

From the (Virtual) Desk of the Program Coordinator

Educators across the globe have been responding to the current pandemic with innovation, concern for vulnerable populations and a spotlight on equity. C.U.R.E. alumni have been at the forefront of this movement, reminding me once again why the work that we do in the C.U.R.E. Program is so important. I have seen social media posts from alumni describing the vast lengths they go to in order to make connections with their students and families. I have listened to alumni who jumped in to support our first-year students in the midst of their own challenges (see below for more). I have been impressed but not surprised by these efforts, a feeling that I know is shared by all who know of the C.U.R.E. Program. Here on campus, in order to stay in touch we had to think outside of the box.

- We [made a video to welcome the 2020-2021](#) cohort.
- We had fun together in new ways (like virtual trivia and raffles).
- Our first-year students met with our graduate assistant virtually each week on FaceTime.
- Our mentors and mentees got to introduce themselves via FlipGrid.
- We even shouted out birthdays and special events on Instagram.

One of the many events that was canceled in 2020 was the first planned C.U.R.E. reunion scheduled to be held during Reunion weekend. Rescheduling that event is a high priority as is finding new and different ways to connect with our alumni. What would you like to see more of from the C.U.R.E. office? Social media posts? Emailed newsletters? We are ready and open to your suggestions. Please contact us at cure@cortland.edu with any ideas or suggestions and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

All my best,
Anne

Pivot... Pivot: Adapting to Virtual Learning in FSA 101

Many of you can recall the powerful impact of the first time you entered a classroom for fieldwork in Syracuse City School District. When we learned that SUNY Cortland students would not be allowed to do in-person fieldwork during Fall 2020, we felt called to do something special to provide some of the benefit that in person learning brings during FSA 101. Dr. Barrett called for alumni volunteers and facilitated weekly conversations to bring some of the real work of teaching to our newest students. These conversations provided an outlet for current and past students to interact virtually to learn from and encourage one another. Time was left each week for an interview session, in order to give current students an opportunity to ask further questions and hear the shared experiences of alumni as teachers of color.

Topics included self-growth, code switching, transparency, motivation and remote learning. Steffany Batista, a current C.U.R.E. Scholar, reflected on her experiences listening and interacting with the educators, particularly the interviews with Ashley Chapple '09 and Keith Greene '09: *"Finding myself in these alumni helps me to see a future for myself outside of this temporary pandemic life that feels like an eternity. It has been truly a pleasure to listen to both of these individuals speak on their struggles, seeing them at the top still keeping it true to themselves, and being able to share that with us."*

Walking the Walk: C.U.R.E. Students Activities and Activism

- C.U.R.E. Scholars, Miranda Kistner and AtrINETTE Casas, served as Urban Education Reps for SUNY Cortland's Education Club. Their crucial work and advocacy assisted in addressing antiracism in education, as well as urging for the representation of pre-service educators of color on campus. They planned events that presented on topics related to racial justice in schools. Miranda describes two important events, *"In our event called 'Writing in Color,' Dr. J from the FSA department presented his research about passive voice usage in history textbooks and how this relates to racism in education. In our second event called 'What It's Like to Teach in an Urban School,' Tara Jennings, the principal at Corcoran High School in Syracuse as well as a C.U.R.E. alum, came to share her experience as a former teacher and current principal."*
- On Nov. 11, SUNY Cortland's *Black Lives Matter at School Committee* hosted a watch party and discussion based on Ava Duvernay's documentary *13th*. The documentary was livestreamed on Zoom, and followed by a collaborative discussion about racial inequality in the United States. C.U.R.E. Scholars, Bianca John and Tatum Pittman, were instrumental to the success of the event. More than 20 C.U.R.E. scholars dedicated time to attend the event and participate in the conversations.

Connect with us!

Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (C.U.R.E.)

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Facebook: Search **C.U.R.E. Program** and ask for an invitation to join group.

Instagram: @cutlandcure