



College's Partnership with Boston-Area High Schools Increases Opportunity and Diversity on Campus

This fall 20 students from two Boston-area schools, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and Malden High School, will join the Colby-Sawyer College community as first-year students. These cohorts of students are part of Colby-Sawyer's new Progressive Scholars Program, which will offer educational opportunities for mainly first-generation college students and bring greater diversity to the college community.

"We are excited about the program, which is an innovative way to help us meet our goal of a more diverse and inclusive campus community," said President Tom Galligan. "By increasing the ethnic, racial, cultural and geographic diversity of our community, our students' educational experience will encompass more of the multiple perspectives and wide variety of backgrounds that are typical of our nation today and of the globally connected work world."

The program builds on the college's existing relationships with the two high schools and gives the new students a wonderful support system through their peers, according to Vice President for Enrollment Management Greg Matthews. "When we looked at our diversity on campus, we saw that we mainly attract rural and suburban students. That led us to think that we could form partnerships with some urban high schools with which we already have established connections to achieve our goals."

Jen Jacques, Colby-Sawyer's senior associate director of Admissions and director of International and Diversity Recruitment, led the effort to build a partnership with the high schools through meeting with staff and students and inviting both groups to campus for visits last fall and spring. "Some of these students are first-generation Americans whose parents are from Haiti, Brazil, Ethiopia and Bangladesh, and many are bi- or trilingual," she said. "They have amazing stories and strong personalities; they're warm and vibrant in every sense."

Leslie Davis coordinates the Advancement via Individual Determination Program (AVID) at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, which supports and prepares highly motivated students who want to go on to college. The program teaches students to develop organizational and time management skills and good study habits, prepare for standardized tests, and finally, to find the right college. Davis helped to identify the students in the AVID program at her school who would be a good fit for Colby-Sawyer College.

"Some of our students like the idea of being ambassadors for their school, and they're looking forward to that," she said. "I've made it clear that this is a great opportunity for them to be role models." Their visits to the Colby-Sawyer campus both excited the students and exposed them to an environment starkly different from what they're accustomed to, according to Davis. "They sat in on classes, and for those on the fence, that's what made the difference: the quality of education was a big part of hooking them," she said. "But they were taken aback by the lack of diversity. They have been fortunate to live with a lot of diversity in Cambridge, where there are people from every country and culture, so that's what they're used to."

Davis envisions that her students, and those from Malden High, will enjoy success at Colby-Sawyer and lay the groundwork for a thriving partnership that will benefit the high schools and the college. "Our students are well aware of the great opportunity before them and also recognize what they bring to the table. They have the chance to leave footprints for others to follow," she said.

An important part of learning in a residential campus comes through living with people, learning to

care about each other and understanding each other's perspectives, according to Vice President Matthews. "When you have students of very similar backgrounds, you don't have to stretch yourself and broaden your perspectives as much. That's why it's so important to diversify and internationalize the campus with students from all backgrounds and broad perspectives."

President Galligan is confident that the college and area communities will welcome the Progressive Scholars and assist in easing their transition into college and their new environment. "Our college community, as well as the New London area, are warm and engaging communities, and we know that our Progressive Scholars will receive an enthusiastic reception this fall," he said.

College Makes Room for Growing Enrollment

Colby-Sawyer will enroll more than 1,000 students this fall, and construction is underway on campus this summer to accommodate the college's growth. The renovation of three residence halls, Colby, McKean and Shepard Halls, will create additional living space for 38 students. The \$2.1 million project, which includes the addition of a 40-car parking lot near Colby Farm (behind the Curtis L. Ivey Science Center), is slated for completion by Aug. 15, according to Vice President for Administration Doug Atkins.

The renovations will take place in the basement of the brick 1930s-era residence halls, and will include air exchange systems and radiant heating, as well as new foundation drains and improved waterproofing. Colby and Shepard Hall will add space for 14 students each, while McKean will take on ten students. New kitchen and laundry areas will be built in the lower level of each hall.

"The construction in Colby, McKean and Shepard is the result of Colby-Sawyer's recent enrollment success and our commitment to preserve those wonderful traditional residence halls," said President Tom Galligan. "It will not only increase their residential capacity, but it will be good for their structural integrity."

The new parking lot will provide much needed additional parking on campus and incorporate environmentally friendly materials. The lot's design includes areas of pervious concrete and asphalt, porous surfaces that allow pollutants like oil and anti-freeze to drain into the ground rather than turn into damaging runoff.

"We'll watch how these areas of pervious pavement perform under our soil and weather conditions to see if we should incorporate its use in future projects on a larger scale," said Vice President Atkins.

The use of radiant heating in the residence halls and pervious pavement in the new parking lot supports Colby-Sawyer's commitment to work toward environmental sustainability on campus.



Construction on the basement of Shepard Hall (above) and two other residence halls will add living space for 38 more students on campus.