



## MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

### **President's Report**

October 17, 2023

#### **Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Leanna Liuzzi, Academic Advisor/Foundations Scholarships Coordinator, awarded remaining scholarship funds, the Promise Fund Scholarship, and coordinated with the School of Music in order to award the remaining fall music scholarships (1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5).

Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/ VA Certifying Official attended the September Office Hours webinar regarding general updates to VA Educational Benefits (1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5).

Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement and Retention, Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, and Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, attended the Transfer Fair planning meeting on September 11. The Transfer Fair will be on October 17 (1.3, 1.5 2.3).

The College in the High School team is now using an Information Hub to serve as a one stop shop for all things related to the program. The purpose of the hub is to support the pipeline to higher education access and to reduce or eliminate barriers to enrollment. Included in the Hub are online accessible forms which allow for students and families to register for CHS courses online, provide easy access to links for services, and share information about scholarships and access to tuition assistance for students who are part of the free and reduced lunch program at their schools (1.3).

Leanna Liuzzi and Amy Student, Academic Advisors, presented on Advising and Registration to Kim Otis's First Year Seminar class on September 7 and Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/ VA Certifying Official, and Amy Student, Academic Advisor, presented on those topics to Matt Farron's First Year Seminar class on September 19 (1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3).

Laura Sprague, Director of Admission, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, and Jessica McHugh-Green, Graphics Designer III, collaborated to update the website to include information for the 24-Credit Hour program (1.4, 1.5, 3.5).

On September 14, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco, Human Resources Recruitment Specialist and Chief Diversity Officer attended a Human Resources Certification Institute webinar entitled "Supporting Neurodiverse Talent at Work: An Empathy Based Approach."

Catia Laird de Polanco is working with Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, to improve the College application process for prospective students currently experiencing housing insecurity and to remove any perceived or real barriers that unhoused individuals experience in navigating our application process.

This September, Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of MSTH and Dr. Lorena Harris, CSTEP Director collaborated with the national CSTEP organization to create the position of CSTEP Student Coordinator to assist current CSTEP students with transfer and career opportunities, community and alumni outreach, and to increase media exposure for the MSTH division. They consulted with Catia Laird de Polanco, Human Resources Recruitment Specialist and Chief Diversity Officer and the job posting is currently under review (1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.5, 3.1, 4.5).

On September 11, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco, provided Mark Bessette and Steve Fragale with feedback through a DEI lens on a forthcoming proposed revision to Policy 6.11 Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP).

On September 11, Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music and adjunct faculty member Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz presented the Zoellner Quartet Project featuring the Honorable Alexandra Foley reading excerpts from her book about her great-grandfather and grandfather and their experiences trailblazing a string quartet featuring a female first violinist, and performing indigenous Polynesian and Native American melodies at the turn of the 20th century. There was a 12:00pm preview concert and a full concert at 7:30pm (Gen P1).

On September 14, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco attended a Human Resources Certification Institute webinar entitled “Supporting Neurodiverse Talent at Work: An Empathy Based Approach.”

On September 14, 2023, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services attended the SUNY OER Campus Leads online meeting. Items discussed include reporting courses that use Open Educational Resources (OER) courses so students can see how much a class will really cost, SUNY OER Impact Grants and the future of those, the OLI Learning Engineering Fellowship, SUNY Create and the cost-sharing for SUNY Create and the SUNY OER 2023 Summit being held in October (Gen P1).

David Wolf, the Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning continues his ongoing participation in a cross-institutional collaboration on DEI and online course design. He just released a brief training reviewing the third criterion of the second guideline of the Principle of Engagement in the Theory of Universal Design for Learning (1.1, 1.3, 1.4).

AVPSA Fragale submitted the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act to ensure equal resources are being allocated to men’s and women’s athletic teams. This report is due to the Department of Education annually by November 1.

On September 22, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco delivered a Racial Trauma Awareness Micro-Training to members of the Academic Senate. The training addressed racial trauma, its causes and impacts, and support resources available to students and employees that might be experiencing racial trauma.

On September 28, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco attended a webinar entitled “Listening Session and Know Your Rights for Transgender Workers” that was co-hosted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Civil Rights Department.

On September 28, 2023, Paula Ohlhaus, Executive Director for Human Resources attended a Human Resources Certification webinar entitled ‘Navigating Mental Health FMLA and ADA Claims: Legal Principles Relevant to Mental Health in the Workplace.’

