

### **TST 2012 GROUP 3**

#### **Ms. Karen Pratt**

Volunteers of America South; Sioux Falls, Sout Dakota

After watching several travel videos and talking with friends who had recently visited Turkey, my expectations were high. My travels and experiences here have exceeded them all. Turkey is a destination not to be missed.

#### **Ms. Angela Romero**

Whittier Middle School; Brandon, South Dakota

This was a life-changing experience that exposed me to another culture, allowed me to make great new friends from around the country, and whet my appetite for more study tours!

#### **Ms. Josephine Richey**

New Underwood School; Rapid City, South Dakota

This trip surpassed my expectations in every way. I was overwhelmed by the longevity and richness of the history and culture. Truly a magnificent experience that I am excited to share with my students and others.

#### **Ms. Heidi Berbee**

Chaska High School; Cologne, Minnesota

What an amazing opportunity to have experienced. An in-depth discovery of the lengthy history and rich culture of a beautiful land. I have so *many* things I can't wait to share with my community and classroom. The Turkish culture has such a focus on hospitality- we felt incredibly welcomed by everyone. It seemed like people were genuinly concerned with all of our group having as fantastic an experience as possible.

#### **Ms. Janet Keaveny**

Jefferson Elementary; New Ulm, Minnesota

I saw people living in community- smiling, visiting with one another, drinking piping hot tea from small clear glass tea cups with tiny spoons, playing backgammon in public places.

I saw people working- selling bowls and scarves and t-shirts and postcards, making pottery and rugs and fresh squeezed juice and aromatic foods, serving others, working and harvesting crops in the fields under the ever-hot sun.

I saw people moving- by foot, by taxi and truck and tractor, by bike and bus and boat, isolated in the country, chaotic in the city.

And I- I am also a person- living in community, working, and moved by Turkey!

#### **Ms. Megan O'Reilly**

Washburn High School; Minneapolis, Minnesota

Turkey has bewitched me- mind, body and soul. I have learned so much about the country and culture that my classroom will never be the same, and the experiences I've had will live with me forever.

**Mr. Stanley (Paul) Tuszynski**

RTR High School; Tyler, Minnesota

Turkey was a phenomenal experience for me. With the exception of Canada as a child, I have never been out of the country. As a visual arts teacher, I was amazed at the beautiful landscapes, the vibrant peoples, the architecture and stylish decor of the apartments, houses, and other buildings. I enjoyed immersing myself within the culture and liked the historical and humorous stories and history of the Turkish culture and heritage. I thoroughly enjoyed the Turkish cuisine including all of the foods and beverages consumed at every stop along the way. Again, the beautiful surroundings and the clothing articles worn by the people of Turkey added so much to the experience. The arts, crafts and textiles of this country were amazing in the breadth and depth of the people's talents and skills. The vast variety of music and skills of local musicians added a flair to the ambiance of this place.

**Mr. Colin Bush**

Mercer Island High School; Seattle, Washington

Before coming on this trip to Turkey, I had always thought that organized group tours were for people who were inexperienced with travel abroad or for those who are afraid of leaving the comforts of home. This trip has changed that perception. I now see how valuable it is to have a guide who can help people understand the new culture they are seeing and who can recommend experiences that a tourist would be unlikely to choose on their own or even with a guidebook. I have had a wonderful experience here. It combined all the best aspects of a holiday and a classroom. This was a true example of experimental learning. I would recommend TCF's mission, website, and this tour to every American teacher.

**Ms. Holly Miller**

Emerson Alternative High School; Seattle

This experience has enriched my life and is sure to have the same effect on my students. I look forward to sharing with them my experiences in a country that has rebuilt itself in the 20th century into a proud, warm, and open society that will be a great leader in the years to come.

**Ms. Patricia Marlow**

Tolt Middle School; Seattle, Washington

We hit the ground running and never slowed down. It would take a lifetime to explore the wealth of history, culture, and hospitality that Turkey offers, and our hosts ensured that every moment was filled with discovery. One cannot help but be overwhelmed standing at Catalhoyuk or Ephesus or amazed looking out at the surrealist Cappadocia landscape. It will take weeks after I return home to share all that I have learned and experienced over the last fourteen days, but the experience will be part of my life forever.

**Mr. Peter Schmidt**

Pinkertown Academy; Manchester, New Hampshire

Turkey far exceeded any and all preconceived notions that I had. I was impressed. I will be back!

**Ms. Holly Gladsden**

Wilton Lyndeborough Coop; Milford, New Hampshire

This experience reconfirmed and augmented my belief that we belong to a shared humanity, one that transcends time and culture.

**Ms. Kelly Nelson**

Lin-Wood Public School; Lincoln, New Hampshire

Traveling to Turkey has been inspiring and eye opening. I am leaving here with a refreshed mind, new perspectives, and a wealth of new ideas and resources I can use in my classroom. Overall, this was an excellent experience I would recommend to any educator!

**Mr. Ricardo Higuera**

Toro Canyon Middle School; Indio, California

Turkey opened its doors and her arms embraced us. She held us warmly on our quest to know her, spilling sights and sounds for us to bathe in. Merely a sip was enough to love her and invoke a whirl of emotions. My only regret is having but one life to live, an instant of which was in Turkey. Eyvallah!

**Ms. Kimberly Robinson**

Cathedral City High School; Cathedral City, California

Thank you TCF! This trip was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. The history and culture I have been exposed to will be reflected in my classroom instruction for years to come. Please continue to make this trip available to teachers so that they can educate Americans about what Turkey is like.

**Ms. Kelly O'Brien**

Leonard Middle School; Old Town, Maine

The chance of a lifetime for any teacher. This study tour gave a very unique and eye-opening experience that changes the perspective and attitudes of all teachers involved. I feel incredibly blessed to be able to take part in such an academic and cultural tour. I thank the Turkish Cultural Foundation as well as the world affairs council of Maine for giving me this incredibly life-changing experience.

**Ms. Karen Massey**

Freeport High School; Yarmouth, Maine

TCF has put together a tour of Turkey- its historic sites, natural beauty, schools, culture, and cuisine that is simply amazing. If you have the opportunity: GO! It is hard to imagine a more varied, comfortable, exciting, enlightening, 2 week sojourn in Turkey- despite the incredible heat. TCF values educators and both challenges and awards them with an experience that will greatly expand any teacher's knowledge and understanding of a rising regional power in a strategic part of the world- leaving the teacher thirsty for more and excited to share it all with his or her students. THANK YOU TCF.

**Ms. Emily Rodriquez**

Cannarelli Middle School; Las Vegas, Nevada

My trip was an eye-opening experience that broke through all the stereotypes of what the “middle east” is. Turkish people have a culturally rich history that they want to share with everyone. They are deeply rooted in the eastern and western world and are a true crossroads into both ways of life. There are not enough words to explain what a blessing this trip has been.

**Ms. Joyce Oday**

Advanced Technologies Academy; Las Vegas, Nevada

Before my visit, I had a black and white textbook knowledge of Turkey. Now, thanks to the tours, lectures, and cultural events I experienced, color and texture have been added to my understanding of this country that lies at the crossroads of civilization and has played a significant role throughout world history. Thanks to this grand adventure, I have become enthralled with this nation’s history, culture, and people.

**Mr. Jeremy Hall**

Bishop Brady High School; Concord, New Hampshire

My experience in Turkey was a physically taxing, information overloading, eye opening, thought provoking, laugh inducing, spiritually fulfilling experience. I am so grateful.