



Fall/Winter 2012

SalemCyberSpace

A program of North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc.

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STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CORPS (SEA CORPS)

Twenty-two high school students who were at risk of failing their 10th grade MCAS had the opportunity to participate in a 6-week Service Learning program at Salem High School. Students could earn 1/2 credit towards their high school degree and a stipend for successful completion of the program. Attendance rate for this program was 90%!



Students install dog waste bags at Leslie's Retreat Dog Park

Salem CyberSpace was chosen to be the project coordinator for the grant.

Service Learning is a teaching strategy that empowers youth to address real problems, as they work with com-

munity partners to apply academic knowledge.

The service learning theme for the summer was the environmental effects of storm water runoff. The community partners included Salem Sound Coastwatch, the National Park Service and the Workforce Investment Board.

Teachers from SHS developed and taught the environmental science and biology curriculum and provided many hands-on activities and experiments for the students to learn about the effects of storm water runoff on the waterways in and around Salem. These experiments took place in the Lab at the high school and at various marine, river and marsh locations. There was

an ESL teacher in the classroom co-teaching at all times.

Each team of students identified an area to study and research and to implement an action to address the problem. Students studied pollution caused by plastic waste, cigarette butts and dog waste. In addition students received information on careers in Biology and Marine Science and visited New England Biolabs in Ipswich and the Northeastern Marine Science Center in Nahant. Students also received advice on job search and career skills from staff at the Workforce Investment Board.

In the end, students were able to make a difference in their community by working on a cause they believed in.

Funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as part of the Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success.

Middle School Summer Science

Middle School students in the 7th & 8th grade had the opportunity to participate in a three week summer program, run by Salem State Chemistry major, Christine Vo, that included a variety of hands-on activities and experiments at Salem State College. The three weeks consisted of

Engineering. Examples of projects included dissecting a pygmy pig at Salem State's Biology Lab, Periodic Table Jeopardy, Dip-pin Dots ice cream and Bacteria: Why Wash Your Hands? Students also took field trips to Beyond Benign and the New England Aquarium.

2012 Financial Highlights

Revenues:

- 52% from private foundations (\$>5000)
- 21% from private grants and donations (< \$5000)
- 13% from government
- 15% from fees

Average Cost/student year: \$3,200

National Average for Quality Programs in an urban setting for older youth: \$6,000

Source: Wallace Foundation

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 3-6 hours per week
 - Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, and/or Sat
 - Work with ESL students
 - Tutor in math, science, technology
 - SAT prep
 - Enrichment projects
- Must be able to do high school level work



Thank you to Beverly Cooperative Bank who was the lead sponsor for our Great Expectations Event.

FULL "STEAM" AHEAD

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS

STEM was off to a great start with two field trips to the Museum of Science and to Merrimack College to participate in the STEM ThinkFest where students enjoyed hands-on science challenges throughout the day and a tour of the campus.

Due to the success of our summer program, Science Scouts has returned each Wednesday with Christine Vo, who continues to dazzle our



students with fun and challenging STEM activities.

Our middle school team is taking up the Future City challenge again for the third year and will compete against other schools at the end of January. We are pleased to be working with Chris Broyles, who is the head of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers' Younger Members Group.

In order to develop cognitive and creative skills, and to

develop imagination and critical thinking we have added two new arts programs this year. On two Thursdays each month, the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) staff leads a group of students in a variety of projects. Inspired by the Millinery exhibit at the PEM, students started the year designing hats. Students also toured the Ansel Adams exhibit and in November, Artist Sarah Winifred Searle led our students in an Ashcan Comic Workshop. In addition, one of our staff members engages our students in fun art projects each Friday afternoon.

From The Academic Learning Center:

Attendance is growing this year! For the period September through November, student attendance has increased by 17% over the same period last year. To help with the increase in student population, we are fortunate to have many new volunteers who are college students as well as retired and working professionals. In just two months our amazing volunteer staff has logged an impressive 240 hours in volunteer time. With our staff and volunteers, our average student to teacher ratio averages 6:1, allowing our students to get quality group and one-on-one tutoring and homework help.

Blog: Heather Maes created a Salem CyberSpace blog that she updates daily. Check it out at:

www.cspaceyouth.wordpress.com.

Critical Thinking: Linda Saris, the Director of Salem CyberSpace, launched a Social Justice Seminar series at the House of Seven Gables with 6 students based on Harvard University Professor Michael Sandel's lectures. This series, designed to improve critical thinking, oral debate and to develop an



understanding of social justice and philosophy, will run once a month. Started in November, the first discussion was based on Dr. Sandel's lecture on The Moral Side of Murder. Students learned the difference between consequential and categorical thinking by discussing many scenarios that might justify taking the life of another.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Natasha Lopez was selected by the staff as September's Student of the Month and Mercis Arias was selected for the month of October. (Picture Left: Mercis, left, Natasha, right)

Natasha is a sophomore at SHS and Mercis is an 8th grader at Collins Middle. Both students are very focused on their homework and both participate in all activities at the ALC. Always working on homework with a smile on their faces, they are important role models to our students.

