

# Contextual Learning Meets College Campus

## NEACAC Make A Difference Grant



### Contextual Learning High Lights

On November 3rd, fifteen students from Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School (DYRHS) visited Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) to explore career pathways in Athletic Training and related fields courtesy of the Make A Difference grant awarded by NEACAC. Each year, the School Counseling Department at DYRHS looks to create new partnerships in order to expose students to the broad range of career options after high school using the contextual learning framework. The contextual learning framework pairs curriculum content with experiential learning activities in the community with the intent of linking course objectives to practical applications in the workforce.

This year, the School Counseling Department partnered with Valerie Serijan, *Principles of Athletic Training* teacher at DYRHS and Colleen Nolan *MS, ATC, PES and Assistant Athletic Trainer* at MMA for this initiative. MMA offered our students the opportunity to see several aspects of a college healthcare system, in addition to pathways in athletic training. DYRHS students were also exposed to the unique lifestyle of a cadet at Mass Maritime Academy.

During the field trip, students learned about the employment expectations and collaboration between Athletic Trainers, Nurses, Doctors and EMTs to assist student athletes in the college setting. Students participated in EKG testing, heart monitoring exercises, and patient transport procedures using gurneys and chair lifts. Students listened to presentations by various members of the Sports Medicine Team and the Athletic Director at MMA. The day concluded with a tour of the MMA's emergency response vehicles and equipment, the athletic training room and campus facilities.

### Student Testimonials

"This field trip was informative and hands on"

"Gained a better understanding of the topic of sports medicine"

"Gathered a better understanding of the relationship between athletes and the athletic training team."

"Learned the differences between working as an Athletic Trainer in a high school setting and a college campus"

### Contributors

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