

Honors Program

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Shippensburg University Students Speak at National Honors Conference

Two students from the Shippensburg University Honors Program made an invited presentation at the 45th annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The conference was held from October 20-24, 2010 in Kansas City, Mo.

Juniors Abby Montler and Kady Taylor joined Dr. Kim Klein, director of the SU Honors Program, to present "Channeling a Rising Current in Higher Education: Initiating and Sustaining Global Service-Learning Projects." Their presentation focused on the Honors Program's service-learning project, "Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic." In the Reach Out project, SU Honors students have worked to improve the quality of education offered to low-income children in the Dominican Republic. The Honors students designed an English-language learning and technology training curriculum that they implemented in five child development centers during a week-long stay in the Dominican Republic in January 2010. The students have continued to develop additional curricular materials for the centers, which they will implement during annual alternative winter break programs in the Dominican Republic.

"It was such an enriching experience to be able to present the project that we have dedicated the last year to," Montler, an elementary education major from State College, Pa. said. "We were able to help students and faculty from other universities who are trying to implement global service-learning projects in their honors programs, and we gained valuable feedback about how we can improve our project."

In addition to their presentation, the Honors students also enjoyed exploring Kansas City and meeting with other Honors students and faculty from across the nation. "My overall experience in Kansas City was fantastic! The atmosphere of both the conference and the city was great, and I learned a lot from the students and professors I was able to speak with," Taylor, an elementary education major from Middletown, Del. added. "I will definitely be able to take what I have learned from the conference and put it to good use upon entering my professional field."

The conference was held at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott and featured the theme "Rhythms and Currents." Nearly 2,000 students, professors, and higher education administrators attended the five-day gathering to share ideas about honors education.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program is made up of 150 students who are chosen based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes, outstanding instruction, exciting research, study abroad, and internship opportunities, and special social and cultural activities. For more information, visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.