ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

Summer Outreach at UNH Manchester

What is ESOL Summer Outreach?

UNH Manchester offers two intensive summer programs in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Each year the Summer Program for ESOL Students, established in 1997, brings 20-25 high school and returning adult students to UNHM’s historic urban campus for five weeks. The Educational Excellence for English Language Learners Program (EXCELL), established in 2004, extends this opportunity to 10-15 middle school students. Students completing the Summer Program (270 so far, from 54 countries) have gone on to community liaison roles, degree programs, or qualifying exams in their professions. Students completing the EXCELL Program (62 so far, from 23 countries) put their enhanced skills and confidence to use improving school performance, matching high school course selections to career goals, and taking part in other enrichment programs. Both programs bring the University into collaboration with local educational institutions, community organizations, and humanitarian foundations.

An Opportunity for Action

The mission of UNHM is to provide access to quality higher education for the people who live and work in the Upper Merrimack Valley Region and to encourage the region’s economic and cultural growth. This region has recently experienced unprecedented growth in the number of people speaking languages other than English. Over 70 languages are now spoken in the Manchester public schools. Our goal in collaborating with other educational institutions and community organizations in these two programs is to bring this dynamic and diverse population into the ongoing enactment of this mission.

Who is Involved?

Students are referred to the Summer Program from high schools, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations. Students are referred to the EXCELL Program from middle schools. Both programs receive staff services from UNHM’s Center for Academic Enrichment (CAE), Office of Student Services, Library, Radio Station, and Computer Laboratory. A UNHM Senior Lecturer directs both programs and teaches in the Summer Program. The EXCELL teacher is from the Manchester Central High School, and four to six UNHM undergraduates participate as CAE-trained tutors.

Goals and Resources

The Summer Program is now funded by UNHM. EXCELL now relies entirely on outside funding, most recently from the Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation (2008). Ongoing goals are (1) to secure consistent funding for EXCELL, including tutorial support during the school year; and (2) to double the student participation in the Summer Program / ESOL in response to community interest.

More info at: http://www.unhm.unh.edu

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