College and Community Leaders Develop Best Practices Model for Successful Partnerships

Leaders from area businesses and non-profit organizations that host Colby-Sawyer student interns recently collaborated with the college community to define successful partnerships. These Campus-Community Partnership Roundtable Discussions have culminated with a Best Practices Model that defines types of partnerships; outlines skills and attributes students should develop; and establishes criteria to evaluate the success of these partnerships.

The roundtable discussions began in November 2004 and included Colby-Sawyer faculty, staff and students, along with representatives from the Kearsarge Regional School District, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, The Fells, Grantham Indoor, Lake Sunapee Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) and New London Hospital. The effort was sponsored by Campus Compact of New Hampshire, an organization that promotes student community service and encourages partnerships between campuses and communities.

The roundtable participants identified the partnerships as internships, student-teaching internships, practicums, community-based research, volunteerism, clinical internships and clinical preceptorships. Employers who participated in the roundtable talks considered ways to strengthen relationships with the college’s faculty, staff and students. About 99 percent of Colby-Sawyer’s students are required to complete internships, and many students also participate in community service and other volunteer projects.

About 15 Colby-Sawyer students participate in internships and practicums with the Kearsarge school district each year and 60 more volunteer to work with the schools through the AmeriCorps program. Laura Nelson, KRSD’s assistant superintendent, was new to the school district when the roundtable discussions began in fall 2004. The discussions helped her understand the nature and scope of college students’ work within the school district.

“We help Colby-Sawyer students become part of the local New England life and experience things they may not have done before,” Nelson said. “Our children need these college students as role models and for positive peer relationships. The school districts that I’ve worked with have things they may not have done before,” Nelson said. “Colby-Sawyer student interns recently collaborated with the college”

During the next phase of discussions, the participants will seek to identify new partnerships and enhance existing ones between the college and community. The group will also establish criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships. “We need to communicate the essence of partnerships and use the Best Practices Model to make informed changes,” said LuAnne Ryall, assistant director of the college’s Harrington Center for Career Development and Community Service.

For more information about college/community partnerships or the Best Practices Model, contact LuAnne Ryall at lryall@colby-sawyer.edu or visit the Harrington Center’s Web site at http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/campus-life/career/employers/index.html.

CES Students and ASLPT Complete Study of Kearsarge/Sunapee Region Conservation Priorities

Aubson Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) staff recently enlisted students in the college’s Community and Environmental Studies (CES) Program to assist them in identifying conservation priorities in the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region. As part of their third-year project, seven CES students worked with ASLPT and local officials from 12 towns to research and analyze the region’s ecologically important lands, water resources, wildlife habitat and land use practices. The towns included in the study were Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Goshen, Grantham, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Wilmot and Warner.

Using research tools such as geographical information systems, the CES students created an extensive portfolio of maps and detailed geographical information for each town. ASLPT now plans to use the portfolio as a research tool to assist area towns in planning for future land use and conservation. To view the CES project on Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region Conservation Priorities, visit http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/curriculum/thirdyear/projects/2005/thirdyear/index.html.

The CES project will assist the ASLPT in meeting its goals of protecting the region’s farmlands, unfrAGMENTED forests areas and wildlife habitat, watersheds and scenic views, according to Deborah Stanley, the organization’s executive director. “This partnership with Colby-Sawyer provided us with detailed maps and information about our region,” said Stanley. “The students helped us to identify and focus in on the areas of our region that need protection.”

John Callewaert, director of Colby-Sawyer’s Institute for Community and Environment, said the students enjoyed putting their skills and knowledge to work to provide real and lasting benefits to the community. “The project was a good opportunity to collaborate with ASLPT and the surrounding communities, who provided great support and encouragement to the students,” he said.

To learn more about the Community and Environmental Studies Program at Colby-Sawyer College, visit http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/index.html.

The Aubson Sargent Land Preservation Trust can be contacted through its Web site at http://www. aubson sargent.org or at 526-6553.

For more information about Colby-Sawyer College’s community events visit http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/currents/events.html.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 2
Poetry in the Afternoon Series
Hosts Poet Rafael Campo – 4:30 p.m. in the Cleveland, Colby, Colgate Archives, Susan Colgate Cleveland Library/Learning Center
Dr. Campo is the author of The Other Man Was Me, winner of the 1993 National Poetry Series Award, and What the Body Told, which won a Lambda Literary Award for Poetry. Admission is free.

Monday, March 6
Vermont Filmmaker Jay Craven Screens and Discusses New Film “Disappearances” – 7 p.m. in Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center
Based on the Howard Frank Mosher novel, the film features Quebec Bill Bohomme (Kris Kristofferson) as a hardy schemer who, desperate to raise money to preserve his herd through the winter, resorts to whisky smuggling. Quebec Bill takes his son, Wild Bill, on a journey into the Canadian wilderness for four days full of terror and wonder. Admission is free.

Thursday, March 23
“The Violence of Hate” Lecture by Criminologist Jack Levin – 7 p.m. Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center
A renowned criminologist explores the nature of hate attacks, motivations of hate-crime offenders, and elements of campus life that support and encourage conflict and violence. He then will suggest ways to eliminate hate crimes and create a culture of tolerance. Admission is free.

Community members are welcome to attend these events.