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Teach Abroad Himeji 2019 Participants



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Natalie Boren was born in Sterling, Colorado. Natalie attended the University of Northern Colorado and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She then moved to the Navajo reservation in Piñon, Arizona to teach 3rd grade. She loved living in a new place and experiencing the Navajo culture and language. During this time, she began her Master of Arts degree in Linguistically Diverse Students from her alma mater. After finishing her Master's degree, Natalie moved to Phoenix and began teaching 2nd Grade ELL students. She also began working on her National Board Certification and completed the process in the spring of 2017. She most recently taught Kindergarten ELL students in the Tolleson Elementary School District. In her years of teaching, she has taught students from various backgrounds and culture. She loves celebrating each student's

diversity and together, creating a positive classroom culture. She hopes to share her passion of teaching with her students in Himeji and continue to be a life-long learner as she travels to new and exciting destinations.



Originally from Phoenix, **Lillian Habeich** has developed a burning desire and mission to bring more peace into the world. This process begins with her and will continue with her foray into Japan.

Lillian is a consultant and instructor by profession and world citizen by avocation. She has consulted to individuals, private and public elementary schools, city government and non-profit entities, the government of Bahrain, through the U.S. Embassy, and U.S. Fortune 100 and foreign companies as a Senior Manager for Ernst & Young in New York. She has also run two businesses, one based in Boston in international import/export and the other locally in real estate. In the spirit of the Renaissance, she has also taught and learned from students at levels ranging from preschool to graduate school in a wide variety of subjects.

Lillian is currently an adjunct lecturer in international business, accounting, and entrepreneurship at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Ms. Habeich holds a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, with concentrations in both International Economic and International Security Policy, and a Bachelors of Science in Biology from Duke University.

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Jennifer Macias Arvizo's first experience overseas was in 2014 with Phoenix Sister Cities' Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, where she visited Chengdu, China. Her journey and lifelong connections led her to pursue studying abroad twice during her college career. In both Montevideo, Uruguay and in Merida, Mexico her volunteer experiences serving local youth also affirmed her decision to become an educator.

Jennifer is excited to be the first in her family to graduate from a University. She recently completed two Bachelors' degrees at Northern Arizona University: Speech-Language Sciences and Technology and Spanish. During the school year, she works for the Creighton Elementary School District, providing speech therapy as a Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant. In the summer months, she finds a passion for outdoor education. This summer, she is serving as the Program Director for Parson's Leadership Center for Girls and Women. Jennifer is excited to return to Asia, this time as an educator! She is ecstatic to share Arizona's beauty and dive into the rich culture of Japan.



Gabriella Ruano graduated from Arizona State University in May 2016 with a B.A. in English Linguistics, a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and minors in Psychology and Transborder Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies. She is a native speaker of English and Spanish and has also studied French and Korean. While at university, she volunteered as an English teacher providing language instruction to middle school students in South Korea through ASU and the Jeollanam-do Language Program. Soon after graduating from ASU, Gabriella moved to Colombia for 9 months to teach English as a second language at public vocational schools in Bogota. She is passionate about helping students as they take important steps in their academic careers. Most recently she has worked with Arizona State University's Undergraduate Admission Services team to support underserved populations by

helping them through the college application process, providing mentorship, and explaining financial resources to students. She is excited for the challenge of working as an Assistant Language Teacher while also immersing herself in a new culture in Japan.

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Although she grew up in a military family, **Corinn Wilson** considers Phoenix to be her hometown. The experience growing up in a military family shaped her love of travel and learning more about different cultures. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a degree in Communications and a minor in Business ('07), Corinn moved to Japan to teach English for a private English Conversation School in Okayama city. Even though she was only in Japan for one year, the experience resonated with her greatly. It was during this time that she discovered her love of helping students pursue their educational goals. Upon her return to the U.S. she pursued a Masters in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Arizona State University ('12). While at ASU, she had the opportunity to be part of the first cohort to travel to Jeollanam-do South Korea to teach English at a summer camp in 2011.

For the past 9 years she has been working with both domestic and international students, helping them achieve their goal of pursuing a postsecondary degree in the U.S. In addition to helping students, she has worked alongside foreign officials, sponsors, and governmental agencies, helping them develop policies and programs that best support their students while studying abroad in the U.S. Corinn is excited about the opportunity to return to Japan through the Teach Abroad program. She is looking forward to learning more about the Japanese education system, working alongside Japanese Educators, and sharing her passion for education, traveling, and baking with her students.