



Colby·Sawyer
College

THE INVESTITURE OF
DEAN G. MCCURDY, PH.D.
10th President of Colby-Sawyer College
October 16, 2025

THE PRESIDENT: **DEAN G. MCCURDY, PH.D.**

Dean McCurdy joined Colby-Sawyer as the college's 10th president, professor of arts and sciences and Volanakis Family Presidential Chair in June 2025.

Throughout his career, President McCurdy has been an effective and innovative leader at small private liberal arts colleges and comprehensive community colleges. Most recently, he served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Ivy Tech Community College, a 19-campus system in Indiana that has more than 200,000 students. Prior to that, he was chancellor of the system's Kokomo campus.

In his roles in Indiana, he spurred record enrollment and boosted student achievement through experiential education and workforce development. He also led a successful campus comprehensive campaign, oversaw the largest college program for high school students in the country, managed a campus redesign and established employer-based tuition assistance programs for adult learners.

At Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Michigan, he was associate vice president for instruction. There, he founded the Bronson Healthy Living Campus — a partnership between

the college and healthcare providers — that catalyzed community health through sustainable food education, preparation and distribution.

As the A. Merton Chickering Professor of Biology and an award-winning teacher and researcher at Albion College in Michigan, he chaired the biology department, directed the honors program and oversaw student research projects.

Early in his career, at Bowdoin College, he was a visiting professor and field manager of the Coastal Studies Center.

As an ecologist, he has published extensively on fish, crustaceans, shorebirds, parasites and turtles living in coastal and inland environments in Maine, Nova Scotia and Suriname, South America.

President McCurdy, who grew up in New Brunswick, Canada, holds a bachelor's degree with honors in biology from Acadia University and a doctoral degree in biology from Carleton University.

He is married to Vivien McCurdy, and they have two sons, Ian and Ryan.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL	Eryk Bean – Bagpiper
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Willie Bacote – Campus Safety Officer
WELCOME	Shari Goldberg – Professor, School of Nursing & Health Sciences, College Co-Marshal
GREETINGS AND REMARKS	
on behalf of the trustees.....	Lisa M. Hogarty '81 – Chair, Board of Trustees
on behalf of the alumni.....	Susan Glasheen Reeves '88 – Chief Nursing Executive, Dartmouth Health
on behalf of the faculty.....	Jon P. Keenan – Sonja C. Davidow '56 Endowed Chair of Fine Arts, College Co-Marshal
on behalf of the staff.....	Nancy Staszkiwicz – Mailroom Coordinator
on behalf of the community.....	Bebe Casey – Chair, New London Board of Selectmen
on behalf of the students.....	Abdalla Faiad – President, Student Government Association
on behalf of his family.....	Derek McCurdy – Chief Information Officer, Nova Scotia Community College, and twin of Dean
INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDENT	Lisa M. Hogarty '81
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS	Dean G. McCurdy, Ph.D. – President, Professor of Arts and Sciences and Volanakis Family Presidential Chair
RECESSIONAL	Eryk Bean

College Presidents

Dr. Dean G. McCurdy (2025-present)
Dr. Susan D. Stuebner (2016-24)
Thomas C. Galligan Jr., J.D., (2006-16)
Dr. Anne Ponder (1996-2005)
Dr. Peggy A. Stock (1986-95)
Dr. H. Nicholas Muller III (1978-85)
Dr. Louis C. Vaccaro (1972-77)
Dr. Everett M. Woodman (1962-72)
Dr. Eugene M. Austin (1955-62)
Dr. H. Leslie Sawyer (1928-55)

Board of Trustees

Lisa M. Hogarty '81, Chair
Deborah L. Coffin '76, Co-Vice Chair
Barbara-Jan Wilson, Co-Vice Chair
Jourdain K. P. Bell '19
Leslie Blair '83
Collin D. Bray '06
Wendy G. Carey
Aimee M. Claiborne
Thomas C. Csatari
Sara Hammond '01
Ann Carroll Harris
Roosevelt Harris-Williams '23, '24 MBA
Amy Hedison
Susan MacMichael John '68
Bruce P. King
Robin Mead '72
William H. Mitchell
Margaret V. Mulley
Ann Woodd-Cahusac Neary '74
Susan D. Pomerantz '70
Sally Shaw Veitch '66
Stephen F. Wright

Honorary Life Trustees

Anne Winton Black '73, '75
Thomas C. Csatari
William H. Dunlap P '98
Peter F. Volanakis

Academic Regalia

The tradition of wearing academic gowns, mortarboard caps, tassels and hoods originated in Europe during the Middle Ages and has been an integral feature of American academic tradition since the end of the 19th century.

