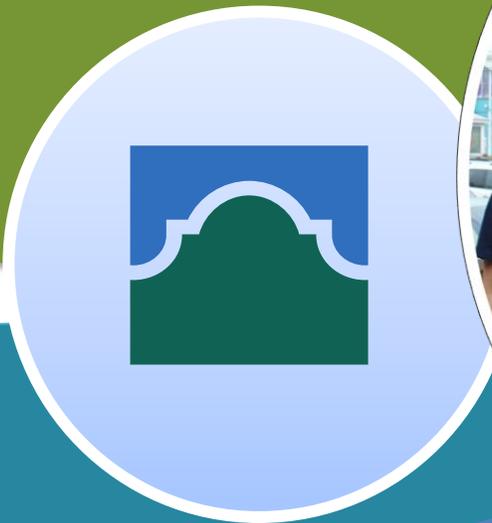


# The Alamo Colleges and Southern Brazil Federal Institutes: English as Second Language (ESL) and Technical Training Program

February 2014

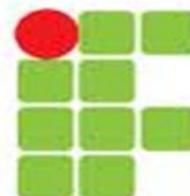


Final Report



ALAMO  
COLLEGES

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS



INSTITUTO FEDERAL  
SUL-RIO-GRANDENSE

# **The Alamo Colleges and Southern Brazil Federal Institutes: Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Sul-rio- grandense and Instituto Federal Parana**

**English as Second Language Program (ESL) and Technical Training**

**February 3 – February 28, 2014**

**Final Report**

Institutions: Alamo Colleges  
San Antonio, Texas

Instituto Federal de Santa Catarina; Instituto Federal do Paraná; Instituto  
Federal Sul-Rio Grandense

## **Introduction**

In 2009, the Alamo Colleges were uniquely positioned to partner with the southern institutions in Brazil to provide training and education courses in a variety of areas. The culmination of several administrator visits from Brazilian institutions to the Alamo Colleges and vice versa, along with extensive planning and preparation resulted in a program which would work towards enhancing the education and professional preparation of the faculty members at the Federal Institutes of Science and Technology (IFSUL) of Santa Catarina, Paraná, and Rio Grandense. Fulfilling the immediate objective of the project would ensure the Brazilian partner institutions would have a body of faculty equipped to educate students with specific certifiable skills which are in demand in their regions. This is expected to create a multiplier effect which would benefit the regions throughout Rio Grande do Sul.

The partnership has continued to grow since its inception in 2009 because of the conscious focus on capacity building, which is aligned with the goals of the Alamo Colleges and the Federal Institutes of Science and Technology (IFSUL). The ways in which the partnership contributes to capacity building are as follows:

- Enhancing and improving faculty and student knowledge of standard practices, certification and accreditation
- Sharing best practices on the concept of an environment for student success

## **The Program**

The February 2014 program developed for the Brazilian Faculty partners consisted of an academic and technical training track for a four week period. The academic program provided a platform for the faculty members to engage with the English language to improve their aural-oral proficiency and build confidence in using the language. While the technical training program provided faculty members the opportunity to connect with professionals in their respective fields to gain a deeper understanding of their practice. The program tracks are further detailed below.

### *Academic Training*

The academic training was centered on providing English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) instruction to the faculty members for 112 hours. A pre-test was administered by Global Language Administration Services (GLES) to determine the placement of the participants in the courses and to measure the listening comprehension skills and competencies prior to the start of the program. Upon their arrival in class at San Antonio College, faculty members received contextualized English lessons focused on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills instruction administered by seasoned English instructors. These classes were supplemented by out of class activities and field trips, so that the faculty could experience the language as a living entity in various situations. At the conclusion of the program, GLES administered a post-test (the same pre-test given at the beginning of the program) to measure the changes involved with administering the intervention.

### *Technical Training*

On Wednesdays, faculty members were provided an internship site which reflected their professional field. Unfortunately, not all faculty members were directly paired with a professional in their field due to limitations in the American education system (i.e. no textile professionals or program of study in the surrounding San Antonio area); however, accommodations were made to place the faculty members in a similar field or an area of interest.

