

Teacher Mentors Abroad



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2022



RETURNING
TO JOY!

*Deyanira Aquino
Co-leader Santo Domingo team*



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www.teachermentors.ca

email: teachermentors.info@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"We're together again!" The voices convey delight, and the smiles say even more. The Canadian and Dominican mentors are together again after two years of meeting remotely. And the Board that was similarly dependent on technology, had the same feeling of renewed togetherness with dinner meetings that sometimes felt like family reunions.

In the past two years, we challenged the limitations of e-communication and moved forward with our training program. We accomplished a surprising amount, but we also proved that nothing, and I repeat nothing, substitutes for the in-person experience. We are delighted to be truly together again.

The Year in Review on the following pages captures the essence of TMA's work and the renewed spirit with which TMA and our Dominican partners embraced this year's in-person training. Our teams made that training new and different in wonderful and refreshing ways. And there was proof that TMA had matured in yet another way. Three of us who would previously have been on-site to look after organizational tasks, were no longer needed in those roles. Juan Pablo Liriano, Betty Anne Platt, and I were elsewhere while the teams moved smoothly through their activities, organizational details well managed.

From the beginning TMA mentors were presented with a challenge: to be **Agents of Change**. As they learned to improve their own practice, they would learn to support the growth of others. This summer we saw the mentors' training in action as they led enthusiastic participants in workshops. Word was getting around that good things were happening with TMA, and new contributors stepped forward with offers to organize and provision activities. The mentors were leading change with skill, enthusiasm and confidence and a new chapter of TMA's work was about to begin, the mentors in the lead, supported by us.

All this was possible thanks to extraordinary individuals and organizations who are part of TMA's work and the generous and steadfast support of our donors, without whom none of this could be realized.

Special recognition and heartfelt thanks to two retiring members: Janet Giberson, Board member and Co-Chair of Program Committee who provided exceptional leadership to multiple training teams; and Pauline Laing, Honorary member who provided invaluable advice and guidance to our Board, leading our Strategic Plans and providing continuous insights following visits to both DR training sites.

To each and every one of you, Gracias de todo corazón! Thank you with all my heart!



Nancy Threan Loraine
President

A YEAR IN REVIEW

ACHIEVED

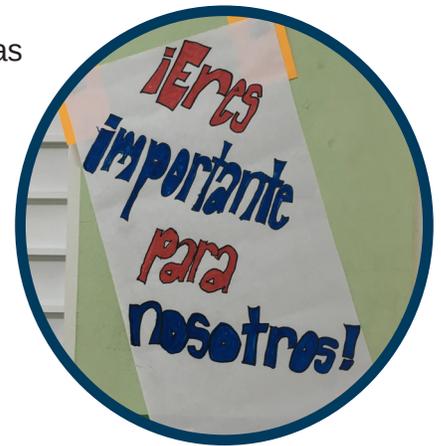
ADELANTE!

It began with uncertainty. It finished with undeniable success, satisfaction, enthusiasm and anticipation for the coming year.

For two years TMA and Dominican mentors had greatly reduced opportunities for training and leadership development, and no training was feasible for educators at large. This year opportunities emerged and Dominican and Canadian mentor teams forged forward.

Progressive Proposals

- Pilot proposal received for expanding TMA reach into rural areas of Dominican Republic (DR)
- Intercultural Sensitivity Workshop being developed for Canadians in all areas of TMA
- Books for study selected by Program Committee: Latino Leadership (Canadian mentors for cultural sensitivity), and Un León en Cabarete (Dominican mentors for Balanced Literacy workshops)
- Request received from SmartOsvita (Ukrainian education organization) for Professional Development for Ukrainian educators



Salient Actions

- Juan Pablo Liriano joins the Board of Directors
- Pilot Proposal is enhanced and implemented entirely with DR leadership
- Dominican mentor teams expand program delivery to new sites, La Vega and Consuelo
- Professional development workshop with SmartOsvita happens in August
- Communications Committee launches new website
- Technology Action Plan is developed including
 - ✧ Privacy Policy
 - ✧ Record Management & Retention Policy
- Enhanced fiscal policies bring increased accountability and reduced costs



Memorable Moments

- Educational presentations by Board members provided insight into the breadth and depth of their experiences and their commitment to TMA
- Meetings with Dominican mentors, Ministry and education officials and the Canadian Ambassador in the Dominican Republic brought renewed support for our work
- The excitement and confidence expressed by Dominican mentors who designed and led workshops was an inspiration for everyone
- A Podcast featuring a Santo Domingo team member from Kawartha Lakes brought to listeners an authentic and personal account of the TMA experience



Adelante! *(ahead)*

- La Vega and Consuelo form new DR mentor teams poised for program expansion
- DR Ministry requests training designed specifically for system leaders
- Training for mentors is planned with Peace Learning Center (formerly Tribes)
- TMA's solid financial foundation permits commitment to program plans and training requirements identified by Program Committee. Mentors at four sites are now involved
- Nearly half the Board members are Spanish-speaking and have Hispanic roots

TMA MISSION

Grounded in the fundamental belief that quality education stems from effective instruction, Teacher Mentors Abroad (TMA) is devoted to the work of building teachers' capacity in under-resourced environments throughout the world.

