

Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar

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Press Release

Skidmore Men's Ice Hockey Team Tutoring Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar Students

For Immediate Release

Saratoga Springs, NY – Members of the Skidmore Men's Ice Hockey team are passing on knowledge as well as passing the puck. Five members of the team have signed on to tutor scholars in the Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar Program (SSAS) in Math, Science, Social Studies and English. The tutoring sessions take place at the Saratoga Springs High School two days a week after school. “ We at the High School are appreciative of the time and effort these student athletes are giving to our scholars, “ said Kathy Kennedy, Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar's Academic Coordinator , who oversees the SSAS program at the high school. “These college students are positive role models and can easily relate to their younger high school counterparts, offering a unique perspective to the tutoring relationship.”

Skidmore Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach Neil Sinclair said his players had been looking for more community service work last fall. His team has volunteered their time in the past at Maple Avenue Middle School with the Team of Two Program. The student athletes also work with the Saratoga Springs community youth hockey teams. “Tutoring for Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar will a beneficial way for them to be involved in the community,” said Sinclair, who worked with SSAS's Kennedy to set up the tutoring sessions. “It reminds them of what it was like to be in high school, what it was like to find their studies frustrating and seek help. It also helps them focus on their own academic goals.” The five players – freshman Andrew Ross, sophomore Kyle Montour, junior Matt Czerkowicz, junior Chris Webb and senior Ted Gowan – are a diverse group, Sinclair added, whose fields of studies range from Pre-med to International Affairs.

The 10 sophomores are the first group of Saratoga High School students enrolled in the Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar Program. In addition to a weekly afterschool homework sessions staffed by high school teachers,

the students receive additional tutoring when needed. Several students received tutoring last fall from community members Mary Quandt and Jim Oplinger.

The SSAS program has an ongoing relationship with Skidmore College. The young scholars were given a special tour of the Skidmore campus last fall and will participate in a series of other activities during their high school years.

Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar is a federally- recognized, not-for-profit human service agency established to assist economically disadvantaged young men and women at Saratoga Springs High School to graduate from high school and attend college. The program provides tutoring and academic support, college preparation activities, mentoring and financial support during college. The next group of 10 scholars will be chosen by the end of this year and enrolled as sophomores in the fall of 2009. The rigorous application process includes guidance counselor and teacher recommendations, and interviews with the scholars and their families. For more information about Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar, call Jim LaVigne, acting Executive Director, at 518-587-2472, visit www.saratogasponsorascholar.org or email saratogasponsorascholar@yahoo.com

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