

## Documentary screening moves Bom Pastor State High School in Belford Roxo

*FGB Staff ([Leia em português](#))/Trans. Travis Knoll*

Last Wednesday, August 17 [2017] the [Grita Baixada Forum](#) (FGB) helped organize the showing of “The Cost of Opportunity”, a documentary video produced by Duke University in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ) and the [cultural group Enraizados](#).

The students of the Bom Pastor State School, around the Gogó da Ema area of Belford Roxo, had the opportunity to discuss public university access in the Baixada Fluminense. Members of the [Pre-Vestibular \[ free college prep course\] Bom Pastor](#) were present, underlining the importance of developing the FGB network in the neighborhood.

The debate was conducted by participants of the joint Duke and UFRRJ project. Before the showing, Douglas Almeida, the activity coordinator, and Rafael Andrade of UNEAFRO made some observations, presenting the institutions that spearhead the work with the Pre-Vestibular in Belford Roxo. Rafael used the opportunity to give yet another invitation to students to participate in the college-prep course as well as other activities. “The UNEAFRO and the Grita Baixada Forum offer this opportunity with the support of the Catholic Church, but this only makes sense if you participate. It’s important for you to change the reality of this neighborhood and our city”, Andrade said.

Louise Vailante, a history student at the Multidisciplinary Institute (IM) of the UFRRJ asked the youth a series of questions about what they thought about school and their perspectives on the possibilities of enrolling in higher education. “What is education good for” was one of the questions, a question that the students thought hard to respond to, given the continued existence of various limitations in the country that work against a quality education. More than 50 percent of the students present, most of them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school, said they thought about enrolling in higher education and many see themselves in family members, many first generation, that already got to university.

After the questions, the documentary showing the trajectory of some IM students, was shown. This trajectory included the difficulties faced as well as the new ways life that come with campus existence in a federal university located in Nova Iguaçu. The video also showed some of the struggles carried out by the Forum Grita Baixada in the last year, including [the Torch of Shame Relay](#) and the publishing of its report [The Brazil Within Brazil Cries for Help](#). “It’s important to understand that no formula nor proper time exists to enter university. The documentary proves this, but access is a great opportunity to for the youths’ life, primarily in the peripheries.” Stephanie Reist noted.

Professor John French and Chloe Ricks of Duke University also presented along with Denis, 39 year old taxi driver, an [IM/UFRRJ](#) tourism student. Denis told the group a little about his trajectory and encouraged the students to also encourage their friends and brothers to start studying again. His words made the other public-school teachers take time to tell their stories. Robinho and Elaine, state employees, highlighted the role of education in changing their lives. Brendon, president of the student union and a Pre-Vestibular participant, said that the film and debate “made it possible for students to broaden their horizons.”

At the end of the activity, Sônia and the teaching coordinator Bruna Patrocínio thanked everyone for this opportunity and said the high school would be open for other encounters of this sort. “Things work out when we try. I am happy with the presences of the university students and I believe in the

importance of bringing these debates into the schools. And for the students I leave this message: Study, because your success is our success!” Bruna said concluding the film debate in Bom Pastor.