

*Unity and Diversity, Difference and Democracy, Connection and Civility*  
*The Breaking Bread Program*  
*University of New Hampshire*  
*Jaime Nolan, Associate Vice President, Community, Equity and Diversity*

**Developing Relationships and Working Partnerships  
Across Difference:**

The Breaking Bread Program has been designed to accomplish a central program objective: to create opportunities whereby working partnerships, alliances and networks across difference are developed. While the need to create and foster spaces of dialogue, understanding, and community building has always been important to American democracy, the need to engage in true political and civic discourse is particularly urgent in the current social and historical moment in which the nation is so socially and politically divided. This is an essential academic mission of any university and the essence of participatory democracy. The logistics of the Breaking Bread program have been developed to accommodate and meet the unique needs of individual groups, while fostering a sense of community among all participants, allowing for productive and important dialogue and the building of collaborative networks. These networks will not only provide organizational support, access to resources, and other benefits to emerging leaders and their respective groups/organizations, it will benefit the larger UNH community by fostering a respectful climate for civic dialogue and deepening the capacity for building healthy communities.

**The UNH Breaking Bread Launch will take place March 28 with a dinner and student presentation from 5:00-7:00 pm in MUB Strafford Rm.**

Break bread with UNH community members and learn about this innovative program. Hear from students who participated in the pilot and what they plan to do with what they have experienced and learned from participating in the Breaking Bread Program.

**RSVP for Breaking Bread: [janicep@unh.edu](mailto:janicep@unh.edu)**

***Breaking Bread Program Description***

Breaking Bread provides student groups wishing to work together with funding to plan and share a joint dinner. Dinners are held in a kitchen of a residence hall. Students create the menu, shop, cook, set up and clean up. Doing so requires students to collaborate, problem solve, negotiate, and compromise in order to accomplish the task of having dinner/breaking bread together. As part of the process, the groups will also identify a project and/or program on which they will collaborate to formalize a partnership.

***Process***

The first step in the process is for the two groups wishing to work together to write a brief proposal (no more than two pages) that will include:

- A brief description of their organization (s)
- Explanation of why they wish to work with the other group
- Identification of two objectives/outcomes from having the dinner which will lead to the development of a more formal collaborative effort
- Dinner logistics (desired date of event, time, etc.)

Proposals are reviewed and after the review process, a letter goes out to leaders of organizations confirming funding for their request.

Upon completion of the dinner, each group will write up a brief overview of the evening that outlines objectives for their future collaboration, allowing us to monitor the progress and provide ongoing support and mentoring.

For more information on Breaking Bread, contact Jaime Nolan at [Jaime.Nolan@unh.edu](mailto:Jaime.Nolan@unh.edu)