

NEWSLETTER

STUDENT LEADER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Winter 2021 Edition

Selection & Recruitment

Despite the difficulties presented by the pandemic, the Selection and Recruitment Committee was able to organize some fantastic activities to recruit the next block of Student Fellows. The promotions included two weeks of tabling in Jamrich (with some cool NMU-themed prizes), classroom presentations, two online interest meetings, and giveaways on social media. Thanks to the efforts of the Student Fellows who donated their time to the recruitment activities, there were more applicants for SLFP this year than last year – pretty impressive, given the limited scope of activities that we were able to do!

Because of the challenging circumstances of COVID-19, SLFP decided to run two separate recruitment cycles this year, for the first time ever. The Early Decision program took place in November and December, and offered candidates the chance to apply and interview before their winter break. Combined with the students admitted during the normal recruitment cycle in February and March, this produced over 60 new Student Fellows to make up the next block! At the New Block Meeting on April 7, they chose a light purple color and named themselves the Dream Block. We're very excited to welcome them to the program this fall!

■ Jakob Lippert

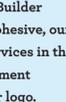


NEW IN THE SLFP

INTRODUCING BLOCKY

The students in the new block aren't the only new members that the SLFP welcomed this semester! Our new program mascot, Blocky the platypus, arrived in early March. Hailing from Austin, Texas, Blocky can be found at all Social Squad events, or in the Center for Student Enrichment, where he spends his downtime. His color represents the Red Block, the very first group of students to go through the program 30 years ago.

■ Jakob Lippert



NEW SKILL BUILDER LOGO

This year, the SLFP, along with other campus organizations began using the Hub website to plan and advertise events. To make our Skill Builder workshops look fun and cohesive, our friends at Promotional Services in the Center for Student Enrichment created a new Skill Builder logo.

■ Elizabeth Mansfield



SOCIAL SQUAD

This semester, with the fellowship portion of the SLFP flourishing due to the extended reach of COVID-19, a new committee was introduced to help students get to know each other and have fun together. This new committee was the one and only Social Squad! The Social Squad hosted two different events, Speed Friending which was focused on making friends with other SLFPers and Trivia Night which focused on having fun and winning prizes. Trivia Night was even in-person!

■ Andrew Olson



Mentor/Mentee Spotlights

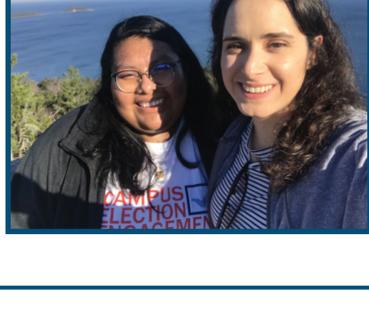
My Project with my Mentor: My mentor and I have known each other for the last three years, I play for the Men's soccer and he was the assistant coach before becoming the Women's Soccer head coach. We knew we were going to bond over soccer and extend our relationship. During our time as mentor and mentee, our relationship has shifted to something we're passionate about doing which is volunteering and helping others in need. We are currently working on multiple projects. We are working on a fundraising project to help support kids in Africa with school necessities and a donation of used soccer cleats to send to Africa as well. We are also working on starting a mentorship program with the NMU international office to help connect international students with families in the community that will mentor them like a host family.

■ Kaffie Kurz



As a premed student I was extremely happy to have been paired up with my mentor, who is currently a family medicine resident at UPHS. Throughout this year I have gotten to build a strong relationship with my mentor, Mariam Ibdaiwi. One of the best memories I have from our time together is going on morning rounds with her in the hospital. Shadowing has been a great way for me to deeply understand the role of a doctor and resident in the healthcare system. In addition, it has allowed me to reinforce my desire to attend medical school. Through my time shadowing my mentor, I have gotten the opportunity to network with other doctors which has opened many doors for me. In addition, shadowing my mentor has been a great resource in my premed journey. She has given me great advice about the application process and guidance when preparing for the MCAT. However, our mentor mentee relationship goes beyond academics. Some activities we have done together are things like getting coffee, lunch, breakfast, and hiked Sugarloaf Mountain. These activities have been great ways to build our relationship because we have learned about each other in a casual setting, and have emphasized the importance of enjoying my time and relaxing during a year-long pandemic.

