

Gabrielle Greaves



Gabrielle (Gabby) Greaves (pronouns: they/them/theirs, she/her/hers) is a powerful and humble force to be reckoned with. They discovered UNH due to an advertisement they saw while applying to another university. On a whim, she decided to apply and, luckily for UNH, her early interactions with the university cemented her decision to attend. When Gabby visited the UNH campus a professor pulled her in and spoke specifically with her when “he didn’t have to do that.” Now in their junior year, they fondly remember the way this interaction made them feel about the atmosphere at UNH. They “immediately told [their] mom [they] wanted to go here.”

Coming to UNH was a huge transition for Gabby, but early on, she identified her community. She was in a completely new state - at a large school where she did not know anyone. Fortunately, Connect, a program focused on helping first-generation and multicultural students make the transition from high school to college, helped them acclimate to the university. Their Connect mentor was essential to their first year and helped Gabby find communities that best fit their interests. The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) is “a really big part of [their] growth here at UNH.” She has been involved since their first weekend and they go there every day they are able.

Gabby is aware of how to find the right resources and people on campus and is intentional about the relationships she builds. There are some individuals they talk with regularly who have introduced them to wonderful opportunities. For example, Gabby had the opportunity to work with the Bernie Sanders campaign. She was even fortunate enough to ask him a question at his presidential campaign event on campus. They also assisted with calls to see how African American students were voting and gaining feedback of what they might like to hear vocalized in the campaign. This was a result of her connections with people and the relationships they had built. Gabby also oversees the RealTalk series, a bi-weekly discussion dedicated to current social issues with a critical lens. They have also been secretary of the Black Student Union, MOSAICO (a Latinx student organization) and Alliance (an LGBTQ+ student organization).

Gabby’s academics and passion for social justice are interwoven. She is an English and Women Studies double major. This past semester, she worked as a Social Innovation Fellow through the Semester in the City program at the College for Social Innovation and Enterprise (CSIE). They were one of 13 in the first ever cohort of Semester in the City! There, she furthered her education in social change and social activism and interned at The Theater Offensive, an LGBTQIAP+ organization in Boston, Massachusetts. She was also a T.A for the course “Race Matters” in the Women’s Studies department. One of her nominators gushed, “The students could not speak more highly of her.” She was a Social Innovation Intern through the CSIE and worked at the Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN), an organization dedicated to supporting zero-waste initiatives on college campuses. There, they helped develop a partnership between PLAN and Goodwill of Northern New England.

Gabby is applying to the IRT (Institute for Recruitment of Teachers). From there, they would like to apply to PhD programs. In five years, you may hear Gabby is still a dedicated advocate and voice for marginalized individuals. She’ll be focused on being active in her community and helping with the allocation of resources within that community. They plan to be a professor. Her current dream is to teach about post-1800 literature of the Caribbean and Latin America. Gabby also strives to be comparable to phenomenal black activists such as Angela Davis and Cornel West (but more radical). She admires their approach and critical thinking about political issues.

Gabby advises incoming UNH students to always try new experiences. She says, “Find communities you identify with and be open to new activities and new people because that’s the whole college experience: to let yourself grow and change. If you don’t give yourself that growth opportunity, it won’t happen.” It is clear Gabby found the right communities to help them thrive. However, she doesn’t want to present her experience through rose-colored glasses. She stated, “it’s not easy or simple luck to get opportunities. A lot of people have invested in me and I’ve had to hold up my end of the bargain.” They also advise students to find a group of staff members who can rally behind you and support your passion.

Gabby will have a strong, positive impact on this world. As one of her nominators proudly stated, “She is a giver who lives her life in the service to people. They are a change maker who will continue to make this world a more equitable, just place.”