

efforts to honor the 200,000 men and women who work in our Federal and State correctional institutions. Too often, American citizens overlook the importance of these men and women who must work with society's most hardened and dangerous criminals under difficult circumstances.

Today, I want them to know how much I admire and appreciate them for their willingness to face danger daily as they work to enforce our Nation's laws and ensure the safety of all American citizens. At this time, I also offer my condolences to the families and friends of the 11 correctional officers who died in the line of duty last year. I am deeply appreciative of their sacrifices and am sorry for their loss.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S HISTORIC VISIT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, as President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of China on Taiwan made his historic visit to the United States last month, I would like to congratulate him on his leadership and vision for Taiwan. President Chen became the second democratically-elected President in Chinese history little over one year ago, and his election was certainly a milestone in Taiwan's continued adherence to democracy and freedom.

I believe that President Chen's historic visit deserves the notice and respect of the U.S. Senate. Congress has long supported democratic development around the world, and Taiwan is no exception. Taiwan today is a notable model of rapid and successful democratic reform, as well as an important trading partner of the United States, having maintained amicable ties with our Nation for decades. What may also not be known is that Taiwan imports over 1.6 times as many goods from the United States as does the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a vital economic partner for the United States.

Taiwan's economy offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia, including universal education, excellent medical care, and a well-developed social welfare policy. Moreover, Taiwan's Constitution is exemplary, guaranteeing full political freedoms and basic human rights to all citizens. As Taiwan continues its democratic development, President Chen and the people of Taiwan deserve our most sincere praise for their exemplary adherence to individual liberty and freedom.

In the future, Taiwan's continued achievements and development will reinforce its regional position and strengthen the good relationship between our two countries.

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. I rise today to talk about a unique education program nestled in the hills of Burlington, VT. Champlain College is one of the many higher education institutions in my home State and it has distinguished itself as a leader in career-oriented education. Under the leadership of President Roger Perry, Champlain College provides its students with innovative distance learning and workforce development programs to build the skills of Vermonters. While I have long known of the quality offerings of Champlain College, I was very pleased to see a story in the Los Angeles Times recently about one program in particular that serves single parents on welfare who want to earn a college degree.

With the recent reform by the Federal Government of our Nation's welfare system, many individuals are seeking training that can lead to better jobs and ultimately to increased wages. In response to this growing need, an 11-year-old program at Champlain College aimed at moving single parents off welfare is receiving attention nationwide. The impressive statistics from this public-private partnership clearly indicate its success—less than 10 percent of those participating in the program drop out; most in the program earn a 2-year associate degree; and, many even go on to receive a 4-year bachelor's degree. According to President Roger Perry, more than 90 percent of the single parents who graduate from this program have not returned to the welfare program. This program is helping single parents break the welfare cycle and show their children the importance of getting a college degree as a step toward supporting themselves and their family. Its success also reinforces Champlain College's role in Vermont as a leader in career-oriented education. I commend President Roger Perry, the faculty and staff, and especially the students for continuing to make Champlain College a model for quality higher education.

I ask unanimous consent that the following article from the May 13, 2001 issue of the Los Angeles Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 13, 2001]

(By Elizabeth Mehren)

VT. COLLEGE SINGLES OUT PARENTS EDUCATION: UNIQUE CURRICULUM THAT HELPS WELFARE MOTHERS GET JOB TRAINING HAS BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL

BURLINGTON, Vt.—What galls Dulcie Christian is when her Champlain College classmates say they didn't get their papers done because they were out drinking all night.

"I think, well, I was up all night with two sick kids and I did get mine done," Christian said. "Plus, I did the laundry."

As a participant in an unusual state-supported college program geared to move single parents off welfare, Christian, 33, is well aware of how her life diverges from the conventional undergraduate path. There's no room for wild parties. And instead of spring breaks in Jamaica, Christian uses time off to double up on hours working at the local Social Security office. Her old Subaru just better hold itself together, because there's no deep-pockets daddy to bail her out. More than once, in a pinch, Christian has brought Justin, 9, or Shelby, 5, to class with her.

FEWER THAN 10% DROP OUT

For Christian and the 60 or so other single parents enrolled at Champlain this semester, the challenges are immense. And yet, said program director Carol Moran-Brown, "The retention rate for these single parents is higher than the school average. You wouldn't believe the motivation."

With federal welfare reform providing an impetus for recipients to train for better jobs, the 11-year-old program at this private college has emerged as a national model.

Typically, college officials say, fewer than 10% of these students drop out; most in the program earn a two-year associate of arts degree and many go on for a four-year bachelor's degree. More than 90% of the single-parent graduates have not returned to welfare rolls, said Champlain College President Roger H. Perry.

Those are strong indicators, Perry said, that the program is achieving its goal of helping to shatter the cycle of single parents living off government assistance.

State money pays the salaries of Champlain's two full-time social workers devoted to single-parent students—almost always women, through the occasional single dad enrolls. State subsidies also fund the day care that enables these parents to take classes at the 1,400-student campus. The program is labor intensive, with workshops and weekly social hours at which single parents trade everything from outgrown snowsuits to names of kid-friendly professors.

For a group often made up of first-generation college students, social workers focus on time and stress management, as well as study skills. The students and social workers often meet daily, discussing what's going on academically—and also addressing such outside issues as abusive boyfriends, nasty landlords and sick babies. Budgets are a big topic, as many single parents struggle to get by on welfare payments while attending the four-year college. When it all becomes too much, "that's when I show up at their door, saying, 'I'm concerned about you, what's going on? Can I lend a hand?'" social worker Felicia Messuri said.

Champlain is a career-oriented school where most students easily step into jobs upon graduation. But Moran-Brown said the 97% job placement rate in the single-parent program stands out. A state study is underway to determine how well the single-parent graduates do over time—and how their experience compares to single parents who do not finish college.

Last year, Champlain received \$96,000 in state money to run the program. An experimental seven-year federal waiver allowing Vermont to use special support funds for the single-parent college program expires in June. Eager to continue the program, the state Legislature passed a measure allowing the state's social welfare agency—Prevention, Assistance, Training and Health Access—to allocate discretionary funds for single parents in college.

At Champlain, single-parent students pay full \$10,000-a-year tuition. But they are eligible for grants and loans. Under state rules,