September 2014

Dear Friend of the Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the 2014 Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic (CPDC) newsletter. Hopefully you will enjoy the newsletter as it brings back memories of your association with the program or introduces you to one of Bridgewater State University’s (BSU) outstanding academic programs.

In fall 2014, Bridgewater State University’s time-honored Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic will celebrate its 40th year. Since 1974, the underlying focus of the CPDC has been developing the ethics of BSU students by fostering professional development, service learning and leadership engagement. Through the years the clinic program has become a nationally recognized academic program and has grown to become the largest student organization on the BSU campus.

The CPDC program affords more than 100 students each semester, from all majors on campus, a challenging opportunity to volunteer with children and youth with disabilities, ages 18 months to 18 years. Students learn, through hands-on participation, to identify and analyze children’s deficiencies and how to come together as a team to ameliorate weaknesses – a truly valued experience. The children are exposed to a broad range of challenging physical and motor experiences in the clinic, contributing to their development of life skills and values, such as resilience, tenacity, confidence and character.

With the help of senior staff, student group leaders and invited guest lecturers from Boston area universities, teaching hospitals and human services agencies, new clinicians sense a community of support and an educational climate, which fosters both personal confidence and professional competence. Student clinicians learn early that the clinic program is one where communication, collaboration and adaptability are vital and nurtured values. Most importantly, students learn how their professional ambitions can be transformed through service to others.

Higher education today is gravitating toward service learning experiences at the university level. BSU provides such an experience through the Children’s Physical Developmental program, a time-tested professional development program for mentoring students in preparation of their
future, the crucial role of civil servant. Indeed, student clinicians view volunteering in the CPDC as a means of self-enrichment and professional preparation; moreover, they come to know the clinic program as a powerful tool for transforming oneself from a passive recipient of service to an active learner and provider of service.

The BSU clinic program has increased steadily in size and scope of service through the years. The value of the clinic experience today is well-known to the BSU campus community and trusted by parents, educational and medical professionals throughout New England. The following program objectives, established during spring 1974, remain key to the CPDC’s success today:

- To provide an educational climate, which mirrors real-life challenges and provides validation of student professional worthiness.
- To foster an atmosphere in which communication between students and faculty is encouraged and recognized as important.
- To assist students to be competitive professionals, yet instill in them an appreciation for developing both confident and collaborative relationships among those with whom they work.

These long-established objectives continue to be common threads helping to attract a student population heterogeneous in character, field of study and professional ambition. After all these years, the CPDC continues to serve the many interests of BSU students by providing a democratic, pragmatic, challenging and broadening educational experience.

The CPDC needs your support to continue this fine tradition. In these challenging financial times, any level of financial contribution to the program will be greatly appreciated. I hope you will offer a gift to the program this year, as your generosity will help to maintain the quality of services provided by the clinic program and continue one of BSU’s great opportunities to minister to children and students alike. The clinic program will surely be enhanced by your continued interest and loyalty.

In closing, know I treasure your generous nature, community spirit and fellowship. The Children’s Physical Developmental Clinic at Bridgewater State University is most fortunate to have you as a dear friend.

Most sincerely,

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