SCCOC Staff met with the SUNY Schenectady Workforce Development & Community Education staff to formulate a collaboration for their Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) training program. SCCOC will provide intake, wrap-around services and placement support to all of the CCMA cohorts.

Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, and Ms. Christine Goss, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC, met with staff from SEAT Center to discuss referrals pathways for their students and SCCOC’s participants. SCCOC has agreed to be SEAT Center’s primary hub for GED testing.

Christine Goss attended Hamilton Elementary School’s Rock the Block event to engage with their school families to provide information and access to the Center’s services.

Jaimee King attended Mont Pleasant Middle School’s Back to School Night to engage with their school families to provide information and access to the Center’s services.

### **Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience**

Early College staff and student volunteers participated in the SUNY Schenectady New Student Orientation, assisted during Welcome Week activities, and volunteered to greet students at the Welcome tent in the quad. This helped engage our Early College population in with the general college population and promoted a college going culture, a critical component of the program. Additionally, the City as Our Campus Freshman Orientation welcomed new, incoming students to the Center City cohort on September 5 (2.4).

Assistant Director of Career Services, Dawn DeLeury Jones, completed hiring for the 2023-2024 Federal Work Study Program allowing for meaningful student employment experiences and grant funded support to multiple offices. COVID had a significant impact on the Federal Work Study program and colleges across the nation. As a result of Career Services excellent planning and continued messaging to students about the opportunities through this program, the team was able to achieve a full allocation for the program’s funding since January 2020. There are currently 20 students working under federal work study for the 2023-2024 academic year. Use of funds will be reviewed in December 2023 and any unused funds will be reallocated at that time Gen. P2; Gen. P 4).

Assistant Director of Career Services, Dawn DeLeury Jones, completed five MBTI Sessions for approximately 125 students and four Career Services information sessions for students in multiple First Year Seminar and other courses.

Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of TRIO, presented in classrooms about TRIO and the benefits of the program, encouraging students to enroll in TRIO (2.1)

TRIO has launched its workshop series, a collection of weekly workshops aimed at skill building, academic preparation, and future planning. Offered both in-person and online, the sessions take place on Thursdays, with topics including Textbook Reading Tips and Tricks, Note-Taking, and Campus Resources and Supports (2.1).

Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, and Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of TRIO, sent out progress surveys through our early alert system, Starfish. The progress surveys, encourage faculty to send out flags, kudos and referrals early on to students during the semester to help them succeed. All flags, kudos and referrals are seen by the Student Success Office or by Success Coaches within special cohorts (EOP, ECH, TRIO). These offices then outreach to students to ensure that a plan and/or steps are in place to help them succeed (2.3).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services/Testing Center Special Assignment, helped organize and participated in the fall Testing Center Open House for students utilizing ADA Transition Services. Staff were on hand to welcome students, assist them in learning how to use their adaptive technology, and answered questions regarding policies and best practices (1.4; 2.3; 2.1).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, visited over a dozen classes the first two weeks of the semester to share the various supports and services the Learning Center has to offer, as well as demonstrate the online tutoring platform, Brainfuse. The majority of the classes were gateway courses (e.g., FYS, ALP Co-Requisite English, Math, and English Composition) to ensure a strong impact on students early on (1.4; 2.1; 2.3).

Thairy Echevarria, Allyson Wieser and David Gonzalez, Admissions Advisors, attended the Capital District Counseling Association (CDCA) College Caravan attending Stillwater High School, Hoosick Valley High School, Waterford-Halfmoon High School, Mechanicville High School, Averill Park High School, Tamarac High School, La Salle Institute, New Lebanon High School, Troy High School, Columbia High School, Johnstown High School, Gloversville High School, Fonda-Fultonville High School, Amsterdam High School, Broadalbin-Perth High School, Northville Central School, OESJ High School, Canajoharie Central School, Cibkesjukk0Rucgnibdvukkem Schoharie High School, Coxsackie-Athens Central School, Berne-Knox-Westerlo Secondary School, Academy of the Holy Names, Albany Leadership Charter School, Green Tech High School, Schodack Central, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School, South Glens Falls High School, Glens Falls High School, Queensbury High School, Lake George High School, Warrensburg Senior High School, Scotia-Glenville High School, Lansingburg High School, Cohoes High School, Mohonasen High School, Watervliet Junior-Senior High School, Schenectady High School, Windham Ashland Jewett Central School, Hunter Tannersville Central School, Catskill High School, Hudson Senior High School, Cairo-Durham High School, Cambridge Central School, Schuylerville High School, Hudson Falls High School, For Ann Central School, Granville Junior Senior High School (2.4).

