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Five New Hampshire College Students Gain National Recognition for Public Leadership

Campus Compact names students from Dartmouth, Hellenic American, Keene State, Plymouth State, and Saint Anselm as Newman Civic Fellows

Bedford, NH, March 19, 2018— Five students from New Hampshire colleges and universities have been named Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows for 2018. This national honor is awarded to undergraduates who have demonstrated a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing their communities. The Fellowship program is designed to prepare these students for future roles in tackling pressing issues at the local and state levels and beyond.

Civic Fellows are nominated by their college or university's president on the basis of their motivation and potential for public leadership. Joining the other 153 students chosen nationally for this honor are Christine Bryan from Keene State College, Paige Collette from Plymouth State University, Sabyne Pierre from Dartmouth College, Colleen Toomy from Saint Anselm College, and Christos Venetsanopoulos from Hellenic American University.

The Fellowship is a one-year experience during which students have access to in-person and virtual learning opportunities, networking events, and mentoring to foster civic leadership skills. The program is administered by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education.

"These five students represent the next generation of public problem solvers and civic leaders," says Debby Scire, Executive Director of Campus Compact for New Hampshire. "They serve as exemplars of the role that higher education can—and does—play in building a better world. We're delighted that they will have this unique opportunity to work with other student leaders across the country in developing the skills they'll need to address vital community issues."

Following are excerpts from the nominating statements of the college presidents representing each of New Hampshire's 2018 Newman Civic Fellows:

Christine Bryan, Keene State College

Christine Bryan is a non-traditional student with a passion for working with underprivileged and marginalized populations. A long-time community volunteer, Christine is using her return to higher education as an opportunity to gain a broader view of social issues.

Christine is currently engaged in research that explores correlation between legislation and delivery of social services to populations, including persons experiencing homelessness, immigrants, and refugees. She is seeking a grant to support further research on attitudes of legislators and providers toward those needing social services, and the type of programs that result. Her engagement also includes serving as a caseworker for short-term assistance programs with the City of Keene, where she offers instruction, ongoing support, and increased caseworker access.

—Melinda Treadwell, Interim President

Paige Collette, Plymouth State University

Paige Collette is an active leader in involving her fellow peers in community engagement. She is a leader in International Service Trips, PSU Volunteers, and Alternative Spring Break, and has shown great dedication to advancing community-identified and driven projects.

As a service trip leader for both local and international projects, Paige exemplifies a student leader who is making significant contributions to the development of fellow students, as well as to the communities she works with. Paige approaches all of her endeavors with genuine enthusiasm, authenticity, and curiosity. Her most recent pursuits this year are leading an Alternative Spring Break trip that focuses on hurricane relief and co-leading an international service trip to Petersfield, Jamaica, where students will participate in community-identified projects.

—Donald L. Birx, President

Sabyne Pierre, Dartmouth College

Sabyne hit the ground running from the moment she joined Dartmouth's class of 2020. She brought her interest in social justice to an internship through Dartmouth's Center for Social Impact with a nonprofit organization in San Francisco whose mission is to restore dignity to those moving through homelessness. On the heels of that internship, Sabyne applied to be a part of SEAD, an educational access program working with under-resourced high schools throughout New England.

Sabyne has expertly balanced rigorous academics with extracurricular activities that speak to her sociopolitical interests such as being part of the Dartmouth Humanitarian Engineering team supporting hydroponic farms. In so many ways, we have much to look forward to as Sabyne continues to make her stamp on this world.

—Philip Hanlon, President

Colleen Toomy, Saint Anselm College

Colleen Toomy is a student leader in the Meelia Center for Community Engagement's Access Academy, which provides on-campus educational programming for underrepresented high school students in Manchester. As a first-semester freshman, Colleen volunteered in an Access humanities course. Under her leadership, Access students got the opportunity to create a new course focused on their expressed interests. That student voice led to a course examining human rights, including the Civil Rights, women's rights, labor rights, and LGBTQ rights movements.

Colleen has added another goal for Access Academy: to help Access students develop the confidence to assess the educational programming directed at them, and to put forth their own ideas and contributions in course redesign. This empowerment approach has a long-lasting impact on students and their ability to advocate for themselves and their communities.

—Steven DiSalvo, President

Christos Venetsanopoulos, Hellenic American University

Christos currently serves as the Student Assistant for the Office of Student Affairs and International Programs and is Vice President of the Student Government. He always completes with remarkable success the various tasks assigned to him, such as evaluation of Study Abroad programs, Civic Engagement Project evaluation, and organization and promotion of Student Affairs events. Furthermore, he is an enthusiastic volunteer participating in activities such as reforestation projects or food drives.

Christos is a truly humble person and of excellent character, showing his generosity and willingness to help to all members of the university community, for example assisting his peers in need of any university service. Furthermore, as VP of the Student Government, he works on an ongoing basis to make a difference in the lives of our community.

—Leonidas-Phoebus Koskos, President

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About Campus Compact for New Hampshire

Founded in 1997, Campus Compact for New Hampshire (CCNH) is a statewide consortium of college and university presidents and private-sector partners who are united in their commitment to the civic purposes of higher education. As part of a national coalition of college and university leaders, CCNH serves as a catalyst to integrate community service and civic responsibility throughout academic and student life. CCNH is part of the national Campus Compact organization, which encompasses 1,100 college and university presidents representing some 6 million students.