Each month a new student will be selected and will receive a certificate and a \$25.00 VISA gift card.

Family Academies - Working with Parents

On November 18th, Salem CyberSpace hosted the first of its four Family Academies at St. Peter's Church in Salem. Approximately 50 parents and teens from Salem, Peabody and Lynn learned about the college process including test taking, college selection, applications, and financing options. Started in 2011, the Family Academies are an opportunity to give vital college information to parents and students in both Spanish and English and to involve parents in their child's decision-making.

Salem CyberSpace was selected by Salem State University under a Department of Higher Education College Access grant to deliver these Academies.



The next Academy, scheduled for the evening of January 15, 2013, will focus on financing options in more detail and will include the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, student and parent loans, college grants and private scholarship opportunities. At the conclusion of this workshop parents will be able to make a private appointment to fill out their FAFSA's during our

first **FAFSA DAY on Saturday, January 26th** at Salem CyberSpace.

FAFSA's must be completed online which requires setting up an account first and then completing online financial forms. FAFSA Day, the first of its kind in Salem, will be

open to anyone in the community who is in college or planning to enter college. Parents or students will sit at a computer with a trained staff member to complete the application.

To make sure parents do not have to wait, an appointment will be necessary. To make an appointment please email Monique Gallant at: mgallant@salemcyberspace.org.

Our final Family Academy will be in April when staff will explain how to decipher the often-times very confusing financial aid award letters. We will itemize for students and parents exactly how much grant and loan money they were awarded, which of the itemized expenses might be eliminated, how much of a gap remains and strategies to close the gap.

Staff will also be on hand to do individual counseling.

Family Academies

Important College Information 2012-2013

January 15, 2013: Financing College

Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA), parent loans, grants and scholarships. Learn how to pay for your child's education.

January 26, 2013 FAFSA Workshop

Set up FAFSA online account and complete the student aid application.

(Appointment Is Required)

April, 2013 (DATE TBD)

Understanding Your Financial Award Letters

Call 978-740-6667 or email mgallant@salemcyberspace.org

College Success Students Way Ahead of the Curve

Most of our 15 high school seniors will have completed their college applications well in advance of our goal of the Christmas school vaca-



tion. In all we will file about 100 applications. In addition to our 15 high school graduates, we currently have 10 college students poised to graduate in the spring, 4 from Salem State, 1 from

UMASS-Amherst, 1 from Montserrat College of Art, and 4 from North Shore Community College.

We hope you will join us at our Great Expectations fundraiser on June 13, 2013 to honor our graduates.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FAFSA DAY

We need volunteers to assist parents in completing their FAFSA applications.

We will train all volunteers.

Both English and Spanish speaking volunteers needed.

Call or email Monique Gallant

978-740-6667
mgallant@salemcyberspace.org



Visit the NEW Salem CyberSpace Website.

Salem CyberSpace website has a new look thanks to funding from the Essex County Community Foundation, and Laura Brooks who designed and built the site. You will find information about our youth and adult programs, a gallery of photos and news/events. Online donations are now being accepted. You may also find Links to our YouTube channel and blogs

Take a look at, <http://www.salemcyberspace.org>.

Donations can be made at www.salemcyberspace.org/donations

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Thank You City of Salem

CyberYouth is partially funded by the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Salem CyberSpace is proud to be named a Gables 2012 Partner

SalemCyberSpace

www.salemcyberspace.org

Salem CyberSpace does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, familial status, sexual orientation or disability.

SAVE THE DATE GREAT EXPECTATIONS FUNDRAISER JUNE 13, 2013

Anyone who is anyone will be at the Kernwood Country Club, Salem, at 6:00 PM at the annual Great Expectations Fundraiser to celebrate Salem CyberSpace's graduates and educators. Last year, attendance exceeded our *greatest expectations* with an overflow crowd. This year we are pleased to be able to have the event at a larger venue, the Kernwood Country Club. Join us **to celebrate, have fun** and **support a great cause.**

CELEBRATE

Approximately 25 high school and college graduates will be honored at this event and each college graduate will honor an educator who made

a positive impact on their lives.

HAVE FUN



Back by popular demand is Trivia Night. This definitely put the fun back into fundraising. (see sidebar)

Enjoy food and music and compete with old friends and new to raise needed dollars for Salem CyberSpace.

SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE

100% of our students who have spent at least two years

in our programs and joined College Success, finish high school and go on to post-secondary education. To date our college retention rate remains at 90%.

Having places like Salem CyberSpace couldn't be more critical as urban schools struggle to develop students who are college and/or career ready and have the critical thinking and problem solving skills to achieve their own personal goals and successes.

Stay tuned for more information!

Talk on the Street:

Feedback on 2012's Trivia Night Benefit for

Salem CyberSpace

"I am so tired of the usual fundraiser - stand around with a drink in your hand and chit chat. This was so much fun - I sat at a table where I knew no one - that is, until we started playing Trivia."

"I had such a great time at your Great Expectations gala last night. I was so impressed with the work that went into organizing, but most impressed by the amazing group of students that Salem Cyberspace has supported over the years. "