Juvenile Justice Interventions in Santiago, Chile

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FIELD PLACEMENT AGENCY
My global field placement was with Corporation Promesi. This organization’s mission is the social integration of youth that have been sanctioned by criminal law. It fulfills its mission by addressing juvenile delinquency through a psychosocial intervention, considering every individual as capable of developing to their potential and as responsible for their actions.

OUTCOMES
In the course of my 12 week field placement, I was able to complete 4 main projects:

- Developing and leading a gender-based interventions training for staff.
- Presenting on culturally relevant models of intervention used in the US.
- Conducting research on desistance of crime and interviews on levels of violence of religious inmates in Santiago’s penitentiary.
- Developing a needs assessment tool for teen parents and a parenting skills workshop.

LESSONS LEARNED
- Take the time to get to know the community you’re in and propose ways in which you can contribute to the work of the agency.
- If you feel like you are too comfortable, find ways to keep challenging yourself.
- Set deadlines but be flexible to changes and pace of the work environment.
- At the end, the most important thing will be the connections you make.

ADVICE
- Read a book on Chilean slangs. Chilean Spanish is very unique and different from other Latin American countries.
- Be prepared to greet everyone with a kiss.
- Take time to learn about Chile’s political history. This will help you better understand the roots and causes of current events and Chilean culture.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
I want to thank the Global Activities Scholars Program and the Alumni Board of Governors for financially supporting my global field placement. In addition, to Corporation Promesi for providing me with this learning opportunity.