■ Diana Antonio



Mentor/Mentee Clifton Strengths Assessment Sessions

This winter semester I got to attend the first ever meeting that brought together mentors and mentees to find their personal Clifton Strengths. To attend, we had to complete an hour long assessment, consisting of 177 questions that looked like, "I am a sensitive/logical person," where you'd answer as to whether or not that describes you. It's similar to a personality test, where the questions revolve around how you'd describe yourself and your personal likes and dislikes. The outcome of this assessment can best be described by their website, "This assessment measures your talents – your natural patterns of thinking, feeling, behaving – and categorizes them into themes." Once you complete it, you get a finalized personal insight guide that summarizes your top five strengths.

While I had already taken the assessment as a part of the UN250 course, it was my mentor's first time discovering hers. I think it's an incredible learning experience for those who get to complete the assessment, as it assists in figuring out your strengths so you can use them in everyday life. My mentor, Sarah, found that her top five strengths are "achiever, input, individualization, developer, and connectedness." My top five strengths are "intellection, input, learner, connectedness, and empathy." I think this experience allowed us to find out more about each other, along with where we can come back to, our strengths, if one of us is struggling. We also found it interesting that we are feeling burned out by our top strengths, but our other strengths are where we are finding support and comfort. For example, my intellection strength of always striving to learn now has me burnt out, but my connectedness strength is where I'm finding comfort as of right now. It was also fun to see my mentor's strength of individualization was about her ability to mentor others well. Overall, it was a great experience that allowed me and my mentor to get closer while also allowing us to learn more about ourselves!

■ Lyndie Unterkircher

* This activity was funded by Dean of Students Office.

Skill Builder! Highlight

On March 29th, I presented a Skillbuilder on making care packages for those suffering from homelessness. My mom originally found this idea in "The Magnolia Journal"--Chip and Joanna Gaines' magazine. In the article, Joanna explained how easy it is to give back to your community by making these little kits. She said to collect items in your home that you weren't using--such as lotions, hair clips, toothbrushes, notebooks, tissue packs--and put them into a drawstring bag. You can then keep those bags in your car, and then anytime you see someone who you think would benefit from a care package, you can hand it out!

I absolutely loved this idea and wanted to share it with others. For most of us, the first thing we think of when donating to people experiencing homelessness is food, water, and money. These are all great, but what I liked about the care packages is they focused on items that had more of a lasting impact. I believe most people want to give back to their community but don't know how to. These care kits are a simple way to give back and declutter your home at the same time!

■ CJ Nielson

Reflecting on "The Class"

One of my favorite parts of the SLFP has been the leadership class. I am grateful we were able meet in person to experience leadership learning and engagement that is really only possible in a face-to-face environment. Over the course of the semester, while masked and distanced, my fellow Beach Blocks and I met weekly to further our learning in leadership and enjoyed getting to know each other.

I appreciated the topics we explored, the conversations we shared, and I especially appreciated being able to connect with other passionate and highly motivated students with a wide variety of interests. Throughout the semester, I gained a deeper understanding of my leadership style and the styles of others. We discussed ethics, varying approaches to leadership, and issues relevant to our current world including racism, sexism, classism, and other barriers that are preventing all from accessing the same opportunities. Ultimately, I learned that while our world is still plagued with issues and questions, there are highly motivated individuals all around me eager to lead their communities toward positive changes for a better world.

