

PRESIDENTS' COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD



Manchester School District Saint Anselm College

Since 2011 the Manchester School District has maintained a partnership with Saint Anselm College to support Access Academy and Elmwood Gardens Homework Help. The Meelia Center and Manchester School District staff are joined in a dynamic relationship that is responsive to the needs and goals of both institutions, and focused on the development and well-being of the under-represented children and teens in Manchester.

The Access Academy is an afterschool program that enriches the educational experiences of underrepresented high school students. Started eight years ago as a pilot project with funding from NH Humanities, the Academy has grown every year with support and encouragement from the schools. Today the Academy delivers 10 courses to students from over a dozen countries, representing all four Manchester high schools. The foundation of Access Academy was established through extensive dialogue with the ethnic communities and school district staff in which the needs of underrepresented youth in Manchester were identified and prioritized. The Manchester School District has strengthened Saint Anselm College's ability to support refugee, immigrant and underrepresented students at every turn with administrative and educational expertise, and vital material assistance. The district's Extended Learning Opportunity, English Language Learning teachers and school administrators have all contributed to the growth of the program and its capacity to supplement and stimulate educational experiences and interest among underrepresented students in Manchester.

The district has also supported the college's more recent efforts to reach younger underrepresented students.

Elmwood Gardens Homework Help Program is an after-school program located in a federally funded housing community. The program targets elementary and middle school students living in the community, which is comprised of mostly refugee and immigrant children. Elmwood Homework Help provides college mentors and a supported space where students complete homework and strengthen skills. The school district has helped with training for student staff and volunteers, resources for the program, and funding for books and educational tools. We are proud to collaborate with the Manchester School District, the recipient of the 2018 Presidents' Community Partnership Award.



Campus Compact
for New Hampshire