

Honors Program

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SU Honors Students Continue International Service-Learning Project

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. – A group of Shippensburg University Honors Program students and faculty recently spent a week in the Dominican Republic to implement their service-learning project, “Reach Out: A Shippensburg University Honors Program Literacy and Leadership Initiative.” Fifteen SU students and faculty members traveled to Santo Domingo, the capital city, to work with children and their teachers at the Pathways of Learning School from January 5-12, 2014. This marks the fifth year of the Reach Out project.

Hannah Dreibelbis, a senior Early Childhood Education major from York, PA, created a mathematics manual to enhance mathematics instruction at the school. Jarrett “Jev” Voight, a senior majoring in Art with a concentration in Computer Graphics from Warfordsburg, PA, prepared a manual designed to integrate the arts and creative expression across the curriculum. During their time in Santo Domingo, the SU faculty and students used the manuals to conduct professional development workshops for the school’s teachers, and they demonstrated many of the innovative teaching techniques in the manuals by working directly with teachers and students in the classroom. The SU students also hosted the Dominican students on a field trip to the Trampolín Children’s Museum in Santo Domingo.

Dr. Gretchen Pierce of the History Department, Dr. Robert Lesman of the Modern Languages Department, and Ms. Stephanie Erdice of the Women’s Center mentored the SU students as they prepared the curricular materials during the fall semester and accompanied them to the Dominican Republic. “One of the most important benefits a student can gain from travelling with Reach Out is personal growth,” Dr. Pierce commented. “It varies person-by-person, but includes an increase in confidence that one gets from stepping outside of their comfort zone, learning about a new culture which is important in our increasingly global world, and confronting and questioning both poverty and privilege. Everyone I have talked to that has gone says they come back from Santo Domingo a changed person.”

Each year, the SU students hold several fundraisers to support the Pathways of Learning School. This year, the students will focus their efforts on raising funds to purchase needed curricular supplies. The students and faculty are already working on the curricular materials that they will take to the Dominican Republic next January. For more information about the SU Honors Program’s Reach Out project, please visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors/reachout>.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The Honors Program involves approximately 150 students who are selected based on their academic achievements, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. SU Honors students benefit from small classes; outstanding instruction; Honors research and study abroad opportunities; and special cultural and recreational activities. For more information, please visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.