Purpose of the Project: To support the Office of Leadership & Service and the Office of Government & Community Affairs in assessing the needs of the local community, as well as enhancing the volunteer experiences of UT Tyler students.

Learning Objectives: (1) Gain a strong understanding of creating and administering a community needs assessment (2) Enhance communication skills through online and face-to-face interactions with community leaders; (3) Sharpen and develop skills in creating comprehensive action plans and recommendations.

Project: (1) Create (with support of professional staff) a community needs assessment; (2) Collaborate with local non-profits to administer the community needs assessment instrument; (3) compile data and make recommendations on what services/resources non-profits need, how UT Tyler may aid in meeting their needs; and how to enhance the volunteer experience of UT Tyler students.

Responsibilities: Creating a community needs assessment tool, analyzing data, tracking results, and recommending actions. The student will have the opportunity to meet and network with local non-profits and business leaders in the Tyler community. The student will report to the Coordinator for Leadership & Service, as well as have regular meetings with the Community Engagement Director.

Outcome: New strategies for reaching local non-profits and providing them with services and resources to better serve their populations/clients, as well as enhance the volunteer experiences of UT Tyler students.

The student will present their results to the Office of Leadership & Service and the Office of Government and Community Affairs, including action plans, recommendations, and proposed initiatives.