McKinney Noon Lions Club, it is more accessible to collect glasses to send to people in Third World countries. By also having a target audience of elementary school students, the kids are able to give back and their parents are able to donate old glasses to a good cause. The goal for this drive is to hopefully implement the drive into at least ten FISD elementary schools. It would be amazing to come back to an annual drive in all elementary schools in FISD, even once I graduate.

Throughout ISM, connections and professional relationships were developed. Being able to communicate with other adults in the community, in order to make the eyeglasses drive happen, was necessary to ensure that the date was set and everything would hopefully run smoothly when the drive is executed. Additionally, being able to try to work on a project that will impact others beyond the years of ISM is rewarding on a personal level because a

lot of hard work, passion, and time goes into planning and developing a “never done before” eyeglasses drive in FISD elementary schools. Also, my mentor, Dr. Carey Brooks, and I have gotten along very well and we are both passionate to learn, help others, and give back to the community.

This past semester involved countless hours, interviews, phone calls, and planning, to get where the Original Work is today. By working with other organizations, elementary schools, my mentor, and other adults, the drive is set up for a successful execution in the Spring. Over the first half of ISM, majority of the goals were met in that consistency and effective communication truly helped organize the Original Work. Even though the Original Work had a late start, all requirements were met and personal deadlines were addressed on time.

What to expect in the next semester of ISM is the eyeglasses drive actually happening in at least ten FISD elementary schools. Additionally, traveling to Watauga, Texas and physically being able to count, package, and screen the glasses in early April. Not only has the first semester and the Original Work taught me important life skills such as cold calling, but both have taught me how to adapt, compromise, and reach out of my comfort zone. Being able to think and create something original can be challenging, however, the project in itself will bring many life experiences that any typical high school student would never witness in the classroom. ISM gives students the freedom to go out in the real world and experience reality. It offers students an environment where they can make as much out of the course as they would like, depending on their dedication, hard work, and commitment.