

NEWS RELEASE
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International Students Visit The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education

Mexican Teens Participate in Health Education Activities With Their American Counterparts

Raleigh, N.C. – On Monday, July 28, fourteen international students from Mexico visited the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education (Poe Center) to experience health education with their American counterparts. The visiting teenagers, ages 15 – 17, participated in activities and education about substance abuse prevention, nutrition and physical activity, and motor vehicle safety. The Poe Center’s [Teen Health Advisory Council](#) helped Health Educators lead the interactive education.



“It was a really neat experience to see teens from two different countries come together to share knowledge and common interests in making their communities healthier places to live,” said Thomas Ray, Poe’s Senior Director of Educational Programming. “I think it was very educational for both the international students and the Poe Center’s Teen Health Advisory Council.”



The international students, hosted by International Focus, will create and implement service projects upon returning to Mexico centered on substance abuse. The teenagers traveled to the Triangle area to attend a Youth Leadership Conference under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State in conjunction with the Ministry of Education of Mexico, World Learning and International Focus, Inc.

“The objective of this program is to promote mutual understanding between the people of the USA and Mexico by promoting interaction with peers and families, service learning activities, and the creation of a service project to implement upon returning to Mexico,” said Maria Adoskina, Special Projects Director at International Focus, Inc. “They will also participate in cultural outings, social gatherings and recreational activities.”

The students represent the best and brightest youth of Mexico. They began their leadership training at the World Learning Center in Brattleboro, Vermont before travelling to North Carolina to focus on the sub-theme of substance abuse.

“The Poe Center was thrilled to host this international group of student delegates,” said Poe Center Executive Director, Ann Rollins. “Our facility and educational programs are truly one-of-a-kind and we hope that the students will be able take what they learned at Poe back to their communities in Mexico.”

The Poe Center’s Teen Health Advisory Council is an engaged group of young people who are serious about advocating for good health in their community and can inform Poe programming and community policy makers. The Council is comprised of a diverse group of teen health peer educators, advocates and representatives. Youth and adult leaders keep abreast of current health issues and emerging trends in Wake County. Teens, university students and adults share best practices and learn current information about pressing teen health issues from professionals.

About the Poe Center

The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering North Carolina’s children, youth and their families to make choices that increase positive health behaviors. Since establishing its Raleigh facility in 1991, the Poe Center has provided health education to more than one million children throughout North Carolina. By engaging in fun, highly interactive lessons, preschoolers through twelfth graders receive information that follows the NC DPI Healthful Living Essential Standards on a variety of health topics, including nutrition, dental health, general health, family life and drug prevention. For additional information about the Poe Center, please visit www.poehealth.org.

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