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I applied to go on the Puentes Trip for several reasons. I work with Spanish speaking adult groups, many of whom are recent arrivals to the area. These families have very specific needs as well as very specific concerns. I felt that the Puentes trip would allow me to better serve these families, to understand how to direct them to the services they need, and to better understand the situations which influenced their decisions to come to the United States. I feel that I have come back from the trip with a different understanding of the immigration issues and new ideas on how to better serve the families with whom I work. I also realize that it is essential to collaborate with other community organizations so as to avoid repetition of services and to ascertain what services are actually needed within the immigrant community.

As a direct result of this trip, I, along with other UW Extension trip participants, will create a presentation for our UW colleagues which will explain what was learned and elaborate on possible community collaborations and ideas to better serve the immigrant community. In addition, I will make a presentation to my co-workers, as well as a press release to local media.