

2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term – Cycle II (Fulbright DAST)

DAST Cycle II Project: Developing an Environmental Education and Conservation Initiatives at a Colombian School

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

City, Country: Pesca/Boyacá, Colombia

Project Date Range: February 8 – March 19, 2021

Project Length: 6 weeks

Summary: A U.S. K-12 science teacher specializing in environmental education/conservation will travel to a rural community in Colombia to work with a local non-profit organization on developing environmental education/conservation initiatives with students and teachers at a local school.



II. HOST INSTITUTION(S) INFORMATION

Name: San Lorenzo Ecological Project + Indalecio Vásquez Primary & Secondary School

Type: Non-profit organization + Public school

Website: www.proyectopes.org

About: The San Lorenzo Ecological Project promotes the renaturation of San Lorenzo area, guaranteeing the area's resilience to climate change through sustainable and replicable projects. The Project seeks to develop an appreciation of the environment among the local community, inspiring a connection between the inhabitants and the land while promoting the existence of a united and committed family. In order to expand the scope of its mission, the Project has begun working with Indalecio Vásquez, a primary and secondary school in the nearby town of Boyacá, where students usually perform below national averages in the official tests.

III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Background: Pesca is a municipality in Colombia whose economy has been traditionally based on agriculture and sheep farming. However, this has been gradually changing as Pesca has become an area of intensive livestock rearing where large swaths of abandoned lands have become overgrown by invasive plants. As a response to these environmental challenges, the San Lorenzo Ecological Project has initiated a restoration processes in the area that seeks to involve the community, notably students at the Indalecio Vásquez school. Teachers at the Indalecio Vásquez school are highly motivated to participate in this collaborative effort as it has been demonstrated





that students in Colombian schools where environmental education is implemented typically improve their academic performance, become more civically engaged, contribute more to the community, and learn more about their indigenous culture. It is hoped that the Fulbright DAST fellow can contribute to the development of teacher's pedagogical practices towards the environment (teaching approaches, relevant materials, content area, etc.) and help launch conservation and restoration initiatives in which students and teachers can get involved. The Project will act as the initial coordinating body of the Fulbright DAST fellow's engagement with the Indalecio Vásquez school. Afterwards, the Fulbright DAST fellow will start working directly with the school's administration.

Activities: Leading seminars, workshops or other teacher professional development for educators; Conducting needs assessments, surveys, institutional or programmatic research; Consulting with administrators and/or instructors on faculty development; Developing academic curricula or educational materials; Assessing academic curricula or educational materials; Presenting lectures or conference plenary presentations

Target Beneficiaries: Teachers, students, and the greater Pesca community

IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF SELECTED APPLICANT

Teaching Level: K-12

Years of Teaching Experience: 5+

Subject Area Expertise: Science; Environmental Education; Conservation; Biology; Teacher Training; Community Engagement

Language Requirement: Intermediate – Advanced Spanish required

