

After my two week study abroad program in Costa Rica with the college of education, I am humbled and so happy. Immersing myself in a completely different country, culture, and language challenged and surprised me. Being the minority here has changed my views in many ways. Learning about the different education system and schools has really helped and inspired me for the future as an educator and ESL teacher. After visiting five schools and learning how each work with a focus on special education, I have learned so much from observing and experiences, rather than taking notes in a class. I also enjoyed and learned so much about the culture from my amazing host family. They were so welcoming and loving, I miss them already! During my time in Costa Rica I put myself outside my comfort zone by exploring in the mountains, rainforests, beaches, national parks, zip lining through the clouds, tasting new foods, and bungee jumping. I will never forget this experience, the things I've learned, and the people I met; I have enjoyed every minute! Thanks Costa Rica, Pura Vida!

Thanks,

Haley Veldhuizen