

Goddard College



PLAINFIELD, VERMONT | PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON

THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF GODDARD COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of Goddard College announces the search for the College's next president. The search is being launched in response to Dr. Mark Schulman's decision to retire from the presidency at the end of June 2010. President Schulman's distinguished tenure will provide a firm foundation on which to build the next years of Goddard's leadership in higher education.

Historical Leader in Innovation in Higher Education

Goddard College has a proud history of transforming the lives of its students through its unwavering devotion to the principles of progressive education and the creation of innovations now widely adopted throughout higher education. For more than 70 years the College has developed and re-developed pedagogy and programs to provide a personalized educational experience for each student. Its leadership resulted in the first low-residency degree programs for adults and independent study for undergraduates, among other innovations. Today, all of Goddard's programs are delivered through the low residency model, providing a student centered option for motivated adult learners.

Goddard students have always thought of themselves as making a difference. Their Goddard education encourages them to be creative, curious and politically engaged in their lives and work. They find Goddard to be pragmatic, responsive and truly transformational. A student centered approach to learning, now a mainstream educational value, has driven Goddard's progress while innovation has remained at the heart of the College. Students commit to an individually designed program for their learning, adhere to a demanding schedule, and work intensively with faculty members to high standards. Faculty and students assess learning progress throughout the course of study and intensively at the end. At Goddard, learning endeavors are dedicated to the improvement of the larger society, a dedication reflected in current students' work and in the accomplishments of alumni.

Goddard Today

Goddard's two locations (Plainfield, VT and Port Townsend, WA) offer exceptional settings for low-residency, adult educational programs. Each year, there are 14 residencies in Plainfield and 4 in Port Townsend.

A typical residency brings up to 20 Goddard faculty members and a program director together for an 8 day period to work with as many as 125 students. The campus residencies are devoted to presentations, seminars, individualized work between students and faculty, celebrations, planning for the work to occur during the non-resident aspect of each cycle and a careful and rigorous evaluation of the work completed in the preceding six months. Students and faculty alike report that self-reflective learning and evaluation and the sense of community in their programs create a transformational experience.

Academic programs and degrees offered by Goddard include:

Individualized Bachelor of Arts (IBA)

Health Arts and Sciences (HAS) : BA and MA

Education (EDU) : BA and MA

Psychology and Counseling (PSYCH) : MA

Individualized Master of Arts (IMA)

MFA in Creative Writing (MFAW)

MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts (MFAIA)

Socially Responsible Business and Sustainable Communities : MA

BFA in Creative Writing

Goddard Philosophy and Values

In the words of President Mark Schulman, the Goddard community values an ethical commitment to inclusiveness, social responsibility and sustainability; student educational projects that are individual, experiential and participatory; a community that is rigorous, caring and accessible and an organizational ethos of dignity, collaboration and enthusiasm. It is no wonder that students continue to feel a strong connection with Goddard after they return from their residency, and after they graduate from the College. The Vermont and Washington state locations are beautiful. The simplicity of the settings helps to create the Goddard experience...a relationship between faculty, students and staff which enacts and sustains the spirit and ethos of the institution.

Growing Goddard

In recent years, Goddard has enjoyed annual growth in enrollment. Its low residency model with its unique pedagogy appeals to the well-qualified, highly motivated working adult student. All of this has helped the College to establish financial stability and substantial momentum for innovation and growth. The total enrollment (760 in 2009) is split: 40% undergraduate and 60% graduate programs.

Goddard has no long term debt. It is tuition driven with an endowment of less than \$1,000,000. The great majority of faculty members are employed half-time. Many teach elsewhere or practice what they teach. They share a commitment to Goddard's approach to education, teaching with passion in a personalized style that defines the Goddard experience.

Tuition, room and board are relatively low (\$6800 to \$8400 per semester depending on program of study) and institutional aid is limited, leading to a discount rate that is near zero.

