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## Dominican Republic Study Abroad

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Stephanie Moravcik

CEHD-3050

### Dominican Republic Study Abroad

May 13 - May 21 2023

When I had the chance to study abroad in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, it was truly the experience of a lifetime. I never thought in my almost 25 years of living that I would be able to travel to such an exotic place when I had the chance too. This trip was one of the most fun and impactful trips I have ever taken. I know that in the near future, I will definitely be considering to come back to visit this wonderful place.

A place we got to visit was Congress in this country. I loved learning about the cultural differences here, and the social injustices we discussed. I felt very honored to be here, and getting to meet with the congressional members here while touring with them.



Another experience here that I got to do, was eating at a beautiful restaurant on the sea called Adrian Tropical. It was a very lovely setting and we got to all gather together as a group to eat

here. The only issue personally to me was the “Dominican Time”. I did become a little anxious and frustrated about this, but I learned that this means that ordering a meal and drinks at a restaurant do take much longer than average, to serve than it would here in America. I learned that food preparation does take longer here in this country, because staff want to make sure that our meals are very well prepared and served correctly to have good service.



From this experience, I learned that not everybody has the same lifestyle as you and people do live very diverse lives. Seeing the environment here was very triggering due to seeing some unstable conditions, but it is truly an incredible destination to visit. I also learned that most people here speak Spanish instead of English, so getting to communicate with others in Spanish

that I took in my earlier years was neat to communicate with again.



The event that I found was the most meaningful to me during this trip, was when my group and I got to visit an emergency middle school. I say this because the children here were in a very underdeveloped educational school which saddened me the most. I noticed that there was not anything educational or colorful on the walls there as in what other middle schools picture to look like which did strike me, along with no air conditioning units either. However, the children here were very friendly and so sincere and welcoming to us all. I felt very blessed to spend a part of the day with them and create photo collages with them too. These children really touched my heart, and learning about the schooling system here increased my knowledge more about school and board in different countries.



Studying abroad is something I will definitely consider doing again in the upcoming fall. It's so incredible to be able to know that traveling is always a good suggestion for yourself and others too. I wish that we were able to stay longer, and do even more activities with each other and explore more of the Dominican Republic. Knowing that we were also the first group to go abroad for the Seita Scholars program had made me feel very good about this trip, since we all set a good example for other students to study abroad too and to follow their dreams. The Dominican Republic is truly a place where dreams do come true.



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