Thank you for your interest in traveling with the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua.

We strongly urge all those who wish to participate in one of the delegations to attend an interest meeting. The following basic information is covered in more depth at these sessions.

**What:** The Bucknell Brigade is a group of students, faculty and staff members who are committed to aiding the poverty-stricken people of Nicaragua. We collect monetary and in-kind medical donations to take to Nicaragua on the two annual trips. While in Nicaragua, Brigade members help in the construction of community buildings, assist at a medical clinic, and aid in other ongoing projects. However, the work depends greatly on the needs at the time, and what other volunteers accomplish before we get there. No experience is necessary. Flexibility and a commitment to help is important as the trip involves physical labor and long days.

The delegations will also have the opportunity to visit cultural and historic sites around the capital, Managua, visit a coffee cooperative in rural Nicaragua, and hear from a variety of guest speakers.

**When:** The two delegations are scheduled to go January 6-14, 2018 and March 10-18, 2018, however, it is important to understand that participants are asked to make not a 1 week commitment, but a one-year commitment to the Bucknell Brigade since the continuing operation of the health clinic in Nueva Vida relies on our ability to raise awareness and funds to support their efforts. All Brigade members must pledge to perform 20 hours of service (10 each semester) to help us achieve our goals. The trips occur during the end of Winter Break and the entirety of Spring Break. In addition, all volunteers are required to participate in an orientation process to help them prepare for the trip to Nicaragua, as well as a few other meetings pre- and post-departure.

- Dates for the mandatory mini-curriculum sessions: Sundays at 7 pm, October 15th, 22th, 29th, & November 5th, 2017.
- An additional retreat session will be scheduled November 12 for the January delegation and March 4 for the spring break delegation.

**Where:** The group will stay in a gated compound in Ciudad Sandino and work with Jubilee House Community (JHC), the partner agency that helps Nicaraguans coordinate efforts with external groups like the Bucknell Brigade. They provide meals, and a communal living space that includes beds, showers, toilets, and a meeting area.

**How:** Our work is also coordinated by JHC, an intentional community dedicated to helping the Nicaraguan people through sustainable development projects in Central America. See more information at: [http://jhc-cdca.org/](http://jhc-cdca.org/)

**Who:** The trip is open to Bucknell students, faculty and staff. Space is limited to 25 volunteers per delegation.

**Cost:** $1,100 per participant for airfare, ground transportation in Nicaragua, transportation to and from the airport, meals, and lodging. Because the University helps to subsidize the trip, each individual is receiving about a 23% discount off the actual $1,410 cost. A limited number of additional subsidies are available to those with financial need if requested.
Here is the link to the online application: [http://moodle.bucknell.edu/course/view.php?id=20549](http://moodle.bucknell.edu/course/view.php?id=20549)

OR you can search ‘Bucknell Brigade Application’ on the Moodle homepage. You are given the option to enroll yourself, then you will have access to more information and the application and submission link.

***Please be sure to complete the application form by 4 pm, Monday, September 25, 2017.***

**Notification and Payments:** You will be notified on October 3rd if you have been accepted. Waivers and a signed financial responsibility form will be due on Thursday, October 12, with the payment due on December 1 for the January delegation and January 5 for the March delegation.

For more information, please contact the Office of Civic Engagement at 570-577-3973.