SUNY Potsdam, in conjunction with the St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, is pleased to offer the Family Development Training and Credentialing Program (FDC) “Empowerment Skills for Family Workers” beginning September 11, 2012 at SUNY Potsdam, Van Housen Extension Link Conference Room. This program focuses on the strengths of individuals and families and how to encourage and involve them in the decisions and processes that affect their future. Using a holistic approach, FDC strives through collaborations between service providers, to address the multi-faceted issues facing families today.

Ninety hours (90) of interactive classroom study covers ten core competencies in the curriculum with an additional ten (10) hours of field advisement and portfolio development. This training is open to individuals working in health, education, and human services fields. The empowerment model teaches family workers how to develop and maintain their level of professionalism while continuing to learn new approaches to working with families. For those seeking continuing education units or training towards recertification required for CASEC, this class meets some of the required criteria.

Portfolio development enables family workers to demonstrate their understanding of the lessons learned in class through applications at their worksites and documentation in the form of a portfolio. With regular attendance, a satisfactory portfolio and passing the credentialing examination, participants will earn their Family Development Credential.

FDC meets weekly from 4-7:30pm beginning Tuesday, September 11, 2012 through Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Participants who successfully complete this class and pass the credentialing examination can earn up to seven (7) college credits through various accredited institutions as well as 9.5 CEU’s (at an additional cost).

The fee of $625.00 covers the cost of enrollment as well as the student manual “Empowerment Skills for Family Workers: The Comprehensive Curriculum of the New York State Family Development Credential.” There is an additional fee of $250.00 to sit for the Family Credential Exam. Class size is limited to 12 participants. For more information regarding FDC, please contact Nancy Hess at 315-267-2168 or Daisy Cox at 315-265-3920.