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Hope Comes to Watts: An Educational May Term Experience in Los Angeles

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“Hope Comes to Watts” A May Term Experience in Los Angeles, California

What are we talking about?

- A 3-week May Term experience
- In Los Angeles, California
- At the Watts Learning Center, an award-winning charter school
- Hope students paired one-to-one with experienced mentor teachers and administrators
- Daily, classroom experience
- Additional cultural experiences in the greater Los Angeles area and California



“This experience has enriched my life personally and professionally. I am excited to see how I am able to connect the information I’ve learned in future classes and field placements. I have formed invaluable relationships with students and teachers that will last a long time. I know I will be a better teacher because of the experiences I had at Watts Learning Center.”

Hope Student Meghan Loree



“Throughout this whole experience I have learned so much about myself, others and teaching.”
Hope Student
Mikaela Brinks

The Watts Learning Center

- An award-winning, charter school in Watts-Los Angeles with elementary & middle school campuses
- Designed to be a world-class, child-centered school with strong ties to families & the community
- Produces high academic achievers who are self-confident, ethical & motivated to be lifelong learners

I have gained the experience of working in a inner city school. This experience has reassured me that social work is the field I wish to work in and community development is area that I want to focus my attention on.

Hope Student Ashley Smith



Wonderful experience for all. Thanks for the divine intervention to make this endeavor possible.

Watts Learning Center Teacher



This May term has been one of the greatest experiences I've ever had! It was great to be with such a wonderful group of Hope students! Each of us brought something unique to the experience and I am glad we were the first group to go out there to witness such great little minds work! I have been blessed with this experience and I know I have learned from it. I have grown as an individual and as a social worker! Working with inner city kids has been such a wonderful experience, that I have been convinced that this is who I want to work with for the rest of my life. That age group, that socioeconomic group level, and possibly even that city is where I see myself working in!

Hope Student Jackie Herrera



Just a really great experience. I really enjoyed having my Hope student in my room; the kids adored him. He has all the ingredients that make a wonderful, effective teacher.

Watts Learning Center Teacher

I’m thankful for what I learned in Watts. I appreciate all of the people I met at the Watts Learning Center. I admire their dedicated service to improve their communities. As a soon-to-be-teacher, I am inspired to continue the road of being an educator.

Hope Student Josh Roth

I have been touched by the young people of Hope College in a way that I could not have imagined. When dealing with middle school aged students, and even young adult teachers, the maturity, integrity, and willingness to assist was AWESOME!

Watts Learning Center Administrator



It has been great having these wonderful students around on campus these last three weeks. Every single one has been awesome! I wish all of the Hope College students much success!!!

Watts Learning Center Teacher



I grew because I was able to interact with 10 other amazing Hope students/graduates, many of whom I probably would not have had the pleasure of getting to know if it wasn't for this trip. We all came from different places and backgrounds which made the discussions more rich and eye-opening.

Hope Student Megan Kelley

My experience at Watts Learning Center Charter Middle School has been phenomenal. While being at WLCCMS, I was challenged to go beyond the typical shadowing that I was assigned.

Camerra Lightbourn
Hope Student

