

 NEWS AND EVENTS 2009-10 STORY

## College Launches New Music Outreach Program in Carlisle Area

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Music students throughout Carlisle Area School District will benefit from a new outreach initiative offered by the Dickinson College Music Department faculty.

The collaboration will begin on Friday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m., at the district's facilities building at 623 W. Penn Street, Carlisle, when the first group of K-12 students will hear and interact with the Dickinson faculty wind quintet, with faculty pianist Eun Ae Baik-Kim.

Subsequent outreach programs will bring public school students together with Dickinson faculty, qualified students and guest artists.

"Through this exciting initiative, the college hopes to expand the musical experience of music students in the Carlisle area public schools," said Dickinson music professor Blake Wilson, who chaired the music department at the time the program was designed. "We will offer performances, clinics, talks on various musical topics and other music activities, thereby making our resources available to the school district's music programs directed by David Rohrer and his music faculty."

Rohrer said he and his colleagues look forward to the musical partnership with Dickinson.

"We are excited about this outreach opportunity for our music students," Rohrer said. "These musical programs will provide an excellent educational experience for students."

Dickinson music professor Blanka Bednarz called the outreach initiative a "community service of great value" and a collaboration that positively affects all involved.

"As a former member of a professional string quartet that actively served as part of the national Young Audiences program I had an opportunity to experience first-hand how valuable outreach programs such as we are launching are for children of all ages," said Bednarz, who teaches violin, viola and chamber music. "We cannot wait to work with Carlisle students, to teach them something wonderful about the art form we love and to learn from their enthusiasm and curiosity."

Wilson credited Dickinson alumna Mary Stuart Smith, who graduated in 1969, for donating the funds needed for the initiative.

"We are extremely grateful," Wilson said. "This music outreach program is fulfilling Mary's philanthropic goal of enhancing Dickinson's value to the greater Carlisle community."