

“My host family was amazing. They were a big part of my experience. It is because of this trip that I have come to accept everyone no matter what.”



Reflections 2015

At Farther Foundation, we know it is a big world, and to go farther, none of us can go it alone. Just as our students look to us to provide them with the resources and opportunities to have life-changing educational travel experiences, we look to our education partners to nominate deserving students and to our travel program partners to provide unforgettable experiences.

Jada, who is pictured on the cover and to the right was nominated by HighSight, an organization that provides an array of education supports to promising students from economically disadvantaged families. Jada traveled to Panama on a program with American Field Service (AFS), a provider of cultural and educational exchange programs around the world.



Jada with her program companions

Through experience, our students learn that the world is big and interconnected. Their opportunities to learn and to succeed are wide-ranging and boundless. We learn from our partners as well, and we acknowledge with great appreciation their part in helping Farther Foundation and all of our students **go farther**. Follow the links throughout this publication to learn more about our partners and the work they do. And remember, none of this happens without your support!

Please enjoy the photos and stories from our class of 2015 in our annual photo journal – *Reflections*.

Sincerely,

David Weindling
Farther Foundation President & Founder

-- On the cover: Jada's program in Panama was enriched greatly by living with a local host family

Farther Foundation scholarships helped [HighSight](#) students travel with [AFS](#) to Japan, China and Panama.

“While in Panama I learned how to cook tortillas de maiz and tostones. I also taught my host family how to cook french fries, noodles, and pancakes. They are still eating these things now; my [host] sister sends pictures of their “American” meals. I taught my host family some English and they taught me some Spanish.

-- Iada



“My trip to Japan taught me the importance of language and culture and gave me a deeper respect for the cultures of others. For those who would like to try this adventure, here’s what I have to say to you: believe in your potential, stay focused on the goal in mind and give back to those who have helped you.”

-- Charles

“As a result of my summer immersion program, I am confident that I will be able to approach both college and life with a more fixed appreciation of the meaning of life, its variety and promise, as well as its demands and challenges.”

-- Saurang spent six weeks in Japan living with a host family and learning about the culture.



“This experience strongly influenced me to continue to learn Mandarin, to have an interest in engineering and to be adaptable to the new culture that I will probably experience later.”

-- Edwin saw his time in China as formative in terms of his future goals and plans.



Roger is a [HighSight](#) student. He had a wide variety of experiences when he traveled to Ecuador and the Galapagos with [Putney Travel](#).

"I did miss my family while I was in Ecuador and the Galapagos but I think that this trip was exactly what I needed to use as a kind of test. My top three colleges are located four to five states away from home. When people know this, the first thing that they ask is, "Aren't you going to miss your family?". Of course I'm going to miss my family but I think that the best thing I could do is separate myself from them and figure things out for myself.

This trip also changed the way I see small details in my life. Before the trip I didn't really understand the difference between the opportunities that we, as Americans, get. Everyone talks about these opportunities but I always thought that they were up for grabs for everyone around the world. I came to realize that most people don't even get a high school level education, which is something we take advantage of and don't appreciate it.

Once I saw my family, I hugged them like I had never hugged them before because I had missed them so much but I would do this trip again and again.

I want my career to have no borders because I want to be able to use both my languages and help people around the world. This was my experience which wouldn't have been possible without the help of Farther Foundation."

Community service, cultural exploration, team building, leadership training and outdoor adventure are hallmarks of an expedition with The [Road Less Traveled](#)

“At the end of the week, all of our studying paid off when everyone passed the final written exam and we had received our scuba license. We had to get on a boat and fall in backwards to scuba dive. I covered my face with my hand, closed my eyes and let go.”

-- **Jennifer** is a student at [Phoenix Military Academy](#), a Chicago Public High school.



“We visited the Embera tribe which is one of the seven native tribes still recognized in Panama. We learned about their culture and the struggles often encountered by the outside world.”

--**Mateo** is a student at [GCE Lab School](#).

“Poah invited us to her own house for dinner which was amazing. I remember how she exposed us to the ritual she lived by her whole life which was giving thanks for the food and a safe day. The vibe I got while she sung the prayer is indescribable.”

-- **Luis** is a student at [Phoenix Military Academy](#), and traveled to Hawaii.



“The whole experience made me value my education even more because I know that not everyone gets the chance to an education like most kids in the United States do.”

--**Veronica** is a student at [Phoenix Military Academy](#), and traveled to Ecuador.

Farther Foundation, [Evanston Scholars](#) and [Brown University](#) partner to give curious students a taste of college life

“Compared to the first day, every other day flew by like nothing since I had so much to do. There were too many places to go, activities to participate in and people to meet. I learned so much, not only from the class, but from every single person I met.”

