

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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Program: Ancient Traces, Changing Spaces, Modern Faces in Mongolia, Fall Break 2017

Major: Social Work

Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



Earning the Community Engagement Badge was a great opportunity to become immersed into Mongolian culture, politics, and organizations there. To earn this badge, my group presented and spoke with the National University of Mongolia and the Law Enforcement Academy of Mongolia students of social work. At those

organizations we spoke about prisoner rehabilitation, geriatrics, University of Utah's social work practicum details, and domestic violence. Some concepts were difficult for Mongolians to understand, and some ideas from the Mongolians were difficult for us to understand. One of these concepts was geriatrics regarding nursing homes and insurance in general. In Mongolia there are few nursing homes for the elderly who don't have families able to take care of them but almost all elderly are revered and seen as valuable to the family dynamics so they are kept in the same living space with their families. Next, we visited a local Non-Government Organization who was run by an ex-inmate who provided yurts, jobs, and daycare for homeless ex-inmate families as well as orphaned children. He currently has around ten yurts for the families to stay in with electricity then he has a factory on site that the adults can use to build items to sell at the markets. Finally, he has a separate building that is both daycare and school to the children that is run by his wife, and some of the other adults. I loved my time at all the different community organizations and gained a different perspective on life.

Transferable Skills:



Since coming home from Mongolia in my social work practice I have focused more of what each individual or family's values, priorities, and beliefs are to better understand them in addition to how to incorporate those into the therapeutic process. Further in my home life I have evaluated my own priorities, values, and beliefs

to determine if they line up with my life goals. I also learned in Mongolia how to present with an interpreter so if needed back here at home I will be at ease working with interpreters again. There are many skills and thoughts that I can apply here in every aspect of my life that I look forward to further exploring. people is a necessity when one is working out of his or her own culture.



“There are many different ways to live life including location, language, beliefs, priorities, and values. How great is the world that we have such variety and can all learn from each other due to globalization, I was fortunate enough to learn from the people of Mongolia.”