5 C.U.R.E. Students Awarded for Leadership on Campus

From left to right: Kaitlyn Espina, Jordan Ramos, Kathryn Mryglod, Marissa Cabrera, Anthony Terzolo

C.U.R.E. Alumni, Where Are They Now? Kyle Luqman

C.U.R.E. Alumni, Kyle Luqman, is currently teaching students ages three to five at Stanford Gibson Elementary in Norwich, NY, and is also continuing her education at SUNY Cortland in the Literacy Education Masters Program. Although it can be tough to take on both grad school and her career, she is persevering and striving to achieve in both areas. She stated, “Teaching is something I truly have a passion for and I am willing to do whatever it takes in order to achieve my dreams. Having the opportunity to continue my education, while also doing what I love and take pride in, is simply the most amazing gift I could be given. I am now in my second semester of the Masters program, projected to finish the program by August 2015.”

Kyle utilizes lessons that C.U.R.E. taught her in the classroom daily. “Within my classroom, there are many challenges that I face on a daily basis that C.U.R.E. has prepared me for. One of the most important ways that C.U.R.E. has developed my own teaching is the way in which we look at children, and how important it is to see the world from their perspective.” Kyle does her best to look at the world through the eyes of the children in her classroom and to understand them as children before she looks at them as students.

Kyle’s advice to the current C.U.R.E. Students is to take advantage of the experience that has been presented. “Every moment spent during practicum work, panel speaker presentations, C.U.R.E. meetings, and more, is an opportunity to learn about each other, as well as the world of education seen from a perspective different than your own. What you see, what you hear, and what you feel during your time with the C.U.R.E. program will stay with you as you continue on throughout your teaching and will affect you in ways that you never thought possible.”
Jordan Ramos is a senior Physical Education Major at SUNY Cortland, a student in the C.U.R.E. Program, and the recipient of the 2015 C.U.R.E. Award. Jordan is very involved within his major and the C.U.R.E. Program. He currently holds many positions in various organizations. He is currently the leader of wheelchair sports, leader of the Skill Builders Program, assistant in the Challengers Program, assistant in the SIMS (Sensory Integration and Multiple Sense) lab, a Physical Education Mentor, Teaching Assistant in Adapted Physical Education and Sport, facilitates an after school program at the Onondaga Nation School, and is the newsletter editor and an executive board member in APEM (Alliance of Physical Education Majors). In October, Jordan was a speaker at the C.U.R.E. President's Reception. His speech was extremely powerful and enjoyed by those who attended the reception. Jordan has allowed us to share a piece of his speech.

“A few weeks ago I had to clear my savings to pay for rent. I apologized to my landlord for paying so late. He told me it wasn’t fair that people like me had to struggle. He mentioned that one of his friend’s had tenants from Harlem receiving ten thousand dollars to go to school and that they would be dropping out soon. I realized these students were being doubted because of their parents’ yearly earnings, where they came from, and the color of their skin. There are entire geographic areas being doubted all over the country and they are urban schools. The doubts that urban students and I experience are the same; it’s meant to bring us down.

During the spring, I had a field experience in the Syracuse City Schools. I was placed at Corcoran High School and Westside Academy at Blodgett. Prior to the field experience I told all of my former teachers and coaches the schools of my field experience. Every one of them got wide eyed when I mentioned Blodgett. They all told me that Blodgett was a tough place and to be careful. When I got to Corcoran High School every teacher I spoke to, talked the same way about Blodgett. A substitute teacher told me that he wouldn’t take a thousand dollars a day to sub at Blodgett because of how unsafe he felt in the past. After my week at Blodgett, it was by far my best experience that I’ve ever had with a group of students. I began to wonder how I had the best experience I’ve ever had even though I heard nothing but negativity from everyone that had experienced Blodgett? I figured out there was one thing that made me different from all those I spoke to. I was a C.U.R.E. (Cortland’s Urban Recruitment of Educators) student. C.U.R.E. has given me the opportunity to feel prepared going into urban schools.”

Message from The Program Coordinator:
Dr. Anne Burns Thomas

It’s a beautiful day (finally) here in Cortland, and, as I write this, we are waiting for students from one of our partner schools in Syracuse to join us on campus for the Celebration of Learning. Alumni – do you remember the Celebration of Learning when you were in C.U.R.E.? This event is easily my favorite C.U.R.E. event. We invite students from the school we partner with for FSA 101, in this case, 5th graders from Percy Hughes, to campus for the day. After a campus tour, the kids present something they have created to a group of college students and faculty. The kids are so proud of themselves! We round out the day with a pizza lunch and activities sponsored by the Recreation Department. Two things about this event always strike me. First is the way in which this visit opens up college as a possibility for kids. They all want to come to Cortland after this day. The second is how much I learn about our C.U.R.E. students as future teachers by watching them interact with students in an informal setting. I am pleased and impressed, every year.

I hope you are enjoying Spring and your students wherever you may be!