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## **Landmark College VP to Speak at KIPP Summit**

Putney, VT – July 22, 2009 - Landmark College Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, MacLean Gander, Ed.D., will present six sessions at the upcoming all-school summit of the KIPP Foundation Schools. The Kipp schools are considered one of the foremost charter school movements in the United States. According to *Newsweek's* Jon Alter, whenever Bill Gates “gets depressed about education, he says he visits one of the more than 60 KIPP schools nationwide, where the energy is palpable and the results irrefutable.” Landmark College’s engagement with KIPP represents a further extension of the College’s external mission, which has already encompassed several major Federal and State grants over the past decade, as well as ongoing partnerships with a number of schools and colleges.

The summit will take place in Orlando, Florida on August 3 – 7, 2009.

KIPP stands for the “Knowledge is Power Program.” The network of 66 KIPP schools focuses on providing a rigorous college preparatory education to students from under-resourced communities across the nation. Enrollment is open, and tuition is free. “KIPP’s results really stand out because it is not a selective system,” says Gander. “They achieve very strong outcomes with students, who don’t often have a chance in other systems, and they’re not just cherry-picking the best and the brightest in the communities they serve.”

Gander will present on a number of different topics at the KIPP summit in August, an event that brings together every teacher and administrator from each KIPP school. Two

workshops will focus on how to provide effective instruction within the mainstream classroom for students with learning differences, and on how special education specialists can best support mainstream classroom teachers in addressing the needs of students with learning disabilities and attention disorders. In addition, he will provide focused sessions on; college transition issues for special education students; the social and emotional dimensions of students with learning disabilities and attention disorders; recognizing and understanding learning differences as they appear in undiagnosed students; and how to work with students with Asperger's syndrome or autism spectrum disorders.

According to Gander, the strength of the KIPP system lies in its ability to attract energetic and dedicated young professionals into the field of education, much as an equally publicized teacher training program, "Teach For America," has done. "It's no accident that the focus of foundation support and Federal attention these days is on models like KIPP and Teach For America that promote teacher effectiveness," says Gander. "In education, everything comes down to the quality and commitment of the teacher in the classroom."

At the same time, the challenge of teacher training when it comes to the needs of students with learning or attention disorders can be significant. "So much of the training emphasis has to be on basic classroom management and executing the mainstream curriculum," says Gander. "My sense is that a lot of these cutting-edge programs still find that they need additional support in order to address the needs of kids with learning differences, and that's really where Landmark's specialized expertise comes into play."

Landmark College, located in Putney, VT, offers the most comprehensive academic program in the country for high potential students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders.