

To whom it may concern:

My name is James Fabiano and I am program director of a remarkable program that has been on the seacoast for the past 28 years. The name of the program is Project SEARCH. It is a collaborative effort by many schools on the seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine. In fact, it is a one of a kind program that introduces college life to almost 225 students and has them confront issues they will have to deal with in their lives.

Attached is a report of the 2010-2011 SEARCH program. I have been with the program since its inception and have had conversations with many past participants of SEARCH who tell me how the program not only helped them cope with the changes they experienced during their first year away from their high school but also make them think about important issues that confront us all.

The 2010 – 2011 SEARCH program was developed to become one of the most insightful and motivating programs we have had to date. I also want to take the time to thank Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne, President of The Byrne Foundation. Her generous contribution to Project SEARCH has helped hundreds of young men and women of New Hampshire and Maine. This year TD Bank made it possible to not increase tuition rates. We all understand these are difficult economic times but with the help of people like Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne and industries like TD Bank this important program is destined to continue. I also want to thank all of the advisors and administrators from the Seacoast Schools who supported the program. If you have any questions or concerns about this report please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

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Project SEARCH is designed to provide an on-campus, intellectually challenging experience for academically motivated high school students. The program has been in operation since 1983, recently completing its 28th year. The total program enrollment ranges from 200 - 225 students, with the population consisting of 86% seniors, 12% juniors, and 2% sophomores. School enrollment numbers range from 5-25 students, based on school size and individual school district budgets.

Participants travel to the University of New Hampshire-Durham campus for six afternoon seminars each semester. Each seminar consists of a one-hour presentation and a one-hour discussion group. During a typical presentation, participants hear informative, controversial, and often alternative perspectives on issues. During the discussion groups, students are encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with peers in their group. Students from the participating schools are deliberately assigned so that only one or two students from any one school will be present in each group. A graduate student from the UNH Teacher Education or Counseling programs facilitates the discussion group.

Additional SEARCH activities include a ropes course day at the beginning of the academic year and a spring semester field trip to Boston. The ropes course day is designed to develop cooperation, communication, and problem-solving skills, laying the foundation for the discussion group environment. During the field trip to Boston, students experience an afternoon at historic Faneuil Hall and a theatrical production. Participants are eligible to take courses at the UNH-Durham campus through the Challenging Academically Talented Students (CATS) program; upon successful completion of the course, the Program shall reimburse the cost of tuition.

Participating School Information

Coe Brown Northwood Academy-Northwood, NH

Dover High School-Dover, NH

Epping High School-Epping, NH

Newmarket High School-Newmarket, NH

Noble High School-North Berwick, ME

Nute High School-Milton, NH

Prospect Mountain High School-Alton, NH

R.W. Traip Academy-Kittery, ME

Spaulding High School-Rochester, NH

Winnacunnet High School-Hampton, NH

Program Mission

To provide a forum on a college campus where high school students from southeastern New Hampshire and southern Maine can experience a series of presentations covering challenging interdisciplinary topics and interact with each other in discussion groups.

To foster positive attitudes toward the exploration of new and stimulating ideas through the exposure to presentations and subsequent group meetings through which they can hone their discussion skills.

To provide UNH graduate students with the experiential opportunity of developing group leadership and critical thinking skills for teaching intellectually curious students.

To encourage a positive spirit regarding the joy of learning through the collaboration of the high schools, their students, future teachers and practicing educators.

Important Changes from the 2011-2012 Program

The severity of the economy made it critical the program make financial changes in order to keep the program at its present state. We opted away from the Brown Center at the University of New Hampshire to the ropes course at Dover High School. This particular move allowed the program to freeze its tuition to the school.

Project SEARCH now has its own web page. I want to take this time to thank Kathy Lombard who donated her time and expertise and works diligently to advertise the importance of programs like Project SEARCH.

Project SEARCH is now an integral part of the Education Department at the University of New Hampshire. Our discussion group leaders will now have the opportunity of making their experience a part of their master's program.

**Project SEARCH at the University of New Hampshire
2010 – 2011 Report**

Based on a 1-5 scale where 1 is weak and 5 is strong

September 22, 2010: Discussion Panel arguing both sides of the gay marriage issue

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 78.5 %	5: 52.70 %	5: 56.3 %	5: 64.0 %
4: 21.0%	4: 21.20 %	4: 21.8 %	4: 34.4 %
3: 0.5%	3: 13.33 %	3: 14.4 %	3: 1.6 %
4: 0 %	2: 12.77 %	2: 3.5 %	2: 0.0 %
5: 0 %	1: 0.00 %	1: 4.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes:

The students were both interested enthusiastic about this issue. I am happy to report they treated both speakers with respect even though they did not agree with both side of the discussion. The questions were exceptional and the group discussion leaders reported strong and clear communication in their groups.

