



KERNODLE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

July 28th, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

Elon University's Pre-Serve program is an innovative program that helps incoming students transition to college and learn about the surrounding community and service opportunities available. Pre-Serve is one of five First-Year Summer Experiences (FSE) offered at Elon and is sponsored by the Kernodle Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement. Each year, Pre-Serve introduces incoming students to Elon and to service opportunities in the Alamance County area. Pre-Serve is innovative because it is a summer week long residential program, incorporates a wide-variety of service projects, and focuses on building mutually beneficial connections in the community.

Pre-Serve has operated since 1992 and has undergone several changes and developments through its history. To date, Pre-Serve has served over 140 students. Currently, it enrolls 18-24 incoming students each year and operates as a small cohort-based program. These students come to campus for one week in the summer and, through living in a residence hall, have the chance to experience life at Elon. Participants are guided and mentored by 2-4 upperclass students with a background in service-learning.

Pre-Serve is intentionally designed to give participants a wide variety of experiences, both on- and off-campus. They have the chance to meet staff and faculty from across campus and ask any questions before they return to campus in the fall. In the past, offices represented have included Residence Life, New Student Orientation, and Greek Life. Elon's President and President Emeritus frequently join Pre-Serve for a service project or a meal. These meetings often rank as one of the most impactful for incoming students and help to place their experience in a broader Elon context.

Pre-Serve service projects are intentionally designed to maximize student engagement and impact. Students are introduced to the concepts of service-learning, power and privilege, and establishing community partners through their experiences during the week. Students have the opportunity to participate in service at a variety of sites across Alamance County—from a homeless shelter to an organic farm. These projects, along with thoughtful reflection afterwards, help the students realize the myriad places they could volunteer during their time at Elon.

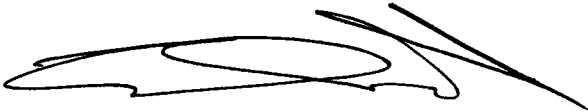
Perhaps Pre-Serve's most valuable facet is simply getting incoming students out into the community. By being immersed in the community in which they will live for four years, these

students get the chance to learn about its strengths and weaknesses, and where they can affect change. By working alongside Alamance County residents at a variety of service sites, Pre-Serve is helping students to realize the ability of positive community interactions to inspire future action.

Pre-Serve exists to introduce incoming students to Elon. However, in the process, students are able to realize the great potential they have to impact their community. By helping students realize this potential and how to effectively enter into a new community, Pre-Serve is preparing students for life as an engaged learner and a global citizen.

If I can provide any additional information about Pre-Serve, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Small', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Evan Small
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