

The CIVIC Citizen

The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities

A letter from Brazil:

“Dear friends of Iowa,

With a great pleasure I address this message to the persons who received me and my fellow Brazilian journalists in Iowa City.

We have been visiting USA for almost three weeks, aiming to know the country, its population, and institutions. The moment was a little bit nervous, with the bellicosity of Bush government and considerable part of the population. But with satisfaction I have met in Iowa prudent and peaceful people.

Iowa was a grateful surprise. I have already had sparse information – and positive – about the state, but when I got to the airport I realized that indeed the good references proceeded. The people are polite, affable, communicative and open. I will be sincere: I felt home in spite of the cold weather.

I know there are investors from the state coming to Brazil and I hope they feel good here and assimilate some good things. We are a country in development, which has a lot to teach to the countries called developed, above all in the aspect of living in society among different folks and cultures and, who knows, some things in other areas such as the rejection to transgenic products.

During the trip, which included Washington, Seattle and Houston, surely Iowa City was the best stopping place. The city and its citizens will remain in my memory forever. For us Brazilians, warm human contact counts a lot. And there (Iowa) I could feel that such feelings flow naturally. Surely, the academic environment of the city facilitates this process and I take this opportunity to make compliments to the university, where we were received by its director, teachers, and students in a highly enthusiastic and informal environment. It would be difficult to list every single person which received us there, for this reason I am sending an affectionate hug to everyone and I hope any day to come back to the state and the city. Maybe I could visit the school of writers in Iowa, one of the most famous in USA. I send a special hug to Lyle and Linda Hubbard, the couple who invited us for a lunch close to the city, in the Amish community. The natural affection of the people is something unpayable, as well as the religious feeling of those who received us with open heart and concerned about practicing good actions, and about condemning violence undertaken under the pretext to do the good.

A strong hug to all of you
Paulo Paiva Nogueira – Journalist
Basilia – Brasil”

Translated from the original Portuguese by Carmen Celia Fregoneze