

ABSTRACT

BUENA, ARLENE V. and CAMA, LORY FE C. Mariner's Polytechnic Colleges, Naga City. April 2013. "Student Cultural Exchange Travel Program USA; A Documentation of the Experiences of the Students A/Y 2012-2013".

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This study documented the experiences of the students of Mariners Polytechnic College during the Student Cultural Exchange Travel Program USA for the A/Y 2011-2012. Specifically, this study answered the following questions; 1. What are the experiences of the respondents in terms of; a) task/job assigned, b) working condition c) accommodations? 2) What are the benefits of joining Student Cultural Exchange and Travel Program USA? 3) What are the effects of the experiences of Student Cultural Exchange and Travel Program USA on the professional and personal growth of the participants?

The respondents of the study were 16 students of which of 11 were Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management, three were Bachelor of Science in Tourism, and two were Bachelor of Science in hospitality Management. The study made use of both quantitative and qualitative research. Researchers distributed questionnaires and conducted scheduled interview to gather data. The experiences were tabulated through the manual frequency count of the types of experiences, and then ranked from highest to lowest.

Results showed that the students had their trainings in Hotel and theme park; they worked as merchandisers, ride host attendants and housekeepers which were paid from \$7.50-\$7.80 per hour. They stayed in a dormitory, apartment and studio type housing where they felt comfortable and secured. The top five common experiences and benefits were Socialization, Improvement of the level of maturity, independence, Enhancement of resume and travelling in other States. It also stated the effects on the professional and personal growth that taught them how to be strong and face the challenges in life. They felt more productive and knowledgeable after the program.

The study concludes that SCET-PRO provides good quality of trainings that helps college students enhance their knowledge in their chosen field, to know the difference of local and international standard, having opportunity to excel internationally and prove to other countries participants that Filipino students are competitive and unique. This program had a big impact to those students who participated physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

Researchers recommend that this program may be continued however the school should partner with agency that links with establishments which are suitable to the courses of participants.