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Youth Empowerment Project returns with lessons learned from peer-to-peer learning exchange in Brazil

*****Photos attached please courtesy: Youth Empowerment Project*****

New Orleans, LA – A delegation representing the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is back from an amazing and inspiring week in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. YEP was chosen by the International Youth Foundation to be the first U.S. organization to take part in the peer-to-peer learning exchange called *(Re)Connecting Youth: Exchanging Global Lessons*.

“The leadership, staff and young people at Rede Cidadã, YEP’s Brazilian partner organization, were tremendous hosts; they were welcoming, generous, kind, insightful and thoughtful,” said YEP Executive Director Melissa Sawyer.

Rede Cidadã prepares young people to enter and succeed in the workplace by helping participants discover their personal strengths and interests and realize how these assets are transferable to the professional world. YEP’s team, consisting of Executive Director Melissa Sawyer, Deputy Director Jerome Jupiter, Director of Programs Darrin McCall and Work & Learn Center Director Brice White, had the firsthand opportunity to learn about many of the challenges facing young people in Brazil which are similar to the same obstacles facing youth in New Orleans. The YEP team also experienced Rede Cidadã’s innovative methodology that incorporates biocentric movement and dance into apprenticeship and employment training programming.

YEP is looking forward to hosting a group from Rede Cidadã in New Orleans at the end of August, reciprocating the hospitality YEP received, and introducing the international guests to YEP’s staff, young people and programming.

A special thanks to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the International Youth Foundation, and the Cricket Island Foundation for making this valuable and transformative opportunity possible for members of the YEP team.

ABOUT YEP: Founded in 2004, the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a nonprofit which engages underserved young people through community-based education, mentoring, enrichment and employment readiness programs. In 2016, YEP served 1201 young people through a total of 11 programs at six sites. You can learn more about YEP by visiting: www.youthempowermentproject.org or follow @YEPNOLA on social media.
