

Goddard College

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Goddard College Brings Education Program to Heart of Columbia City

Since 2003, Washington students have travelled to Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont to attain Education degrees and licensure. **This August, in a trailblazing move, Goddard established a Seattle campus, making its low residency BA & MA in Education accessible to local working adults.**

“Goddard has been invited by community elders to create an inner city campus at the heart of Columbia City,” the most culturally diverse zip code in America, says Goddard faculty member Theresa Lenear. This groundbreaking partnership arose between Goddard and thirteen Seattle groups, including Southside Commons and the Center for Linguistic and Cultural Democracy.

“This is a win-win for everyone!” declares Susan Fleming, Goddard’s Education and Licensure Program Director. “The program achieves two important goals: it allows Goddard students to immerse themselves in one of the most ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse regions in the nation. It also brings the low residency model directly to those who need it most, serving urban working adults who often can’t get easy access to higher education.”

The program comes at a critical time. Many longtime early childhood teachers lack degrees and licenses, which the federal government will require by 2013. “Goddard’s program allows us to keep our jobs,” says Maria Rico, who has taught for fourteen years at Seattle’s El Centro de la Raza and earned her Education BA from Goddard. “My degree helps me advocate more effectively for my students. People look to me now as a knowledgeable professional.”

“Goddard’s move to Columbia City shows our commitment to social change,” says Goddard faculty member Sharon Cronin. “Graduates will have a strong cross-cultural competency, helping them bridge the wide academic and linguistic gaps between ethnic groups.”

Deanna Adkins who teaches at the West Seattle Family Center and who will receive her Goddard MA Education degree in 2012 puts it simply: **“This program is giving working people a real opportunity to get a degree, to be empowered, and have a voice.”**

Goddard’s BA& MA in Education allows students to design their program of study, with focus in intercultural studies, dual language (Spanish-English), early childhood, cultural arts, community education, and school reform. For more information visit www.goddard.edu.