

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 31 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 2013 – 2014 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 2013 – 2014 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. We all understand these are difficult economic times but with the help of people like Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne 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
@
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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 29th year. The total program enrollment ranges from 200 - 225 students, with the population consisting of 84% seniors, 14% 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 2013-2014 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.

The economic reality for academic programs is difficult. During the past year many schools were worried about the possibility of having their budgets cut. To date we have lost numbers from Dover High School. The program has been able to keep up with all its programs because of the charitable donation of Ms. Dorothy M. Byrne of the Byrne Foundation.

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. You can view past, present, and future SEARCH programs at: www.projectsearchunh.com

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.

As part of their ‘Masters of Education’ program 10 graduate students from the university will be participating in Project SEARCH.

The 2013-2104, SEARCH season was also the year we brought back some of the most popular seminars of the past. These included Dr. Christine Schadler who is an expert biologist centered on the coyote, Dr. Jeanne Sowers who is an expert on the Middle East, Mime Robert Rivest, Tim Pifer of the New Hampshire Forensics Laboratory who was decisive in solving the Dartmouth Murders, Dr. Regina Shearer formerly of the Platters who is now an inspirational speaker and Dean of Admissions at Rivier University, and Boston’s Poetry Slam.

**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 11, 2013k: Ropes Course at Dover

Notes:

There is no questionnaire concerned with the ropes course at Dover. All students meet with their groups in order to build bonds of friendship and cooperation. The members of the discussion groups are mixtures of students from the cooperating schools. Many long term friendships are developed during the SEARCH ropes course.

September 28, 2013: Dreams of the Brain

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 58.5 %	5: 32.70 %	5: 66.3 %	5: 74.0 %
4: 31.5%	4: 29.20 %	4: 21.8 %	4: 16.0 %
3: 10 %	3: 13.33 %	3: 24.4 %	3: 5.00 %
4: 0 %	2: 14.8 %	2: 11.9 %	2: 5.0 %
5: 0 %	1: 9.97 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes:

The students were both interested intrigued about this issue. Many went into the seminar thinking this was more entertainment than substance. I believe the most important concept the students understood from this seminar was there are many new concepts that are just beginning to evolve. One of these topics is neuroscience and the brain. Dr. Robert Mair of the University of New Hampshire is universally known for his work with the anatomy of the human brain. His lecture and discussion style introduced the SEARCH students to what many will expect in their futures. 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 2, 2013:

Stress Management using Mime

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 85.2 %	5: 86.5 %	5: 45.2 %	5: 51.1 %
4: 11.2 %	4: 13.5 %	4: 15.4 %	4: 48.9 %
3: 3.6 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 26.7 %	3: 0.0 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 2.9 %	2: 0.0 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 9.8 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes:

Robert Rivest, who is a whole acclaimed Mime showed the SEARCH students how they could learn to relax using laughter. There was a late cancellation by Professor Cesar Rebellon who was to speak on terrorism. This seminar fit well after the lecture type seminar of Dr. Mair. To state the students enjoyed the hour would be an understatement. Many have stated they will use these techniques to cope with their post-secondary education.

October 16, 2013:

Inspirational speaker Rregina Shearer

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 81.9 %	5: 88.2 %	5: 74.5%	5: 50.9%
4: 18.1 %	4: 8.4 %	4: 4.4%	4: 48.6%
3: 0.0 %	3: 3.4 %	3: 5.0%	3: 20.5%
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 16.1%	2: 0.0%
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0%	1: 0.0%

Notes:

Dr. Regina Shearer, Dean of Admissions at Rivier University and former lead singer of “The Platters” spoke with SEARCH students concerning how her adolescence was filled with challenges and opportunities. She continues to be well received by the SEARCH students. Her personality and story motivates all of them to do the best they can do.

November 6, 2013: Society of Coyotes: Similar to us

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 72.3 %	5: 75.8 %	5: 75.2 %	5; 66.8 %
4: 13.9 %	4: 24.2 %	4: 12.2 %	4: 16.8 %
3: 13.8 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 12.6 %	3: 13.4 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 3.0 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Christine Schader has been a favorite presenter with Project SEARCH for the past decade. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the natural world has to rub off on anyone she presents to. This year was no different. The questions out of the lecture hall were both competent and knowledgeable. Ms. Schader's answers were made through experience. I hope to see Ms. Schader be a SEARCH presenter in the future.

