This 2018-2019 academic year, 96 UVic Global Community Volunteer Mentors and Conversation Partners were matched with 246 students from the international community. To celebrate the end of this very successful academic year, International Student Services hosted a volunteer appreciation event on Thursday, March 21st, 2019. Global Community volunteers make an important world of difference in the lives of students as they transition to UVic and Canada.

At the event, Global Community volunteers were encouraged to engage and reflect on their year. One volunteer wrote: “The Global Community is a place where people, no matter where they come from, can become friends (we have more in common than you think). There are so many ways that I still want to grow to welcome all in my community (locally & globally)”.

The UVic Global Community initiative provides opportunities and creates space for international and domestic students, staff, and faculty to share perspectives, celebrate diversity, foster intercultural connections, and cultivate an inclusive and globally minded campus. Through the Global Community Mentorship and Global Community Conversation Partners Programs, volunteers are matched with up to 3 students, meeting weekly throughout the term to build intercultural connections, make new friends, improve conversational English language skills, and explore UVic and Victoria.

The UVic Global Community is currently recruiting students, staff, faculty, and alumni to volunteer as Conversation Partners or Mentors for Fall 2019. Please visit uvic.ca/globalcommunity or contact Cecilia Rose & Sara Mosher-Mandel, Global Community Advisers at gmentor@uvic.ca to find out how you can get involved.
“As a Conversation Partner, I was able to explore the English language with several non-native speakers. Through our conversations, I learned how to communicate new concepts in clear ways, and with inspiration from the sharing sessions, I started to try out lesson plans or directed topics to develop specific skills. It was rewarding to feel like I was providing relevant help to my new friends. I also gained new perspectives by meeting people from cultural backgrounds that were unfamiliar to me before. The new friendships, the experiences we shared, and the skills that I learned are all valuable to me.”

– Global Community Conversation Partner Volunteer

“This is a golden opportunity to learn about other cultures and gain motivation, inspiration, and knowledge from one another.”

– Global Community Student Mentee

“You make a world of difference”

“To learn a new language, to better understand a new culture, and to gain a new friend; these are the gifts of the Global Community Conversation Partners Program. You can always find similarities and differences with others in the program and it becomes your home for social connection.”

– Global Community Conversation Partner Student

“The UVic Global Community Mentorship Program provided me with an excellent opportunity to connect with UVic international students and improve my cross-cultural communication skills. It was very rewarding to help new students feel at home in Victoria and get involved with the UVic community in a way that made them feel comfortable and confident. As a result, I too became more involved with the UVic community, especially on a more global level.”

– Global Community Volunteer Mentor

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Join our “UVic Global Community” Facebook group here!

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