

NCC Monthly Report (October – November, 2018)

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As I talked in the last report, I took three classes in this semester: ESL, German, and Foundation of Teaching English. One semester has 10 weeks of class and the test week. Tough every week is busy for students since we have a lot of homework and some classes have quiz or small tests every week, I think the last two weeks are the hardest to study for the “finals”. I had a final presentation in ESL class, a chapter test in German class, and a “final” in teaching class. During the semester, I worked very hard with those tests and presentations and tried to join the class by saying my opinions, then eventually I could get good grades. I got motivation every time in class from other students who studied always hard and had broaden perspectives. I like studying here at NCC so much and I cannot wait for the next term starts.



Extracurricular Activities

As a member of the club “Teachinglish” consisting of students who are in TESOL major or interested in teaching English, I joined some activities in this two month. We had a movie night and an interview with the English teacher who graduated from NCC. The activity which was very meaningful for me was meeting with English learners studying at English Language Institution and had some conversation. Through the club activity, I can think about English education even out of the classroom and talk with the members what we can do when we become a teacher.

Homecoming



Homecoming is an annual big event which welcomes back former students and members and celebrates the college’s existence. NCC has many events during the week though, the football game, the parade and the dance party are main events that current students can enjoy. Homecoming day was very busy and it became unforgettable day for me. In the morning on the day, we, international students dressed up with



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our own country's traditional clothes and joined the parade. After that I enjoyed watching the football game with my American friends. Then, we again dressed up and enjoyed the dance party. I was again surprised by the big difference of American school culture from Japanese one, but I could enjoy a lot and had a great time with my friends.

Friendship Family Program



Friendship Family Program offers international students to experience the American life through spending time with their host family living near the campus. I am a member of the program and I have American parents and younger sister who is 5th grade of elementary school. Since I live on campus, we sometimes meet out of campus and have great time. On October 31st, the Halloween, I was invited to join the trick-or-treating by my host sister. We dressed up as cats and visited the neighbors to get some candies. It was my first experience and I enjoyed a lot. Also, on the Thanks Giving Day which is an important holiday here, I visited my friend's host family to have the special dinner. We ate a lot of delicious homemade dishes such as Turkey, potatoes, Pumpkin Pies and so on. Then, the coming big event here is Christmas, so I visited my host family and made a gingerbread house with my host sister. Since it was snow day, we played snow battle outside.



TOBITATE Research



As a member of TOBITATE scholars, in this two month I could have opportunities to observe some classes at local schools. First, I visited a local private high school near the college. I observed two classes: foreign language (German) and physics. Especially, the physics class was very interesting for me because it was completely student centered with teachers' appropriate facilitates. The students had a lot of interaction between them and the teachers created the good atmosphere for that. The second school I observed was a local junior high school. I could find many similarities with Japanese junior high schools in terms of how junior high students are. However, I also could find the differences of classroom interaction and teachers' talk. I think those observations were so helpful for the next step of my research and gave me new perspectives.