

# Save Goddard College

(Updated 11.15.2024)

## **VISION STATEMENT:**

We are alums of Goddard College. We seek to restore the founding principles and build upon the legacy of Goddard College. Goddard is an idea and can be a reality for the future. We want to keep the Goddard philosophy and pedagogy alive. Goddard created a progressive model in higher education with respect for the individual where students were encouraged to think their own thoughts, act in accordance with their conscience, and develop their own potential to the fullest. (Benson & Adams, 1999). Goddard's model of progressive education developed by Tim Pitkin and influenced by John Dewey emphasized social responsibility with community and civic engagement, democracy, active learning, understanding and action, problem solving and critical thinking, and learning by doing with an emphasis on lifelong learning. We want to see the continuation of Goddard College in its role as a world leader in progressive higher education. We would like to partner with people who can help us revive Goddard College and its lasting impact on education. Our vision is to have Goddard College innovate and lead nationally and internationally in progressive, interdisciplinary higher education.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Save Goddard College is committed to saving Goddard College for the students of today and tomorrow. It is our goal for alums to continue to be connected as a community through meetings and communication. Considering the state of education in the United States and the world as it veers toward authoritarianism, Goddard alums and others feel that the need for the College's existence as an accredited institution is greater than ever and is something we are working actively to regain. We work to restore, sustain, and advance the graduate and undergraduate academic programs of the College, based on the founding principles of Goddard and its legacy of progressive, transformative, experiential, self-directed, creative, socially just, and deeply thoughtful exploration of the arts, sciences, community and civic engagement, with a global environmental sustainability focus. It is our goal to develop an individualized educational program that combines the liberal arts, preparation for careers, and individual development with an emphasis on active learning, critical thinking, and problem solving. Our mission is to provide an educational environment that is supportive and where learning occurs in the classroom, the community, and the world.

## **OUR VALUES**

- We are community oriented and believe in transparency and participatory democracy which includes students, faculty, staff, alums, and community.
- We want to provide the conditions of a close-knit community, along with informal, direct and informed relationships important in the educational process for growth, learning, and character development.

-We are dedicated to the following:

- restoring the founding principles and building upon the legacy of Goddard College
- keeping Goddard philosophy and pedagogy alive
- supporting the interchange of ideas and its role as an experimental college
- having a greater impact on education in the world
- a more livable, peaceful, humane, environmentally sustainable, and caring planet
- working with the town of Plainfield and local communities.

-We are committed to the following:

- creating relationships and engagement with the wider world.
- fiscal responsibility and sustainability of our programs
- community and civic engagement
- democratic transparent principles of governance in our organization and in our country
- ethical awareness, sensitivity to others, responsibility for one's actions, personal initiative, and leadership
- fairness, justice, and inclusion embracing all people irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, religion, age, disability, medical or other need.

We embrace the following:

- interdisciplinary study
- academic rigor
- individualized, experiential, creative, project-based learning
- Goddard as a community for learning
- a place for students and teachers to go out into the wider community for study and creative endeavor looking upon the world as our campus.

- We seek a diverse national and international student body.

-We are aware of our creative potential and the need for creative thought and action in every aspect of human life.

- We envision Goddard as a community for learning with community and civic engagement and a global campus.