GATZERT PARENTS ADVOCATE FOR PRE-K PROGRAM

November 19th 2014 marked a big triumph for local families. A group of parents, brought together by university and elementary school staff, advocated before the Seattle Public Schools Board for a pre-k program at Bailey Gatzert Elementary. The need had been apparent to Gatzert staff for some time, Principal Greg Imel noting he was often asked by parents why there was no open pre-k program in the building (previously, there had been only a small special needs pre-k program).

For many of the parents, this was their first time before the school board. One by one they advocated for themselves and their children. Jonathan Ruiz Velasco, the Bailey Gatzert School Success Coordinator, said, “The parents presented boldly and spoke from the heart.”

Thanks in part to the advocacy effort, the board approved the preschool. Funding had already been secured in the form of a 3-year $750,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Daren Chamberlin was hired as the teacher and the pre-k program opened in January, offering 20 seats to local families. Seattle University Jumpstart students are already in the classroom supporting the new program.

STUDENTS DESIGN RENOVATIONS FOR ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL KITCHEN

Service-learning courses provide students with the opportunity to apply their learning to real world situations, to get hands on experience, and to help build the capacity of our community organization partners. Students enrolled in Professor Nathan Canney’s Civil Engineering course, Residential Design, were to do just that in a unique way in last quarter. St. James Cathedral Kitchen looks to renovate in order to have more extensive pantry space and to incorporate an espresso bar for their patrons.

The service-learning class broke into small groups to create design ideas for these renovations. Professor Canney asked each student to volunteer in the kitchen prior to jumping into the designing phase so that they would better understand the space and sense of community at St James.

Professor Canney remarked, “It was a great project for students to apply what they had been learning in class about drafting programs to a real life situation. They had to learn to consider the costs of the project and adapt to their client’s needs and budgetary limitations.” St. James is scheduled to move forward with renovations based on these plans and recommendations this summer.
STAFF INTROS

We would like to introduce a few of our newer staff members to you.

AyeNay Abye
Student Engagement Coordinator
AyeNay comes to the CSCE with a background in community organizing and capacity building through her previous work as the National Field Director at the Praxis Project. As the Student Engagement coordinator, AyeNay is centralizing student recruitment efforts to better serve the student population and meet community needs.

Ann Dunn
Interim Family Engagement Manager
With Kirsten out on maternity leave, we are excited to introduce Ann as our Interim Family Engagement Manager. Her role involves working to engage neighborhood parents in learning opportunities to help them be strong supporters of their children’s education. Ann comes to us with a background in social services, case management, and an MA in International Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Grace Gehman
Senior Administrative Assistant
As an SU student, Grace participated in CSCE leadership programs. Now, as a graduate, Grace has joined our staff and is often the first face you see in our office. Providing financial and administrative support, she helps our office run efficiently.

Jonathan Ruiz Velasco
Bailey Gatzert School Success Coordinator
Jonathan worked for seven years at Bailey Gatzert as a Bilingual Paraprofessional serving the ELL population and the Spanish-speaking community. Now, Jonathan is thrilled to interface with many of our community partners and SU students to provide academic support and enrichment activities at Gatzert.

SEATTLE U: FINALIST FOR PRESIDENT’S HONOR ROLL AWARD

The President’s Honor Roll is the highest honor for universities engaging in community service. In 2014, Seattle University was recognized as one of 5 top universities engaged in interfaith service. The university was recognized in all award categories at the following levels:
- Interfaith – Presidential Award Finalist (Top 5)
- General Community Service – Honor Roll with Distinction
- Education – Honor Roll
- Economic Opportunity – Honor Roll
In 2012, the University was the recipient of the President’s Honor Roll Award, recognizing the groundbreaking work of the Seattle University Youth Initiative. We are honored to again be recognized at such a high level.

CSCE STAFF ADMINISTERS FOOD BANK SURVEY

The Food Bank @ St. Mary’s has been looking to assess how well they are meeting the needs of those who live nearest to them. As part of a service-learning course from Spring 2014, a group of students developed a survey to assess the awareness of the food bank’s services, the need within the surrounding community, and what barriers existed for those looking to utilize their services.

In order to help the food bank, Center for Service and Community Engagement staff held a service project in lieu of a traditional staff meeting. Eighteen staff members were mobilized in pairs to administer the survey to as many residents as possible living within roughly a one-mile radius. We were thrilled to get out of the office and support one of our wonderful partners.

CENTER FOR SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1223 E Cherry St
206.296.2569
seattleu.edu/csce  seattleu.edu/suyi
csce@seattleu.edu  suyi@seattleu.edu