Presidents' Leadership Award





Project Stride

Manchester Community College

The Women's Issues Group of MCC's Project Stride (a program that supports single parents), decided that they wanted to make a difference in the lives of the other MCC students. Their goal was to raise awareness about the community resources available to women, men, and children who might find themselves within a crisis situation, such as assault, rape, bullying, and domestic violence. While these crises are often in the news, many individuals faced with needing help do not know where to turn. Project Stride reached out and teamed up with several community organizations (YWCA, Families in Transition, Concord Feminist Health Center, and the NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence) to create "No More Week", a 3-day awareness campaign.

In addition to informational booths front and center on campus, the campaign included the Clothesline Project. The Clothesline is a visually potent travelling awareness project that provides victims the chance to anonymously share their stories via t-shirt message painting. T-shirts from all MCC community members were clotheslined throughout the "No More Week". Small permanent mini-posters were also hung on campus primarily in the restrooms. The posters offered hotline and other support resources with a note also to someone observing a friend or neighbor in crisis. . The students wanted this to serve as a lasting resource for students in crisis at the college. Campus participation in the t-shirt messaging was remarkable. Both male and female students created t-shirts with messages of hope and courage.

This team of women themselves has overcome many obstacles to attend college and stay in college. Their selflessness and commitment to help others, as demonstrated through this project, makes them ideal recipients for the President's Leadership Award to Manchester Community College students.