

# South Africa:

EDUCATING A DIVERSE NATION



July 25-August 4, 2019

**ALTERRA  
CONSULTING**

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE

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In South Africa this coming July, we will hold a wide-ranging dialogue around that nation's evolving education policy and its implications for a new generation of young leaders. Gauteng province is our first port of call. This province promotes the foundational elements of education; geographically, it includes big cities like Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The theme of our 12-day program is: "South Africa: A strategy for educating a diverse nation". This program features university workshops, school & other site visits, and wide-ranging dialogue; the discussions and workshops will be led by South African educators whose collective efforts seek to create high-quality accessible education for a diverse population of students nationwide.

We'll be joined by formidable active and retired educators, many of whom served in the forefront of the political struggles of the 1970s and '80s – right up to freedom in 1994. Throughout, these esteemed colleagues will share their professional experiences and personal reflections with us.

South Africa is a nation of many cultures, 11 official languages, and a great variety of religious faiths, histories, and traditions. Our workshops will focus on how educators instruct youth from multiple communities, ethnicities, and life experiences. We will discuss issues inherent in the *transformation* of the curriculum and the teaching culture from apartheid-era education policies to a policy that reaches all learners at all levels.

During our 12-day spring course, delegates will not only directly interact with academics, education consultants, and activists, but also make optional visits to world-famous historical sites and museums; attend concerts; and become involved in the hectic everyday life of the modern South African nation.

Our July 2019 professional development program to South Africa offers a unique chance for US educators to reinforce their schools' commitments to global education, with opportunities to understand the South African education system, best practices in teaching, 21st century diversity training for educators, and innovation in curriculum development and strategy.

# PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

## Seminars, Dialogues & Workings Visits

### Introduction to South Africa Education (Johannesburg & Pretoria)

- **Lecture:** South African education / teacher training
- Diverse schools, teacher training
- The implementation of training to support and equip teachers with the skills, understanding, and sense of responsibility to teach diverse learners
- 21st education program to teach new curricular elements – from linguistic diversity to innovative technology to rigorous college preparation
- Observations of teacher training

### Responsibilities of Higher Education (Pretoria)

**Global Youth Leadership:** Here, we explore how a group of young South Africans is creating the next generation of leaders, and incorporating student voice, choice, and action in their school community. We will discuss the variety of opportunities and challenges to promoting youth employment. We will be joined by current and former students & teachers at the Hendrik Verwoerd High School in Pretoria. Our key group question: “Do Hendrik Verwoerd School faculty, students, and alumni see their graduates as prepared for the South African and global workforce?”

### Accessing High-Quality Education: Innovative approaches to STEM delivery in diverse school environments (Johannesburg & Pretoria)

For South Africa – and more specifically, for Gauteng province – e-learning seems to be one big answer to curriculum-delivery challenges. It is certainly one approach to remedying poor training and outcomes for educators. This ambitious initiative will see a laptop in the hands of each student and free wireless internet access to all schools and their students by 2020. This initiative will effectively serve under-resourced schools and under-trained teachers, and teachers needing additional professional development.

**\*\*Deep-dive:** We'll observe visionary after-school initiatives that deploy a range of innovative STEM techniques to redress the effects of apartheid-era education policy. These programs for teens offer black South African youth high-quality STEM knowledge – and job opportunity in the STEM sector. Emphasis is on achievement in mathematics, science and English.

### Promoting Linguistic Diversity in Education (Cape Town)

We'll engage with a variety of groups that encourage a commitment to reading and literacy in the students' own indigenous languages. These groups are putting in place early-intervention programs to promote a culture of reading amongst very young children throughout the nation in their mother tongue. Parental involvement is highly encouraged. (**Note:** This day features the chance to interact with students making use of these various initiatives.)

### Disparity in Education from the US perspective and South African perspectives (Cape Town)

**Meet with officials of the US Consulate-Cape Town and a host of South African educators.** The US and South Africa both face issues around (1) teaching to diverse students and (2) significant disparity in educational opportunities. Issues include racial tension, immigration pressures, and unequal

access to high-quality education and healthcare. This shared profile compels US and South African educators to learn from each other and discuss a slew of issues, in particular the creation of equal learning opportunity for all.

In this module, U.S. and South African delegates will share their efforts to equalize educational opportunities in their respective countries. We will discuss the similarities and differences between the US and South African education sectors. We'll also discuss how to build on wonderful student and teacher exchange programs, such as the Fulbright exchange.

**\*\*Group discussion:** We will possibly pull in Pretoria-based USAID officials by phone or digital video conference. This would include a few classroom-based African educators, as well as representatives of the local Department of Education in the Western and Northern Capes, education non-profits, and a few alumni of US Fulbright and Education USA programs.

## Cultural Encounters as Context

Our visit to South Africa emphasizes education reform. However, we'll also make time for cultural encounters on certain afternoons and evenings. Workshops and discussions take place roughly from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. each weekday, with time left over for cultural awareness modules and a bit of sightseeing.

On work-week afternoons as well as on weekends, we'll increase our awareness of South Africa's contemporary realities. We'll take part in a wide variety of enjoyable activities that highlight the nation's history, culture, and ecology. Community visits, human rights dialogues, and other outdoor leisure will heighten our appreciation of this nation's rich, multiethnic identity.

Activities are designed to reinforce our workshops and discussions, training and observations, and to promote respect for South Africa's unique heritage. By Friday, July 27, our final full day in-country, we'll have made a difference in many lives; learned a great deal about ourselves, our students, and our colleagues; and had fun in the process.

## Workshops delivered by South African Educators

- Workshop 1: Reading at an early stage: Observations & strategy sessions, and addressing South Africa's linguistic diversity
- Workshop 2: Democracy, Youth Development, Race Relations & Peace-Building. Primarily, this workshop offers us an overview of the current state of South African race relations, and the impact on education & youth development.

*Note. Participating US educators will also deliver workshop topics (TBA).*

## Delegates to this program will ...

- Explore South Africa's visionary 1996 constitution, and hear of its lessons for the global community
- Learn and share with South African educators, and discuss a slew of global issues – especially issues relevant to our two nations' education sectors
- Appreciate the crucial role that faith & religion has played in promoting the rights of all South Africans
- Receive warm welcomes and interact with peers educators at 3 distinct school communities
- Visit Robben Island, Parliament, Soweto, the Apartheid Museum
- Learn about South Africa's history, and explore the many opportunities and challenges facing South Africa today

- Collaborate with community organizations, speak with youth and adults about educational opportunities, and get to know South Africa in a unique way – as a professional educator

## **DATES, PRICING & DAILY AGENDAS**

**PROGRAM DATES** are July 25-August 4, 2019

- PRICING is set at \$3400 per person sharing. (Single room is an additional \$400.) This includes:
- Registration for 5 days of professional development, to include seminars, professional programming, university and school-visits and honoraria
- International airfare from Boston International Airport, and domestic flights within South Africa
- 9 nights' shared accommodation (Single room an additional \$400)
- Daily breakfasts
- 5 lunches (Monday through Friday)
- Luxury coach transport in South Africa, with professional local guiding
- Daily luxury transfers to/from all meetings/professional events (Monday through Friday)
- Orientation and cultural tours on Saturday & Sunday, with lunch (including visits to Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill, Hector Pieterse & Robben Island, winelands, Soweto & Langa)

**To learn more & to register ...**

Visit: [http://alterraconsulting.org/?post\\_type=tour&p=829](http://alterraconsulting.org/?post_type=tour&p=829)

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