

RIVIER-PLUS COMPANY PARTNERSHIP HONORS LIFELONG LEARNING

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2018)

A partnership between the University and the PLUS Company, a local organization that supports people with developmental disabilities, encourages lifelong learning for all. **Leni Hodgins '73**, PLUS Company Adult Education Director, worked with the University to develop the Campus-based Enrichment Program. This program provides students with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience life on a college campus.

The enrichment program prepares PLUS Company students to be more independent, develop confidence, work on social skills, and broaden their horizons. Current Rivier students volunteer as teachers and mentors to PLUS Company students. They design the courses and host the group while they are on campus.

“Participants have enrolled in classes ranging from the History of Rock and Roll to Astrology. Their self-confidence blossoms as they learn new things. They proudly wear their Rivier sweatshirts and t-shirts, and eat lunch in the Dining Center with the other students,” says Leni. Rivier students involved in the program gain a better understanding of people with disabilities, develop patience, learn to appreciate different learning styles, and recognize the importance of giving back. This unique partnership is a win for everyone.” ■