# Presidents' Leadership Award



2015 Newman Civic Fellow
Campus Compact

# Allison Valentine

## *Southern New Hampshire University*

Within days of arriving at Southern New Hampshire University Allison Valentine was seeking ways to get involved in her new community. By the end of the first week she had joined the community service club- The Outreach Association- and became an integral part of the committee planning events for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. It's notable when a first-year student is willing to take on a leadership role so quickly, but once you get to know Alli you learn that taking initiative, caring passionately, and leading others for social change is part of who she is.

What is most impressive about Allison is how she has woven civic engagement into every piece of her SNHU experience. She has held positions at Foodshare, Inc as a Community Engagement intern and Families in Transition as a Special Events intern. She has remained incredibly active in the Outreach Association for the past three years, volunteering in the community multiple times a month and participating in awareness and advocacy events on campus. She spends her school breaks volunteering at the Zion Lutheran Church Food Pantry in her hometown and has twice been chosen to represent SNHU at the annual IMPACT Conference where she has learned how to raise awareness, serve, and advocate for solutions to the issues for which she is most passionate.

In January 2015 Alli spent two weeks on an alternative break trip to the Dominican Republic where she worked with a group of SNHU students to teach English to Spanish-speaking children in a rural village school. While preparing for the trip Alli planned a fundraising event at her church. She asked for monetary and school supply donations to benefit Outreach 360, the organization she would be working with. While many students plan personal fundraisers for their individual trip costs, it's unusual for a student to take such initiative to benefit the community organization.

Even in her academic courses Alli seeks opportunities for community involvement. This year she led her Special Events Planning class to plan a program for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Her small group planned an event on campus titled A Month in the Life where participants played a life-sized version of the Game of Life. They were each given a budget and had to make some difficult decisions about how to allocate money to make it through the month. This program attracted almost 75 students who had some amazing discussion at the end of the program about privilege and access to resources.

In addition to being a leader for community engagement on our campus, Alli is also a dedicated student, maintaining a 3.65 cumulative grade point average and being recognized on the President's and Dean's list for academic achievement. She is a member of the University Honors program and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The Presidents' Leadership Award was created to recognize a student who has made service an integral part of her college experience, a description that fits Allison perfectly. Everything Alli does- from her curricular engagement to her co-curricular engagement is connected to her goal of being a force for good in her community.

**Campus Compact** *for New Hampshire*