



UMass

Dartmouth

CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Kym Welty
774-929-3030
kwelty@umassd.edu
April 16, 2010

GRADUATING INTO TEACHING: NOYCE SCHOLARS ENTER SOUTH COAST SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

FAIRHAVEN, MA- On June 16th students won't be the only ones celebrating a graduation milestone; teachers of TEACH! SouthCoast and TEACH! UrbanSouth will be celebrating receiving their initial license. Amongst these hardworking educators are the Noyce Scholars, young teachers who have been funded by the National Science Foundation to become math and science teachers in our urban schools.

On June 16th, the first class of Noyce Scholars will receive their initial licensure in teaching as graduates of the TEACH! SouthCoast and UrbanSouth program. This is the start to what will hopefully be an exciting future in partnering the National Science Foundation with UMass Dartmouth graduates looking to take their math and science skills into SouthCoast high needs schools.

Program director Kym Welty explains; "The National Science Foundation's goal of the Noyce Scholarship Program is to recruit math and science teachers who not only have a passion for teaching, but who also have a passion for their subject. That is why we recruit undergraduates who are majoring in the STEM areas - science, technology, engineering and math."

The disciplines of math and science are the most difficult when it comes to attracting highly qualified educators. While teaching is a critical profession within the community and can be very fulfilling, the incentives of other careers in math and science are often great. Furthermore, the path to becoming a teacher often requires extensive academic work which can amass student loans. It is with this awareness that the Noyce Scholarship was created, offering undergraduate seniors a \$10,000 scholarship to participate and observe in local classrooms. After graduation, Noyce scholars can receive an additional \$10,000 scholarship if they earn their initial Massachusetts Teacher License.

Noyce scholars are placed in urban classrooms such as Fall River and New Bedford, and spend a year as a student teacher before taking on a classroom of their own. Through the Noyce program high needs schools receive well prepared and highly educated teachers to help answer the demand for more comprehensive math and science education.

This year the very first SouthCoast Noyce scholars will graduate with their initial Massachusetts Teacher License. There are four graduates this year; James Knuttila who will be teaching high school math, Kaelyn Viveiros who will teach high school biology, and Katherine McDermott and Michelle Pound, both of whom will receive their licenses to teach middle school math.

As past Noyce Scholars take their place in the front of classrooms next year, new Noyce Scholars will be starting the program. On May 5th the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth honored Emily Alves and Jordan Valois along with other prestigious graduating scholars of the class of 2010. Alves and Valois will be part of the new TEACH! cohorts which launch in the fall. They both participated in summer internships in 2009 at the SeaLab Marine Science Center in New Bedford and received a \$10,000 dollar scholarship to help pay for their 2009-2010 senior year. They will receive an additional \$10,000 to help pay for their training in the TEACH! 2010-2011 cohort.

Noyce director Kym Welty is optimistic and excited for the future of the program and the teachers that are being positioned to make a difference in SouthCoast schools as a result; "I'm very proud of our first graduates from the Noyce Program and I'm looking forward to watching them become great teachers in their schools".

The Noyce Scholarship Program is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Noyce is administered through the Center for University, School and Community Partnerships (CUSP), a University of Massachusetts Dartmouth program. Kym Welty is the program director.

For additional information:

Website: <http://www.umassd.edu/cusp/noyce/>

Email: Kym Welty kwelty@umassd.edu.



From left to right: Emily Alves, Noyce director Kym Welty and CUSP associate director Dr. Trina Crowley. Alves receiving acknowledgement as a Noyce Scholar at the Woodland Commons honors ceremony May 5, 2010.