

Goddard College

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GODDARD COLLEGE LAUNCHES WGDH Extends Voice to Serve Wider Community

“You’re listening to 91.1 WGDR Plainfield *and* 91.7 WGDH Hardwick,” intoned an enthusiastic central Vermont DJ on Saturday, April 9, 2011. With that announcement, Goddard College’s nearly 40-year-old college-community radio station officially christened its new 80-foot tall, 1,000-watt transmission tower, while doubling its potential audience to 60,000 listeners.

The launch of WGDH is creating plenty of buzz, with the station’s powerful new signal now penetrating all of Lamoille County, and parts of Washington, Orleans and Caledonia counties in Vermont. New listeners as far away as Stowe are proclaiming allegiance to WGDH, which simulcasts the same thoughtful commentary, music and musings heard on sister station WGDR.

“Our stronger signal is just the beginning, and indicative of much bigger changes,” says Interim Station Director Kris Gruen. “What we’re seeing here is a real coming together of college and community through a non-commercial radio station.”

“College President Dr. Barbara Vacarr and the administration are committed to creating a bridge between Goddard and the local community,” adds WGDR/WGDH Operations Manager David Ferland. “The station is a vital part of that outreach, and listeners are really benefiting. Our 100 volunteer programmers are starting to work with Goddard students, helping them package their final projects as radio programs and podcasts, while our faculty are starting to see the station as a way to broadcast, web stream or archive their work.” A large, new studio recording facility adds to the station’s community-building capabilities. WGDR/WGDH is also forging dynamic new relationships with local nonprofit groups such as River Arts in Morrisville and the Center for an Agricultural Economy in Hardwick.

A dramatic example of the station’s reach comes from Charlotte Hunter, a Goddard student. She has appeared on the station’s Community Spotlight program, offering updates about Pocketful of Joy, her remarkable project to feed 2,000 Tanzanian children. “The station lets me get the word out to listeners, partners and donors. That helps feed those kids. It also links my Goddard studies to the world,” she says.

For more information, tune in to 91.1 or 91.7 FM or visit www.wgdr.org