-- Jesus



“This trip made me more mature and gave me more confidence in facing challenges that I will face in my future. It was especially the leadership part that helped me to gain confidence in class discussions, projects, and other group activities that I will be doing for the rest of my life.”

-- Matthew

“At Brown we went over everything environmental. I had more options than I thought: green infrastructure, environmental justice, renewable energy, water conservation, etc. When I came home I was thinking about majoring in environmental science and then going to law school, so that I can do environmental justice.”

-- Chereese



“This was a great experience for me when it came to making new friends and getting to know people that I’ve never met. With so many people from different backgrounds and totally different countries it interested me to get to know who they were and what they’re used to.”

-- Joshua

Noble Network students used their scholarships to explore college level classes and independent living on a number of campuses

“Throughout this experience at [Carleton College](#), I changed in my maturity and my perception towards everything. I can solve problems in different ways that I didn’t even know was possible. I got to meet people that I didn’t even know I had commonalities with.”

-- Israel

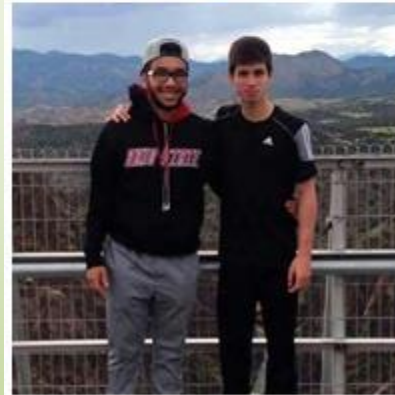


“The [University of Rochester’s](#) motto is “ever-better”. I used Rochester’s Pre-College Programs to help become an “even-better” person in my interest in medicine by collaborating with other students in difficult conflicts, giving presentations and experiencing the college experience.”

-- Brian

“The three weeks I was there my hand was not held. Everything I did was on me and I had to be mature and figure out when it was the right time to do what I needed done. The three weeks that I was at [Colorado State](#) helped me become more of an adult.”

-- Yoluis



“Thanks to the Farther Foundation, I spent two weeks in Los Angeles, California at [UCLA](#)! This experience helped me establish who I really am, and what I truly want to do later in my life. Did I mention it was my first time on an airplane?”

-- Cristian

Ecological research, environmental learning and outdoor adventures are exhilarating ways for students from the city to expand their horizons



“Some kids my age have the privilege of growing up alongside professionals in a variety of disciplines; I have to branch out. Earth Watch exposed me to different realms of research by taking me to lectures and introducing me to ecologists while giving me invaluable experience conducting field research.”



“This summer was a “first everything“ for me, my first time getting on a plane, camping, and seeing a place other than the Southside of Chicago. This trip also gave me so much encouragement and helped me focus on what is important in life. I made new friends from all across the globe, from New York, Florida, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland.”

Yesenia (left) is part of the [University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program](#) and joined [Earth Watch Institute](#) for a field research project in Maine.

Robin (center) and **D’Andre** (below) were recommended to us by [Communities in Schools](#) and participated in programs with [Bold Earth](#) – Robin in Colorado and Utah, and D’Andre in California.



“Thank you for the opportunity to go to The California Dreaming Trip this summer. I’m glad that I got the chance to go there and see a different environment. Camping for the first time was amazing. Surfing for the first time was amazing. I got it on the first try!”



Summer programs give students the chance to explore new areas of interest or delve more deeply into existing passions.

Rosario (top left), from [Cristo Rey High School](#), studied Journalism at [Boston University](#).

Cindy (top right) from [Minds Matter](#), studied law at [Georgetown University](#).

Bobbie (center), from [HighSight](#), studied fine arts at [Putney School](#).

Zoe (bottom right), from [Evanston Scholars](#), studied music at [Ithaca College](#).

Cristian (bottom left), from [Pritzker College Prep](#), studied medicine at [University of Washington](#).

David, from [Evanston Scholars](#), studied at [Boston University](#).

Taneisha, from [North Lawndale College Prep](#), participated in a women's studies program at [Spelman College](#).



Our students travel around the world to uncover new experiences and discover the best in themselves.

Thank you so much for supporting Farther Foundation, our students and their future.

Farther Foundation is a charitable scholarship organization. Your tax deductible donations make life changing experiences possible.

Donate online via credit/debit or PayPal at: www.fartherfoundation.org

Or send a check to:

**Farther Foundation
223 S. Elmwood Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302**

Thank you on behalf of the students and families that we serve.

The Board of Directors, Farther Foundation

David Weindling	Susan J. White	Jim Rolfes
Griselda Garibay	Ruth Masters	Laura Swartzbaugh
Angelicca Telles	William Kling	Nancy Baker