Practicum Experience for Korean Students

From January 22nd to February 3rd, we collaborated with the Falk School (Pitt) and the Campus School (Carlow) to host fourteen early childhood education students from Duksung Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea. Each student had a cooperating teacher at one of the practicum sites and spent about 2/3 of the days as a student teacher. At the Children’s School, they had orientation similar to other undergraduate assistants and participated in team and staff meetings. As a group, the students also toured the other practicum sites, two additional centers, the Children’s Museum, the Carnegie Museum, and Phipps Conservatory, as well as meeting with the PAEYC executive director to learn about state and national early childhood policy. The students lived with host families to learn about life in American homes with young children. The students also had a pizza and discussion session with American undergraduates, and they had weekend time to explore a mall and experience young adult nightlife. At the end of the two weeks, they had farewell festivities at their practicum site and as a whole group, as well as opportunities to reflect on the experience with their cooperating teacher and with the administrators. Everyone involved in this international practicum experience expressed positive sentiments and identified significant learning. Many thanks to the whole staff and to the Browns and the Parks for hosting our five students!

Our students were Jeong-Eun Yong, Hyun-Joo Kim, Hea-Lim Kwen, Eun-Hye Lee, and Eun-Ji Choi.