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## ***Teachers Making Connections Educational Brigade Administrator FAQ***

**Congratulations!** One of your teachers has expressed an interest in participating in our [Teachers Making Connections Brigade](#) to Honduras, Central America. We have prepared the following information for you in order to help facilitate your discussion of this program with your teacher.

### **The mission of Heart in Education Teacher Outreach:**

The mission of Heart in Education Teacher Outreach (HETO) is to promote high-quality learning environments in Honduras through material and intellectual support.

### **We accomplish this goal by:**

Recruiting and taking Indiana teachers to Honduras twice a year on one week educational brigades to work in critically under-funded elementary and high schools. During the one-week brigade trip, Indiana teachers model lessons, conduct professional development workshops, and deliver much needed supplies and resources to the Honduran teachers and students. HETO encourages Indiana teachers to include their own students in dynamic pre-trip and post-trip plans and activities, thereby bringing service learning, real-world problem solving, and cultural studies into the classroom.

### **To become a HETO teacher, one must:**

1. Have a love of travel, or at least willingness for adventure and excitement. Above all, traveling teachers must be ready to embrace the Honduran culture and life. We travel to Honduras not only to share our ideas and knowledge, but also learn from the Honduran educators.
2. Be a licensed teacher in the state of Indiana who is currently teaching at an Indiana public or private school. We encourage teachers of all grades and subjects to apply. Our current and alumni HETO teachers come from all backgrounds: general classroom, music, physical education, religion, Spanish, kindergarten, special education, and art.
3. Commit to participate in all HETO monthly planning meetings and fundraising functions before your trip. A detailed calendar will be provided to you and absences must be cleared through the HETO director at least 24-hours in advance.
4. Journal your experience while on the brigade and participate in reflections with other HETO teachers. Your reflections while in Honduras will help you see the connections you can make back at home with your family, friends, students, and administrators.
5. Agree to complete at least one project to support one of our 11 HETO Partner Schools within one year of your return. All projects must be approved by the HETO Executive Board. Project ideas can include, but are not limited to: starting a student club at the HETO teacher's school, planning and executing a fundraiser to better your partner school, holding school supply drives, and/or planning a school-wide cultural project. Teachers may collaborate when planning projects and should submit their project request together.
6. Act as an ambassador and assist in recruiting future HETO teachers from his/her own school, as well as other area schools.

## **Frequently Asked Questions by Administrators:**

### ***Q: When is the program?***

**A:** Typically, the winter brigade travels during the last week of February and the summer brigade goes during the last week of July.

### ***Q: What will the teacher be doing each day of the trip?***

**A:** On a typical day the group will:

- wake up and prepare for the day
- eat a hot breakfast at the Nuevo Paraíso dorms
- visit one HETO partner school to present lessons, visit with teachers, watch Honduran teachers at work, speak with administrators, and participate in and lead professional development sessions
- return to Nuevo for a hot lunch
- visit a second HETO partner school and complete the activities listed above
- return to Nuevo for a hot dinner
- relax and share thoughts on the day in the gazebo at Nuevo
- go to bed, ready for another exciting day at HETO partner schools

**\*\*Teachers will be provided with an official daily schedule for the week upon acceptance into the program.\*\***

### ***Q: Who covers the costs involved with the program?***

**A:** Each teacher is responsible for paying the costs associated with the trip, including room and board, airfare, transportation, translator and driver fees, and tips. Many schools choose to help teachers with their costs through grants, fundraising, and/or professional development reserves, but school participation is not required.

### ***Q: Does the teacher have to speak Spanish to be a part of the trip?***

**A:** No. We will be accompanied by translators who are fluent in Spanish and English at all times. These translators will help us with our daily activities and will assist us in teaching our lessons to the Spanish-speaking students and in our communications with Honduran teachers. However, the trip will be a great way to learn some new language skills!

### ***Q: How can our school get behind our representative teacher and what connections can we make with Honduran teachers and students?***

**A:** HETO encourages all traveling teachers to work closely with their home schools and their own students while planning their trip. Students can become involved through classroom assignments and activities and after-school clubs and groups. With the recent addition of the Internet at Nuevo Paraíso, teachers can plan to keep in contact with their students while they are gone. In the past, traveling teachers have had their students prepare parts of their lesson, create one half of a project that will also be done with the Honduran students, research the Honduran culture and geography, collect school supplies and money to be donated to the HETO schools, prepare a school scrapbook to be show in the

### ***Q: What is our representative teacher's responsibility to HETO once he/she returns?***

**A:** HETO requires that returning teachers complete one service project for one of our 11 HETO Partner Schools. This project can be anything that meets the needs of the home school/classroom, as long as it is approved by the HETO Executive Board in advance. HETO encourages teachers to use their creativity in developing projects with their students and suggests tying the service project in with existing curriculum.

### ***Q: I know of a school that would like to help, but they cannot afford to send a teacher at this time. Can that school still participate in some way?***

**A:** HETO accepts schools as both partner schools and what are called "sponsor schools". These sponsor schools help HETO by holding school supply drives, collecting money, and getting the word out about our mission. Please contact Peggy Esselman at [peggy.heartineducation@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy.heartineducation@yahoo.com) if you know of a school that would be interested in acting as a sponsor school.