

Citizen's Press



Fall Semester 2016

Office of Citizenship and Engagement

University of New England

Special points of interest:

Day of Service

CCMP

ARAC

Middle School Aspirations

UNE Second Annual Day of Service

Theo Dunfey

On Saturday, October 15th, more than 400 students, faculty and staff converged on the Campus Center to sign-in and set out for a day of service at 30 different volunteer sites throughout Biddeford, Saco, Kennebunk and Sanford. President Ripich and the Mayors of Biddeford and Saco thanked the volunteers and sent them out on a brisk, sunny Fall day to rake leaves, install smoke detectors, educate the public about available health screenings, paint handicapped parking spots, and much more. The volunteers returned later in the afternoon to a gathering at the Riverview Tent to enjoy hot cider, cookies, pumpkin decorating, and a raffle of prizes donated by local businesses. Planned Parenthood also set up a table at the gathering to register voters and Ben and Jerry's gave generous scoops of ice cream to those who pledged to vote in the election.

Community partners and volunteers alike were grateful for the experience of participating in in this annual event.

“Thank you for your efforts to improve the lives of those who are most vulnerable. We would not be successful without generous and accepting people like you.”
- **William Browning, Volunteers of America Northern New England**

“There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a smile on someone's face who is truly deserving. The amount of genuine people I met during this experience opened my eyes to a world of love and kindness. It just proves how simple it is to come together and make a lifelong impact on the community and its people.”
- **Abby Cote, UNE student volunteer**



College Community Mentoring Club

Reba Shapiro

After winning the Maine Campus Compact President's Campus Leadership Award last year, the College Community Mentoring Program was very excited to get started this year. We have over 50 mentors doing remarkable work with children in schools in Saco, Kennebunk, Biddeford and Old Orchard. Our mentors take at least a week out of their busy schedules to spend quality time with children who have been identified as needing some extra guidance and support. Some key areas of focus with the children include social support, academic support and helping to get the children thinking about their future endeavors.

CCMP has received very grateful reactions in response to the work

with our mentors do with the school children. Last year, CCMP handmade blankets to give to the children and because of the positive feedback from the schools and the children, this year CCMP decided to create decoratively framed letters of support and wisdom for the children to keep and look upon for many years to come.

The mentors are only a small part of the children's lives but the goal is to make a large impact on their futures. Research has shown that mentoring relationships provide children with developmental assets that set them up for success and keep them out trouble. In the end, the impact the children have on our mentors is just as strong. Our mentors care deeply for their mentees and at the end of their time here at UNE and with CCMP, goodbyes are never easy, but the time we spend with the children will never be forgotten.



Field Day: Our mentors and mentees enjoy a game of kickball on UNE's Alford Lawn during CCMP's 3rd annual Field Day,



A few of our happy customers from Biddeford Primary School!

America Reads America Counts

Kristen Brannen

This year has already surpassed our expectations for the America reads/America Counts tutoring program. Fifty- four UNE students are participating in the ARAC program in local schools and are providing an astounding 1,524 students aged K-8 with tutoring services in math, reading, and writing. They have provided educational help to 40 classrooms at the JFK Kindergarten, Biddeford Primary, Fairfield Elementary, Biddeford Middle School, and Saco Middle School. ARAC tutors have already spent 3,402 hours tutoring this semester! The tutors have all expressed how valuable this position is, and we look forward to expanding the program even more next semester.

“Seeing students succeed is one of the best parts about working in education!”

-Christie Calliando, ARAC Tutor





Middle School Aspirations Program

Kristen Brannen

This semester, in collaboration with UNE Admissions, Makerspace Director Anthony Santella, and UNE student volunteers, the OCCE provided an opportunity for Saco Middle Schoolers to come to campus. Fifty excited 6th, 7th, and 8th graders along with five chaperones could hardly contain themselves to see the campus and interact with college students! The day was beautiful and that made the campus tours that much more enjoyable. The interactive activities included students participating in three different rooms of medical, novice engineering, and innovating activities. They were given a college tour, spoke with Sam McReynolds, Professor of Sociology and director of OCCE, about why college is important and had lunch with UNE students. The visit was such a success that Saco Middle School brought two more groups to campus! Many of the students showed a strong interest in attending college once they left campus.

As part of a “Building Middle School Aspirations” grant from the Lerner Foundation, the Office of Citizenship & Civic Engagement is doing its best to spread the wealth with other area Middle Schools as well to help those middle schoolers start thinking about their post-diploma career plans and to understand how education is the key to making those goals a reality. These aspirations are being built through the program ideas developed from a collaboration between OCCE and teachers and administrators of each school, which include Saco Middle, Biddeford Middle, and The Middle School of the Kennebunks so far!

Our OCCE Roster!

Sam McReynolds
 Theo Dunfey
 Kristen Brannen
 Danielle Mack
 Reba Shapiro



Be yourself. Be honest. Do your best. Take care of your family. Treat people with respect.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://www.une.edu>

Our OCCE Family
 11 Hills Beach Rd.
 Biddeford, ME 04005
 Decary Hall
 Room 321

Phone:
 (207) 602-2043

E-Mail:
kbrannen@une.edu



“I want to go to UNE and have fun and study to be a Social Studies teacher.”
 -Saco Middle School Student