



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

# HONORS PROGRAM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

for Indiana high school students

## Talking Points for IUHPFL Alumni

Thank you for your willingness to help promote IUHPFL to future participants! Your insights and stories will mean a great deal to your peers who are deciding whether IUHPFL is right for them.

We have provided for you some **general advice and questions to consider** before you present. We hope that reading this document will help you to brainstorm what you would like to share with program applicants. **You won't be expected to talk about all of these topics – just focus on the points that are most important to you.**

**(Note: Please do NOT discuss eligibility requirements, the application process, or other policy-related topics that only teachers or IUHPFL office staff should answer. Thank you!)**

### ADDRESSING CHALLENGES OF THE IUHPFL EXPERIENCE

When talking about aspects of the program that were difficult for you, the key is to consider the following:

- Remember that your speaking time is limited
- Focus on positive outcomes: how you resolved the situation, what you learned, etc.
- Share information that is relevant to most of the students
- Be honest but also constructive and as objective as possible
- Don't mention names of individuals out of respect for their privacy
- Always show respect for the Honor Code, your instructors, and IUHPFL in general

#### Questions to Consider:

- What aspects of the program were particularly challenging for you?
- How did you cope with not being able to speak English?
- What was it like to go without your smart devices and Internet access?
- How did you resolve challenges and conflicts?
- How were you able to manage stress and homesickness?
- Were there “insurmountable” challenges that actually turned out to be great opportunities?
- How did the challenges you faced ultimately help you to learn and grow on a personal level?

### Pre-Departure – Getting ready for your IUHPFL experience

- What were your expectations of the program before departure? Were they realistic?
- How did you fundraise for the program?

### Your IUHPFL Teammates and Instructors

- How did your instructors and teammates help and support you through the experience?

- What advice can you give to students who are worried about their target language skills?

### **Your Host Family Experience**

- What were a few challenges of living with a host family? Some rewards?
- What advice would you give to students about living successfully with a host family?

### **The Academic Focus of IUHPFL**

#### Courses

- What was a typical class day like?
- How did the homework help you connect with your host family and community?

#### Afternoon Activities

- What Afternoon Activities did you participate in, did they get you out of your comfort zone?
- How did they help to bring your team closer together?
- What is the Farewell Show and what was it like?

#### Excursions

- Which excursion destination did you enjoy most and why?

### **The Language Commitment and Honor Code**

#### Language Commitment

- How important was the Language Commitment to your language development and experience?
- What were the first few days/weeks of the Language Commitment like?
- When were you able to interact easily in the target language? How did that feel?

#### The Honor Code

- Why is the Honor Code important to one's IUHPFL experience?

### **How IUHPFL Has Benefited You and Changed You**

#### Benefits to Consider:

- Significant gain in language proficiency
- Cultural knowledge
- Clearer educational and career goals
- Greater sense of self
- Increase in self-confidence and independence
- Friendships with teammates and host family members
- Community Engagement experience (if applicable)

#### Questions to Consider:

- What have you gained from your IUHPFL experience?
- In what ways are you different now?
- How has this experience influenced what you want to do and accomplish in the future?