

# MEGHAN GILL

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## A NERVOUS LEAP

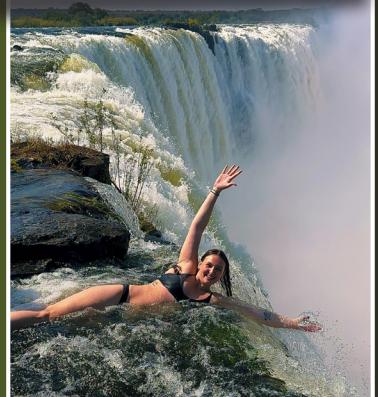
I was in my first semester as a transfer student from a community college to Buffalo State when I heard about the IPDS program. It seemed too big and I felt so small. But the thought that I had the opportunity to travel to Africa to develop my skills for my future profession was too much to pass up. I was really nervous to even accept the last minute invitation to an information session but am so happy I did!

## REWARDED

The number of positive relationships I was able to make, the people I met and places I've seen, are more than I could have ever expected. **Personally** I've become more aware of how varied other people's situations and possibilities can be from my own day-to-day experiences -- happiness comes from people, not things. **Professionally** I've learned how to give and take; lending ideas and resources to other educators was a very new idea for me, but I enjoyed collaborating with other professionals and felt we valued and implemented each other's ideas.

## FAVORITE MEMORIES

I loved petting lions and being in a boat just 10 feet away from a herd of elephants, but my favorite moment was with a woman at the Chikumboso organization. While making bags together we shared stories and tears. When I told her my name she said, "My mother's name! She has sent you here." I knew then that everything I had put into going on this trip was worth it.



Check Out Meghan's IPDS Blog: <https://buffalostateipdszambia.weebly.com/meghan>

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