

Conference Proposal

Proposal Information

Title The Peace Corps Experience
Type of Session "Paper/Report" (45-90 minutes)
Discussion Group No
Report No
Interest Section University and Community College Programs
Research Oriented
Practice Yes
Inquiry Yes
Creativity No
Content Area
Targeted Audience Level of Session Intermediate
Targeted Instruction Level "Higher Education (Graduate/Postgraduate) "
Caucus

Session Summary The Peace Corps Master's International program is relatively new for many universities. This presentation looks at how TEFL volunteers are prepared for service and how that aligns with Peace Corps training.

Session Description The Peace Corps is a U.S. government organization that began in 1961 to help developing countries. The organization has three main goals including providing technical assistance and cultural exchange. This presentation will focus on the TEFL program in Ecuador as I have recently completed my 2-year Peace Corps service.

While the presentation will discuss the socio-economic and cultural context in Ecuador and Peace Corps' TEFL goals in country. I will provide insight into the challenges and successes that new teachers could potentially experience in the field. Challenges might include lack of resources, overcrowded classes, unsupportive administrators, and low student motivation. Successes include forming strong relationships with coworkers.....The presentation will thus focus on how new teachers are prepared for their service and for work abroad using specific examples from the Peace Corps Master's International program at Gonzaga University.

The presentation will finish with suggestions on how to better prepare and support PCMI students both before and during their service. These suggestions are based on action research performed by the presenter at Gonzaga University in 2013.

