**Hosting a Virtual Worker Tour with Workers at the Alta Gracia Factory**

**What is a “Virtual Worker Tour”?**   
A “Virtual Worker Tour” - or a group Skype video call - is a free educational event where students and members of the campus community have the opportunity to meet the other end of the supply chain and hear directly from the women of the Villa Altagracia factory in the Dominican Republic.

After organizing for their rights for over a decade, women of the Fedotrazonas union have invaluable experience to share about working conditions in a Free Trade Zone. Students can also hear first-hand the impact consumption decisions at the university have on a community when workers are paid a living wage.   
 **Benefits of a Virtual Worker Tour:**

* **Local Link to a Global Supply Chain:** Alta Gracia is a highly relevant practical application tie-in that takes students beyond the theoretical of course material into decisions they make in their everyday lives. It illustrates the global implications of seemingly small local choices.
* **Relates to a diverse array of courses:** from Women's studies, to human rights, to geography, history, economics, business, textiles, sociology, anthropology, Latin-American and Caribbean studies, international studies, Spanish, and more, Alta Gracia is fitting course material.
* **Proactive, empowering message:** So often students are inundated with accounts of dismal conditions in global industries. It is not often that students and consumers are given examples of positive steps to improve conditions in a global industry that they themselves can take part in. Alta Gracia offers a refreshingly uplifting outlet for students to have a positive impact.

**Logisitcs**

* **Virtual Worker Tours are purely educational and are free of charge.**
* **Materials needed:** Professors/community hosts need only provide a projector, speakers, and a computer with an internet connection and Skype (available for free download at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com/)) Web cam capabilities are a plus.
* **Translation:** Alta Gracia can arrange English/Spanish translation at the factory as needed, but it is often helpful to have a volunteer Spanish/English speaker on both ends of the call because of the time and space divide.
* **Scheduling:** Virtual Worker Tours can be arranged almost any time. To schedule a tour, simply contact Alta Gracia organizer Rachel Taber ([taberrachel@gmail.com](mailto:taberrachel@gmail.com), 425 273 5451). One week lead time would be ideal to coordinate with workers. There is a 4 hour time difference between Dominican time and Pacific time. Tours that occur before 9am or after 5pm Dominican time are easier to schedule and will be more widely attended by Alta Gracia workers.
* **Audience:** Because of the time and energy workers must set aside to share their story, we ask for Virtual Worker Tours to aim to gather an audience of a minimum of 20 people.
* **Introduction:** To make the most of a “Virtual Worker Tour” it is often good to preface the subject matter with a short video, article, or otherwise. If interested in assistance with teaching materials, contact Rachel Taber [taberrachel@gmail.com](mailto:taberrachel@gmail.com)
* **Technology Test:** It is recommended to set up a trial run slightly before the scheduled call to work out any technical difficulties.

**Ready to set up?** Contact Alta Gracia organizer Rachel Taber, [taberrachel@gmail.com](mailto:taberrachel@gmail.com), 425.273.5451