**About**

- The Center for Excellence in Neuroscience (CEN) at UNE was founded in 2009 with three main areas of focus: research, scholarship and community outreach. It includes over 40 faculty members affiliated with neuroscience research and/or education.
- The Neuroscience Outreach Program was established in 2009 with the goal of bringing fun, interactive neuroscience lessons to schools to engage students in learning about neuroscience.
- Undergraduate and professional students present the lessons in classrooms with support from UNE faculty and staff.

**Goals**

1. Foster student interest in neuroscience and improve attitudes towards science.
2. Improve student competency in neuroscience and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.
3. Promote student awareness of brain health and safety to help prevent brain injury.
4. Support local school systems and encourage development of STEM education.
5. Create strong community ties between UNE students and faculty and the surrounding communities.

**Modules**

- With assistance from faculty, undergraduate and professional student volunteers designed interactive neuroscience lessons, called modules, for the program. Our completed modules are available for download at [http://www.une.edu/research/ecn/k-12-outreach](http://www.une.edu/research/ecn/k-12-outreach).

**The “Grow-Up, Grow-Out” Model**

- We want our program to “grow-up” and “grow-out” with the K-12 students:
  - “Grow-up” – vertical integration: developing modules that can be introduced in elementary school and built upon throughout middle and high school; following K-12 students as they progress in their education.
  - “Grow-out” – interdisciplinary modules: developing modules that become more advanced as well as integrative to incorporate other scientific fields in order to demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience.

**BAW 2014: Brain Fair and Brain Blast**

- **Brain Awareness Fair:** The event, which drew approximately 100 pre-K-12th grade students from area schools, included ice skating; a helmet giveaway; learning and cognition activities; microscopes to look at brain tissue and nerves; touchable brains of sheep and rats; and crafts, such as brain coloring sheets, pipe cleaner neurons and more. The Michael T. Goulet Foundation gave out over 100 helmets and student-athletes volunteered for the free skating session with skill-building lessons.

- **Brain Blast:** A Pecha Kucha style event open to the public that incorporated a series of brief talks done by students, faculty and community members regarding topics such as chronic pain, head injuries, emotions, and epilepsy. The goal of the event was to engage the community in brain health and safety.

**Collaborations**

- The program partners with the Michael T. Goulet Traumatic Brain Injury and Epilepsy Foundation for helmet fittings and helmet give-away events to promote brain and helmet safety.
- The program partners with Engine, an art studio in Biddeford, Maine to host community events such as the Brain Blast and Your Brain on Art.
- We are a member of the Dana Alliance lending library and our modules are featured on Brainfacts.org.

**Future Directions**

- **Assessment:** Implement quantitative and qualitative assessments to evaluate our program for both K-12 students and volunteers.
- **Training:** Create concise training videos for each module to make the training process easier and more consistent.
- **Collaboration:** Work with other departments (mathematics, marine biology, chemistry, etc.) to create interdisciplinary modules.