Next Steps Wins Award

This year, the Next Steps at Vanderbilt program was one of four mentoring programs to be inducted into the National Disability Mentoring Coalition Hall of Fame. The National Disability Mentoring Coalition "works to increase the awareness, quality and impact of mentoring programs for children, youth and adults with disabilities across the country."

Next Steps alumnus, Haley Kellar (Class of 2014) and Vanderbilt alumnus, Alyssa Greenstein (Class of 2013), represented the Next Steps Ambassador program at the induction ceremony in New York City. Alyssa was Haley’s Ambassador years ago, but they are still friends today!

Fall 2017 Admissions:

Regular admission: January 13, 2017

Applications submitted after the regular admission deadline will be considered on a rolling admission basis.

Please refer to our website (vu.edu/nextsteps) for more information about eligibility and application materials.

Important Dates

12/8 Last Day of Fall Classes
12/17 NSAA: Vanderbilt v. Chattanooga
1/3-1/7 Senior Trip
1/9 First Day of Spring Classes

Peach's Semester Review

Peach, a first-year student, reflected on her first semester as a Next Steps at Vanderbilt student. According to Peach, this semester has been very fun due to her classmates, classes, career experiences, and social events.

This semester, Peach took "Intro to Exceptionalities" as her Vanderbilt elective and she thoroughly enjoyed it. She also spent her time completing job rotations and participating in career exploration field trips. Peach’s favorite job rotation site was the Susan Gray School because she enjoyed observing the classroom. Her favorite field trip site, however, was the Holiday Inn because she hopes to be a concierge one day.

Although being a college student is a lot of work, Peach still made time to attend social events with her friends. Peach’s favorite memory of the semester was attending the Next Steps Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate. She also enjoyed attending other social events such as the anchor dash and the Best Buddy events. Peach says that she was surprised by how many fun events Next Steps students are able to attend during the year.

Although this semester has been great, Peach is excited for the spring semester to begin. Peach is especially excited to attend a new Vanderbilt class, spend more time with her classmates, and meet new Ambassadores.
Thank You Professors

The Next Steps students take 1-2 Vanderbilt electives per semester. This would not be possible without the help and support of the wonderful Vanderbilt professors that welcome our students into their classes. The Next Steps students and staff would like to express their gratitude to these professors. You truly are champions of inclusive education!

Our students would like to thank their professors for teaching them this semester!

Interview With A VU Professor

Alex Sargent, a professor in the Theater Department, welcomed a Next Steps student into her Fundamentals of Costume Design course. Professor Sargent first met Nila, a second year student, when she interned in the costume shop last semester. Although the professor never had a Next Steps student in her class before, she noticed Nila's positive energy and believed that she would be a great addition to her class the following semester.

Professor Sargent says that having Nila in her class benefits everyone in the classroom. She says, "it has been wonderful for all of us, with all of our various learning styles and strengths, to be in one classroom, working together, and drawing inspiration from each other." Professor Sargent says that she enjoys seeing Nila connect to the course content and have fun in the class. Moreover, it has been a rewarding experience for her personally because she was able to learn how to adapt her teaching methods and approaches to meet the needs of a student who learns differently.

Professor Sargent encourages other professors to embrace the opportunity to work with Next Steps students in their classes. When asked what advice she would give to professors who are hesitant to include Next Steps students, she said, "stay flexible, and make the adjustments necessary to make sure that your Next Steps student has a positive and productive learning experience. This process might take some extra time and thought, but I think you will learn new things about how to teach all of your students effectively by working with someone who learns differently than the students you are used to having in your classroom." She believes that all professors can benefit from establishing an inclusive classroom community.
Anna Graeflin, a graduate of the Next Steps at Vanderbilt Class of 2015, is currently employed at Creative Services as an art assistant. At her job, Anna helps customers find art supplies that they need for special projects and answers any art-related questions that they have. Anna also takes inventory of the art supplies, answers the company phone, and helps clean up the art supplies. Anna likes working at the Creative Services because she likes interacting with people.

The Next Steps Alumni Association is a group of Next Steps alumni who continue to remain connected to the Vanderbilt community by spending time together attending events on-campus and in the Nashville area.

Members of the Next Steps Alumni Association help the Next Steps staff plan events for other alumni to enjoy. Sean, class of 2015, helped to plan a men’s basketball game for Saturday, December 17th. For more information on this event, go to the Next Steps Alumni Association Facebook group.

If you are interested in helping to plan future events with the Next Steps Alumni Association, please email our graduate assistant, Kaitlyn Martin, at kaitlyn.p.martin@vanderbilt.edu.

The Next Steps Alumni Association Needs YOU...

to help plan fun events for next semester!

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @nextstepsatvanderbilt

Unsubscribe to the Newsletter here: http://j.mp/2dvVb2r