

1. **Purpose and Activities:** What was the main purpose of your trip? (should be same as purpose stated in your travel grant application). What specific activities took place?

One of the main purposes was to reconnect with the four Brazilian teachers that attended Aims Community College last summer. Fortunately, I attended each of their four respective public schools, participated in teaching some classes, and answered questions proposed by students. During some of the time we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of what they learned in the United States. All the school's staff greeted me and told me how delighted they were in my visit. Some schools had a welcoming break with decorated tables and delicious Brazilian food. Also, I visited two private schools, a pre-school, and a senior citizen's class studying English.

**Results/Impact:**

2a. Did you accomplish the purpose of your trip? Describe the results in measurable terms. Please include names of institutions/organizations you worked with. Summarize all discussions held, lectures or workshops given, type/size of audiences.

Yes, I accomplished the purpose of my trip. Besides attending and meeting with my former students, I met with Stephania Alexio de Paula e Silva, Deputy Secretary, Maria Angela Ribeiro Bomfim, Improve Your English Coordinator, and Luzia Lista, President of Minas Gerais Chapter of Partners to discuss "Improve your English" program between Colorado and Minas Gerais. Also I had the opportunity to meet with Brian Bauer, Representante Diplomático Dos Estados Unidos em Minas Gerais to share the educational experiences of the students who attended Aims Community College last summer and to encourage more funding for this year. Another person I visited with was Junia de Carvalho Fidelis Braga, professora at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. She shared what training they are doing to prepare teachers to teach English in public schools with a special project using cell phones.

2b. What difficulties did you encounter? What lessons did you learn that might be useful for future travel?

The Minas Gerais Chapter of Partners took very good care of me. For example, they warned me about pick pockets at the Hippie Fair. When we went to Inhotim, they suggested I take mosquito spray, water, a hat, and sunscreen. At the different airports, I always had a Brazilian ask in English if I needed help. I learned very quickly how kind the Brazilian people are to others. My note to self about this trip would be to bring more walking shoes because of the hills and the sidewalks are bumpy. Also, I need to bring more cotton outfits.

2c. Please describe how the host Partners chapter was involved with your visit? And what kinds of follow-up activities are likely?

The host chapter of Minas Gerais were so gracious and thoughtful. They had my itinerary planned very well for the whole time. Words cannot express my gratitude to all the members of this chapter. Everything went so well. I can truly say it was one of the best trips of my lifetime. The members drove me everywhere we saw Inhotim, Ouro Preto, Cultural Square, Fiat Museum, Railroad Museum, Pope's Cross, 3 city parks, Pampulha Lake, St. Francis Church, and attended a Hippie Fair, a soccer game and an Elba Ramalho symphony concert. Most of the time there were anywhere from two to eight of us involved in all activities. My host, Andrea, had a party, the chapter had a pizza party, and the chapter president, Luzia, had a gathering plus served me many fine meals. Everyone was such a pleasure to be with and talk to about different subjects. I was humbled by everyone's kindness.

When I returned to Greeley, I had gifts to take to Aims Community College, to the Partners and to Fort Collins for a son of a Brazilian partner who is playing volleyball and wanted some items from Belo. I will be presenting a video to our partner chapter and sharing my story at our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration on June 5, 2016. In addition, I am meeting with Aims Community College staff to share information from the students who attended last summer. New students who come to Aims will have a professor who has visited their country and can relate better to their educational needs.

2d. What are the expected or anticipated long-term benefits of your visit to the hosting Chapter?  
(Specific examples are most useful)

First of all, the Minas Gerais chapter need to know what an awesome chapter they are for welcoming people. They shared with me their culture, including food, customs, education, language and social activities. I felt very much a part of them and all of us have developed life long friendships. We are communicating on "What's Up."

Next, I already have a person from Belo visiting me in May, and I will be communicating with teachers and students monthly.

Last, I am writing a monthly newsletter in English to some of the students in Brazil and they will be writing back to me through the internet.

3. **Follow -up**

a. How do you plan to share this experience with your own Partners chapter and your community?

My experience will be shared at the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Partners at our meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be doing a video along with an oral presentation. Also doing the same at Aims Community College. I will be speaking to various groups in our area.

3b. What follow-up activities do you recommend building on the items carried out during your visit.

Aims Community College is holding another 4 week session for Brazilian students through Partners of Americas. I will continue to be part of that program.

The Brazilian teachers and I will stay in contact through social media. I plan on maintaining contact with the public school students in Brazil through e-mail, pictures and social networking.

I will be brainstorming with the Colorado Chapter on what we can improve on it the forthcoming year.

4. Please provide any other general comments/suggestions regarding your trip.

There are several stories I would like to share. While I was engaging in classroom activities at the public schools, I had two students ask if they could go home with me and one student asked me to be her mother. I found this most interesting.

While I was asked to speak at the Senior Center English class, I started answering questions and teaching some phonics. I kept talking and teaching. Finally, I asked when the class was over. It had been over for at least 20 minutes but everyone wanted to continue. That was a pleasant surprise to me. Almost every classroom asked me my age. Since I'm an older person I responded no matter where you come from you never ask a woman her age or her weight.

Also, in most of the classrooms they asked me who I was going to vote for in the elections. I told them I wasn't impressed with the candidates and I'm not sure.

Another thing they all wanted to know was how many words in Portuguese I knew. I told them I could count to ten in Portuguese and I proceeded in counting to ten. They all clapped when I was done. Everyone laughed. Oh, what fun that was!  
Every single school I attended was so delighted I came to visit. The directors and staff honored me with gifts. They appreciated my visit very much and all of them said to come back.

One of the teacher's took to me a slum house. The housing situation was very bleak but very clean. The father asked me, "If I would like something to drink." I said, "Just water." My teacher friend translated for me. He proceeded to open his sparse refrigerator and bought out a liter of Coke Cola. He poured it into our glasses. It was a very humbling moment for me. His family had gone out just to buy that for me.

I want to thank you very much for this grant. Believe me, it was very fulfilling and I will be forever grateful. The travel planner and the Partners of Americas from Colorado and Greeley were very gracious, thoughtful and helpful.

5. Are you a member of the Partners of the Americas? Yes  No

If you are not a member of Partners of the Americas, do you now plan to join the Chapter that sponsored your trip?

Have you registered on PartnersConnect? Yes  No

1. Please report the number of hours of volunteer time you spent on the visit, including preparation and follow-up activities on the Partners Counts Form. Please log your time using the following link: <http://iglhrylmdt.formstack.com/forms/partnerscounts> Thanks a lot.