Various departments within the Alamo Colleges and outside campus partners contributed to the internship experience with a variety of tours, presentations, lectures, and experiential learning opportunities. Internship hosts also provided faculty members with the opportunity to engage and dialogue with professionals in their field to explore innovative instruction techniques, lesson planning, and best practices.

Faculty members will be able to take the knowledge gained back to their campuses and adapt it for use in their academic/technical classroom. Furthermore, it is our hope that once the faculty member has become familiar with the techniques implemented, they will take on a “train the trainer” approach. This will enable program completers to use their enhanced skills not only to provide a superior educational experience for students, but with the ability to train other instructors in the region as well.

**Breadth of higher education institutions, organizations, and businesses who participated in the internship experience:**

#### **Alamo Community Colleges: District Offices**

- Communications
- Distance Learning
- Student Success

#### **Northwest Vista**

- Student Success

#### **Palo Alto College**

- Communications
- Horticultural

#### **San Antonio College**

- Allied Health
- Communications
- English-as-a-Second Language Program
- Information Technology
- Psychology Department

#### **St. Philip's College**

- Massage Therapy
- Tourism, Hospitality & Culinary Arts

#### **Workforce Center of Excellence**

- Engineering
- Facilities

#### **Aveda Institute**

#### **New Earth Compost Inc.**

#### **Northside Independent School District**

- Adult & Community Education Department

#### **Southwest School of Art**

#### **University of Texas at San Antonio**

- English-as-a-Second Language Program
- Engineering Department
- Tomas Rivera Center for Student Success

### *Cultural Activities*

The cultural activities complimented program goals by providing the faculty members additional opportunities to practice the English language with native speakers and learn about new cultures (i.e. American and Texan). The activities highlighted historic South Texas sites and traditional American customs. Faculty members used these activities in their class to discuss the nature of the cultural differences and further help them understand the importance of tolerance and empathy when interacting with individuals of diverse cultures.

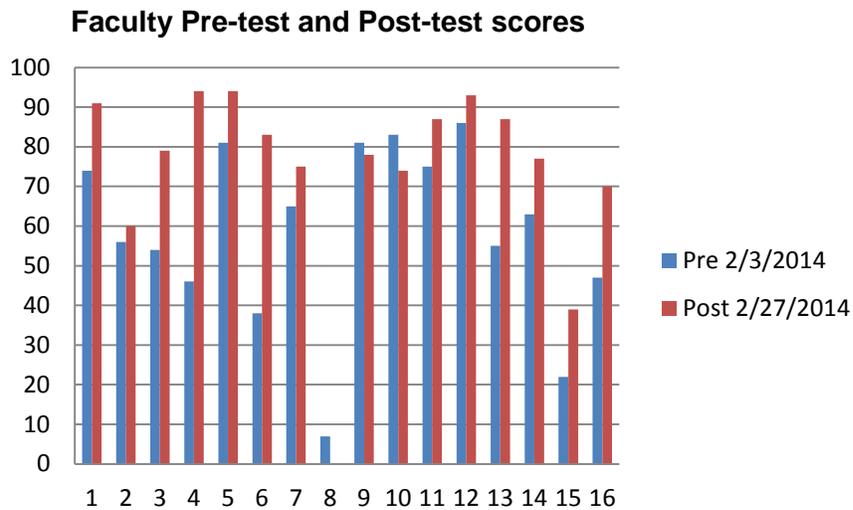


Tours and various sites of exploration included:

- The Riverwalk
- The Alamo & Missions Tour
- San Antonio Museum of Art
- Mc Nay Art Museum
- Cooking Demo at St. Philip's College
- San Marcos Outlet Mall
- San Antonio Rodeo & Western Dancing
- Sites around the Texas Hill Country
- American Sporting Event – Spurs Basketball Game

### *Evaluations*

Program evaluations were conducted from a variety of perspectives. Academically pre and post tests were conducted on the ESL portions of the program. A statistical analysis was conducted and even though the number of participants was 15 the t-test indicated a statistically significant result. The small difference in the mean pre and post test scores and the closeness of some of the scores indicates that the nature of the pre and post -test will have to be investigated for ambiguity before being used for future groups (see Attachment I). This is especially so since the feedback from the instructor indicates that 60% -70% of students showed great improvement in their oral, written and comprehension skills in the English language. A comparison of the pre and post test scores can be seen in the graph below.



