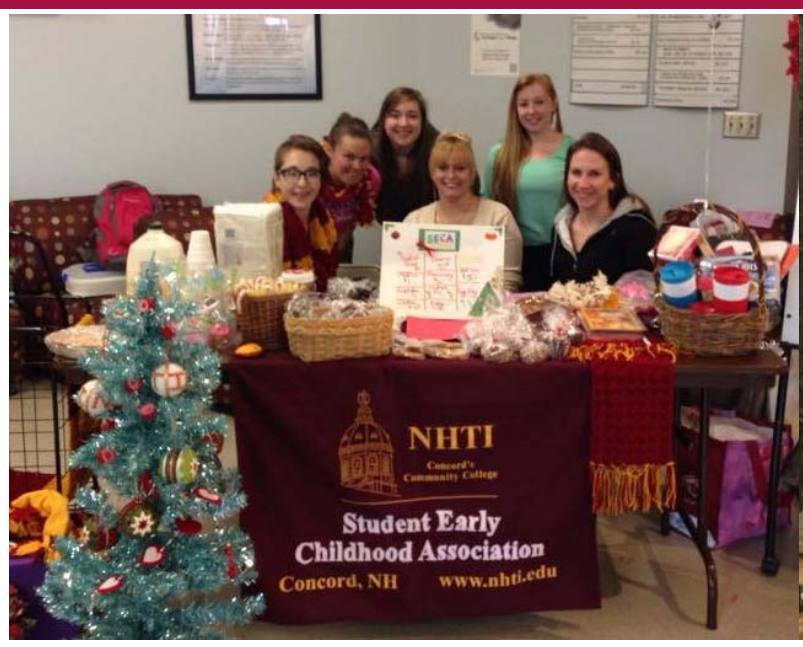
Presidents' Leadership Award





The Student Early Childhood Association (SECA)

NHTI, Concord's Community College

The Student Early Childhood Association (SECA) at NHTI, Concord's Community College, is a dynamic group of 12 early childhood students. The students joined the club to connect with other people with similar interests on campus, to give back to their community, and to grow as professionals together. In the fall of 2014 the club participated in Halloween Town at King Pine Ski Area in East Madison, NH. Dressed up as characters from books by Dr. Suess, they decorated a bungalow and gave away over 800 copies of Green Eggs and Ham to excited trick-or-treaters. By participating in this safe Halloween experience, SECA helped to raise money for the Laura Foundation for Autism and Epilepsy. They are already invited back for next year!

In the fall the students also supported a mother and child for Operation Santa, and participated in the campus activities board's food drive. They provided child care to families at the campus child care center so that parents could have a "date night." They also began a year-long project of making homemade blankets for the Linus project. The Linus Project provides homemade blankets to children who have experienced some kind of trauma or hardship. The blankets help them heal. The students estimate that they will have made over 30 blankets and quilts by the end of the spring semester.

In the spring of 2015, SECA invited other clubs on campus to participate in their Purple Box Challenge. Interested clubs were given a Purple box in which to collect items to create school kits. Notebooks, rulers, crayons, pencils, erasers and other supplies are put into a home-made cloth bag. These "school kits" will be given to Church World Service to distribute to children in need of such supplies all over the world. The club with the most completed kits will enjoy a pizza party on SECA!

In March SECA is organized two exciting events. One was for preschool children from local child care programs and was held at the NHTI campus Library. It was a Reads Across America event to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Children participated in various literacy related activities planned by the students. Students read books they have wrote to the children as well as books from their favorite children's authors. The next event was a campus-wide Coffee House. Students, faculty and staff were invited to perform or relax and listen at the Coffee House. Music, comedy, poetry and drama were featured in an open-mic format to bring the campus together.

SECA is also supporting the Multicultural Club with their fashion show at the Multicultural Day. SECA students will be models, emcee the fashion show, and help the models get ready for the runway. The Multicultural Club is promoting the purple boxes at this event.

SECA has been asked to volunteer their time to help the New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children at their spring conference. Students will help set up the evening before the conference and then provide support in getting people registered for the conference the next morning.

To top off their year, the club will be attending a professional early childhood conference in NYC in April. They have been fundraising all year for this event and are supported financially by the Student Senate. They will bring back information to share with their classmates in the fall.

The joy and enthusiasm of club members is infectious!