November 20, 2013: The Dartmouth Murders

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 83.7 %	5: 95.14 %	5: 83.4 %	5: 70.3 %
4: 9.1 %	4: 1.90 %	4: 11.2 %	4: 5.9 %
3: 7.2 %	3: 2.96 %	3: 5.4 %	3: 21.9 %
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: A favorite seminar of Project SEARCH students in the past, Tim Pifer of the New Hampshire State Forensics Lab brought the students through the process and eyes of forensic detectives. He gave them a step by step process of how the Dartmouth Murders were solved. He used his expertise and humor to enthrall his audience.

The question and answer period was one of the best of the year and the discussion groups centered on the science of forensics.

December 11, 2013 : Poetry Slam

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 87.7 %	5: 94.8 %	5: 37.6 %	5: 72.6 %
4: 3.3 %	4: 5.8 %	4: 30.5 %	4: 8.2 %
3: 10.0 %	3: 0.0 %	3: 20.6 %	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.

Boston SlamMaster and world-class MC Simone Beaubien will return to SEARCH to host the annual poetry slam. The event always starts with an opportunity for students to read or perform their own poetry in a supportive, exciting environment. Beaubien, a 2008 National Poetry Slam finalist, will draw four other national competitors from the New England scene to perform their own original work in the slam. Poetry Slam is a thirty-year movement conventionally defined as “the art of competitive performance poetry.” It’s a fast-paced competition where poets have a limited amount of time to impress judges randomly selected from the audience: storytelling, lyricism, and stand-up comedy all come together in what’s evolved to a modern oral tradition. Slam is not a passive performance; in addition to the judges, other audience members are strongly encouraged to participate by cheering, whistling, or mildly heckling the hosts or judges. Kids and adults alike learn the power of a single word, line, or figure of speech when spoken aloud.

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.

January 8, 2014:

The legalization of marijuana

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 87.4 %	5: 56.7 %	5: 56.3 %	5: 75.2 %
4: 5.0 %	4: 10.0 %	4: 25.8 %	4: 14.4 %
3: 15.1%	3: 33.3 %	3: 7.9 %	3: 10.4 %
4: 0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 3.5 %	2: 0.0 %
5: 0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 6.5 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Matt Simon who is a lobbyist in Concord for the legalization of marijuana debated State of New Hampshire Lobbyist Lauren Petraitis who is arguing to keep the present marijuana laws in New Hampshire. This debate, which was presented a day before a vote on the legalization of marijuana in Concord, both interested and intrigued the students. Most commented even though their opinions were entirely different they handled the debate in a civilized manner. Of course, there were times when it became a bit heated but was always under control. In fact, some students were hoping for a more heated debate.

This seminar clearly displayed how laws change in government through debate and careful discrimination of facts. This was the type of seminar the students talked about weeks later and brought back the discussion to their respective schools.

January 22, 2014

North Korea

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speaker:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 67.2.%	5: 36.5 %	5: 65.2 %	5: 74.2 %
4: 11.2 %	4: 38.0 %	4: 24.4 %	4: 2.1 %
3: 11.6 %	3: 15.5 %	3: 10.4 %	3: 16.8 %
2: 5.5 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 6.9 %
1: 4.5 %	1: 0.7 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: Professor Lawrence Reardon is a Professor of Political Science at the University of New Hampshire and an expert on the history and realization of North Korea. He speaks Korean fluently and is an expert on its past and modern history. Few of the SEARCH students knew of the history of the Korean Peninsula or why North Korea is so aggressive. Professor Reardon gave the SEARCH students insights into their present actions against anything foreign. This insight could have never been accomplished through today's multi-media or social networking.

Professor Reardon used a lecture technique that some students found tiresome. But, they also understood that their post-academic studies will have professors who use this type of teaching technique. Professor Reardon was not only enlightening to my students but was also respectful of this age group.

