

Community Engagement Projects for Conversation Café

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Gandhi

As Student Affairs professionals we serve our students everyday in the roles we have at UAA. This year the Student Affairs Conversation Café committee wished to highlight the desire many staff have expressed to connect within the larger community as well as contribute our diverse skills-sets and passions through meaningful service to groups outside of our day-to-day service to students. The morning activities have been created to allow Student Affairs staff to choose from a variety of engagement projects. All of these projects have an impact on the students we serve today and the students we will see in the future. These projects connect us with the greater community and support the *Shaping of Alaska's Future*.

Title: College Gate Elementary & ASD Child in Transition Engagement Project (8 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have to opportunity to travel to College Gate Elementary and volunteer in the classroom as well as learn about the Child in Transition program, a program that serves homeless youth in Anchorage and assist with preparing backpacks with school supplies at the Anchorage School District Education Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about our neighboring school and assist students to find success in school.

Title: Lake Otis Elementary Classroom Engagement Project (8 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have to opportunity to travel to Lake Otis Elementary and volunteer in the classroom. This is a great opportunity to learn about our neighboring school and to assist students find success in school. Great way to connect with our future UAA Seawolves!

Title: Wendler Middle School & ASD Refugee Program Engagement Project (8 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have to opportunity to travel to Wendler Middle School and learn about the Anchorage School District's (ASD) Refugee Program. Staff will take a trip to the Refugee Welcome Center and assist families in the Anchorage community with English speaking/conversation skills with the help of teachers and program developers. This is a great opportunity to connect with families within our community and learn about a great resource!

Title: We the People Engagement Project (30 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have to opportunity to help support a great Anchorage School District event hosted on the UAA campus called “We the People”, a social studies

competition for Anchorage middle schools. Staff will have to opportunity to assist in the judging of this event. Great way to connect with our future UAA Seawolves!

Title: UAA Donation Creation Engagement Project (25 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have opportunities to create meaningful donation packages for various service organizations. There will be an opportunity to create care packages for the Child Welfare Academy from donations collected through the Supplies for Success drive. There will also be an opportunity to show off your crocheting and knitting skills by making hats for Providence Hospital and the Alaska Native Medical Center's neonatal intensive care (NICU) and scarves for the Red Scarf initiative.

Title: UAA Greenhouse Engagement Project (10 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will have the opportunity to learn about the UAA Greenhouse. For those who are eager to start summer gardening fun, this is a great opportunity to get a first-hand account of what it takes to prep the UAA Greenhouse for planting season. Volunteers will help with mixing potting soil and getting the greenhouse equipment out of storage and set-up. This is a service project for those ready to get their hands a little dirty (may be advisable to bring a change of clothes for after the activity is completed, if you wish).

Title: UAA Spring Transition Engagement Project (30 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

This project is for individuals who would like to spend the morning outside and learn about the logistics of snow removal, and the behind the scenes magic that is preformed by UAA facilities team to switch our campus from winter wonderland to vibrant spring/summer flowers and walking trails. This service project is for individuals who would like to get their walking shoes on to explore campus while helping remove snow markers and assisting with litter pick-up to assist with UAA's transition into spring/summer.

Title: UAA Safe Room Bucket Engagement Project (8 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff who wish to learn more about where safe rooms are located on the UAA campus and about the campus UAA Policy Auxiliary Emergency Team is a great opportunity. During this opportunity individuals will get the chance to explore campus buildings and assist in the collection of the safe room buckets in order for them to be restocked for the coming year academic year.

Title: Just Bead It Engagement Project (12 volunteers)

Description of Opportunity:

Student Affairs staff will create a beaded project for the Lepquinum Gumilgit Gagodm (LGG) Tsimshian dancers 10th anniversary celebration. Learn about the Tsimshian culture and the practice of gift giving at traditional feast/potlatch.