

Washington ESL Teachers Visit Chile - 2012



Prof. Susan Kobashigawa with English students at Colegio Espiritu Santo, Concepcion

Two Washington ESL teachers went to Chile to share information and teaching techniques in 2012.

Suzan Kobashigawa, Washington Partners member and associate professor of ESL at Northwest University in Kirkland, Washington, was invited to Chile and hosted by the Chilean Partners in June. Her host ESL institutions were Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Valparaíso and the Instituto Chileno Norteamericano in Concepción. The professional program included visits and workshops with students and professors as well as visits to public and private schools in the Concepción-Valparaíso-Viña del Mar area. Homestays were provided by the Chilean Partners. The program was funded by a grant to Partners of the Americas from the U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Professional activities in Valparaíso-Viña del Mar included:

- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, English teachers and students, English pedagogy practicum, phonetics workshop, translation, interpretation

Professional activities in Concepcion included:

- Instituto Chileno Norteamericano, English professors and students, English Access workshops
- Colegio Espiritu Santo, English professors and students
- Universidad del Desarrollo, English classes
- Colegio Concepcion, English classes

Professional activities in Santiago included:

- Presentation on oral communication techniques at a conference for high school English teachers
- Universidad Mayor, English teachers

In November and early December, Washington ESL teacher and Partners member Ruth Webster was invited to Chile and hosted by the Chilean Partners. Her principal host ESL institutions were the Instituto

Chileno Norteamericanos (Binational Centers-BNCs) in Valparaiso, Temuco, Valdivia and Osorno. The professional program included visits and workshops with students and professors of the BNCs, as well as with those of Santiago universities. Homestays were provided by the Chilean Partners. The program was funded by a grant to Partners of the Americas from the U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Professional activities in Santiago included:

Ciudadela Montessori School-meeting with English teachers

Universidad Iberoamericana-teaching methods with drama, stories and games

Universidad Mayor-teaching mixed level English classes

Professional activities in Vina del Mar/Valparaiso included:

BNC Vina del Mar-lecture on strategies to make classes more interactive

BNC Valparaiso-lecture on curriculum development

Professional activities in Temuco-Osorno-Valdivia included:

BNC Temuco – observed classes, teacher training on making classes interactive with games & reading, how to motivate students

BNC Osorno- teacher training on making classes interactive with games & speaking

BNC Valdivia- teacher training on making classes interactive with games & speaking