Thairy Echevarria, Allyson Wieser and David Gonzalez, Admissions Advisors, attended the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA) College Fairs at Hudson Valley Community College, Bethlehem High School, Guilderland High School, North Colonie High School, Shenendehowa High School, Capital Region BOCES, Queensbury High School, Saratoga High School (2.4).

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, attended the SUNY OpInForm at Dutchess Community College to educate area high school counselors on the opportunities at SUNY Schenectady (2.4).

Director of Wellness and Support Services, Robyn King, led numerous trainings and presentations including time management tips and overview of Food Pantry, Counseling, and the Resource Hub to four sections of FYS 100; presented "Stress, Distress, or Crisis: How to Best Respond to Upset or Difficult Students" as a professional development program for tutors in Academic Services; presented "Counseling as a Career" to two sections of Introduction to Social Work; presented "Self-Care for Helping Professionals" to the Human Services Field Experience class. Robyn received specialized training by Schenectady Community Action Program to assist students in creating accounts on the SCAP Portal, which will expedite the response to basic needs gaps. Additionally, she collaborated with Healthy Alliance to be trained to use "Unite Us," a resource referral database.

Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access, was invited to present at the 2023 SICAS Summit conference in Niagara Falls. The title of the presentation was *Argos: Creative Way to Improve Business Practices*. The financial aid office has leveraged Argos, our reporting software, to increase efficiency, reduce redundancy, and leverage automation in their work. This presentation highlighted several of the data-blocks which have supported their office.

In collaboration with Admissions and Academic Advisement, the financial aid staff diligently worked to promote FAFSA completion for our fall 2023 students. As of September 27<sup>th</sup>, 78% of our matriculated students completed FAFSA and 72% of these applicants are eligible for the Pell grant. Our staff continues to conduct proactive outreach to those that have not yet applied and we expect this number to increase as the semester progresses.

ADA Transition Coordinator Susanna Adams completed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NYS Commission of the Blind as a cost-sharing model to assist a student utilizing both CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) and interpretive services for classes.

This September, two FT faculty from the Liberal Arts division attended artificial intelligence-related webinars. Kim Scheuerman, Professor (Psychology) attended one entitled "When the Horse is Out of the Barn: Educators Embracing AI Enhanced Learning," hosted by Macmillan Publishers and Lawrence Mullen, Instructor (English) attended the workshop, "Exploring Generative AI in the Writing Classroom: A Conversation with Dr. Laura Allen, Dr. Bill Hart-Davidson, and Dr. Laura Panning Davies". AI has been a recurring topic in Academic Senate meetings and its growing influence was highlighted during the Fall 2023 Institute Week (Gen P2).

This September, Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of MSTH, Dr. Lorena Harris, CSTEP Director and Dr. Michele Gilson, Biology Lab Technician met with Dancing Rabbit Farm, LLC to partner with them and BIO 142 and CSTEP students to create independent research experiment opportunities with their apple cider (2.2, 2.3, 2.5).

As part of a targeted effort to reduce attrition, increase retention and student presence on campus in the post-COVID pandemic era, Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of MSTH listed all science laboratories for the Spring 2024 schedule in the traditional in-person format in order to offer all students hands-on science lab experience and also increased in-person and hybrid offerings in the mathematics courses to offer students more access to their professors (2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 1.5).

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning developed an online version of Title IX training based on his previous older version. It just needs to be updated for current changes, and it will be ready to go (Gen P2, 2.3, 2.4).

In September, David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning accepted the invitation to the FACT2 AI Task Group as they develop a uniform set of recommendations for Dr. Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Economic Development & Interim Provost, so that a unified set of procedures will be promoted across all SUNY Colleges in regards to how to treat Artificial Intelligence in education. A scaled training is being developed for our faculty. (2.3, 2.4, and 3-4).

On September 19, Dr. Sine Rofofsky, part-time Reference Librarian, attended a webinar entitled "Serving the Neurodiverse Library User" hosted by the Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC). He learned about varying neurodiverse conditions and how to adapt his work with everyone to be more alert to when this may be a concern (Gen. 2).

