Global Navigators Travel the World with BLSA Support

The students participated in programs in Europe, Africa, and Latin America with the support of almost $70,000 in financial aid from CIEE, the Boston Latin School Association and the Clough Center for Global Understanding.

Wendi Gjata, who is interested in marine ecology, spent a month on the Caribbean island of Bonaire, where she collected samples while snorkeling, did lab work and learned about the island’s habitat. “The program was a 10 out of 10,” stated Wendi, “the best decision ever.”

Several of the Global Navigator programs were language immersion. Edil Mohamed spent her time in Morocco, studying Arabic and the culture of Morocco, taking several excursion trips around the north African country.

Miles Dutzik Hendricks and Dasha Belobokova both participated in the Spanish language immersion program in Alicante, Spain. They lived with host families, took language classes every morning and went on excursions in the afternoon, where they were required to use and practice their Spanish. Both were surprised and delighted with their growth in listening comprehension and speaking confidence as a result of participating in the four week program.

Service learning was the focus of the programs that Danica Wong, South Africa, Darlelys Marrero and Crisbelys Melo, both Ghana, participated in. All three worked with young people and learned about the challenges and inequities faced by the students they engaged with. “The trip made me realize how lucky we are to have such positive support for education,” stated Danica.

Over the past 3 summers the BLS/CIEE partnership has sent 42 students abroad for summer programs.

Summer Search Students Travel

Eleven BLS students participated in Summer Search programs in the United States and globally this past summer. The two year experience places students at sites in the U.S. during the summer after grade 10 and allows them to participate in an international program after grade 11.

Senior John Khuc participated in Global Leadership Adventures in the Dominican Republic. He spent his time there working on sustainable environmental projects, specifically building fresh water storage tanks and community meeting spaces.

John said he enjoyed interacting with the locals and was impressed by the strong sense of community. He feels strongly about the value of the program stating, “People should do something international during their lives.”

Nicaragua was the service learning destination of Kirsten Granajo, who participated in the Global Glimpse program with Summer Search.

During her two week stay, she traveled to different communities where she visited education centers and provided English tutoring.

“I wanted the trip to provide me with exposure to a different country,” stated Kirsten, who traveled to China last spring with BLS. “I found working in the community to be challenging, but enjoyed the English tutoring.”

Faculty Explore Global PD

A dozen BLS faculty members participated in global professional development with Primary Source last school year, with the support of the BLSA and the Clough Center for Global Understanding.

Mr. Oakes, Mr. Osowiecki, Ms. Shipley and Ms. Webb participated in the Engaging Diverse Students and Families program. “I learned more about the cultures of students and their families as well as their attitudes towards school and education,” stated Mr. Osowiecki. “This helped me to better understand some of the challenges faced by my students.”

Mr. Chavero took a course on Ancient Civilizations. “The lectures were excellent and I learned some new things about early civilizations and empires.”

Chinese teacher Ms. Yang took a class on teaching culture in the Chinese language classroom and Mr. Gavin took a class on Turning Points in Latin American History.

Courses in African music and history were taken by Mr. Pitts, Mr. Long and Ms. Webb. Other teachers enrolled in courses on Chinese and Mesoamerican history.

All of these programs provide important professional development for teachers and support Latin School students in becoming engaged 21st century global citizens.