

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Mater Dei College Receives Grant for Science Labs**

Ogdensburg, NY -- An upgrade of its science labs is now in store for Mater Dei College, thanks to a grant from a local foundation.

The Sweetgrass Foundation has awarded Mater Dei \$153,969 to upgrade laboratory and field equipment used to teach the natural sciences.

The Hammond-based foundation focuses on St. Lawrence County and the St. Lawrence River valley and supports projects with environmental, cultural, educational or social significance.

The new equipment will help Mater Dei as it pursues plans to offer an Environmental Technology program. Mater Dei has applied to the New York State Education Department for permission to offer a two-year degree in that field.

The grant will be disbursed to the college over the next year. Money from the grant will be used initially to equip a science lab at the college's Massena extension. As more of the money comes in, it will be used to upgrade existing labs at Mater Dei's Main Campus in Ogdensburg.