Executive Director

MESSAGE

David C. Butty
Executive Director
WCCCD Study Abroad Program

This pandemic continues to create challenges for students and our Study Abroad Program. However, we are committed to upholding our promise to promoting international education and cultural exchange; even if it means virtually for our students.

Study Abroad

FACILITATOR

Julie Figlioli
Study Abroad Facilitator

I have been a part of the Study Abroad team for 13 years now. There is a great deal of positive energy that goes into planning and preparing our students for one of our educational experiences. I have come to know more than 300 of our awesome diverse and unique students!

Benefits from

STUDYING ABROAD

Irvin P. Jones
Escape Study International

What we have found in speaking with our students, that studying abroad has led to positive gains such as promoting our students personal and cultural developments through international awareness, cross cultural communication skills, and self-confidence. Study abroad also develops cognitive processes by creating innovative solutions in culturally diverse environments.

WCCCD Partners With American Airlines to

PROMOTE SAFE TRAVEL

Shen T., American Airlines’ Leisure Sales Specialist will address ‘New Ideas, New Channel To Stir Up Interest In The Travel Industry’ during Virtual Study Abroad Symposium

Shen T., American Airlines’ Leisure Sales Specialist, will address “New Ideas, New Channel, to Stir Up Interest” for study abroad learning during the Spring Study Abroad Symposium. “This is not quite the norm of what we do in passenger sales, but we are open to new ideas to generate interest in the travel industry,” Shen T. said.

Mr. T. has been with American Airlines for 31 years and is the father of three children. Since 2013, his specialties are in wholesale/tour, but as of the last four years have specifically been in Pacific tour. He was born in Taiwan, but was raised in Denver, Colorado. He has also lived in California, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Texas. He will speak of the airlines’ international focus after COVID-19; to include services to places such as New Delhi, India, Bangalore, India, and Tele Aviv, Israel; two of their newest routes that started in 2021.

Other areas that Mr. T. will touch on will be:

- American Airlines travel procedures after the pandemic
- Immigration
- Post-pandemic travel in general
- The procedures for going through customs in various countries
- What to pack when travelling.
  - The do’s and don’ts for American Airlines.
At the end of her study abroad trip to Belize and Guatemala in 2013, Mona Farah was looking forward to joining her family and friends at her nursing pinning ceremony to celebrate her accomplishment of becoming a nurse.

But Mother Nature had her own plan for Mona and she had to forgo the ceremonies in Detroit, but instead settled for one in Dallas, Texas. There, a study abroad group that she traveled with got stranded due to an ice storm that brought travel to a complete stand still for three days. The students and the Study Abroad leadership felt awful for Mona, but quickly found a way to make her feel as if she was in Detroit and participating in the program.

Just recently, Mona recalled the event as if it was yesterday. “A group of individuals that I studied abroad with, pinned me as a nurse,” said Mona, whose current title is Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). She is a board certified family nurse practitioner, working at Michigan Medicine in school-based health in pediatric primary care.

“I missed my pinning ceremony because we got stuck in Texas due to an ice storm. Remember that craziness? They were using sandbags on the runway. Wild! Super grateful for the kind hearted folks that made this day memorable for me. I laminated my nursing pin. And it is one of the most meaningful items I have.”

“I may not have got pinned with my graduating class, but the 33 men and women with me on this trip surprised me and made sure I took my oath and got pinned. I am so blessed to have met such great people. Thank you!”