

The Citizen's Press - April 2015

Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement

"Our students benefit so much from our current mentors. We are so grateful! They have been such a helpful presence in their lives" – Kennebunk School Guidance Counselor

The College Community Mentoring Program has had another successful year working with students K-8th grade in Saco, Biddeford, and Kennebunk. 50 UNE students go each week to their assigned local school to help cultivate the learning, social skills, and confidence of their mentees. They have also worked hard to fundraise for the community, and will be hosting their students on campus before graduation.



Students in the America Reads /America Counts tutoring program have made a huge impact on students and teachers who need support in the local community. Here is an overview of the program's success:

- 43 UNE students participated this academic year
- Over 4,200 hours were spent in 44 different classrooms
- Tutors worked at 7 different public schools in Biddeford and Saco

According to graduating senior Valerie Motter, who has tutored for the past two years, *"I've been able to really get to know the children I've been working with and see them grow...this program has really allowed me to be aware of the benefits of having someone there to help you learn."*

College Aspirations Program

This Spring, UNE student volunteers visited juniors at Old Orchard Beach High School and Biddeford High School throughout the semester for regular meetings to encourage them to think about their futures. We also began a new effort to bring academic tutoring to the high schools for the first time. We look forward to expanding the program next year to include more one-on-one academic support and mentoring. Through the College Aspirations program this year, 75 students from Old Orchard Beach High, Biddeford High, and Kennebunk Middle School have visited campus and spoken with UNE faculty and student mentors.



New Community Partnerships!

We are excited to build new partnerships with **YouthBuild Biddeford** and the **Acorn Club**. YouthBuild Biddeford is an alternative educational program for youth who work to complete their High School Equivalency Test while rehabilitating affordable housing in their communities. We will collaborate with the organization to plan events and send UNE student volunteers to help support these students academically. The Acorn Club is a new faith based after school program that provides a space for kids K-6th grade to do homework, socialize, play games, do arts & crafts. A number of Citizenship students have volunteered there this semester and this has helped get the program up and running.

UNE Food Recovery Network

Another initiative our office was able to support was the establishment of the first chapter of the Food Recovery Network in the state of Maine! Student volunteers are delivering leftover food from the campus dining halls to the Bon Appetit community meal program three times a week and they have already recovered over 300 lbs of food since January. Students involved with the initiative also plan to use UNE's community garden to grow fresh produce for local food banks during the summer. For more information about The UNE Hunger Initiative, please contact Nicole Huang, AmeriCorps volunteer for the Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement, at nhuang@une.edu.



Citizenship- CIT 400

All Citizenship students have the opportunity to think critically about some of the most pressing issues facing American citizens today. This semester students had debates on the following topics:

- The banning of GMO foods
- Drug testing welfare recipients
- The legalization of prostitution
- Required vaccinations for entrance into public school

Global Citizenship

Twelve students traveled to the Caribbean island of Dominica this semester for a Global Citizenship course with Professor Tom Klak to learn about the island's environment, ecotourism and development. This photo shows the group with a local guide on their way to the island's famous boiling lake, which is a UNESCO world heritage site.

For more information about Global Citizenship opportunities please contact Theo Dunfey, tdunfey@une.edu



Habitat for Humanity

Danielle Mack, coordinator of the College Community Mentoring program, and Nicole Huang, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, had the opportunity to travel with the Habitat for Humanity club to help construct houses in Laredo, Texas. Highlights included learning how to use power tools, packaging about 5000 lbs of rice for the South Texas Food Bank, and enjoying a fiesta at the end of the week with the families who will move into the new houses soon. Thank you to the students who dedicated their Spring Break to serve people in need!