I am also happy to report the MUB 2 lecture hall at Memorial Building was completely filled.

October 6, 2010: The Tea Party Movement

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 65.2 %	5: 46.5 %	5: 55.2 %	5: 61.1 %
4: 11.2 %	4: 47.4 %	4: 15.4 %	4: 32.1 %
3: 13.6 %	3: 3.1 %	3: 6.7 %	3: 6.8 %
2: 8.6 %	2: 3.0 %	2: 12.9 %	2: 0.0 %
1: 1.4 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 9.8 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: This session clearly demonstrated there was a difference of opinions as to the importance or relevance of the Tea Party Movement. My students were all enthusiastic and respectful of what was being presented in front of them. Many did not know what the Tea Party was or what they represented. The question period was interesting to both the students and the speaker. The discussion group leaders stated their groups were both lively and enthusiastic.

It is also important to note the speaker, Andrew Ian Dodge, is now running a campaign against Olympia Snowe in 2012, for United State Senator from Maine.

October 20, 2010:

Afghanistan

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 71.9 %	5: 78.2 %	5: 64.5%	5: 60.9%
4: 25.1 %	4: 12.4 %	4: 14.4%	4: 28.6%
3: 3.0 %	3: 6.4 %	3: 9.9%	3: 10.5%
2: 0.0 %	2: 3.0 %	2: 11.2%	2: 0.0%
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0%	1: 0.0%

Notes: This panel discussion brought many questions to the table for my students. The panel was represented by the military who thought we should stay in Afghanistan, a veteran soldier who thought we should leave Afghanistan, and an academic who spent years helping the women of Afghanistan.

Some student responses included:

The military speaker relentlessly returned to the big picture which was that it was in The United States best interests to continue to try to influence events in Afghanistan.

There was confusion of why we were in Afghanistan and why the goals have changed.

A new understanding of how Afghanistan is strategically between Pakistan and Iran.

November 3, 2010: Druidism and the History of the Celtic Religion

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 38.3 %	5: 25.8 %	5: 49.2 %	5; 56.8 %
4: 23.9 %	4: 37.5 %	4: 12.2 %	4: 26.8 %
3: 27.2 %	3: 19.0 %	3: 27.2 %	3: 13.4 %
2: 5.6 %	2: 13.4 %	2: 1.4 %	2: 3.0 %
1: 5.0 %	1: 4.3 %	1: 10.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: The primary problem my students had with this presentation is they thought it was concerning witchcraft even though Druidism is directly associated with this subject. The speaker was extremely dry and basically gave them an hour long lecture on the History of Druidism.

Student Comments included:

The speaker seemed unprepared and had a difficult time with his won power point presentation.

It seems as though the speaker knew a lot about Druidism but could not come up with proof the Druids existed the way he discussed them.

I believe the subject would have been interesting with a more comfortable speaker.

November 17, 2010: The real science of “GMO’s”

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 83.7 %	5: 85.14 %	5: 73.4 %	5: 70.3 %
4: 9.1 %	4: 8.90 %	4: 21.2 %	4: 10.9 %
3: 7.2 %	3: 5.96 %	3: 5.4 %	3: 16.9 %
2: 0.0%	2: 0.00 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 1.9 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.00 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: This was obviously a favorite of the students of Project SEARCH. Even though it was a lecture based presentation Professor Subhash Minocha of The University of New Hampshire was able to associate with the students. It is also common knowledge Professor Minocha is a favorite amongst the faculty at the university.

Some student comments included:

Before this presentation I always thought GMO’s were bad for you.

I never knew GMO’s were already deeply entrenched in our food supply.

Professor Minocha’s presentation makes me want to learn more about GMO’s and the future of biotechnology.

December 8, 2010: Poetry Slam

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 87.7 %	5: 84.8 %	5: 57.6 %	5: 62.6 %
4: 13.3 %	4: 15.2 %	4: 15.5 %	4: 18.2 %
3: 0.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 15.6 %	3: 9.4 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 11.3 %	2: 9.8 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: The poetry slam has become a staple for Project SEARCH. It is a favorite with the students because they are presented with award winning poetry and they are able to stand before their peers in order to recite their poetry. Simone is a national champion in her field.

Student comments:

Hearing them perform makes poetry a universal language like music.

This gave me the capacity to figure out which art is better than other art.

February 16, 2011:

Social Networking

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 77.4 %	5: 76.7 %	5: 56.3 %	5: 65.2 %
4: 15.0 %	4: 0.0 %	4: 25.8 %	4: 24.4 %
3: 15.1%	3: 23.3 %	3: 7.9 %	3: 10.4 %
4: 0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 3.5 %	2: 0.0 %
5: 0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 1.5 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Professor Kevin Smith of the University of New Hampshire gave a short history on social networking and was not pro or con. He allowed the students to make up their own mind on a technology that has become an integral part of their society.