On September 20, the School of Music Faculty presented a Recital showcasing their musical talents. Participants included Dr. Christopher Brellochs, Dean of the School of Music (tenor saxophone), Mark Evans, Associate Professor (piano), Dr. Joseph Han, Choral Director (baritone), Karen Hosmer, Professor (oboe) and adjunct faculty Thomas Gerbino (clarinet), Max Caplan (piano), Brian Patneau (tenor saxophone), Kevin Grudecki (guitar), Bobby Kendall (bass), and Bob Halek (drums) (2.1).

On September 23, Schenectady's first PorchFest provided students an opportunity to hear many music faculty in a professional setting, including Allyson Keyser, Professor (trumpet) and adjunct faculty, Paul Quigley (guitar), Phil Pandori (trombone), Dylan Canterbury (trumpet), Brian Patneau (tenor saxophone), and Dave Gleason (piano) (Gen P2).

On September 25, Dr. Joseph Han, Choral Director, facilitated a meeting for Dr. Christopher Brellochs, Dean of the School of Music, and administrators at William Paterson University (Wayne, NJ) to initiate the development of a new transfer agreement (Gen P2).

On September 27, Dr. David Brough, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism attended the Open House recruiting event at Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES in New Hartford, New York. OHM BOCES currently has 36 high school seniors in their Culinary Arts program. Dr. Brough invited the students and faculty to SUNY Schenectady for a tour and an

exclusive dining experience in the Casola Dining Room as part of his ongoing recruitment efforts. (2.4)

The Marketing team has been planning and developing the upcoming Open House campaign, to support the Admissions event that will be held on November 18. The Open House advertising will begin on October 18, integrating a mix of digital, traditional, and social media tactics. It will run for four weeks, then will be followed up with application messaging.

Work continues on the website redesign. The Marketing team worked with iFactory, the digital web agency, to conduct a stakeholder interview with President's Council, as well as four focus groups that were comprised of students, alumni, faculty, and staff, during the month of September. The agency took these findings, along with additional research and industry knowledge to begin working on the site strategy and user personas. The agency and marketing team are currently analyzing a full content inventory of all website pages and will assess the data for individual page usage. Marketing will need to assess 1,125 web pages, 500 PDFs, and over 550 images. Once complete, the marketing team will begin working with content owners across multiple offices next month to provide them with recommendations for remediation or archive of content. This process will then inform the subsequent navigational decisions and website structure before creative concepting can begin.

### **Building Organizational Effectiveness**

Early College and Schenectady School district staff continue weekly review of student grades and assess student progress according to grade level programmatic benchmarks. Staff collectively make decisions regarding course advisement and action steps related to individual students which are then communicated to school district and college stakeholders (3.1). College in the High School registration began on September 11. Staff have been working hard to reinforce new policies and procedures in order to promote an increase in student enrollment and meet the established deadlines related to Certificate of Residence, registration, instructor onboarding, etc. (3.5).

Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement attended the Science, Math, Health, and Technology division meeting and Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/ VA Certifying Official, attended the Liberal Arts division meeting, both on September 15 (2.2, 3.1). Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of TRIO, attended a virtual training with the Federal Department of Education for TRIO directors to prepare for the Annual Report (APR). The training covered grant legislation and regulations, along with expected outcome and guidelines for TRIO directors to follow with the upcoming APR (3.3).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, planned and hosted a Fall Semester Kick-off professional development session for returning tutors to ensure their knowledge of processes, communicate updates and expectations, and provide opportunities to enhance their access to innovative and equitable practices as they support our students. Guest speakers included Robyn King, Director of Campus Wellness; Jacquie Keleher-Hughes, Director of Library Services; and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer & Recruitment Specialist (3.3).

David Wolf, the Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning negotiated a cost-savings opportunity to renew our plagiarism/citation software (Turnitin) to include the installation and

training for AI detection for the 2024 year at a significant savings to the College (less than what was paid in 2023) (3.3, 3.4).

Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of MSTH and Carol Maimone, Assistant Professor are working to update the curriculum worksheet for the Medical Coding and Billing Certificate program so that it offers a successful sequence for part-time students to navigate a pathway that also aligns with when MSTH is able to offer these courses. They plan to meet with Dr. Mark Meachem, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education to discuss micro-credential options in Medical Coding and Billing that might potentially be offered by Workforce Development and Community Education (3.1, 3.5, 2.2).