Every participant was provided the opportunity to submit feedback on their personal experience of the program via a survey. Surveys were administered by an Alamo Colleges employee during the first and last weeks of the program. While the tool was mixed methods in nature, the survey relied more heavily on qualitative data as the program is still in its pilot phase. As the program progresses and improvements are made to reflect the data collected, the survey will reflect more quantitative data, making it a true mixed methods tool.

Faculty members provided positive feedback on the teaching methodologies employed by the English instructors, the numerous learning opportunities provided by the technical internship, the diverse and stimulating cultural activities, and the friendliness and hospitality provided by Alamo Colleges' employees.

However, the faculty members commented Alamo Colleges could improve the program experience by providing access to detailed program information, administer a placement exam prior to arrival, and provided technical internships on various days. They also requested to integrate the academic track with the other ESL classes on campus. The faculty members believed if they had access to the diverse students on campus, they would have had additional opportunities to practice and appreciate the language.

In previous evaluations, we have seen similar trends, both in the positive and negative comments. As we continue to host these delegations, collecting this feedback will prove to be imperative to making programmatic improvements.

**Items measured on survey:**

Program Orientation

English Language Instruction

- Classroom Design
- Classroom Instructors/Facilitators

Technical Training Experience

Cultural Activities

Lodging and Meals

- Room Accommodations
- Meals provided in package

Overall Program Experience

## Recommendations

Based off the feedback provided in previous and current surveys, we recommend the following steps be taken for programmatic improvements:

- *Increase communication between Alamo Colleges' Program Coordinator, IFSUL Coordinators, and Program Participants*
  - Participants voiced their issues with obtaining program information because of the numerous IFSUL Coordinators involved in the process. The IFSUL Coordinators have varying levels of experience with the program which made it difficult to get program specifics from some of the Coordinators. In addition, some faculty members commented on their evaluations how they were confused on who the actual program coordinator was. They believed the designated IFSUL Coordinator was the individual coordinating the program/activities at Alamo Colleges.

While it would be easier for Alamo Colleges to designate one Coordinator for all of the IFSUL campuses, this action is not a feasible action for prospective program participants or IFSUL staff members- largely due to the fact that the campuses are located in different states. Therefore, Alamo Colleges will need to increase communication between Coordinators and program participants. This maintenance will require Alamo Colleges to obtain a list of program participants with their contact information earlier in the planning process. Through these communications, Alamo Colleges can establish the varying roles each individual plays during the process and outline program specifics. In this capacity, the IFSUL Coordinator will be able to serve and be seen as a liaison to the program versus a program expert.

- *Placement Exam prior to participant arrival*
  - Program participants suggested a desire to take the English placement exam prior to their arrival at Alamo Colleges. They believed taking a test prior to their arrival would save time and money, allowing them a few extra days to focus on their English instruction versus taking time out of the class period to take an exam and placing individuals based off of their levels of English.

Alamo Colleges will need to conduct additional research to see if it is possible to partner with a supporting institution to administer a placement exam abroad and the costs of administering the exam.

- *Providing Technical Internships on various days of the week*
  - Program participants requested internships on different days of the week because they felt having the internship on the same day every week provided the same learning experience. The faculty members believed by having the internship on different days of the week, they would be provided with a different experience each time.

Providing technical internships on various days of the week is a feasible and relatively easy programmatic change which the Alamo Colleges can implement.

