**Education through Community Engagement**

*WCU & Smoky Mountain High School: An Oral History Training Program on Mountain People, Mountain Lives*

Faculty Alex Macaulay (macaulay@wcu.edu) and Elizabeth McRae (mcrae@wcu.edu) along with Hunter Library faculty, high school teacher Pam Shuler, History graduate students, and social science education undergraduates initiated an oral history training program with Smoky Mountain High School students. The "Mountain People, Mountain Lives" project connects the History department with local public high school students in an effort to document the history of this region. Once trained in oral history techniques, thirteen high school students conducted and recorded the histories of thirteen community members, uncovering local stories and characters. The goals of the ongoing program are twofold. The first goal is to train students to do oral history, bringing their history and the history of their community alive. Second, this project seeks to expand the documented history of our region, enriching the Appalachian Oral History Project housed at Hunter Library.

About this collaborative project as an example of community engagement, Professor Macaulay said that “This project accomplishes what we strive for in our teaching and research, namely connecting people to their communities and revealing the links between our past and our present. The students’ work personalizes history, making it tangible, accessible, and exciting, while at the same time giving those on both sides of the microphone a better understanding of themselves and those around them, reminding each of their connection, obligation, contributions, and importance to a wider world.”

For more information see: [http://wcudigitalcollection.cdmhost.com/cdm/search/collection/p16232coll13](http://wcudigitalcollection.cdmhost.com/cdm/search/collection/p16232coll13)

If you would like your community engagement work recognized through the *STAR Engagement Projects* program, please submit your proposals through the [Community-based Activities Faculty Survey](https://wcu.edu/community-based-activitiesfaculty-survey/) administered annually in the spring semester from early April – late May.
Education through Community Engagement

WCU & Cullowhee Valley School: Hands-on Learning as an Investment of the Heart and Mind

For over twelve years faculty member Robert Beaudet (rbeaudet@wcu.edu) member of the health and physical education program in the School of Teaching and Learning, has taken his students in HPE 424 – Adapted Movement and Wellness to Cullowhee Valley Elementary to work with students who have been diagnosed with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. The students in HPE 424 work one on one with the Cullowhee Valley students. After meeting their student and conducting an initial evaluation WCU students plan and implement lessons designed to improve their student’s motor and locomotor skills as well as their levels of physical fitness in order help meet the goals in their student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan). Additionally, the students in 424 take their student into a "regular" physical education class to be included alongside other students. This inclusion in the regular class has been beneficial socially for all of the students involved.

About this collaborative project as an example of community engagement, Professor Beaudet said that “Through the years the work we have done at Cullowhee Valley has been rewarding on many levels. First, the students at Cullowhee Valley have benefitted by receiving one on one attention from our WCU students. The WCU students therefore benefit by interacting, many for the first time, with individuals with severe disabilities. I am proud to say that I still receive notes from former students stating how this experience prepared them for their teaching career. I have also been fortunate to be able to present this experience to state and national audiences, many times sharing the presentation with our WCU students. Finally, this experience has led to the honor of being invited to serve on the North Carolina Adapted Physical Education Advisory Council.”

For more information see: http://www.nc-ape.com

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