New IPS III, Victoria Morris, is beginning her training at the Welcome Desk focusing on the live chat application called tawk.to. This application will allow monitoring of the College's website to enhance customer service and allows an interactive knowledge management environment.

Director of Wellness and Support Services, Robyn King, collaborated with her counterpart at Tompkins-Cortland Community College to develop a proposal to encourage food pantry funding from SUNY. The Food Pantry received a generous gift of donated food items from SUNY System following a very successful visit.

Work continues on the Elston Façade project. As of early October, our contractors began washing the brick exterior of the building and completed the relief angle replacement. This project is on schedule to conclude at the end of October 2023. Another phase of the project will start next spring where the northeast wing of the façade will be repaired.

Construction bids were received for the new Student Services Center in Stockade. Bids received, including alternates came in within budget. During October, the County will make awards to the successful contractors with construction anticipated to begin in mid to late October. Project furniture was finalized in late September and departments located in the renovation area were relocated to Elston Hall in mid-October.

The new four-bay Flexpod hanger at the Schenectady County Airport was completed during the second week of September. In late September, furniture from our classroom in the Richmor building was moved to the Flexpod and to Center City. The College is updating computers at Center City for a new Flight Simulation program to be used by Aviation students.

During October, the college installed internet connectivity and switches at both the Aviation Flexpod and 13 State Street. These services are needed for connectivity, security camera services and magnetic door card swipe readers.

On September 8, 2023, Paula Ohlhaus, attended a Human Resources Certification Webinar entitled "HR Uncomfortable Conversations".

On September 12, 2023, Catia Laird de Polanco attended a Human Resources Certification Institute webinar entitled "HRCInsights: The Difference between Recognition and Appreciation at Work and the Transformative Power of Both."

On September 14, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the CEANY (Continuing Education Association of NY) Board of Directors meeting.



On September 21, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the CRERN (Capital Region Employment Resource Network) Monthly Advisory Group meeting.

On September 21, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Capital Region Workforce Development Board meeting.

On September 21, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Schenectady ARC Board meeting.

On September 27, Lauren Lankau, Tiziana Rota and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the CEG (Center for Economic Growth) Annual Meeting.

In an effort to increase accessibility to the College for those employees who do not or cannot drive themselves to work (this population includes some disabled individuals, so this is a DEI-centric issue as well), HR is exploring the possibility of expanding the CDTA ridership program to employees. Right now, only students are allowed to participate in the CDTA ridership program, which allows them to ride CDTA transit for free.

As previously indicated, open enrollment for 2024 will be held from Nov. 6-17. The HR Specialist is preparing documents and communications to distribute to employees beginning in early October, to make employees aware of the open enrollment period and prepare and educate them appropriately for any changes they may wish to make.

Currently, there are 22 open searches, which consist of 17 professional and three CSEA positions and two faculty position. Search Committee trainings are all online and employees that serve on search committees complete the training once a year individually.

SCCOC staff received training on de-escalation techniques for dealing with participants suffering from mental health episodes and effective communication techniques and strategies for dealing with diverse populations.

### **Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency**

The HR department is pleased to receive approval to hold this year's employee benefits fair in a virtual format, which will provide a savings in time and money on the end of both the College and the benefits vendors. Many vendors have already confirmed their ability to participate in a virtual benefits fair this year. The HR Specialist is working with the IT Department to ensure a smooth operation of the virtual setting. The fair will take place on one or two dates within the open enrollment period of Nov. 6-17.

The Smart Transfer, Smart Scholars Cohort 2, Smart Scholars Cohort 3, Smart Scholars Cohort 4 were submitted to the New York State Department of Education for the 2023-2024 budget year (4.1).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services and Perkins Grant Officer, submitted the 2022-23 Perkins Grant final report to the State Education Department, which outlined the College's spending, activities, and outcomes for this past grant year (Gen. P4).

**The Foundation continuously builds and draws upon the strength of the Foundation Board members as advocates for the College:**

Foundation Board Members received sheet of *Engagement Opportunities* provided by the Foundation Office, e.g., Casola dates, concert dates.

**The Foundation is creating a bold, new, positive case for growing flexible funding to support our students:**

Vice President and Stewardship Officer met with Convergent Nonprofit Solutions to review the operations plan for the Campaign on September 19.

