STEPP Program

SUPPORTING TRANSITION AND EDUCATION THROUGH PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2022 Newsletter

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

STEPP would like to welcome our two newest members to the team Brooke Taunton and Ashley Cooper. Brooke is responsible for administrative work supporting the STEPP Program and College STAR initiatives. She manages budgets and purchasing related to the program, working closely with individuals across campus for tasks related to event planning, administrative support, inventory, and many other critical factors that help the program run smoothly day to day. Brooke is also a Pirate! She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from East Carolina University.

Ashley, our Transition Specialist, is an experienced educator with a passion for making a difference in the lives of her scholars. She received a Bachelor of Arts from UNC at Chapel Hill and a Graduate Certificate from East Carolina University. Ashley earned her teaching credentials and a master’s degree in teaching from Western Carolina University. Before joining the STEPP team, Ashley worked as a teacher at Rocky Mount Preparatory School.

Ashley will be building on the strong foundation of transition support established by Emily Johnson. As a part of the STEPP team almost from the beginning of the program, Emily helped shape, design, and build a transition support model focused clearly on student success! Moreover, her work at ECU positively impacted the lives of so many students and families. We remain thankful for the time spent with STEPP and wish her well in her new journey.

Be sure to follow STEPP on our social media platforms to stay up to date on all our events and announcements.

STEPP Website Update: STEPP is excited to unveil our updated “Giving” priorities website. Allowing donors to know exactly where their support has the most impact and how they can give, ensures our mission of supporting student success remains intact for the future of the STEPP Program. Thank you to all of our donors for their continued support! https://stepp.ecu.edu/give/ If you are interested in discussing any giving options, please contact Adam Denney, Director, at denneya15@ecu.edu or 252-737-2661.
Alumni Highlight:

During the Fall 2022 semester, STEPP welcomed two alumni for our virtual STEPPing Into Success: Personalizing the Journey series. Joy Seward (14) and Max Stein-Seroussi (15) connected with students during an hour-long discussion about their professional & personal transitions after graduation. The series is designed to engage our alumni in future-focused conversations with currently enrolled students. If you are an alumnus of the STEPP program and interested in participating (or know someone who is), please contact Adam Denney (Email: denneya15@ecu.edu, Phone: 252-737-2661).

Student Highlight:

Generous support to the STEPP Program has provided internships to two of our students during the 2022/2023 Academic Year. As STEPP continues to embed a Career Readiness emphasis throughout all aspects of our program, creating meaningful opportunities for students to participate in high-impact practices is a focal point. One of the key transitions of the STEPP Program is preparing students for life beyond their time at ECU. Sam Huffman became an ECU Pirate in 2020 and is studying Communication with a concentration in Journalism. In his role as our Social Media & Marketing Intern, Sam has transformed our social media platforms to align our messaging to better represent the audience we are seeking to engage. Mark Windham, who will graduate in the Spring of 2023, has been employed with STEPP as our Videographer/Photographer Intern for over a year. During his time as a STEPP Intern, Mark has led initiatives focused on donor engagement, creating marketing materials, and developing videos that are shared both internally and externally for the program.

“Having this experience on my resume will show potential employers that I have had valuable work experience in college.”

Mark Windham

“This internship has helped me grow in making new connections with the university and programs across the globe that assist and promote those with learning disabilities through the power of social media.”

Sam Huffman

Need to contact STEPP?

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