In 2005 Goddard introduced its transformative brand of education to the West Coast. The new site at Port Townsend, WA is operating smoothly and growing. Goddard's success in Washington and Vermont means there is now a limited physical capacity for growth in the current pedagogical and program models. This poses a challenge and opportunity for the future. Planning has begun toward continuing and furthering Goddard in ways that are consistent with its distinguished history of progressive education as well as innovative and experimental approaches to post secondary learning.

An Agenda for Leadership

The Goddard community looks forward to supporting the efforts of a highly collaborative and visionary leader who will help the College move forward by:

1. Building on Goddard's national reputation for progressive education
2. Continuing to increase enrollments by supporting strategies aimed toward creating and sustaining unique and exemplary academic programs
3. Developing new resource streams working with individual, foundation and governmental partners
4. Ensuring financial sustainability
5. Promoting environmental sustainability for the campus and beyond
6. Providing leadership for developing strategic alliances with other institutions that value progressive education
7. Promoting diversity in all that Goddard does to exemplify Goddard's core principles of humane treatment, social justice and democracy
8. Nurturing and continuing to develop the governance structures as a model for democratic engagement as a part of the education process
9. Experimenting, in the Goddard tradition, with new models for the delivery of high quality education and with alternative higher education environments
10. Engaging all members of the Goddard community to develop (in the words of a Goddard staff member) "strategies and tactics to weave disparate strands into a container that holds the gems (the academic programs)"
11. Maintaining Goddard's integrity and dedication to living its mission
12. Fostering a sense of community that transcends geographic location and other forms of separation among members of the broad College community, inclusive of faculty, administration, students, staff, alumni and friends
13. Maintaining, promoting and appreciating the high level of academic work produced by faculty and students
14. Communicating and cooperating with surrounding communities and external Goddard constituencies in Vermont and in Washington
15. Demonstrating an abiding commitment to the College and to its daily functions as an academic and unique place for learning.

Desired Attributes of a New President

The next president of Goddard College should present a combination of professional and personal qualities that directly address his or her capacity to further the agenda for leadership presented in this profile. She/he will have a strong presence, a positive attitude and a personable demeanor that will facilitate the pursuit of Goddard's mission by board members, faculty, staff, students and friends of the College.

Strong academic credentials coupled with meaningful and identifiable appreciation of the principles of progressive education are highly attractive qualities. In addition, the successful candidate for Goddard's presidency will be:

1. A proven, collaborative, accessible leader who can encourage others to be collaborative with one another
2. A transparent leader of high integrity who values and practices facilitative leadership such that the leadership team works well with each other and with their constituencies
3. A visionary who, with the Goddard community, can help to sustain a clear view of Goddard's future, while translating the vision into fully funded projects
4. A strategic thinker with a measured and progressive entrepreneurial spirit who will seek a broad variety of options, educational models, programs and locations for Goddard
5. A builder of bridges between all who care deeply about Goddard's future
6. A realist who fully understands the economic challenges of the day and the importance of institutional stability
7. A person who can assess the role of and creative potential for the use of technology for Goddard programs and in the lives of students and alumni, and can work toward innovative uses to support the College's development
8. A leader who can successfully connect Goddard's strengths with the needs of society
9. A person with a planetary perspective and a vision of the role of higher education in meeting the needs of the world and its diverse populations
10. An outward looking educator/administrator with an innovative spirit
11. A leader who engages frequently in dialogue with all members of the Goddard community
12. A skilled communicator of ideas and decisions.

The Application Process

The Goddard College search committee will begin to review candidate materials in October and will make preliminary decisions about the candidate pool in late November. Although applications will be reviewed until the new president is selected, candidates should submit materials by early November for the most favorable consideration. The new president will begin work no later than July 1, 2010 in Plainfield, Vermont.

R. Thomas (Tom) Williamson of Academic Search, Inc. in Washington D.C. is assisting with this search. Nominators or prospective candidates may contact him at (tom.williamson@academic-search.com) or at (757-903-4462). Applications should include a letter of candidacy responding to the desired attributes for leadership, a complete resume or vita and the names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of five references (for future contact), all of which will be received in full confidence. **All application materials should be submitted electronically to (Goddard@academic-search.com).**

Goddard is an equal opportunity employer and supports diversity among its faculty and staff.