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Laura Hayden

University of Massachusetts Boston, laura.hayden@umb.edu

Amy Cook

University of Massachusetts Boston, any.cook@umb.edu

Robert Gracia

University of Massachusetts Boston, robert.gracia@umb.edu

Allie Scherer

University of Massachusetts Boston

Megan Morin

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UMass Boston & Boston Scholar Athletes: Supporting academic achievement through athletics

Laura Hayden, Amy Cook, Bob Gracia, & Allie Scherer, University of Massachusetts Boston;
Megan Morin, Boston Scholar Athletes, Suffolk Construction, Boston

Summary/Abstract

Collaborative initiatives between UMass Boston and Boston Scholar Athletes (BSA) provide learning opportunities for BPS high school student athletes and opportunities for clinical experiences among UMass Boston school counseling graduate students.

Incorporating service learning into course curricula prepares school counseling graduate students to promote academic excellence among BPS scholar athletes.

Goals and Objectives

- To provide an opportunity for UMass Boston to serve the student athletes within BPS in developing academic excellence
- To allow school counseling graduate students exposure to an urban school early in their graduate careers.
- To provide school counseling graduate students with an opportunity to hone their counseling and communication skills with urban youth.
- To support the development of urban youth through sport involvement.

Results/Impacts

UMass Boston and BSA are in their 3rd year of partnership in which school counseling graduate students tutor student athletes for a service-learning opportunity.

Service-learning opportunity is integrated into school counseling graduate students' introductory class: COU630 Orientation to Professional School Counseling.

Over 30 UMass Boston school counseling graduate students have been or are currently involved in this school-based collaboration, including many students who now hold paid positions as program facilitators.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Conclusion: Participants share positive experiences and have indicated a desire to continue involvement in this collaboration after the required course hours have been completed.

Next service-learning step: Continue to increase the number of involved UMass Boston school counseling graduate students in BSA

Next research step: Conduct a study to assess the effect of this service-learning opportunity on school counseling graduate students' levels of self-efficacy as urban counselors

References and Resources

Wilczenski, F. L., & Schumacher, R. A. (2008). Service learning integrated into urban school counselor preparation. *Journal of School Counseling*, 6(12).

Additional Information /Contacts

Laura.hayden@umb.edu
Amy.cook@umb.edu
Robert.gracia@umb.edu
Alexandra.scherer001@umb.edu

