March 2013

Dear Colby-Sawyer Families,

You cannot pick up a newspaper or watch the news programs on television without realizing that the economics of higher education is under the microscope. The cost of tuition is absorbing more and more of a family’s disposable income. The economic recession has squeezed families’ ability to borrow and to pay for a college education. Students are graduating with high debt levels and face uncertain job prospects. A perfect storm of issues face today’s student and their families as they negotiate the challenges of securing an education that will prepare them for the next step in their lives.

What an important step this is! The education that a Colby-Sawyer student receives is designed to engage their intellectual curiosity and to communicate effectively. It is an engaging learning program that strengthens the students’ ability to think and to act in today’s changing world. It is an education that propels its students into the job market at levels that affirm the value of a Colby-Sawyer College education. Indeed, according to our most recent survey, 98% of our graduates who responded indicated that they were either employed or enrolled in graduate school within 6 months of graduation from Colby-Sawyer.

Colby-Sawyer College is growing: enrollment increased by 11% last year, and has increased by almost 45% in the past five years. This is no surprise. We have been continually improving our educational programs, our infrastructure, and indeed, the demographic characteristics of our student body. Colby-Sawyer is a place where people want to be and we are committed to meeting the needs of our students.

The College has embarked on a number of strategic initiatives to continue to provide challenging and relevant educational programs. For next fall, we have hired ten new full time faculty members, and three additional searches are currently underway. We are in the midst of reviewing our liberal education curriculum and our majors to assure that the educational experience for students continues to challenge students to develop skills and aptitudes for effective communication, critical thinking, and lifelong learning, and also provides contemporary approaches and practical applications for the disciplines. We have increased our staff to promote important complementary educational experiences, from study abroad programs to internships to academic support and tutoring services. And, we are offering selected courses in on-line and hybrid formats to augment our learning formats.

Growth always brings with it a spirit of excitement and opportunity, but it is also accompanied by challenges. Colby-Sawyer is responding. In January, we opened the expanded and renovated (and renamed) Ware Student Center. This $8 million project has had a tremendous effect on
the student dining and gathering space experiences, and provides two new classrooms. The building is a much needed addition to the student life experience on campus. Also, the recently renovated portions of Abbey Hall and Burpee Hall have provided some much-needed residence hall space, and the new townhouse apartments across the street from campus have been a major addition to our on-campus residence options. This fall, we are anticipating adding to the inventory of townhouse apartments, which will be a welcome alternative for many of our students.

Signs of progress are evident all over campus. The college is committed to climate neutrality. Its sustainability initiatives are visible – evidenced by the solar panels which have been installed on the roofs of five of its buildings, the permaculture garden, and the sustainability classroom – and invisible – a full energy efficiency program was installed throughout the campus this past year. These initiatives will have the impact of reduced costs and greater efficiencies on campus and represent an important contribution to our strategic themes of living sustainably and linking to the world.

Finally, when the students arrive back on campus this fall, they will see a fully functioning artificial turf field, which will greatly enhance our students’ ability to practice and compete in its athletic conferences and add to the overall student athletic experience.

Students alone do not bear the full cost of a Colby-Sawyer education. The college is grateful for its many donors whose support provides significant assistance for our students as they pursue their studies. Approximately 15% of every student’s cost of education is met through fund-raising efforts, and more than 95% of our students receive financial aid assistance.

The Board of Trustees remains committed to making a Colby-Sawyer education affordable for as many students as possible. In order to continue to provide the high quality of education that is the hallmark of Colby-Sawyer College, the Board has set the 2013-2014 comprehensive fee as follows:

- Tuition: $37,300
- Resident Fee: $12,500
- Comprehensive Fee: $49,800

In the days ahead, information will be sent to you regarding the tuition payment schedule, tuition payment plans, and financial aid awards. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the comprehensive fee, or any of the particulars referenced above, please feel free to contact Beth Renzulli at extension 3744 or (603) 526-3744. More information on the college’s tuition and payments may be found on its website: [http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/people-offices/financial_services/billing.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/people-offices/financial_services/billing.html)

Sincerely,

Todd C. Emmons
Vice President of Finance / Treasurer