

### **Trip Leader Comments:**

Delicia was perhaps one of the more rewarding members of the group in that her personal growth was expansive and measurable, but more so in that she spent expansive personal time with other members of the group that lead to the development of tangible and substantial personal bonds. Those personal bonds empowered her to expand her horizons and step out of her comfort zone in a fashion that both instructors believe facilitated great personal growth.

From the very beginning, Delicia showed significant initiative and "expedition behavior," here defined as the willingness to go above and beyond in one's tasks as they relate to the group and to oneself. For example, on the very first day of service, despite having traversed across two continents and an ocean two days prior, Delicia woke up bright and early to serve meals at the Glide Foundation. The Glide Foundation is one of San Francisco's philanthropic pillars in the heart of San Francisco's notoriously impoverished Tenderloin District. It was at Glide that Delicia was charged with one of the more challenging tasks of clearing and cleaning the tables as well as refilling the guests respective coffee, milk, and juice carafes. From the start Delicia was diligent in her task, remaining aware of the needs of the guests and meeting them as needed. Most impressive was her personal touch that she gave in her service, taking the time to speak individually with the guests and even making a few friends along the way. She was even given a list of films that one of the guests had been during his tenderloin tenure.

Delicia also had an infectious demeanor that persisted through challenging times with the upmost of positivity. During a nightly reflection in which each student said his or her favorite and least favorite moment of the day, rarely, if ever, did Delicia choose a negative or least favorite moment of the day. She smiled through the manual labor in the Donner Truckee Memorial Land Trust trail building, despite having been assigned perhaps the most physically challenging task of the day: the initial clearing of cumbersome rocks, sodden logs, and thorny underbrush from the mapped trail. In fact, Delicia's presence was so remarkable amongst the group that it was not just the instructors that noted her, but the entire student group recognized her unrivaled matriarchal influence, and she was to be dubbed the "mother" of the group by her peers.

Rarely have us instructors ever seen little room for improvement from a student, but Delicia was a model student whose presence will surely be missed. She was a hard worker, level headed, understanding and empathetic, but most of all she was just a great friend. It is in the opinion of the instructors that she continue to challenge herself to step outside her comfort zone and insight intrinsic growth both in herself and in others. We wish her all the best as she continues her gap year.