Student comments:

I was shocked to learn that the number of texts per month has reached well over an average of 5000.

I was intrigued about the future of social networking.

It is now a standard that you don't have to be around your friends to be friends. I am a bit afraid of this.

March 9, 2011:

CERN and the super particle accelerator

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 58.2 %	5: 46.5 %	5: 65.2 %	5: 74.2 %
4: 21.2 %	4: 27.4 %	4: 15.4 %	4: 12.1 %
3: 10.6 %	3: 15.5 %	3: 19.4 %	3: 6.8 %
2: 5.5 %	2: 9.9 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 6.9 %
1: 4.5 %	1: 0.7 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Dr. Per Berlund of the University of New Hampshire did a fine job explaining the concept of particle physics. Many in the audience had a pre-conception they would not enjoy this presentation because of its scientific basis. Many were surprised by how much they could understand about a subject that was considered un-understandable.

Student comments:

The subject was remarkable even though I have little interest in science. I still don't understand the string theory concept but I now have a basic understanding of what dark and light matter is.

I wish my physics teacher was able to be a part of this presentation.

March 23, 2011:

The Dartmouth Murders

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 90.8 %	5: 95.9 %	5: 92.3 %	5: 65.3 %
4: 9.2 %	4: 4.1 %	4: 7.7 %	4: 30.8 %
3: 0.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 3.9 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	4: 0.0 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	5: 0.0 %

Notes: Mr. Tim Pifer who is head of The State of New Hampshire's forensic lab has spoken to past SEARCH students. The students were once again enthralled by his expertise and first hand knowledge of an investigation he led. His manner of speaking is comfortable and clearly understandable. The one basic complaint by the SEARCH students was that his presentation did not last longer.

Student comments:

Before this presentation I was interested in forensic science. I think this pushed me over the top.

Wow

I was astounded how something as small as a partial boot tread could lead to a conviction of a murderer.

March 30, 2011:

Our present day economics

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 68.3 %	5: 65.8 %	5: 69.3 %	5; 63.3 %
4: 14.0 %	4: 12.5 %	4: 20.2 %	4: 26.8 %
3: 6.3 %	3: 16.7 %	3: 10.2 %	3: 5.6 %
2: 11.4 %	2: 5.0 %	2: .3 %	2: 4.3 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes:

My students were apprehensive over a presentation that had to do with economics. Some were very turned off by the subject because of poor experiences in their schools. But, they all knew this was an important topic. Dr. Michael Goldberg did a remarkable job interesting the students about a subject that will affect all of their lives. His power point presentation was succinct and clear.

Student comments:

I never thought economics could be so interesting.

I now know what economics means.

I am a bit afraid over what my future will look like because of the present economic conditions in the nation.

April 6, 2011:

The art of the mime

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 85.9 %	5: 92.1 %	5: 78.2 %	5: 69.3 %
4: 14.1 %	4: 7.9 %	4: 13.9 %	4: 18.9 %
3: 0.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 4.9 %	3: 5.0 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 3.0 %	2: 6.8 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Robert Rivest's presentation of the art of the mime is also a favorite of Project SEARCH. Many of the students are wary about this subject but when they discover exactly what 'mime' is they all become enthralled by the subject. Robert Rivest, who studied under the tutelage of Marcel Marceau, is an expert at his art. He also does a remarkable job not just entertaining but also teaching.

Student comments:

I loved the way the speaker brought students to the front of the lecture hall so they could see if they could mime.

The speaker made the art of the mime feel like magic.

I now want to find more places where mime is performed.

On April 12, 2011, the SEARCH students enjoyed the theatrical presentation of "Blue Man Group" Before this they spent time together at Fanuel Hall building strong relationships that promise to last a long time.

The 2011 – 2012 SEARCH schedule includes:

The potential of Republican Presidential candidates speaking to the SEARCH students. Governor Mitt Romney, Governor Tim Pawlenty, and Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann have shown interest.
The science of the paranormal

Transgender society

The Art of the comic

Poetry Slam

Conspiracy theories with Dr. William Woodward of the University of New Hampshire

The ever-going debate between evolution and intelligent design

The Israeli / Palestinian conflict through the eyes of young men and women.

The dangers of drug and alcohol addiction

Euthanasia

Volunteerism with City Year, Habitat for Humanity, and Americorp

**Please view SEARCH's web site at: www.projectsearchunh.com
There are videos and power points from past sessions. This year the program is also setting up a system in which our students can communicate with the speakers through the web site. The site will be becoming more interactive.**

If anyone has any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted:

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