Lucas Frye, Senior in ACES, has served in many leadership roles, including ACES Student Council President and ACES student representative on the Provost’s Undergraduate Advisory Board. 2014-2015 also represents his second year as co-director of ExplorACES, a responsibility he has cherished. And as a crowning achievement to his leadership experiences on campus, Lucas is currently serving as Student Trustee, a role in which he represents the entire student body on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

Although he has enjoyed being involved in many different groups, Lucas mentions his involvement in ExplorACES as a being particularly meaningful. “ExplorACES is my favorite group that I have worked with on campus, and I have truly enjoyed learning about the wide-scale event planning process through it. Working alongside 12 other students who are truly invested in the organization, with their individual tasks in hand while at the same time working towards one common goal, is great experience at effective working relationships, communication, and leadership.”

Lucas has clear goals when it comes to getting engaged in activities outside of the classroom, saying “I am the type of person that likes to be involved in areas that truly have a purpose, with a defined task at hand and an end goal in mind that ultimately leads to a result.”

With regard to leadership in ACES, Lucas feel stated that “one of the greatest parts about ACES is that they empower students to be integrally involved in planning major events and responsibilities of the college.” As ACES Council President, ExplorACES Co-Director, and through other committees, he has personally helped make those aspects of the College better. Says Lucas, “I am humbled to have utilized those organizations as a way to give back to a College that has given so much to me from the great base education, to leadership development, and ultimately job placement.”

In his role on the Provost’s Undergraduate Advisory Board, Lucas was able to provide an ACES’ student perspective to many conversations that were had over the course of the 2013-2014 academic year. That experience, alongside his other leadership roles, prepared him well to step into the role of Student Trustee.

One of his goals is to establish a “cabinet” of student leaders to collaborate and communicate about the bigger university picture. Says Lucas, “I am optimistic about what can be accomplished by simply engaging regularly with student leaders, alumni, and administrators.”

Read more about his experience, and about other happenings in ACES, in ACES@Illinois.