

CITIZENSHIP PRESS

The Official Newsletter from UNE's Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement

March-April 2019

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UNE
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NEW ENGLAND
INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

Our office is
located in
Decary 321

2019 College Aspiration Program

This spring marks the seventh year of the College Aspiration Program (CAP) at the University of New England. Since the origination of the CAP in 2012, UNE's Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement has offered the program to middle school students who are in the varying stages of their future aspirations. Primarily, CAP targets low-income students, or students who might be first-generation college attendees, to participate in a day long visit to the Biddeford campus and learn about the importance of pursuing higher education.

A typical CAP tour experience for the middle school students consists of a campus tour lead by admissions personnel, STEM and/or art related activities instructed by faculty and

and staff members, lunch in the UNE dining hall, and a presentation about the importance of continued education led by Dr. Samuel McReynolds. Volunteer undergraduate mentors are recruited to participate in the CAP tour event throughout the day. This allows for the middle school students to interact with current college students.

The first two CAP tours took place at the beginning of March with the Loranger Middle School (OOB) and the Middle School of the Kennebunks. A record number of UNE volunteer mentors (20+), faculty and staff members signed up to interact with the middle school kids during the OOB and Kennebunk tours.

**Continue to Page 2 to read more about the first two CAP tours!*

CAP - Loranger

Sixty sixth-graders from Loranger Middle School were eager to step foot on the beautiful Biddeford campus when they arrived on a bright March morning. For many of them, this was their first time on the UNE campus. CAP tour organizers and participants were grateful to have three STEM related activities available for this group to take part in. These activities included: a Physics activity with Professor James Vasenka, a Makerspace activity and tour with Professor Anthony Santella, and a Neuroscience sheep brain dissection activity with the Neuroscience Outreach Group. The tour concluded with a wonderful lunch in the new UNE dining hall and the discussion facilitated by Dr. McReynolds.

CAP - Kennebunk

One week later, it was time for the Rams to takeover UNE and experience the College Aspiration Program. Around 50 eighth-graders from the Middle School of the Kennebunks came to campus as a part of their grade-wide "College Week." Professor Tony Santella from the Makerspace offered his hands-on programming activity while Professor Sarah Gorham from the Art Department lead a rock-painting activity. Dr. McReynolds was joined by two fellow social science faculty members (Arthur Anderson, Archeologist and Ashley Moore, Psychologist) to talk with the students about their future college aspirations.



We value MSK's longstanding relationship with UNE. Your programs have truly changed the lives of many of our students over the years. We don't take that for granted.

~Diane Binger, MSK School Counselor

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Spring 2019

The second American Red Cross blood drive partnered with the OCCE took place over the course of a two-day period this past March. In total, 57 people donated blood. Even though this number is less than the 75 donations of blood from last Fall's drive, it was still impressive given the winter storm that made its way through the region during the second day.



Service Spotlight:
Courtney Reynolds

Fourth-year UNE Business Administration student, *Courtney Reynolds*, took on an important leadership role with the *American Red Cross of Maine* to help make the two recent blood drives successful. The American Red Cross has been conducting blood drives at UNE for many years and was in need of a new student coordinator to run the drive. This was a perfect opportunity for Reynolds to take on the student coordinator role as she is already a member of the Regional Board of Directors for the *American Red Cross of Maine*.

The OCCE recognizes all of the hard work and time that Reynolds has volunteered to the Red Cross and UNE. Without her direct leadership, the two blood drives that Reynolds helped coordinate this year would not have been as successful as they were.



Good luck, Courtney! We know you will do great things after your chapter here at UNE!!

Global Citizenship - Mexico

In March, during UNE's spring break week, fifteen students traveled to Mexico as a part of their Global Citizenship (CIT 420) course requirement. UNE's goal of increased student participation in global experiences, travel, and study abroad programs is met through opportunities which include faculty-led Global Citizenship courses and programs meant to inspire service abroad. These courses direct the students' attention both outward with a civic contribution and inward with personal reflection.

See page 9 +
10 for more
pictures!

This specific travel course to Mexico was lead by UNE Sociology Professor and Citizenship Program Director, Dr. Samuel McReynolds. This was Dr. McReynolds fourth year leading the Mexico CIT 420 course.

During their week in Mexico, the UNE students spent the first few days in the city of Cuernavaca (located about 90 minutes south of Mexico City), where they resided with host families and immersed themselves in the local culture. The group then travelled to the nearby village of Amatlán where they stayed in cabins, taught English to kids in elementary school, and learned about Amatlán's unique cultural heritage.



"It was incredibly rewarding to work with the young children in Amatlán. Bridging the social, cultural, and linguistic gap between us and the kids was an amazing experience, and the most meaningful form of community outreach I have ever done."

-Patrick O'Brien, UNE junior

Citizenship Office:

AMERICA READS AMERICA COUNTS

Last semester, 40 UNE students worked as tutors in 23 different local elementary school classrooms. In total, the ARAC tutors worked over 1,100 hours throughout the semester. UNE student tutors come from a variety of majors and range from freshmen to seniors. The overall mission for the ARAC program is to help young students develop a positive attitude towards reading and math. Halfway through the Spring semester, 55 UNE tutors are currently working as ARAC tutors in local classrooms. This is an increase of 15 tutors from the previous semester!

