Iowa Educators and Administrators Immersion Experience
May 2007

The purpose of the Iowa Educators and Administrators Immersion Experience is to provide Iowa’s educational leaders with the opportunity to experience firsthand the cultural and linguistic setting from which many of Iowa’s most recent immigrant schoolchildren come.
Living with a host family, observing classroom instruction, and interacting with the host community more generally allows immersion participants to develop rich insights about the cultural and linguistic resources that Iowa’s immigrant schoolchildren bring with them into the classroom.
From these insights comes the capacity not only to recognize the differences these children bring, but also to acknowledge their implications for teaching and learning, and the need to make provisions in curriculum and instruction.
The destination for the May 2007 immersion experience was Villachuato, Michoacán, México. These photos provide merely a snapshot of the participants’ Immersion trip experiences.

For more information, contact Katherine Richardson Bruna, trip facilitator, at krbruna@iastate.edu.
May 2007 Participants

- Jeanne Angel, ELL Facilitator, Waterloo
- Brenda Auxier-Mailey, Student Services Director, Urbandale
- Ellen Fairchild, Lecturer, Iowa State University
- Brenda Ferrie, Principal, Sacred Heart School
- Dave Henrichs, Superintendent, Lenox
May 2007 Participants

• Sharon Jenson, Assistant Professor, Simpson College
• Betsy Nefzger, School Improvement Facilitator, Keystone AEA
• Carole Richardson, Assistant Professor, Simpson College
• Lisa Stevenson, Curriculum Director, West Liberty
May 2007 Participants

- Chad Wahls, Principal, Postville
- Mike Wells, Superintendent, Corning
Anxious at the Airport
Excited on the Airplane
We’re “Home”!
Let’s Eat!
Exploring the Community
Getting to Know New Friends: The Locals . . .
And Each Other!
Iowa’s Educators and Administrators
Go Back To Middle School
Learning in a New Language is Tough: Can You Help Me Out Here?
Students Show Off Some New Technology
We Even Give It a Try
Students Practice a Dance for Mother’s Day
And Then Pose for a Picture
Others Shoot Some Hoops
Mónica, the English Teacher, Does Some Q&A
We Say Goodbye to the Middle School
And Hit the Streets Again: A Surprise Around Every Corner
Scenes from “Home”: Sharing Learning with New Family
While They Share Their Lives With Us
How Do You Say “Ice Cream” in Spanish?
Other Ways of Joining In:
Soccer Games . . .
Board Games
And Kick Ball
Back To School Again: This Time It’s Elementary!
Checking Out Classrooms
Checking Out Curriculum
And Just Hanging Out
This Student is a Nebraskan!
Time for 10:30 Taquitos
Families Deliver Home-Cooked Meals to School
Who’s Behind the Camera Now?
A Space for Reflection: A Day’s Debrief
And a Much-Needed Nap
El Día de Santa Cruz: A Special Saint’s Day Celebration . . . Music
And a Parade
Into Church
And Onto the Mountain
Final Glimpses: Nati with her Birds
Michi hiding behind some pots
Fredi With His Chicken
A Caring Family
A Sad Goodbye
And the Journey Home: Where Will the Learning Take Us?
Many Thanks to May 2007 Participants and the Host Families and Community

You Were the Heart of the Experience!