



Domestic Global Immersion 2022 Board Report

In planning our domestic global immersion trip we sought to mirror the rhythms and aims of the Irish global immersion experience. In this way, our students were able to come back together after their unique experiences with some commonalities to note, in addition to the differences. Camp Dogwood and the Welter Farm House were a gift in this regard. Only Fredy Tajiboy Espinosa had been to the farm before this trip so the experience was novel and full of beauty. Several students listed the first half of our break as the part they were most worried about but what we found in Madison, and particularly at Camp, was space to

breathe and slow down. As part of this time, the scholars were tasked with cooking dinner for the group. It did not disappoint and Camp Dogwood now appears on everyone's map of Sacred Spaces.

As part of the history and cultural immersion we wanted students to experience the group visited Monticello and experienced the Enslaved People's Tour. Our guide William Breden proved to be a wonderful storyteller and led an impressively large group along Mulberry Drive – a lane that previously held homes and work buildings for enslaved people at Monticello. Our scholars noted the opposing historical accounts of Thomas Jefferson and themes of documentation and the fear and stress of family separation that mirrors the current realities for many immigrant families.



In addition to historical sites the group hiked Bear Church Rock. With naturalist and hired guide Mel we learned about the people who had complex and full lives on the mountain before the early 1900s even though only rock foundations remain. Indigeneity came center stage in this natural setting and reminded our students that emigration, migration, and immigration are parts of a long and winding path of human civilization. Students worked together to navigate brooks and streams. We ate lunch on rocks in the river and dipped our feet into icy cold clear water.



Pivoting to Washington DC after the serenity of Madison was stark. On the group's visit to the Mexican Cultural Institute complete with the tour in Spanish First Year Jocelyn Limon noted, *I have never gone to a museum or monument and said 'that's mine'*, as she referred to Neuvo Leon's state flag hanging in the Mexican Cultural Institute. Students spoke their native dialects freely with the guide and this ease meant they more readily joked and asked really nuanced questions. It was important on this Domestic Global Immersion to show the scholars that they have the qualities of a global citizen within them. This place validated the identity of many of our scholars.

Fellowship over food is a foundation of our global immersion.

Trying new foods, learning to converse over a lengthy meal, and cherishing the time honored tradition of building community involving food are central. Once again, this trip did not disappoint. As we were treated to Fogo de Chao by the AnBryce Foundation the scholars recognized the value of social and cultural capital building in action. Bryant and Andrew, along with Sarah Corso and Laetitia Kabimanyi were welcoming hosts to our scholars. There were a lot of laughs as meat after meat was brought to the table.



Finally, nightly reflections - in writing and conversation are core components of our Global Immersion travel. We ask students to be travelers not tourists and to notice the world around them and themselves in new and different ways. Part of our work in AnBryce is to provide safe spaces for risk taking - for students to be disoriented and uncomfortable in the service of growth. Nightly reflections, building off of the Writing and Rhetoric course all of our students take form the foundation for our reflection and link our excursion back to the classroom in a tangible

way. More than anything, though, the value of relationality, connectivity, and the realization of just how very complex, small, and beautiful our world is stands at the center of us assisting students to grow with each other in ways that will bring service to justice and their gifts to the world.