TMA VISION

TMA shall foster professional learning partnerships consisting of a vibrant corps of Canadian educators coupled with identified teachers in project sites. Emerging from each partnership will be improved instructional practices as well as local leadership capable of sustaining a dynamic professional learning community dedicated to ongoing instructional improvement.

REFLECTIONS



“We have arrived at the happy end of a new educational journey of TMA. I believe that expectations were exceeded and the team returns

with the satisfaction of saying mission accomplished. Just a while ago I returned from the airport and the messengers of good will are flying home. Thank you for your work”.

José Lopez

Santo Domingo team host with wife Gloria

“On behalf of the educational community of Consuelo and the entire Educational District 05-06, we are especially grateful to the TMA team for making us participate in an action to improve the teaching and learning process of our children, young people and adolescents of our schools.”

Hector Santana Nolasco

Principal of Politécnico Inmaculada Concepción, and host and logistics coordinator of the outreach program in Consuelo.



“I am very satisfied with what I have learned in this capacity building workshop that instructs us in strategies that engage students....understanding how I can share strategies with my teachers and that they will be empowered in bringing the curriculum to life in their classrooms”.

Nancy Ramirez Reyes

Principal in Consuelo



“I felt really encouraged and motivated because I know I get nervous when I’m directing this kind of work (presenter). But now with this experience it was easy, they (Canadians) made it easy and I realized that I can do this (be a mentor). Wow! I get surprised with myself and that was because of the environment and confidence that I felt with TMA.”

Danelis Garcia

La Vega mentor

REFLECTIONS

What gives 'life' to what we do? The confidence we have in humanity and that as citizens of this world we have a responsibility to leave things better for future generations.

What motivates me to be committed to TMA? The high quality of skill and level of professionalism demonstrated by Canadian team members and transmitted to our mentors.

What has most motivated me is the 'warmth of humanity' demonstrated by Canadians that gives us confidence and feeling secure that is shared and embraced by our Dominican mentors

Aslini Brito

Former Director of Education for La Vega



"The participants were able to connect with ease and dedication and likewise demonstrated and expressed their gratitude for such learning today. What can improve? More time, more days, two or three days of training so you can take greater advantage of the activities".

Andrea Mejia

Santo Domingo team mentor



"I loved the experience, the Dominican teachers know the curriculum very well and were very happy with what they learned. It was very new for them and aroused in them the desire to do their work in a different way. I am very grateful for the opportunity to share with teachers who have such a passion for teaching".

Maxima Martinez

Maxima (R) translator and Santo Domingo team mentor with Wendy Chan (L), Canadian team co-leader

REFLECTIONS



“I’m very grateful to the Canadian and Santiago mentors for encouraging and supporting me in preparing for the conference and organizing excellent workshops that were very innovative and positive for participants from the city of La Vega. They participated in the workshops with great enthusiasm. Representation included a Superintendent, the UNPHU University and INFOTEP (Ministry technical training school).”

Xiomara Agramonte
Santiago/La Vega team mentor



75 Educators attended the La Vega workshops

“Travelling to Santiago with TMA was an incredible experience.

I was new to TMA, unsure what to expect, but encouraging words from Denise and Sue were the support I needed and immediately I felt like part of the team. The Santiago mentors added to the welcome with their words and that authentic Dominican smile.

The mentors in Santiago are very special educators. I learned alongside them for a week, and was repeatedly surprised by their commitment to improving Dominican educational practices.

I was inspired by their desire to learn and their collaboration in preparing workshops for their colleagues in La Vega.

Dominicans say...mi granito de arena... “my grain of sand”, to describe a contribution they make. I feel proud that my grain of sand helps improve Dominican education. But I am grateful for another grain of sand, what the Dominican mentors have taught me about collaboration and friendship that will enrich my teaching and philosophy.

Thank you so much for an amazing opportunity”.

Cheryl Rayburn
*Santiago team member 2022, Thames Valley DSB
Belkys (L), Cheryl (C), and Danelis (R)*



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