Colby-Sawyer College and Kearsarge Regional School District Recognized with Carter Partnership Award

Colby-Sawyer College and the Kearsarge Regional School District (KRSD) have been recognized with the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration. The award honors a strong partnership that has directly benefited students from kindergarten through high school and provided college students with professional development experiences and opportunities for community service for the last four decades.

The Carter Partnership Award was presented by former First Lady Rosalynn Carter to Colby-Sawyer President Thomas C. Galligan Jr. and KRSD Superintendent Thomas Brennan in Manchester on Nov. 6. The award was created to recognize exemplary collaborations by colleges and universities, in partnership with community groups, to address critical public needs.

Carter Partnerships Awards were also presented to St. Anselm College and Girls Incorporated of the Greater Manchester Region (first place) for a thriving partnership that began in 2000, and to Keene State College and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Monadnock Region (second place), honoring a 33-year-old collaboration. The award recipients will receive monetary awards from the Carter Partnership Awards in support of their partnerships.

President Galligan expressed gratitude to the former President and Mrs. Carter for their support of college and community partnerships and for the inspiring examples of their lives and work. He also thanked the Kearsarge Regional School District for its ongoing engagement in this multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership.

“Colby-Sawyer College’s dynamic and enduring partnership with the Kearsarge Regional School District has been great for the college and our students and it has enriched the lives of many,” President Galligan said, “from the first-grader who gets extra attention from a college student in the classroom, to our future teachers and nurses, who gain real-world professional skills by working alongside experienced mentors across the district. Perhaps most importantly, the partnership instills in everyone who participates a deep sense of what it means to contribute to and benefit from being part of a strong and caring community.”

Superintendent Brennan said the Kearsarge Regional School District is proud to partner with Colby-Sawyer College in the pursuit of furthering educational and community opportunities for students and staff.

“To have the Carter Foundation acknowledge our efforts provides validation and a strong incentive for our future. The students and staff of the Kearsarge Regional School District are very fortunate to have such a strong higher education institution as Colby-Sawyer College as its partner,” he said. “I look forward to the development and expansion of our shared programs. Together we can continue to make a difference in the educational opportunities available to our students and staff.”

The partnership between Colby-Sawyer College and the Kearsarge Regional School District brings the two educational institutions together for collaboration in many areas, ranging from teacher education and preparation to community service and the sharing of human and physical resources.

Many of the college’s students who are preparing for careers as teachers, nurses, psychologists, coaches and athletic trainers work closely with K-12 students in the school district, gaining professional experience through their work in the classrooms, in nurses’ offices and guidance offices, and in the athletic programs.

Each year dozens of future teachers devote 40-hour weeks for 14 weeks to working with teachers and students across the district. Colby-Sawyer interns also work each semester with district guidance counselors, special educators, athletic directors, pre-school teachers, after school program coordinators and coaches to gain professional experience and provide support to their supervisors.

Colby-Sawyer also encourages community service as an integral part of students’ education and preparation as citizens and community leaders. Its students are involved in three national AmeriCorps Programs that benefit students in the elementary and middle-schools, including After School Buddies, America Reads and Elementary and Middle School Mentors. Through these programs and the middle school’s The Zone after-school program, dozens of college students volunteer their time each week to teach, mentor, provide companionship to and to generally serve as positive role models for younger students.

LuAnne Ryall, Colby-Sawyer’s community service coordinator, said young students often relate to and are inspired by college students, and the positive relationships that form between them encourage youth to consider college in their own futures and to incorporate community service into their own lives.

For Ryall, one factor stands out as emblematic of the enduring partnership between the college and the school district. “There is a shared intention to build programs and relationships that provide more for both institutions than could be realized without banding together to share human and campus resources,” she said.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Dec. 5
A Jazz Holiday with the Eric Mintel Quartet
7 p.m., Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center
The Eric Mintel Quartet performs the music of Vince Guaraldi from “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Admission is free.

Thursday, Dec. 6
Colby-Sawyer Singers Holiday Concert
7 p.m., Sawyer Fine Arts Center Theatre
The Colby-Sawyer Singers, a chorale group made up of college and community members, will perform their traditional holiday concert. Nancy Berry will serve as mistress of ceremonies for the performance of “Holiday Sensations.” Admission is free.

Community Update

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