

Nicole Nagy
Madonna University



Phoenix Academy Program with Madonna University

Nicole Nagy is from Linden, Michigan and graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with a degree in Political Science and minor in Management. She was actively involved with her Residence Hall Association, Alternative Spring Breaks, and various other organizations. Nicole is serving Madonna University as the Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA, working in the Office of the First-Year Experience. She helps coordinate service learning projects for the freshman seminar courses offered at Madonna, and helps students get involved with various community service opportunities, specifically those with a college access focus.

Nicole coordinates service projects for the majority of the freshman seminar courses (UNV 1010) at Madonna University, which require the students to do 10 hours of academic service-learning during their first semester. Service-learning events took place on Madonna University's campus during the Fall Semester involving over 100 middle school students from Phoenix Academy in Southwest Detroit, and around 75 freshmen seminar students from Madonna. The service-learning project included two aspects. First, Madonna students went to Phoenix to do a career dreaming mural with the students, and second, Phoenix students were brought to Madonna for an orientation to college based on their interests expressed at the visit to Phoenix.

UNV 1010 classes went to Phoenix to complete the career dreaming activity with the students. They split into small groups and the students drew murals about what they want to be when they grow up. During this time, the students were able to ask Madonna students about college and about the career they want to go into. When the Phoenix students came to Madonna, they were taken on tours to see various areas of campus, heard from various faculty/staff members, learned about resources to help them with their journey to college and were able to further connect with the college students.

Nicole facilitated the students from the UNV 1010 courses to help them coordinate these college tours. She worked hard to expand this program, from one UNV 1010 class and two classes from Phoenix Academy, to four different UNV 1010 classes and six classes from Phoenix. Madonna was also fortunate enough to have transportation for the various trips between Phoenix and Madonna provided by a Michigan Campus Compact Service for Access Grant.

A Note from her Supervisor, Chris Benson: "Nicole's excellent project management skills and attention to detail resulted in powerful learning experiences for all of the students. After the project, my first-year students unanimously agreed that this project was a valuable part of their first semester and taught them so much about their own stereotypes and biases. They also wanted to spend more time with the middle school students and doing service--a win-win indeed!"