



Community Engaged Student Assistants Fall 2011

CESA support faculty in their community-engaged teaching, research, or creative activity



Krista Howard
Faculty: Tracey Burke - Social Work

Food Stamp Challenge and Outreach

Krista is continuing this semester as a CESA to assist with the Food Stamp Outreach and Food Stamp Challenge components of SWK 243: Cultural Diversity & Community Service Learning, serving as a mentor to students and coordinating outreach efforts. These projects are part of a long-term partnership with the Food Bank of Alaska, providing both a direct service to the agency and its recipients, as well as creating an experience for the students to bring to life ideas discussed in class related to diversity, oppression, and privilege.



Kevin Vanderwall
Faculty: Kevin Dow - Accounting

Justice for Fraud Victims Project

This is a new and innovative project aimed at assisting victims of suspected financial fraud in cases where forensic investigative services are limited or too costly. In partnership with law enforcement officials and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, students in the ACCT: 497 independent study course will be obtaining real world experience in forensic accounting while providing a needed service to the Anchorage community. Students investigate cases by conducting victim interviews, preparing workpapers, and offering a formal presentation on the findings to local anti-fraud professionals. As a CESA, Kevin assisted Professor Dow with the course planning this summer and continued implementation in the fall with essential logistical and technical support to this growing project.



Christine Mojica
Faculty: Robert Capuozzo - Early Childhood Education

Creative Activities Fair and Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education program partners with Anchorage Parks and Recreation to put on The Creative Activities Fair, a bi-annual event with activities for young children and their parents held at local recreation centers serving diverse populations. The event is free and open to the public, attracting over 500 children and families to the last April event. Christine will assist with organization, collaboration, and data collection for the event. In addition, her CESA role will also involve working with Professor Capuozzo at the Providence Early Learning Lab on class footage videos to enhance training and research capabilities.



Ashley Yenke
Gabe Garcia - Health Science

Evaluation of School Based Health Center

Ashley is working at the School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Clark Middle School as an assistant evaluator. The SBHC serves Clark students with acute care service, sports physicals and immunizations regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. By assisting Professor Garcia with data collection, Ashley will provide a valuable community service while learning basic research methods and becoming familiar with health outreach services in local schools.



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Krystal Diehl

Faculty: Susan Kalina - International Studies

Russian 301 Service Learning

The service-learning component of RUSS 301: Advanced Russian I allows students the opportunity to work with the Anchorage School District and assist in Russian classes at local elementary, middle, and high schools. Part of Krystal's role as a CESA is to use her service-learning experience to mentor and train the UAA students, provide project guidance, and build a project and reflection archive on Blackboard for future reference. Her work will help to solidify and expand this important community project addressing Russian-language needs.



Jeanne Kemp

Faculty: Nancy Nix - Health Sciences

Analysis of Needs Assessment Data on Health Needs of the Hispanic Community in Alaska

As a CESA for Professor Nix, Jeanne is able to combine her prior healthcare and international experiences to further her commitment to social justice in the field of public health. In partnership with the Consulate of Mexico and working with Professor Nix, the project entails analyzing data and generating a report using a recent health needs assessment, collaborating on a Bi-National Health Week, and planning future health events for the Hispanic community. These efforts will serve the community by focusing health outreach on identified needs.



Christie Flanagan and Ryan McWilliams

Faculty: Nancy Nix - Health Sciences

E-Portfolio Tool for Public Health Practice

Christie and Ryan are assisting Professor Nix with creating an E-Portfolio Tool that will demonstrate and highlight student community engagement within the MPH Public Health Program. Their tasks include identifying a user-friendly platform and creating shells, reviewing previous coursework and research involving community engagement, and selecting examples of these activities with reflections on impact and outcomes. The tool developed this semester will serve to promote more community opportunities and service-learning collaborations, ultimately benefitting future MPH students.

