Students attended seminars throughout the days. They were educated on what services offices on campus provide. The Wellness Center, Student Success Center, Residential Life Office, and Financial Aid Office all engaged with the students.

The first annual MERITS Academy was a huge success. We are overjoyed with the enthusiasm and desire to learn that the students displayed. The engagement experiences that the students participated in involved SUNY Cobleskill campus and community professionals. We as the MERITS staff are very proud of the high level of commitment that these students demonstrated throughout the Academy.

Community Service Projects

The Academy students took part in different community service projects. With their mentors, the students respectfully ventured out into the Cobleskill area. They travelled to the SUNY barns, Cobleskill Head Start, Schoharie Animal Shelter, and Hide-A-Way Campsites. Volunteering is a character building skill that benefits the development of future responsible citizens.
The Academy started off as a true adventure!! The students constructed individual camping sites with their mentor groups. The bonding began immediately. We feasted on a BBQ followed by dessert and s’mores by the massive bonfire. SUNY Cobleskill’s acting President, Dr. Debra Thatcher, Provost, Dr. Suzanne Zimmermann, and Director of Educational Support Services, Derwin Bennett, mingled and engaged with us as we rode the wagon ride and participated in team building activities. Sunday was composed of a leadership workshop by George McDonnell and staff from Schoharie County Youth Bureau. We had an amazing time!

92% of students stated that they had enough college preparation during the Academy. We are pleased with that percentage. As the semester moves forward we have had many open and honest individual meetings with students. Many of them are experiencing successes, while others are struggling with specific courses. We would like to appeal to the families to communicate with your student in a self-reflecting and sincere manner. We are available for additional support and guidance. We would greatly appreciate it if families could complete a five minute survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/TZ8GRYP.

Thank You for being a valuable member of our 2014 MERITS Family!!