

NEWS

MaFLA Cemanahuac Scholarship Winner Shannon Vigeant Made The Most Of Her Opportunity



Smaller break out classes by level

plenty of opportunities to explore the culture and history with additional classes, volunteer options and trips that take advantage of the amazing places one can discover in the Cuernavaca area. Opportunities to explore Taxco rich in silver history to the pyramids and ruins of Teotihuacán, to the museums and homes of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo deepened my experience. Viewing Diego's murals, climbing the pyramids and exploring ruins first hand made

What a fantastic opportunity it was to receive the MaFLA scholarship and attend the Cemanahuac Education Community in Cuernavaca, México with fellow Spanish teachers and people from around the world learning the language. I have fallen in love with México.

In addition to curriculum designed for Spanish teachers spanning cultural topics, grammar, literature, pedagogy and conversation, Cemanahuac is an educational community that provides



A teacher cohort



Exploring Xochimilco with our guide Charlie

curriculum palpable and enriched my cultural connections to the language.

My homestay offered a clean and comfortable private room and bathroom hosted by my wonderful mamá Mexicana Marilú who made sure to provide me with ex-



**El Palacio Nacional,
Diego River Mural**

cellent meals, conversation, and company to local places of interest, even experiencing together the historical presidential election of Lopez Obrador. The homestay was an important component of the immersion experience that provided me a continuum



Voladores de Papantla

NEWS



Popocatepetl and the great pyramid of Cholula

of language use and exposure to authentic culture.

While deepening proficiency and experiencing the culture, one of my goals while attending Cemanahuac via my MaFLA scholarship was to enrich the class-

ket and a photo series that brought life to our conversations in class. Additionally, I brought back as much authentic realia that would fit into my suitcase and at every turn, I snagged what I could. My students loved passing around Chapulines (Dried



Volunteer opportunities through Cemanahuac led me to an association with the Cuernavaca Children's mission, and my school's Spanish club has sponsored this student, providing her with continued educational and financial support. My students' global involvement has been expanded and they have loved being a part of helping someone else. Cemanahuac partners with several organizations in Cuernavaca and provides plenty of opportunities to interface in volunteer capacities.



My wonderful homestay

room with authentic materials. While there, I took photographs and videos of conversations that I have weaved into lessons. When we discussed the role and importance of the market, for example, I incorporated video of shopping at the mar-



Historic center of Cuernavaca

Grasshoppers) which in turn prompted a great conversation about food. Oh, and the food! Sadly, I failed at avoiding food photo saturation on social media... but being in México, how could you blame me. It is a place that has won my heart. ¡Viva México!



Evidence of "food photo saturation"

Many thanks to MaFLA for this wonderful opportunity layered with rich experiences, new colleagues and friends, deeper proficiency, a few good recipes and great memories. I would highly recommend the opportunity to any teacher considering applying.

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