

Landmark gets \$1M grant for training

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PUTNEY — Landmark College has been awarded about \$1 million dollars in federal grant money that administrators say will help them share the college's unique teaching strategy with community colleges around the country.

The U.S. Department of Education gave Landmark College, which specializes in educating students with learning disabilities, a three-year grant of \$1,029,096. The money is intended to help the college develop partnerships with five community college systems.

Under these partnerships, Landmark will help assess the ability of these college systems to handle students with learning disabilities and train instructors to teach them more effectively.

Executive Vice President Brent Betit said the money couldn't come at a better time. According to a study by the American Council on Education, the amount of college freshmen with learning disabilities has more than doubled in the past decade.

Because of its low student to faculty ratio, Landmark cannot accommodate more than 500 students on its campus, he said. Still, the college's mission statement includes an outreach and dissemination component.

"This money will help us share what we know with the greater educational community," Betit said.

Landmark has one of the highest tuition rates in the country, but Betit said this grant will help make its teaching methods more accessible.

Community College of Vermont was one of the schools selected as a partner in the grant program.

Provost Joyce Judy said she was excited to work with Landmark College.

"They have a tremendous amount of experience," she said. "This will provide an opportunity to share their teaching methods."

Judy said the education of students with learning disabilities is a "new and evolving area."

"The more we can share and learn about their methods, the better off we'll be."

Landmark College was one of the first accredited schools in the country to specialize in teaching students with learning disabilities.

Since its inception, other universities have begun offering similar programs. Still, Landmark was chosen for this grant from a competitive field.

"This is a real validation from the Department of Education that we are still a leader in the field," Betit said.

Still, he said, the college is most interested in sharing their expertise.

"What excites us most is that this is a chance to touch far more students and to have a wider impact," said Betit. "That's why we're in the business."

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