



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Increase of Awareness      **Name:** Marco Barreto  
**Other Team Members:**  
**Program:** New York City Program  
**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001      **Location Visited:** Santo Domingo  
**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** This summer I spent a month in the capitol city of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, to search for practices and assessments teachers use to evaluate students who may need special services. I was inspired to explore and become proficient in Spanish due to my special education students poor work habits and low level in academics. I also wanted to provide an opportunity for bilingual education for special needs to be an option at my school. Due to the high population of Spanish speakers in my school, I immersed myself in an intensive language course. This course was taught by teachers of the Dominican Republic, which allowed me better understanding of the elementary education my Dominican immigrant students have received in the country. America students all have equal access to education, students with disabilities through the IDEA. It is not the case for the disabled students in the Dominican Republic. In two key interviews with two female teachers, they expressed that no system of special education existed for the students with special needs. The schools in the Dominican Republics are not obligated to take in a student who may have special needs. If the student does enroll, there are no support systems in place for the student or the parent. I was able to understand the Dominican Republics government priority for education as seen through the teacher's eyes, who also are parents themselves. Speaking Spanish everyday was one of the hardest and best accomplishments I could have received, but learning about the teachers' passion for reform was uplifting.

**Career Impact:**

- Spoke fluent Spanish on a daily basis at a professional level with my teachers and interacted with the people of the island immersing in their way of life.
- Gained an understanding of the limitations student's face and difficulties parents must go through on their own without government support.
- Provided an opportunity for inquiry into special education in the Dominican Republic school system and actions individual teachers take to ensure student success.
- Established an ongoing dialogue and curriculum trade with two teachers in the Dominican Republic, to support their special needs students.

**Classroom/Community Impact:**

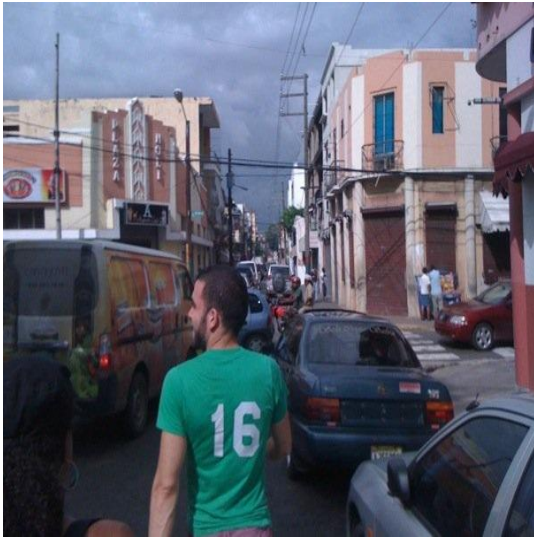
- Complete fluency in Spanish to assist the academic needs of my bilingual special education students, and inform parents of the advantages of special education services.
- A first hand teacher interview/account of the special education system to share with my fellow teachers in my school allowing us the opportunity to become aware of the education our students are coming from.
- An ongoing teacher sharing of experience and support of teachers in the Dominican Republic.
- Student awareness that equal opportunity to education is not granted everywhere and the pursuit of equality extends beyond America.

**Open Response:**

- Immediate and ongoing bilingual instruction for two classified special education students who are to received the service.
- Immediate and ongoing implementation of bilingual assessment exams in reading and mathematics to accurately identify students' proficiency levels.
- An advisory lesson with students on equality in education in America versus their home country.
- A professional development lecture on the culture of the Dominican Republic's education system for my fellow colleagues.
- Finally, emailing and mailing techniques, strategies, and assessments to my Dominican teachers to better support their instruction of students with

**Quote:** " Es la hora de reform!" Ms. Lantigua-Teacher

Photos:



My first walk through the city streets.



Graduating from the school and receiving my diploma.



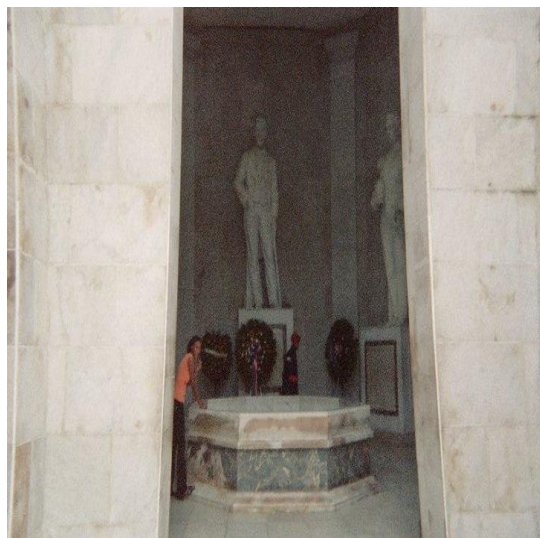
Outside class on a rare sunny day. It rained for two weeks.



Celebrating multiple birthdays in Santo Domingo.



A view on the way to the country.



The famous Juan Pablo Duarte Monument. A founding father.



La Parque Independencia. A National Monument to the founding fathers of DR.



My first introduction to El Conde. A major street in Santo Domingo.