

GRANITE STATE LEADER



Ashley Pistorino *Skateboarding: Giving a Forum to the Student's Voice* *Plymouth State University*

Ashley Pistorino worked to provide a better relationship and understanding between the Plymouth State University campus and the people involved in the recreational sport of skateboarding. Throughout her time at Plymouth, skateboarding has remained a hot topic on campus. Recently, the idea of building a skate park in the town of Plymouth has been pursued. It was important to her, as well as the volunteers she worked with, to create a forum for which the students could voice their opinion on the issue. This was implemented through informal one-on-one conversations, formal round table discussions as well as utilizing social networks such as Facebook. It was also important to Ashley that she and her team of volunteers bring awareness to the policies of skateboarding on Plymouth State University property as well as in the town of Plymouth. An informational flyer on these policies, provided by the University Police Department, was an instrumental tool to providing awareness as well as creating interesting conversations.

Through a two week long process, Ashley and her volunteers took time out of each of their days to facilitate formal discussions as well as essential personal conversations. This was an important service to the university because it promoted awareness as well as acceptance to a popular activity on campus. This project provided educational moments for students at Plymouth State University and encouraged students to voice their opinions and get involved with issues on campus.

Ashley enjoyed working on this project because she was able to lead a great group of volunteers as well as being able to speak with many insightful and bright students. Interestingly enough, The Clock (PSU's newspaper) recently wrote an article on the attention being brought to the skateboarding community. Ashley believes that she has helped the Plymouth State University by providing awareness to an important issue while encouraging and promoting students to articulate their opinions and values to campus issues.