March 5, 2014:

Religious Panel

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 80.8 %	5: 85.9 %	5: 2.3 %	5: 65.3 %
4: 19.2 %	4: 9.1 %	4: 17.7 %	4: 20.8 %
3: 0.0 %	3: 5.0 %	3: 5.0 %	3: 13.9 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 8.0 %	4: 0.0 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 7.0 %	5: 0.0 %

Notes: SEARCH students are usually only associated with the religious beliefs of their parents and family. Their concepts of the associations between world religions are molded through multi-media channels. Project SEARCH had a great opportunity to bring together some of the most important religions of our world. The panel consisted of:

Mohamed Ibrahim PhD representing Islam

Rabbi Krieger representing Judaism

Bodhipaksa Dharmacari representing Buddhism

Tom Pietraopoli representing Catholicism

Kelly Deamerow representing secular humanism

The SEARCH students were exceptional with this panel. At the end of the session all the members of the panel were impressed with the student's enthusiasm and respect. The SEARCH students were especially impressed with both the Islamic Mullah and the Jewish Rabbi mainly because they got along so well. Before the seminar many students believed that these two sects were mortal enemies. The panel and their representation in the panel proved this wrong. My only regret was not having more students present at this seminar.

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March 19, 2014:

Project Innocence

Seminar Topic:	Seminar Speakers:	Question Period:	Groups:
5: 88.3 %	5: 95.8 %	5: 79.3 %	5; 73.3 %
4: 10.0 %	4: 2.5 %	4: 10.2 %	4: 16.8 %
3: 0.7 %	3: 1.7 %	3: 10.5 %	3: 5.6 %
2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 0.0 %	2: 4.3 %
1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %	1: 0.0 %

Notes: In all my decades associated with Project SEARCH I've never seen my students more involved and affected by a seminar speaker. Mr. Shawn Armbrust was incarcerated for almost two decades for a crime he never committed. He sought out Project Innocence to help him win his freedom. Born out of the OJ Simpson trial, Project Innocence spent a massive amount of time winning his freedom.

This being a remarkable story by itself the one concept the SEARCH students received from this remarkable speaker was he held no contempt or hate for the system. He emotionally expressed his feelings by stating that any held in hate or regret would only lead to his downfall. He now is a successful businessman with a family. He speaks across the country to describe how unfair our judicial system can be. He also speaks against the massive numbers of incarcerated people in our nation. To editorialize a bit, I've never been more affected by a seminar speaker at Project SEARCH.

April 2, 2014:

"Shear Madness in Boston"

The 2013-2014 end-of-year outing takes SEARCH participants again to the Charles Playhouse in Boston where they will see "Shear Madness," a play which has been running since 1980.

This unique comedy-whodunit takes place today in the "Shear Madness" hairstyling salon and is chock full of up-to-the-minute spontaneous humor. During the course of the action, a murder is committed and the audience gets to spot the clues, question the suspects, and solve the funniest mystery in the annals of crime. The outcome is never the same, which is why many audience members return again and again to the scene of the mayhem.

Voted "Best Comedy of the Year" seven times by the Boston Globe and recipient of the title "Best Play of the Year" by both the Chicago Sun-Times and the Philadelphia Enquirer, "Shear Madness" has also received the Raven Award from the Mystery Writers of America and has been inducted into the Comedy Hall of Fame, the first play ever to receive that accolade. "Shear Madness" is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest running play in the history of the USA.

Project SEARCH also took part in “Body World” at Quincy Marketplace. This unique exhibit demonstrates human anatomy from real human cadavers.

Please note that the February 5, 2014, scheduled seminar was cancelled due to extreme weather. The subsequent rescheduled event was also cancelled because of a difficult winter. The 2014 – 2015 SEARCH season will have an additional seminar that will include the crisis in Syria.

The 2014 – 2015 SEARCH schedule include:

September 10, 2014:	Ropes Course at Dover
September 17, 2014:	Speak Out against all types of discrimination
October 1, 2014:	National Humane Society / Farms to Factories
October 15, 2014:	The Science of Paranormal Psychology
November 5, 2014:	The Syrian Situation and its effect on all of us.
November 19, 2014:	Survivors of the Boston Marathon Bombings.
December 10, 2014:	Poetry Slam with Master Simone Beaubien
January 7, 2015:	The future and importance of neuroscience
January 21, 2015:	The debate between evolution and creationism
February 4, 2015:	The debate between NRA and gun control.
March 4, 2015:	WHO and post-world antibiotics
March 18, 2015:	A panel on sexual assault in our colleges

April 2013: End of Year Trip: TBA

Please view SEARCH’s web site at: www.projectsearchunh.com
There are videos and power points from past sessions. This year the program has set up a system in which our students can communicate with the speakers through the web site. The students will also be able to communicate between themselves about the program. The site will become more interactive.

Respectfully submitted:

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