Student Spotlights

STEPP Program participants, Marell Cook '15 and Justin Decker '18 participated in the 2014 Learner Profile Convening in Chapel Hill sponsored by the Oak Foundation Learning Differences Program and their partner organization Public Impact.

Through his work at ECU, Andrew Smith '15 has been able to gain experience with a variety of artistic skills and is thinking about specializing in action photography. Andrew has shared his talents with the STEPP Program through his work photographing community-building events.

Walter and Marie Williams
STEPP Program

Creating Opportunity and Celebrating Learning Differences
Walter ’51 and Marie ’53 Williams

With roots deep in eastern North Carolina and strong Pirate pride, Walter and Marie Williams know the opportunities that hard work and a college education from ECU can bring. The Williamses’ founding gift opens doors to higher education for students who traditionally have not gone to college. “STEPP gives us an opportunity to help eastern North Carolina, and it gives ECU an opportunity to learn how to teach those kids,” Williams says. “And it will give the graduates first-hand experience in teaching others, if they so choose.”

STEPP student Emily ’17 works with her mentor Aisha ’11, ’13 to get organized for the week and prepare for an upcoming exam in the STEPP Cove at Joyner Library. The proximity to the library allows students to make use of many resources at once, from online journals, resource libraries, tutors, and STEPP faculty. The Cove has proven to be an environment where students can excel and a place to feel at home.

STEPP Program in action

The Walter and Marie Williams STEPP Program has evolved into a national model for enabling students with learning differences to successfully complete their college education. Our graduates have launched productive careers as teachers, non-profit managers, and business leaders. They are an inspiration for students who have historically been marginalized in the traditional school setting.

The STEPP Program provides hope to deserving students and devoted parents. On-going private support makes our work possible. To date, 79 students have entered the program. A gift from you ensures similar students receive the same opportunity to succeed.

(*Chelsea, Class of 2013 Communication major*)