COLLEGE COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM

Last semester, 46 UNE CCMP mentors provided social, emotional, and academic support to youth in 12 different schools in York County this semester. Each week these dedicated UNE students engaged, both one on one and in the classrooms, provide support to the local youth who are in need of positive role models to serve as their support systems. The diversity of this student group always grows, and this year CCMP has more HWOS, students, football players, and MedBio majors that worked with local youth. This Spring, CCMP has been working to expand into the Scarborough school district.



"We are always grateful to work with UNE students. They have provided great support for our students who needed a positive role model. We look forward to working with UNE mentors every year."
~Matthew Michaud Social Worker from Loranger Middle School in OOB

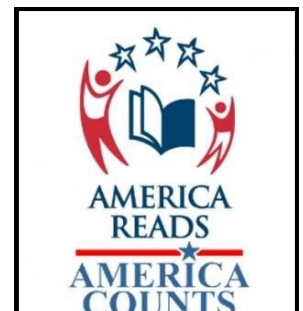
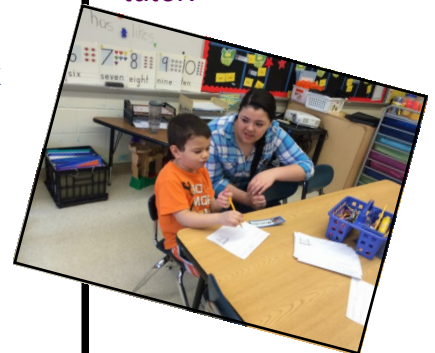


"I just love my UNE tutors. I am so appreciative of their dedication to my students and classroom. They have made a huge impact on the students' success this semester."

~Ms. Karen Mackenzie
2nd Grade Teacher
(Saco)

"The ARAC program is an excellent way to become involved in the local community! I love the program, thank you OCCE!"

~Samantha Schultz (UNE senior), first year tutor.



Citizenship Office:

Fall Semester Program Recap

ROAD TO SUCCESS

Road to Success has served six youth so far this year. Each youth successfully completed the program with community service, counseling, and enrichment activities and as a result of their success, their criminal charges have been wiped clean. The program expanded into Biddeford this past semester and the goal is to regularly serve clients in both Old Orchard Beach and Biddeford for the spring. One client started his first after-school part-time job, and another donated many items to the local homeless shelter. We are looking forward to more success stories in the spring.

CITIZENSHIP 400

This fall CIT students served over 2000 hours at over 150 service sites. In addition to our regularly scheduled CIT seminars, a group of students recently traveled with Sam McReynolds over spring break to Mexico, where they taught English in schools and donated books! Another group will be travelling with Professor Rick Peterson to Kenya this summer as part of a larger environmental studies class.



"CIT400 has taught me that everything we do, purchase, eat, etc., has an impact on everyone around us. I believe that everyone needs to think and act both on local and global levels as our lives depend on it."

"I learned that civic engagement is so much more than just voting in elections. Civic engagement involves understanding, respecting, and accepting personal and cultural differences too. This was a huge learning moment for me."



Upcoming Events!

Thursday March 21st

College Aspiration Tour with Saco Middle School

Wednesday April 17th

Volunteer Resume Workshop with Heart of Biddeford VISTA

Friday April 26th

College Aspiration Tour with Biddeford Middle School

Friday May 3rd

Mentor/Mentee Field Day

May/June

Global Citizenship trip to Kenya



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Meet the Team: Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement

Meagan Erhart (merhart@une.edu)

As the coordinator for Citizenship Service Learning, Meagan maintains and updates the database, helps develop materials for CIT 400 classes, and coordinates service opportunities with on-campus and community partners. Prior to joining the OCCE team, Meagan earned an MPH concentrating in Global Health and Citizenship and an MS in Nutrition from Tufts, and has also served as an Americorps VISTA.

Melissa Klemt (mklemt@une.edu)

Melissa works in the Office of Citizenship and Civic Engagement as a program coordinator. Melissa runs the College Community Mentoring and Road to Success programs. A 2017 graduate from UNE, Melissa studied both Sociology and Psychology. This is Melissa's second year working in the OCCE office.

Joel Soloway (jsoloway@une.edu)

A 2018 UNE graduate, in Communications and Applied Social/Cultural Studies, Joel runs the ARAC Tutoring and College Aspirations programs. Joel's position is through Maine Campus Compact and he serves as an AmeriCorps VISTA.



Alexis Dyer (adyer4@une.edu)

Current student at UNE, class of 2022, studying in the field of Psychology and minoring in Sociology. She is the Social Media Expert in the OCCE office. She hopes to work with children as a School Psychologist in the future.

Hannah Farewell (hfarewell@une.edu)

Current student at UNE, class of 2022, studying in the field of Psychology. She works as the Social Media Assistant in the Society, Culture, and Language office and in the OCCE office. She hopes to work in the field of Forensic Psychology in the future.

Snapshot of Mexico!!



Snapshot of Mexico!!

