



Morgan Allender

Undergraduate Student, Exceptional Education
Cabarete, Dominican Republic - January 2015

SET YOURSELF APART

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GROW

The thought of teaching in a foreign country really excited me, but before this trip I was truly afraid of leaving home. Traveling was extremely far out of my comfort zone. I had such an amazing experience, however, that my fears seem silly to me now. I was not homesick for one second! Everything changed...how I look at the world, people, and myself. Now I want to travel to different places and see many parts of the world. I hope to participate in more IPDS trips.

STUDY & EXPLORE

We spent a lot of time on our research projects, learning about the Dominican culture. We helped in the classroom each morning, then walked to our host homes for lunch before starting our Spanish classes. The rest of the day was ours to explore the town and beach. Everyone was so nice...we met people from all around the world.

TEACH

This program affected so much of my work as an educator. I am empathetic to students who are learning a new language and am able to understand the difficulties they face in the classroom. I learned how to find connections with the kids in the DR, despite a language barrier. I focused on making sure they understood that I cared for them, and their response was remarkable.



Morgan spending time with her Dominican host family

[Click to Read Morgan's Blog!](#)

"My most memorable moments were the days I spent with my host family. They are the most kind-hearted people I have ever met. They taught me so much that I focus on everyday - love, happiness, and acceptance."

Favorite Aspects of the Program

- Happiness. Happiness was everywhere!
- The people. I will never forget them.
- My amazing host family!
- Meeting the school children- they were my heart and soul.
- The food was so good...and so healthy. What a bonus!
- Snorkeling was beautiful and Ziplining was an experience worth being so scared about!
- Cabarete (the town) was so amazing. I loved walking the beach each night and watching the kite surfers.