on completing an incredibly challenging semester. As we look to the future, I would like to introduce you to a new resource from the Center for Experiential Education (CEE). Beginning in the fall, we hope to distribute a newsletter each month. This inaugural issue will introduce you to new CEE staff, opportunities for faculty, and information that you may forward along to students. In the future, we would like to feature content created by faculty and students, including stories and videos of experiential learning in action at UAlbany.

Thanks to a SUNY Performance Improvement Fund (PIF) Applied Learning grant, the University was awarded funding to “expand and enhance the Center for Experiential Education”. This funding has allowed us to hire two coordinators, Sarah Murphy and Melanie Shank. They began working in the CEE in February. In spite of the disruption that occurred immediately following their arrival at UAlbany, they are doing a great job supporting the University’s goal to foster student success through expanded opportunities for experiential learning. Keep reading to learn more about Sarah and Melanie.

We hope that you will share this newsletter with other faculty and students. To join our email distribution list, please email us here.

Wishing you a healthy and productive summer.

Debra R. Gelinas
Assistant Vice Provost for Applied Learning

Sarah Murphy comes to UAlbany with several years of experience in higher education, with her most recent experience working as a Career Counselor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is heavily involved with her alma mater, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), including serving on the Alumni Board of Directors, She also recently earned her MSED in college student services administration from the College of Saint Rose in May 2018.

As the Experiential Learning Coordinator, Sarah is working closely with students that want to explore experiential education and also serves as the instructor for the Applied Learning Internship Courses UUNI 288 and 289, and coordinator for the SPEED program.

An owner of two small businesses in the area, Sarah is also working on becoming an Adirondack 46er!

A UAlbany alumna, with majors in psychology and vocal performance, Melanie Shank 12’ is excited to have returned to the Albany area after four years in New York City working for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in concert halls and operations. Previously, Melanie worked with Toby White in the Experiential Education Office at SUNY Potsdam while earning her MM 16’ in Vocal Performance at the Crane School of Music. She spearheaded social media and marketing efforts, and met with hundreds of students to counsel them on internships and provide resume/interview help.

As Program Coordinator, Melanie is faculty facing, involved with website management/development, marketing/social media, faculty programs and the micro-credential initiative. She continues to sing professionally as an operatic soprano, including a solo alumni recital at UAlbany in 2019.
Faculty Opportunities

**Riipen: Project-based Learning Experiences**

As you plan your fall classes, consider including an experiential learning component. The CEE is partnering with Riipen to connect faculty with industry to offer project-based learning experiences that may be embedded into courses. This is available for courses at the undergraduate or graduate-levels, in many disciplines. Riipen works with 10,000 employers worldwide and all projects may be completed remotely. Riipen is allowing us to use their platform for free this fall, so we encourage faculty to take advantage of this opportunity. Riipen will also be used to connect students with virtual internship opportunities for the fall semester. Please contact Sarah Murphy in the CEE for more information.

**Engage for Change Conference**

This year’s Engage for Change Conference organized by the Community Campus Collaborative (CCC) has moved online with virtual sessions focusing on resilience, success, mental well-being, adapting to change, community engagement initiatives, and building collective networks within the Capital Region.

There is still time to register for "Changing How We Engage: Community Partners Adapting in These Times" scheduled for Thursday, May 28th, 3:45PM-4:45PM. Sign up today and join the conversation!

**Faculty Mini-Grants**

Faculty are invited to apply for up to $500 to support course-based experiential learning projects. To learn more details about the program and projects that have been funded in the past, visit the CEE website.

Past recipients have included Samantha Penta, who used the grant to help fund the field experience for her students in the Puerto Rico Crisis and Public Health program (right).

Student Opportunities

**Enroll in UUNI 288 or 289 this Summer**

Students may earn credit for a summer internship by enrolling in an Applied Learning Internship course. UUNI 288 is a 1-credit course that requires students to complete 50 internship hours and UUNI 289 is a 3-credit course that requires 150 internship hours. These courses are always delivered online and offered every semester, allowing students to intern anywhere in the world, including virtual project-based internships completed from home. Students may add the course until the end of the add/drop period, but must complete paperwork with the Center for Experiential Education before being issued a permission number for registration.

**Call for Student Submissions- Service Learning**

Undergraduate students are invited to submit an article to the International Undergraduate Journal for Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change. The Journal is dedicated to providing undergraduate students a venue to discuss their service-learning projects and experiences.