AMERICA READS & PARTNERS IN PRINT

Making a difference in Prince George’s County Schools

America Reads*America Counts (AR*AC) is a partnership between the University of Maryland and the Prince George’s County Public Schools which provides high quality after-school mentoring for elementary school students two to three days a week, helping them with reading, basic math skills, homework, problem solving, critical thinking with reflective writing, and hands-on group activities. AR*AC offers civic engagement opportunities for college students. The elementary students who participated in AR*AC in 2007–08 were predominantly from low-income families and qualified for free or reduced lunches; students who speak English as a second language are also targeted. AR*AC offers strong civic engagement opportunities for college students. Because of their experiences, a number of the UM mentors have looked more seriously at careers in teaching or non-profit management. Many of the AR*AC mentors are employed through the Federal Work Study program, as employment is part of their financial aid package and is critical to them staying at UM.

AMERICA READS

Reading skills are the core of today’s students’ educational foundation; reading strength ensures the path to success. America Reads places UM student mentors in Prince George’s County elementary schools during school hours, using a standardized curriculum, working one-on-one with first and second graders.

America Reads has been a very successful program: not only have mentees made significant progress, but UM students also have strong civic engagement experiences. Achievement measured by pre and post-tests showed ninety-four percent of mentees moved up at least one book level; sixty-one percent moved up three or more book levels; twenty percent moved up six book levels.

An added benefit to the program, the elementary school students for the first time “see themselves” attending college like their mentors.

PARTNERS IN PRINT

Partners in Print provides a supportive environment where parents can discover how to help their elementary school children learn to read. Partners in Print mentors conduct evening workshops with parents and their pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first and second grade children, teaching techniques to engage the student in reading at home. Workshops are conducted in English and Spanish.

“Through our reading mentor programs, UM students not only have the chance to make a difference in a child’s life, but also learn about themselves, strengthen their communication skills and see how giving back to a community can make a difference in their own lives.”

— LINDA M. CLEMENT
Vice President for Student Affairs
Recognized nationally for many of its programs, services and staff, the Division of Student Affairs works collectively to offer students a world-class experience while at Maryland. We strive to provide every student the opportunity to gain skills necessary to contribute to our global society and to explore leadership in all of its various forms. We believe students must graduate with the skills not only necessary to succeed in the work place, but also to live healthy, balanced and civically engaged lives.

**AMERICA READS PRIORITIES**
- Provide scholarships for UM students who have financial need, as Federal Work Study funds have significantly decreased.
- Provide funding for books, teaching supplies, field trips and healthy snacks for the mentees.
- Provide funding for transportation for UM students to go to the schools.

**PARTNERS IN PRINT PRIORITIES**
- Provide funding for books for the children to take home.
- Provide funding for transportation for UM students to go to the schools.

**ADDITIONAL CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES**
- **Garden of Reflection and Remembrance**: Inspiring the University and surrounding communities to take the time to contemplate and enjoy the quiet of nature. Used by several classes integrating the labyrinth into the curriculum; and as an outdoor laboratory for classes such as Landscape Architecture.
- **Student Crisis Fund**: Removing financial burden and worry for students who have had major challenges – funds to replace books, assist in times of family emergencies and medical need.
- **Contemporary Art Purchasing Program**: Opening the eyes of students and community members to the varied perspectives and cultures of contemporary artists. Giving students the unique occasion to meet with artists, gallery managers and curators to learn the world of art as a business.
- **Veterans Scholarships**: Providing critical resources to fill the gap between Veterans Administration benefits and the actual cost of an education. Scholarships are often the only way our vets can attend college; many also are providing for families.
- **Alternative Breaks**: Developing critical thinking skills while giving students the opportunity to better understand the impact one citizen’s involvement can have locally and globally. Deep education on issues such as border awareness, the justice system, HIV/AIDS, poverty and education.

We call on all those who value our work – alumni, students, faculty, partners and friends – to come forward, contribute their knowledge, energy and financial resources, and help us improve student lives so that they, in turn will change the world. Join with us to achieve Great Expectations!

To discuss a gift or for more information regarding any of these important Campaign Priorities contact:

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