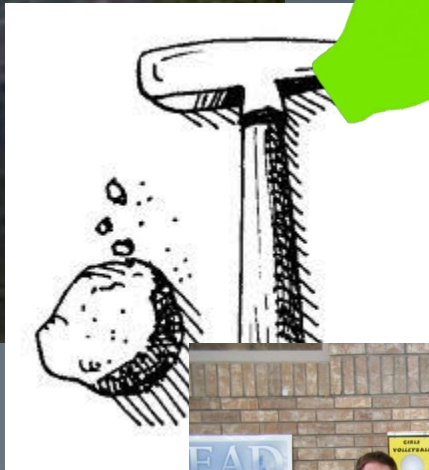


# Community Engagement in Schools: Innovative Recruitment & Formative Experiences

Austin Pryor  
College of William & Mary



Office of  
**Community  
Engagement**  
William & Mary



WILLIAM  
& MARY



# Office of Community Engagement

- The **mission** of the Office of Community Engagement is to connect the College and community to support students' development as active and educated citizens and to promote positive, community-driven social change.
- Our **vision** is that students will prioritize working within and understanding community in a lifelong pursuit of social justice.

# Education Outreach Programs



# The Details

- ~300 undergraduate students of all class years
- Placement at one of 15 local schools or education-based non-profits
- At least 1x per week commitment
- 20 – 50+ hours working with students

# EDUCATE – Act – Reflect

- Training from program staff and school district staff
- Orientation at K-12 school/non-profit
- Movie screenings
- Articles about education & teaching profession
- Discussions w/ school staff
- Forums w/ presentations
- Partnership with student advocacy group

# Educate – ACT – Reflect

- Strong partnerships with schools & non-profits
- Clear expectations for our work
- Identification of “the right students”
- Student leaders (experienced volunteers) as peer mentor and facilitators
- Consistency and reliability – the trust factor

# Educate – Act - REFLECT

- Informal discussions
- Formal reflections sessions
- Written reflections
- End of year symposium
- Interactions with employers, educational opportunities, and non-profits



**SO....what does this have to do with  
STEM teaching or Noyce?**

# Recruitment

- Provides students with a chance to step into an educational setting in a meaningful role within their first weeks on campus
- Consider education as a profession and see the need for qualified individuals in STEM classrooms.

*“I realize I don't want to be a teacher. I'm glad I had this experience so I could figure out that while I care about education-related issues, I am not passionate enough to work in education for the rest of my life.”*

# Knowledge Development

- Awareness of their community
- Exposure to issues in education
- Interconnectedness of social issues
- Intellectual curiosity to find out more

# Skills Development

- Observation of teachers, principals, and guidance counselors
- Pick up “tricks” along the way
  - Management
  - How students learn
- Reflective process
- Understanding systems

# Mindsets Development

- Importance of community in education
- Drive to work in higher-need environments
- Social justice framework
  - Idea that all students can learn

# Questions? Discussion?

Contact information:

Austin Pryor

[alpryo@wm.edu](mailto:alpryo@wm.edu)