

HOW I SPENT MY SPRING VACATION

When most educators spend their spring break far away from their jobs, Robert Meier, past president of CCEA local district XI spent 10 days in Rio de Janeiro completing a course on International Leadership and working on his Tier II Administrative Credential. He traveled to Brazil with 18 other school administrators from throughout the state of California. During their week together, they visited both public and private schools. They met and discussed educational issues with various Brazilian educators, US expatriates, and members of the US consulate.

His observations of the public school system in Rio de Janeiro found comparisons with California schools. Many of the Brazilian students have the same issues of those students attending continuation schools in California. They may be behind in credits. They may be employed as well as attend school. They may not be in an age appropriate grade level. Where in California, we have the flexibility to modify the educational structure of continuation education; Brazilian public schools do not have the freedom to adapt their instructional models.

As part of Robert's time in Brazil, he participated in a one-day conference at the American School of Rio de Janeiro. Robert presented a workshop on "Customizing Education to Meet the Needs of the Individual Student." He exposed his attendees to many of the techniques used in the continuation education classroom; individualized instruction, flexible instructional models, and meeting the social-emotional needs of the student. His workshop goal was to show how these alternative educational techniques could be used in the traditional education classroom.

For more information about this ongoing program, contact Robert at Robert.meier@LAUSD.net or go to the website, <http://leadership-innovation.org>.



California Continuation Education Association