■ Marlie Fowler

Alumni Spotlight

Mckenzie Shores was a 2018 SLFP graduate, being a part of the Superior Blue. Reflecting on her time in the program and what was her favorite part, she had to say her community service internship. She worked with Coder Dojo in the Seaborg Center teaching kids from elementary to high school coding and engineering skills. Being able to work with them for two years and build relationships with the kids and watch them improve and develop passions in the tech field was very special. It was especially rewarding to be a role model for the girls and showing them the possibilities of a future in STEM. At the start of her internship they did not have any girls who came to every session and at the end of her two years she was very proud to see a few coming regularly, always excited to show off their projects. She truly made a difference to those kids during her time there. From her CSI she was then able to get an internship at the Seaborg Center creating curriculum for their STEM programs. She used this opportunity to explore the available technologies in her field and was a great resume builder for future positions.

Mckenzie now lives in Grand Rapids, MI and works as a software engineer for TGW. She develops warehousing software for companies like L'Brands (Victoria's Secret/PINK/Bath and Body Works) and URBN (Urban Outfitters/Anthropologie/Free People). In her free time she snowboards, reads, and plays board games.

Now that she is three years out of the SLFP she is very thankful for her time in the program. She said, "SLFP created a lot of opportunities for me in and outside of Northern. I learned a lot about my own leadership style and some very valuable time management skills. I'm very grateful for my mentors for supporting me and helping me to create a path towards my career."

■ Tyler Davis

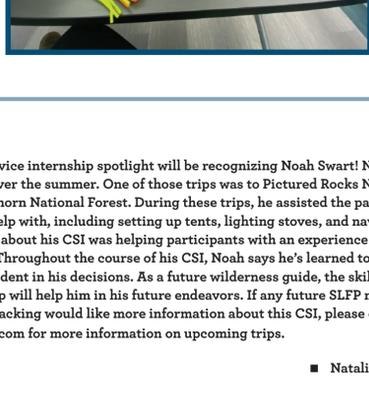


CSI Spotlights

My CSI was at Peter White Public Library working with the Youth Services Department. I began my CSI in August by assisting them with the end of their summer reading program book fair, which took place outside due to COVID. After that, my site advisor told me that she had an idea to create Peter White's first ever reading program: Flamingos in the Snow. Throughout my time at Peter White, I helped with the planning and implementation of the winter reading program. In this, I came up with additional activities for the kids to do during the three-month reading program, along with determining where we were going to buy the flamingos required for the winter reading program centered on flamingos. I also helped pack and organize monthly "Take and Make" activities for the children. The program was launched in February and we had a remarkable turnout. Within the first couple weeks of the program, we had so many children signed up that we ran out of flamingos to give out, which was quite hilarious because we ended up with double the quantity of which we ordered due to a shipping mistake.

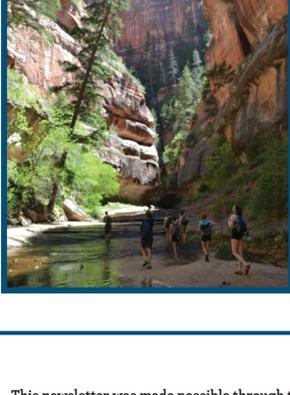
It has been very rewarding doing my internship at Peter White Public Library focusing on the winter reading program because all this semester, I have seen reminders of my accomplishments in the form of flocks of flamingos in community members' yards. I am grateful to the Youth Services staff at Peter White for allowing me to work with them, and to the Student Leader Fellowship Program for teaching me to have the confidence required for my CSI.

■ Dallas St. Onge



This community service internship spotlight will be recognizing Noah Swart! Noah co-lead two backpacking trips over the summer. One of those trips was to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the other to Bighorn National Forest. During these trips, he assisted the participants with any tasks they needed help with, including setting up tents, lighting stoves, and navigating the trails. Noah's favorite part about his CSI was helping participants with an experience that they'll remember for a long time. Throughout the course of his CSI, Noah says he's learned to trust his instincts and to be more confident in his decisions. As a future wilderness guide, the skills he acquired during his internship will help him in his future endeavors. If any future SLFP member who has experience in backpacking would like more information about this CSI, please contact manitoudav@gmail.com for more information on upcoming trips.

■ Natalie Stampffly



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