

Learning Together in A Special Place:
Perspectives on Leadership
Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy

Organized by Angela Ferrario
International Study Tours, LLC

About Angela Ferrario

Angela is Director of International Study Tours, LLC, which she established in 2005 for the creation of educational travel initiatives in collaboration with US and International colleagues.

For more than two decades, Angela has been organizing and leading study groups to Reggio Emilia, Italy for educators, students, and professors. She also arranges and leads small delegations to visit schools in Pistoia, Italy in the Tuscany region and in past years led educational study tours visiting schools in Denmark, Sweden and Portugal. Through her responsibilities as US Liaison for Study Groups to Reggio Emilia and as one of the US representatives to the Reggio Children International Network, she has had the privilege of working with and learning from many esteemed educators and scholars around the world. These strong collegial alliances, along with her organizational and pedagogical experience, are the foundation of her expanded focus on international education and travel.

Her current work in the US involves professional development in the Boston area where she co-facilitates "*Perspectives on Leadership: A Series for Reggio Inspired Educators*". Angela began her career as a teacher and has held positions as Director of Special Projects at the World Bank Children's Center in Washington, DC, Boston/Cambridge Regional Manager at Bright Horizons Family Solutions, and Director of Program Development at Associated Early Care and Education in Boston.

She is a founding board member of NAREA (North American Reggio Emilia Alliance) www.reggioalliance.org and a board member of the Boston Area Reggio Inspired Network.

Angela earned a M.Ed. in 1979 from Wheelock College.

In 2010, through NAFSA: Association of International Educators www.nafsa.org, Angela received certification from the Academy for International Education after completing a year-long program of study, covering the many facets of international education and study abroad.

Vision for the Professional Development Series

Having traveled extensively throughout Italy, Angela regularly spends time in Mercatello sul Metauro, a small town in the lesser-known Marche region, largely undiscovered by tourists. Her desire is to create opportunities for others to enjoy the beauty of this special place while learning together at Palazzo Donati <http://www.lemarcheholidayvilla.com>.

Her knowledge about and passion for Italy combined with her experience as an educational leader and group organizer, led her to create the series, *Learning Together in a Special Place*.

Other beautiful locations and venues are being researched as the series evolves and grows in collaboration with colleagues from different parts of the world. The format offers small group professional development in a retreat-like atmosphere, covering a range of topics. Each learning experience is designed and facilitated by inspirational thinkers and is enhanced by authentic Italian culture.

Angela's innate strengths lay in the high value she places on relationships and her ability to bring people together, creating connections that often form vibrant new friendships and collaborations.

This series aligns with Angela's interest in:

- Connecting with familial and cultural ties to Italy
- Gathering like-minded people together to learn from each other
- Partnering with friends and colleagues
- Offering unique local encounters in the company of Italians willing to impart their skills, talents and kindness

Learning becomes a travel journey where:

- Self reflection and creativity flourish
- Sharing ideas, challenges and experience is encouraged
- Synchronicity with the environment brings energy to the dialogue
- Leisure time interweaves with physical activity
- Personal and professional rejuvenation happens
- Collaborative engagement engenders new friendships and collegial Relationships

Participants will experience:

- A small group style of travel and learning
- Comfortable accommodations
- Delicious healthy meals specific to the foods of the area
- Convenient ground transportation
- Unique sightseeing excursions and insider access to the community

This form of educational travel:

- Welcomes the spectrum from emerging to seasoned leaders, who work or have worked in the field of education
- Generates the excitement of discovery for those open to experiential learning
- Is for travelers who appreciate the slower rhythm of smaller Italian towns
- Offers a depth of retention that is not possible through passive learning