

# PRESIDENTS' GOOD STEWARD AWARD



## *Jane Sobolov* *Saint Anselm College*

In 2014 years Jane Sobolov and her fellow nursing faculty developed a service-learning course to help prepare Saint Anselm nursing students for the challenges of caring for patients with cognitive, psychological and emotional diagnosis. Through her leadership the nursing department shifted the focus of the sophomore Mental Health Nursing course from care provided within institutions to community based interventions. Jane was instrumental in creating the links between the goals of the course and opportunities for community engaged learning. Now Saint Anselm nursing students are placed at nearly a dozen learn where they learn from adults coping with addiction and chronic mental illness, seniors living with dementia and children and teens who struggle to manage emotions.

Jane understands well that many people have preconceived notions about mental illness that impact their openness and ability to work with individuals who are different from them. In the nursing field preexisting ideas can impact the ability to effectively treat patients. She also understands that when engaged directly or indirectly in significant service with individuals impacted by a mental health diagnosis students can unpack any prejudices and biases, and more easily embrace new theories and concepts they are learning in class.

Jane has worked closely with the Meelia Center to launch new partnerships where her students can engage in meaningful work in the mental health field. She has served with her students at some of these sites and shared her passion and expertise. Jane has advocated for agencies in danger of losing their funding, and encouraged her students to do likewise. Jane Sobolov is a powerful educator, an inspiration to her students and most deserving of the Presidents' Good Steward Award.



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