However, we will need to collect more data and analyze both perspectives to see which experience will offer the best learning experience for our partners.

- *Increase interaction with student population*
  - To keep program costs low for participants, Alamo Colleges offers a classroom design specifically for the training groups. However, participants have voiced an interest to interact with students of various ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. They believe these interactions will provide a positive learning experience as it will force them to be fully immersed in the “American way of doing things”.

Alamo Colleges also sees the need and value of creating meaningful connections across boundaries; therefore, we need to research innovative ways to offer classes which fulfill this requirement while keeping program costs low for participants. This research will include opening up the dialogue with benchmark institutions, consulting scholarly journals, and confirming best practices with professional international associations.

### **Closing Remarks**

It would be difficult to sum up in a brief statement all that we have learned from our partnership with the Federal Institutes of Science and Technology (IFSUL) of Santa Catarina, Paraná, and Rio Grandense and we would like to thank the institutions and faculty members for their honest feedback for our own educational purposes. It was truly an honor to have hosted this group of faculty members and we look forward to continuing our relationships with them and their institutions.



## Attachment II

Instituto Federal de Educacao, Ciencia e Tecnologia, Sul-rio-Grandense and Instituto Federal Parana  
English as Second Language Program (ESL) and Technical Training  
February 1 – March 1, 2014 (4 weeks)

**Arrival Information:** Faculty will begin arriving on Thursday, January 28. All faculty members will be in San Antonio by Sunday, February 2.

**Hotel Information:** El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel,  
110 Lexington Avenue  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
(210) 223-9461

**Transportation:** Taxi Cab Service

Taxi cabs are available at the lower level curbside, outside of baggage claim, at Terminal A & B. For assistance, please contact the Airport Ground Transportation employee (wearing red shirt). Fare to San Antonio downtown areas are approximately \$25 to \$29 (U.S.) per taxicab. (Up to 6 may share a cab, if both luggage and passengers fit safely.)

**GO Airport Shuttle** is San Antonio International Airport's authorized and single shared- ride shuttle service. Shuttles depart from 7 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. daily to downtown hotels every 15 minutes. Passengers may purchase tickets at the airport's baggage claim area.

**Ticket Rates**

\$18.00 per person to downtown hotels or \$34.00 for a round trip ticket.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is currently a fuel surcharge of \$1.25 each way. Service to other residential or commercial areas is available and rates vary by zone.

**Lodging and Meals:** Breakfast will be provided every day at the hotel. Lunch will be offered Monday – Friday at San Antonio College Cafeteria and dinner will be offered Sunday – Thursday at Hotel. On the days where lunch and dinner are not offered, you will be responsible for the purchasing of your meals.

Faculty arriving before Saturday, February 1; must pay \$ **75.00** per each additional night (checking out after March 1) to cover the cost of the hotel, breakfast.

**Dinner** will also be covered by each participant, applies for dates other than February 1 – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

**Emergency Contacts:** Carol Fimmen: 210-485-0076 (work) 210-807-2227 (cell)  
La Tanya Woods 210-485-0079 (work) 913-514-2634 (cell)

**District Police Department:** 210-222-0911 (district emergency), 210-485-0099 (24 hour dispatch)

**San Antonio Police Department:** 911(emergency)

### Week 1

**Saturday, February 1 – Free Day**

07:00 am                      Breakfast at hotel

Arrive at San Antonio International Airport (SAT)

Transportation to hotel by shuttle / taxi

**Sunday, February 2**

07:00 am                      Breakfast at hotel

11:00 am                      Pick up at hotel trip to North Star Mall – (Margarita McAuliffe)

05:00 pm                      Pick from North Star Mall (stay at will take taxi to hotel)

7:00 pm Welcome Dinner at Hotel (Margarita McAuliffe)

