The focus of the Communities Supporting Childhood project, **COMANI**, is to improve the delivery of services for children in vulnerable conditions with and without special needs. This international multi-disciplinary consortium provides opportunities for student exchanges in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The association’s aim is to develop innovative approaches to educate children from birth to eight years of age. Anchored in field experiences, the program partners provide coursework, state of the art curriculum and technology to university students. The purpose is to help with the educational, social and emotional development of at risk children and prepare them for inclusion into their communities.

**THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

*Ulster County Community College*

For more information or to apply, please contact:

Richard Cattabiani at (845) 687-5135
cattabir@sunyulster.edu

http://umanitoba.ca/social_work/244.htm
The COMANI Center in Sonora, Mexico develops self-sufficient communities through innovative educational approaches. The concentration is on children from birth to eight years of age who are at risk and vulnerable.

Undergraduate and graduate students from education, social work and related areas are welcome to apply. Students will receive credit at their own university for successfully completed work. They must obtain their advisor’s approval for courses that they will take abroad.

To study in Mexico, a student must have an approved level of Spanish. Funding is available to assist with Spanish language study. A student stipend will be provided to successful applicants. The funds can be used for airfare, basic room and board and living expenses. Deadlines to partner schools vary but may require six months of lead time to process. Completed information is available at:

http://umanitoba.ca/social_work/244.htm

COMANI provides funding for undergraduate and graduate students in social work and closely related fields to study in the United States, Canada or Mexico. Students interested in working with children in vulnerable conditions have the opportunity to pursue their studies at partner universities for one semester without paying additional tuition or losing credits towards their degree program. The project provides a unique opportunity to engage and interact with faculty, students and community based family resource centers in a diverse cross-cultural learning environment.

CANADA

Studying at the University of Manitoba and Red Deer College in Canada provides students with a rich selection of learning opportunities to become familiar with a wide range of social policy, programs and professional practices for work with vulnerable children and families in a broad spectrum of community settings.

MEXICO

As a developing country, Mexico offers great opportunities to learn in a rich cultural heritage. Important ancient and modern cities, as well as cultural and recreational activities are accessible to all who want an excellent education. ITSON and Universidad Panamericana look forward to educating a new generation of leaders.

UNITED STATES

The University of Arizona (Arizona’s first university) and The State University of New York Ulster County Community College, enable students to access the full range of learners in an early childhood setting. Among the many areas covered are the characteristics and needs of children with exceptionalities and the current trends and issues in special education.