Pearl Simon Fund Recipient Projects

as of 9.19.17

A student walked the 500-mile Camino de Santiago trail through France and Spain.

A student worked in a number of service projects in the Artibonite Valley region of Central Haiti. Volunteers were needed for a variety of projects, including hurricane damage repairs, helping at health centers in the area, and working with children in local schools and extracurricular activities. He planned to work in the malnutrition ward of a local health center, teaching English, and maybe even playing or teaching tennis to local kids.

Another student traveled from Santiago, Chile to the regions of Ecuador where her grandparents were born and raised. She also explored the communities of the Andes Mountains to learn about her family history.

Another student traveled to Nepal to study at the Dhammashringa Vipassana monastery for a two part retreat.  The monastery provides free mediation retreats to all students interested in learning about the mind and Buddhist philosophy.   In addition to her studies, she was expected to take a vow of silence and meditate about 9 hours per day and adhere to strict Nepalese vegetarian diet.  She also received instruction on meditation and evening lectures of Buddhist cosmology during the two retreats.

Another student used his award to attend “The Creating Change Conference” which is one of the most influential and powerful organizing and skills building event the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. This conference helped him in his continued journey in understanding and accepting who he is as a Jewish bisexual white male.

A student traveled to various organic farms throughout the country through the organization WWOOF (Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms), spending two weeks at approximately seven farms in LA, TX, NC, VA, NY, ME. Her main objective was to work at farms that are supporting under-served communities with fresh local produce.

A student created an audio documentary where he would travel to Greenville, Mississippi, the town in which his grandfather was raised as a sharecropper and the youngest of 21 children and reflect on his own condition nearly a century later.

Anothervisited different cities (Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans) that hold significant black history to experience black culture in these cities to broaden her understanding of black progression in the United States. She wanted to specifically focus on the arts and historical places to see how art is received and the imporance of black history.

A student traveled from New York to Lima, Peru, where her parents grew up and most of her family still remains. She created a documentary, showing her journey through learning her father’s past.

2017

Another student experienced two intentional communitie:: Twin Oaks in Virginia and River Farm in Washington.