

PRESIDENTS' LEADERSHIP AWARD



Elizabeth Tibbitts *Southern New Hampshire University*

Elizabeth Tibbitts is so phenomenal, people were talking about her before she even arrived as a student at Southern New Hampshire University. And in the almost-four-years we've worked with her, she's only proven that initial impressions were correct. She is articulate, passionate, incredibly bright, motivated, and driven. Elle started her work with the Center for Community Engaged Learning as a service-learning site coordinator. She was responsible for serving as a liaison between our Center, the community partner, and the faculty members of the service-learning courses. Not. In October of her first year she said she wanted to plan an event on campus to raise awareness about modern day slavery and sex trafficking in the United States. Since then, Elle has continued to amaze. She was the recipient of our Emerging Leader award at the annual Community Engagement Awards that spring. She stayed on over the summer to work in our Center where she took on the role of lead coordinator for our annual Give a Little, Feed a Lot food drive. That summer she also served as a student voice on the SNHU 101 redesign committee and attended Debby Irving's Waking Up White presentation (the only student in attendance). Finally, she served as a student coordinator for Take 5, a week-long pre-matriculation program for incoming students interested in community service. Last year Elle led an alternative break trip focused on the refugee crisis, a topic on which she is both knowledgeable and passionate. Her passion for refugee work extends to her campus life where she is a frequent volunteer at English for New Americans- a program that teaches English and citizenship classes to newly settled refugees in our city. She recently presented at a state-wide leadership conference, teaching other students how world events impact needs in their own communities. Two years ago she spent a semester studying abroad in Italy. When she returned she came right back to the Center where she once again planned our annual food drive) and again served as a coordinator for Take 5. She also moved into a leadership role on our staff- Service Learning Program Coordinator- where she's responsible for assisting in coordinating the entire service-learning program. She's doing all of this while excelling academically, reading voraciously, and spreading her passion wherever she goes.

As if all of this wasn't enough, she took on another enormous project. After attending the AAUW Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. in May 2016 she decided to begin planning a conference for middle school girls. She harnessed the power of almost 100 volunteers, her relationships with community partners, and the goodwill she's built on campus to create a day-long conference focused on keeping girls interested and engaged in math. In each of these endeavors Elle seeks no credit and is always, always looking to build opportunities for others. When she was chosen to present at the state-wide SCALE Conference this fall she e-mailed all of the first and second year students who work in the Center to see who wanted to join her. When I learned about this and asked her why she did it she said it's important to "hold the door open for the people coming behind" her.



Campus Compact
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There is no other student at Southern New Hampshire University who deserves this honor more than Elizabeth Tibbitts. She has woven community engagement and service into every aspect of her university experience and we know she will continue to create positive change wherever she goes next!