**Monday, February 3 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus (routes 3 or 4) to San Antonio College  
08:30 am Arrive at San Antonio College – Welcome and orientation  
09:45 am Assessment  
11:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Tuesday, February 4 – ESL (Request vans)**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm San Antonio Art Museum (Pati & La Tanya)  
06:00 pm 07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Wednesday, February 5 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am Technical Training  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm Technical Training  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Thursday, February 6 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
06:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Friday, February 7 – ESL (Request Vans)**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
06:00 pm Dinner/Cooking Demo with Chef Will at Artemisia SPC  
(Roxanne & Cristina)

**Saturday, February 8 – Cultural Activity**

09:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
10:00 am Discover San Antonio – The Missions & the Alamo (Cristina & Judith)  
01:30 pm Lunch  
Dinner on your own

**Week 2**

**Sunday, February 9 – Free Day on their own**

09:00 am Breakfast  
Discover San Antonio - River taxi – (pass valid for 24 hours)  
Lunch on your own  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Monday, February 10 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Tuesday, February 11 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Wednesday, February 12 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am Technical Training  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm Technical Training  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Thursday, February 13 – ESL (Request Vans)**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Visit to Mc Nay Museum (Roxanne & Cristina)  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Friday, February 14 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel

08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
Dinner on your own

**Saturday, February 15 – Cultural Activity**

08:30 am Breakfast at hotel  
09:30 am Depart Hotel – take shuttle (My Shuttle Home) to Tanger Outlets  
12:30 pm Lunch on your own  
06:00 pm Depart Tanger Outlets – take shuttle to San Antonio  
07:00 pm Arrive in San Antonio  
Dinner on your own

**Week 3**

**Sunday, February 16 – Free Day (request vans)**

08:00 am Breakfast  
09:00 am Pick up at hotel  
09:30 am Arrive at the Rodeo – Free to walk the grounds  
12:00 pm Lunch on your own  
01:00 pm Rodeo Matinée – Randy Hauser concert (Margarita Esquivel & Cristina)  
04:00 pm Depart Rodeo – take van to Hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Monday, February 17 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Tuesday, February 18 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Wednesday, February 19 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am Technical Training  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm Technical Training  
05:00 pm Return to hotel

07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Thursday, February 20 – ESL (Request Vans)**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Friday, February 21 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
Dinner on own  
07:00 pm Cowboy's Dance Hall

**Saturday, February 22 – Cultural Activity**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:00 am Depart Hotel – take bus to Enchanted Rock  
10:00 am Arrive at Enchanted Rock  
11:30 am Depart Enchanted Rock – take bus to Ausländer Biergarten & Restaurant  
12:00 pm Lunch at Ausländer Biergarten & Restaurant  
01:30 pm Shopping in Fredericksburg  
02:30 pm Depart Fredericksburg – take bus to Torre di Pietra  
03:00 pm Arrive at Torre di Pietra – Wine Tasting  
04:45 pm Depart Torre di Pietra – take bus to San Antonio  
06:00 pm Arrive in San Antonio  
Dinner on your own

**Week 4**

**Sunday, February 23 Free Day**

09:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Monday, February 24 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Tuesday, February 25 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria

01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Wednesday, February 26 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am Technical Training  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm Technical Training  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
06:00 pm Spurs Game Night

**Thursday, February 27 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:00 pm English as a Second Language Class  
05:00 pm Return to hotel  
07:00 pm Dinner at hotel

**Friday, February 28 – ESL**

07:00 am Breakfast at hotel  
08:15 am Depart Hotel – take bus to San Antonio College  
08:25 am Arrive at San Antonio College  
09:00 am English as a Second Language Class  
12:00 pm Lunch - SAC Cafeteria  
01:30 pm Depart San Antonio College to District Office – (VIA Route 3)  
03:30 pm Certificate Award Reception – Killen Center

**Saturday, March 1**

Departure from San Antonio International Airport



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INSTITUTO FEDERAL  
SUL-RIO-GRANDENSE

**Brazilian Faculty Delegation**  
Graduation Ceremony  
February 2014





**Workforce Development and Training Contact:  
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