

Benin: Perceptions and Realities: Dr. Marcia Burrell and Dr. Kenneth Marshall

SUNY Oswego's International Education office sponsored nine students and two faculty members to go to Benin west Africa, Winter 2020. This Education and Global Studies course is the seventh iteration of the Benin program since 2008.

In the past, final student projects included a 3 to 5-page paper with references from readings completed in the fall before the winter travel session. The digital projects represent thoughts, experiences, and perceptions based on 19-day travel experience in Benin West Africa. The videos, photographs, and words represent, learning about the voodoo religion, cultural visits, homestays, and school visits. These digital products come from students in the School of Business, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the School of Education, and display their personalities, thoughts, and perceptions about their travel.

Students who made the decision to go to Benin, West Africa during Winter 2020 describe and illustrate through writing, pictures and video their perceptions and experiences of being in a completely different culture. Through the digital projects, students reveal their learning:

- Education is about the time spent on task.
- The interactions with your peers and others create a space for learning.
- Engaging with people from other nations and cultures reveals our innate need for knowing who we are and how we are connected.
- The African diaspora is inherently American.
- Schooling relies on good and dedicated teachers, selflessly giving of themselves for the good of the nation's children.

The digital projects represent the minds and hearts of the student participants:

Name	Adobe Video or Page 2/29/2020
Brianna Cochran	https://spark.adobe.com/video/4dQ0t09aSA3Fd
Elianna Sanchez	https://spark.adobe.com/video/IVX7f8PM3XHSq
Eridannia Martinez	https://spark.adobe.com/video/jYVlbnH3yoMmU
Fadi Gaye	https://spark.adobe.com/video/VwPyrBvDMT0Xd
Jenna Rogers	https://spark.adobe.com/page/P9cMDMXSSwR7P/
Kayla Matos	https://spark.adobe.com/video/rmF0Vl81xoQ2q
Khadija Kulmiya	https://spark.adobe.com/video/tu5YyzcKflzOz
Maddie Swan	https://spark.adobe.com/page/2g6id9Tk1mEYf/
Theresa France	https://spark.adobe.com/page/VaKh2lzHJu6ta/

