

January 27, 2013

### **SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE PLANS CHALLENGE THEME PROGRAM JULY 7-19**

LATROBE, PA -- Saint Vincent College summer Challenge program for middle and high school students will be extended for two weeks this year based on the popularity of the program last summer. The college will be transformed into two epic themes, The District and Pirate Adventure that lovers of popular fictional series will find incorporated in classes, activities, housing and extracurricular events during the weeks of July 7 to 12, and July 14 to 19.

"In this exciting educational residence program, students will be able to attend courses connected to math, science, literature and the arts around themes found in the popular literature series," commented Ms. Kathleen Beining, Challenge program director and instructor of education. "Students can select courses that offer content-deepening experiences in computer graphics, video effects, physics, environmental phenomena, cooking, journalism and other high-interests topics. In addition to courses, students will be able to participate in survival type games, monster chess, archery, fencing, ballroom dancing and other themed activities. After several requests from students, we agreed to offer a themed Challenge program that will reach out to young people who enjoy the arts and science of that found in current young adult literature," she continued.

The program is an all-inclusive week of meals, courses, activities and events for students entering grades 5 through 12. There is an opportunity to stay through the weekend between program experiences.

Saint Vincent College education students will serve as counselors and work with the students attending the camp. "The program has become so popular that students are volunteering to assist in any way they can" commented Mrs. Beining. All counselors participating in the program will be involved in planning the events and activities while certified teachers will be responsible for instructing the courses. All teachers have advanced degrees or knowledge of the content.

Parents of former Challenge students have reported that the program "is a fantastic way to incorporate reading into summer fun." Many returning Challenge students have already registered for both weeks this summer.

Summer 2012 program piloted an elementary Challenge Day Camp. It was very successful and will be offered again this year for two weeks. The day camp is for children entering 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2013. This day offering runs Tuesday through Thursday, each week. The week of July 9 to 11, The Wizard College theme so popular last summer will be revisited, and the week of July 16 to 18 is Pirate Adventure.

"Surprisingly, this theme-based approach to Challenge has really broadened our outreach to young people seeking Saint Vincent. I am hopeful that offering this program will help young people have an opportunity to learn and build new relationships and foster positive experiences that they will remember for a lifetime," commented Dr. Veronica Ent, chair and professor of education at Saint Vincent.

Both Programs can be viewed on the website. Registrations for the Challenge Program at Saint Vincent are now being accepted. Early registration is advised since space is limited. More information is available at [www.svcchallenge.org](http://www.svcchallenge.org) or [education@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:education@email.stvincent.edu)

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