

School leaders travel to Brazil to work on Tier 2 credential

Seventeen California school administrators sharpened their global leadership skills while completing Tier 2 credential requirements in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in April.

The group included principals, program directors, special education leaders and assistant principals who completed California course/licensure requirements, while demonstrating competence through their international leadership activities.

The California school leaders showcased their leadership savvy by providing an afternoon of professional development workshops for teachers and administrators at the American School of Rio de Janeiro. Topics included professional learning communities, authentic assessment, restorative justice and visual thinking strategies.

In addition, the administrators toured school sites and discussed education issues with staff and students at schools in the area, including Cantagalo favela, Largo do Machado and Nova Iguasu. The U.S. Consulate in Rio also hosted the team for a review of U.S. State Department issues and activities in Brazil.

As the administrators worked on Tier 2 program requirements, they also enjoyed attending a soccer game at Maracana Stadium, catching a few waves and rays on Rio's gorgeous beaches, cruising Guanabara Bay aboard a local schooner, and taking in the vibrant music throughout the city.

Administrators participated in this unique

Fulbright-inspired international option, offered by Leadership Innovation, in cooperation with the University of California, Irvine's independent study program for Tier 2.

Linda Orozco, California State University professor and president of Leadership Innovation, has offered an international option to Thailand since 2004. The popularity of this inaugural event in Brazil by school administrators reflects growing interest in international leadership options to better serve California's diverse student population, Orozco said.

California administrators participating in this international development program included: Claudia Barba, Davis Jt. USD; Barbara Bowler, South San Francisco USD; Trent Cornelius, Los Angeles USD; Barbara Cruse, Los Angeles USD; Kelli Dove, South San Francisco USD; Elaine Eger, Berkeley USD; Daniel Gumarang, West Covina USD; Gina Hill, Oakland USD; Mina Hutchins, Emery USD; Robert Meier, Los Angeles USD; Kim Noble, Oakland USD; Stella M. A. de Oliveira, Los Angeles USD; Esther Soliman, Los Angeles USD; Jenni Taylor, Los Angeles COE; Gabrielle Thurmond, Emery USD; Gia Truong, Oakland USD; and Craig Wiblemo, Arcadia USD.

Information on international options for California school leaders is available online at <http://leadership-innovation.org> or by calling (562) 368-4844.

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Continued from page 1

kids, all of whom receive free or reduced-price lunch. Almost 90 percent of the students are Latino, with a smattering of African American and Asian kids. Only 1 percent of the school population is Caucasian. In her NDP nomination papers, there is a recounting of how Barrett worked with the community a few years ago

community volunteers, with daily support by a great classified staff. One sees planting beds tended by students and beautiful flowering trees in colorful ceramic pots. Once an eyesore, Plummer is now a source of deep neighborhood pride.

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a place where leaders are grown and where everyone shares in the success of every student and every teacher.

This is no special magnet school. There is no special new funding. Plummer is the story of hard work by a committed group of professionals, of community-building, of dedication and visionary leadership, provided by Angel Barrett, who was determined to stay the course of growth using data, action research, and ample amounts

rate sponsor, AIG VALIC.

Since 1980, 29 principals have been honored in California as NDPs. Of these, nine are still active educational leaders. Five are still principals. Two are superintendents; one is an assistant superintendent; and one a member of the ACSA staff. All remain passionate about the principalship.

In fact, the most important qualifiers of NDP recipients is that they are outstanding examples of the very



Students in the Brazil Tier 2 program visited historic and recreational sites in addition to coursework on topics such as professional learning communities, authentic assessment, restorative justice and visual thinking strategies.