For each of the degree levels, the gown sleeves indicate the degree held by the wearer. The bachelor's gown is a yoke, closed-front garment with long, pointed sleeves. The master's can be worn open or closed and has long sleeves, usually closed but slit above the elbow. The doctoral gown has full, bell-shaped sleeves and is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet bars on each sleeve. The colors of the panels and bars vary to indicate the academic discipline in which the doctoral degree was earned. The length and shape of the hood also indicate the highest degree earned by the wearer. The color of the velvet border on any hood indicates the wearer's field of study.

Symbol of Office

The ceremonial collar is emblematic of the presidential office. Its central portion is a silver pendant that displays the Colby-Sawyer College seal. On the obverse, in cut diamonds, the initials S.F.C. signify Susan Farnum Colby, who served as the first teacher and principal of Colby Academy, the institution that formed the foundation upon which the present college is built. The college seal is enriched by a laurel wreath and surmounted by the star from the state seal, signifying the authority granted to the college by the state of New Hampshire. Symbolic of the bond that joins Colby Academy to Colby-Sawyer College is the Colgate family coat of arms in the central portion of the insignia.

Both Susan Farnum Colby Colgate and her daughter, Mary Colgate, offered material assistance during the crucial early days of the institution. It is fitting that one of the medallions bound to the coat of arms by silver links is emblazoned with an engraving of Colby Academy and the other with an engraving of Colgate Hall. Susan Colby taught in the Academy Building, which was erected in 1837. Colby-Sawyer students still study in Colgate Hall, one of the gifts from Mary Colgate.

Our Mission

To offer undergraduate and graduate educational programs based in the liberal arts and health, social and natural sciences, with a focus on vocational exploration and experiential learning, which prepare students to thrive in, and make a positive impact upon, a dynamic, diverse and interdependent world. Engaged robust partnerships will support students' academic, intellectual, personal and professional growth, align with workforce development needs, and enhance individual and community well-being and resilience.

History of the College

In 1837, 11 New London residents applied for, and were granted, a legislative charter to establish a school, and the history of Colby-Sawyer began. With the support of the town, these residents constructed a building to house the New London Academy. The college continued to own the Academy Building until 1999, when it gifted the historical site to the town. Today, the building houses the New London town offices.

In May 1838, the Academy, a coeducational secondary school, welcomed its first students — 26 girls and a 10-year-old boy. Susan Farnham Colby, the daughter of one of the Academy's founders, served as its first teacher and principal. Colby married James B. Colgate of New York, and each generation of her family has remained connected to the college. Her daughter, Mary Colgate, gifted Colgate Hall, the central administration building on campus, to the school. The institution formally recognized the special relationship with the Colby family in 1878, when the New London Academy was renamed Colby Academy.

In 1928, after 90 years as a coeducational academy, Colby Academy became a junior college for women. Under the leadership of President H. Leslie Sawyer (1922-55), Colby Junior College became widely recognized and earned a national reputation. Enrollment grew, and the college constructed new buildings to meet the growing number of applicants to its programs.

In 1943, the college amended its charter to allow for the introduction of baccalaureate programs. The make-up of the student body shifted as women enrolled in those programs in increasing numbers. In 1975, the college changed its name to Colby-Sawyer in honor of its first president and in recognition of its enlarged mission. In 1989, the college returned to its coeducational roots and began to enroll men.

In 2016, the college launched its first graduate program, a Master of Science in Nursing. In 2019, Colby-Sawyer and Dartmouth Health launched a five-year project to expand the School of Nursing & Health Sciences, and the college expanded its professional program offerings to address workforce shortages in healthcare.

Currently, the college offers traditional undergraduate programs; online professional programs in nursing and health sciences; an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing; master's level programs in nursing, business, exercise science and social work; and a Doctor of Nursing Practice.



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