**The Foundation is working to increase fundraising effectiveness to grow 5% annually by engaging alumni, businesses, and the community:**

Grant Applications:

Project Grow Your Good - \$5,000 unrestricted

Swipe Out Hunger - \$6,000 request for Food Pantry

Schenectady Foundation LOI in the amount of \$43,000 for Refrigerated Lockers for the Food Pantry

**Engaging our alumni:**

Vice President met with donor and alumna Margaret Evans '81 and Peter Glenck for lunch.

Alumni News sent via Constant Contact to 16,033 individuals with a 37% open rate.

Vice Present and Stewardship Officer met with Gerry Fushino '75 to talk about a Class of 1975 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

**Engaging our community supporters:**

Vice President hosted Eric and Elizabeth Johnson to Casola.

Vice President met with Ron & Cathy Cooke and Dean Brellochs.

September LinkedIn activity had 189 unique views, and 170 new followers.

Community news send via Constant Contact to 934 individuals with a 39% open rate.

**Engaging our corporate champions:**

Vice President secured Keynote Speaker Hugh Johnson for a Stakeholders Forum for November 1, 2023 from 8:30-11:30am.

Vice President attended a video filming for a segment on our website featuring Michael Roman, CEO of C2 Design Group.

**Revenue Highlights:**

\$237,500 in pledges through the NYS Tax Incentive program, which includes a \$100,000 pledge for the new Student Opportunity Fund

Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of MSTH evaluating the number of anatomical specimens dissected in each course by groups of students to study the feasibility of having partners vs. groups of three to four students working with one heart, brain, kidney, and cat. These specimens are becoming

increasingly expensive. Dr. Sasway is also evaluating budgets for other science courses to ascertain if there are other areas where spending could be reduced (4.1, 4.2).

On September 14, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services participated in an online meeting with SUNY OLIS and JSTOR for an overview of the newly instituted fee model. In this model the college will save money will still maintaining access to the entire JSTOR collection of databases (Gen 4).

Dr. Mark Meachem, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Sarah Wilson Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development & Community Education were selected by SUNY to take part in the SUNY Future of Healthcare Workforce Task Force which begins work this October.

The IT Department completed several IT Projects, Moves and Support. This involved configuring 26 laptops for the Mobile Classrooms; configuring and setting up 15 new computers and workstations for Trio; configuring and setting up 2 high end graphics intensive computers for marketing and the work they do. Additionally they received 16 new computers for MVP lab at Center city; 14 new computers for GED testing center in Center City; and moved 12 faculty and staff workstations to support workers relocation.

Moreover, during the first two weeks, the helpdesk staff responded to and completed 552 ticketed issues. This far exceeds the average tickets per week of 115.

IT Projects that are in Progress involve working on new computers and the simulation lab for the aviation lab and working on new internet and wiring for adding 13 State St and the new Hanger at the airport to our network.

The 2023-2024 SUNY Schenectady Operating Budget submitted to SUNY was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees in September 2023. Our Chargeback rate of \$4,120 was affirmed. Chargeback invoices to non-sponsoring counties have gone out for payment.

The College implemented a major initiative to encourage students to obtain their Certificates of Residency. As of the end of September, only 150 students (headcount) had not turned in their Certificates.

### **President's Outreach**

Dr. Moono hosted a luncheon for eleven new employees on September 6<sup>th</sup>. He introduced his leadership staff and presented on trends and their impact on education. He stressed the importance of the shift from aspiration of a predetermined future self to ignite the inspiration for the continuously evolving self.

The Growing Potential: SUNY Cannabis Career and Education Expo brought together community members, industry professionals and businesses, and local college partners and students this October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Schenectady. Dr. Moono along with three other partnering community college presidents provided welcoming remarks. Curiosity and entrepreneurial spirit were active as attendees engaged with speakers on a variety of topics not limited to: terpology, brand marketing, extraction, and farming techniques related to the cannabis industry. Featured speakers during the expo include Chris Alexander,

Executive Director, New York State Office of Cannabis Management; Shelley Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, E29 Labs; David Serrano, Project Manager, Cannabis Workforce Initiative. Other cannabis education opportunities are available with Home Cultivation of Cannabis and Cultural History of Cannabis in the United States courses starting in just a couple weeks.

