

New Things Happening at CGPS!

Doug Southard, PhD, MPH, PA-C, who has been guiding the CGPS Physician Assistant program since 2012, took on the responsibilities of Dean of the College of Graduate & Professional Studies on July 1, 2013. Dr. Southard is excited about his new role and how he can help Franklin Pierce in its mission. "The most important outcome of our work," says Dr. Southard, "is to help students enhance their knowledge and skills in ways that make a difference."

In reflecting on the educational offerings of CGPS, his vision is to create learning opportunities that recognize:

- the globalization of the human community and its consequent opportunities for advancement, as well as its increased competition for jobs and resources,
- that collaboration and teamwork are key to success in a competitive world,
- the diversity of perspectives is highly valued, but there must also be a search for common ground,
- that there must be a focus on solving problems, not merely making the symptoms go away.

"I look forward to working with Dean Kerry McKeever and others to find ways to further integrate the activities of CGPS

and the College at Rindge," says Dr. Southard. "One example of this is the further development of pre-professional programs in the health sciences. In addition, there is opportunity to offer professional programs in creative ways to meet a market need, such as our recent success in offering the RN-BSN program onsite to practicing nurses at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. This is a program we have the expertise to provide and the creativity to offer in a way that meets the needs of both the learner and the employer."

Coincident with Dr. Southard taking on his new role as Dean was the move to newly configured space in the historic Jefferson Mill building in Manchester to better accommodate the needs of the CGPS programs. The new space has been strategically designed for CGPS and is customized with state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for the Doctor of Physical Therapy students, as well as new classroom, office, and study space. The flexibility of break-out space in the new facility allows for greater engagement of the community because forums and seminars can now be hosted there. The new Manchester facility has also become the new home to classes and offices previously held in Concord. Several institutions of higher education are clustered near the new Franklin Pierce at Manchester center, where opportunities for recreation and socialization as part of a higher education community can now be enjoyed. 

