



SET YOURSELF APART

CHILE

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Santiago, Chile - May/June 2017*

PREPARED

I created 5 lessons based on children's books and taught them in the schools and compared the Chilean education system to that in the U.S. I also presented at the Student Research and Creativity Conference with other participants on our plans to research children's literature in Chile. There are lots of requirements to fulfill but it was all worth it!

CHANGED

The experience changed the way I view situations and tasks. I learned that there are so many ways to do the same thing - even routines like grocery shopping! At home we treat this as a chore, but my host family made food shopping an event; they turned a simple activity into a memory. My time in the schools also made me see the world in a new light. So often, in the U.S., we focus on all of the negatives in our schools. While there is always room for improvement, I now realize how we should also look for the goodness. It is important to consider that differences are not always wrong...but often unique instead.

Favorite Memories

- Living with a Host Family - I looked forward to sharing my day with my hosts at every dinner.
- Engaging with Students - I felt like a rockstar walking in the Chilean classrooms. The students were so energized and excited to talk with us... and to learn about snow!
- Pushing Myself to Finish the Andes Hike - It was challenging to keep up with group, but I did it!



Claire in Santiago (above left), hiking the Andes (above right), and celebrating on the Pacific Coast (bottom)!

[Read Claire's Blog](#)

INSPIRED

When past participants talk about IPDS, it's life-changing, positive impact is apparent. I saw photos, read blogs, and heard stories. **Why not have my own stories to share?** After going to Teacher Tailgate I knew IPDS was for me. I want to fully appreciate education in a country that is not my own. I want to help my future students - from all cultural backgrounds - to view the world more fully.

***I was so proud to
represent Buffalo State!***