

Havana, Cuba

Jayden Howard



Program: Cuba: Complexity, Community, and Change, Fall Break 2018

Majors: Gender Studies, Management, and International Studies



Earning the Community Engagement Badge:



This experience has genuinely changed the way I view travel and community. I will never be able to travel without trying to find the roots of a community's culture, like you would find at a place like Muraleando. Muraleando really showed me what it means for a community to come together and solve a problem. In this small corner of the outskirts of Havana, this community turned a

mound of trash into an arts center to help foster new artists by teaching them new craft. I have been shown that being an active part of a community isn't just about living or working within it, but is more about knowing and caring for neighbors and coming together when needed. I was able to experience a community that blossomed and welcomed us with open arms.

Earning the Career Development Badge:



This experience taught me a lot about the type of professional I want to be in my future career. One of the biggest dreams for a future job for me is that it includes working internationally. This study abroad opportunity gave me confidence that when I travel for work in the future, that I can do so as a professional and show up ready to go and take as much from the experience as possible. It also showed me the importance of being

positive and adaptable in every moment. Being abroad could be potentially stressful and may not always go as planned. That's how I learned that the ability to keep a level head and a smile on my face when things go awry was not only good for me, but also helped my team.

Transferable Skills:



One cool way that I was able to implement what I learned while I was abroad was by taking an activity we did while learning about Cuba's popular education system and applying it to the experiential learning atmosphere of an Alternative Break experience I was able to lead to Kanab, from within the Bennion Center. Doing this activity really helped

us establish a feeling of comradery and accountability as we took on our volunteer work outside of our regular communities. I also love that by doing activities learned in Cuba, I also get to include others in my experience and hopefully impact the way the people view this beautiful country.



“My experience in Cuba impacted my experience as a student at the U by encouraging me to seeking more opportunities to do things and go places I have never seen before and also be cautious of the type of community member and citizen I am and want to be in the future.”