

Havana, Cuba

Colton McFarland



Program: Cuba: Complexity, Community, and Change,

Fall Break 2017

Majors: International Studies and Pre-Business



Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



There are so many different opportunities that are built into the program that fulfill the requirements for the badge and they were all fun. One of my favorite things we did was visit a Catholic preschool and give our time helping children. The school was well organized and clean. We were able to learn about the history of the school and the many benefits that it provides to the community. Their main focus is to provide care to children of single working mothers.

Earning the Language Immersion Badge:



If you are wanting to enhance your Spanish skills, Cuba is a great place to visit. The population is very knowledgeable and willing to talk to you. This makes for easy and interesting conversations. The Cuban people are well versed so you can literally talk to them about anything from music, politics, sports, medicine, the economy, or whatever you are interested in.

Transferable Skills:



The main skills I learned are to be more open and willing to help others. The Cuban people are very caring for each other and are always willing to help one another. I have tried to be more willing to help others at work and in my community since my trip. It makes everyday life more enjoyable when you are helping those around you. I have found that no matter who you are, you have something to offer and there is always someone out there that needs help.



“Being able to learn more about and visit Cuba opened my mind to a different way of thinking about life. In America, we start with ourselves; but in Cuba, they start with the community. It has given me a different perspective on how I can help others be a better member of my community.”