



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report

May 19, 2025

THE CULTURE OF CARE AND SUCCESS

Academic Affairs

On April 1, Michael Henderson, Director of EOP presented program information to a group of potential students visiting from New York City as part of the Youth Advocate Programs Group Information Session & Campus Tour. (1.4)

LPP has been busy taking their students to visit the campus of SUNY Delhi and invited ECHS students join them on a visit to SUNY Albany for a tour and EOP information session. (1.4)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Emily Baker, Campus Events Coordinator, began collaborating on official guidelines to accompany the Application for Use of the Designated Public Forum and to clarify expectations and responsibilities of both the College and event organizers.

Christina Charette, Student Activities Advisor, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Steve Fragale, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, collaborated on updates to the Clubs and Organizations webpages.

Dave Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning, Renee Adamany, Professor, Michelle Garretson, Assistant Professor, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, consulted on findings, determination of the winning department, and overall areas for improvement in the Digital Content Accessibility Competition that ran from Fall 2024 through the end of April 2025. The winning division was the Division of Liberal Arts, but notably, most departments improved their course accessibility averages throughout the academic year.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

On April 22, 2025, Ms. Dara Oederu, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC and Ms. Elizabeth Cowan, presented college-going and career readiness workshops to over 50 juniors and seniors at Cohoes High School.

SCCOC staff attended Cohoes High School Career Fair for Seniors to promote the Center's services and engage with students.

Ms. Dara Orederu presented a Self-Exploration workshop to over 80 students at Schenectady High School and 8 young adults at Ring Around the Spectrum.

SCCOC staff attended YWCA's Annual STRIVE Resource Fair to promote the Center's services and engage with members of the community.

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, attended the City Mission's presentation providing insight into the Clean Slate Act and how it will affect those we serve.

Ms. Elizabeth Cowan provided on-site intake and case management to residents at the City Mission.

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, hosted fourteen local high school students and five volunteer parent/community chaperones, including local educators and coaches from neighboring school districts, from the Youth Advocate Program. A tour and information session were hosted to share the unique opportunities on campus and to outline our campus student supports. The group toured the entire campus including meeting with several areas noted to be of interest by the group, including Michael Henderson, Director of EOP, Jay Larkin, Associate Professor, at the Casola Dining Room, and Cooper Hewison, Educational Assistant, at the eSports Arena (1.4; 2.3; 2.4; 3.1).

Anna Sherman, Admissions Advisor, hosted an event at Schenectady High School with our College Opportunity Programs, Kevin Dean, Executive Director of ASAP, Michael Henderson, Director of EOP, and a representative from TRIO, in conjunction with the Schenectady High School Guidance Department and support services. Twenty-five Schenectady High School seniors attended and signed up to receive information or submit applications for one or more programs (1.4; 2.3; 2.4; 3.1).

Anna Sherman and Jacob Young, Admissions Advisors, hosted thirty Schenectady High School juniors and seniors from Schenectady High School. Students received a special information session and tour with focused interaction on opportunity programs, Student Success offices and ADA Transition Services, were areas of specific interest to the group (1.4; 2.3; 2.4).

Anna Sherman, Jacob Young, and Dave Gonzalez, Admissions Advisors, coordinated participation in the local spring 2025 recruitment circuit in the Capital District through the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA) and the Capital District Counselors Association (CDCA) and will attend forty-two college fairs across Schenectady, Albany, Saratoga, Schoharie, Washington, and Warren Counties through April to mid-May. Key stops include the regional fair open to all students at Hudson Valley Community College, as well as the largest and most well attended fair at Schenectady High School (1.4; 2.3; 2.4).

Student Affairs

ADA Transition Services

ADA Transition Coordinator Susanna Adams is leading efforts in SUNY's Electronic & Information Technology (EIT) policy with the promotion of two new "special assignment" positions to support the College's ADA Title II digital accessibility compliance initiatives:

- Faculty Liaison for Digital Accessibility
- Staff Liaison for Digital Accessibility

Both positions will begin during Faculty Institute Week Fall 2025, but individuals will be selected by May 2025 to allow adequate time for planning and onboarding. Promotion of these opportunities to the campus community is currently underway. These liaisons will play a critical role during the Fall 2025 semester in helping the College meet the April 2026 ADA Title II compliance deadline, offering peer support and guidance on creating and maintaining accessible digital content.

Workforce Development and Community Education

On April 14, 2025, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow presented at the AACC conference regarding Mobile Learning: Removing Barriers for Employers and Students.

In April, Danielle Miller completed a Deque University training and shared out a resource document she developed with peers. The document was based upon the training and provides tools to implement accessibility in documents for our community.

DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Academic Affairs

On April 11 & 12, Keion Clinton, Professor of Computer Science, Diane Molloy, CSTEP Director and Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean MSTH attended the New York Conference for Women in Computing with students Jasmatic Lutawan and Deviyani Singh, who presented their poster and research project using an interactive program entitled *Peril Park*, based on biology research from Vale Park, Schenectady, NY. (2.5)

On April 11, Siyana Brown, Mary Ritter and Darren Seegobin, Biotechnology students won best community college research project for *A Synthetic Biology Approach: Applying Emerging GGA Technique to Develop a Cure for Marfan Syndrome* at the 3rd annual Capital STEM Poster Showcase. Regeneron subsequently invited them for a field trip to including a special tour of the Quality Control facilities followed by an award ceremony. Dr. Lorena Harris, Biology Instructor and Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean MSTH accompanied them. (2.5)

From April 23 – 25, Ingrid O’Connell, Professor and MPI Club advisor attended the NYS Tourism Industry Association conference in Canandaigua, NY with three students. This conference is attended by hospitality and tourism professionals from around the state. Congratulations to Allyson Becker who was awarded the Destinations of New York Scholarship from NYSTIA. She will receive \$2000 in tuition assistance for the fall 2025 semester! (2.3)

On April 26, 43 HCAT students departed to participate in the Levy Restaurant internship at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY. Professors Kimberly Otis, Courtney Withey, Rain O’Donnell and Jay Larkin are serving as chaperones for the trip. (Gen P2)

On April 27 & 28, MSTH student Joshua Johnson attended the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference at SUNY Binghamton to present his novel research on Spiders of Schenectady County. (2.5)

Two Early College in the High School (ECHS) Smart Transfer students have been elected to the SGA. This is a great experience for Sonia Bhola and Dylan Slater, who will serve as senators. (2.1, 2.4 & 2.5)

In preparation for finals week, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, designed and distributed Final Exam Trackers for use within the Testing Center, the Learning Center, the Learning Commons, and additional student support offices throughout campus to prepare students for the complexities of preparing for final exam week. She also welcomed Smart Transfer students to the Learning Center during Smart Transfer Transition Day. They were given a tour of the Learning Center spaces, shown how to navigate in-person and online academic supports and received advice on college student expectations and responsibilities (Gen P2).

Alyssa Picard, Non-Traditional Career Advisor coordinated with Career Services to provide a Career Exploration information session and tours to Smart Transfer Students on their registration day prior to choosing a major. (Gen P2)

Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services collaborated with multiple stakeholders across campus including the Foundation, College Access programs, and Mathew Farron, Professor of

Business to host *Level Up! Building Skills for Career Success* a full day professional development and internship fair designed as the capstone to the SUNY Paid Internships Community of Practice. The event brought employers, students and alumni together to gain insights into what makes a good internship, build professional development skills and make meaningful connections. A professional stylist and photographer were on hand to provide on-site services, in addition to 15 employer representatives. (Gen P2).

On April 16, Jazz Combos and Jazz Ensemble directed by adjuncts Brian Patneade and Dylan Canterbury performed at the historic Van Dyck Music Club (renowned since the 1960s) in the Schenectady Stockade District. (Gen P2)

The School of Music has been busy this month partnering with A Place for Jazz and Friends of Chamber Music to offer concerts by renowned musicians including Trio Azura and several well-known jazz artists. Additionally, students have been performing in recitals every week including a Guitar & Bass recital, a Vocal Chamber Ensemble concert and a Woodwinds, Strings & Percussion recital. (Gen P2)

Throughout April, TRIO offered two unique educational opportunities for their students. They hosted a three-part series with a clinical therapist focused on mental health needs and on April 22, a Situational Awareness course with Second Sight Training Systems. (2.1)

TRIO Clothing Closet offered this month was a resounding success! They received donations from Foundation donors, College staff and others. The students loved it so much that they requested that it remain open for the remainder of the semester. (2.3)

Development Office

Foundation staff continue to organize and participate in Panera donation pick-ups each Monday.

Vice President and Stewardship Officers Boink and Liuzzi are active Middle States participants.

The Foundation secured and funded a speaker for the *Level Up* event presented by our Career and Transfer staff. Kara Conway Love spoke to students and community members about “Confidence and Connections” to help them defeat the nervous jitters in any situation.

Information Technology Services

In Progress – Improve campus wide Wi-Fi coverage

- A detailed assessment of the existing campus WiFi infrastructure was provided to the higher management. As a result of this assessment, the college has decided to go ahead with the assessment recommendation. The work order has been placed with the vendor. We are waiting to hear back from the vendor about the logistics of the project implementation.

There are still a few outstanding items that need to be addressed, including network labeling, installation of the security camera, and creating wire routing holes in the security desk.

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, organized a Careers in Gaming and eSports Open House during the high school spring break week. Guest speakers included Matt Pirog, alumnus and School of Music Advisory Council member, Audio Director, at local gaming company Velan Studios, and Dan Doptis, Engineer, Designer and Game Director. SUNY Oneonta also shared transfer opportunities in gaming-related degree programs for students after they earn their degree at SUNY Schenectady. A tour of the new eSports Arena followed with fourteen prospective students and twenty-nine total guests in attendance (2.3; 2.4).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, participated in a spring Instant Admit visit at Niskayuna High School preceding the traditional National Decision Day on May 1 to support students who have not yet made final college plans. Five students submitted their applications live and an additional three students had their applications completed and reviewed through the cooperation with the Niskayuna High School Guidance Team (2.3; 2.4).

ASAP has been working with current students to ensure ASAP students are registered for Fall and Spring semesters. As of this month, 80% of ASAP students are registered for Fall semester with 72% also registered for Summer courses (2.1).

The SUNY System ASAP/ACE Semester Engagement Survey came out and the SUNY Schenectady County Community College ASAP program met or exceeded the monthly benchmarks for engagement (2.1).

Student Affairs

Wellness and Student Support Services

In April, Director King had the opportunity to present *"The Food Pantry as an Effective Retention and Completion Resource"* at the American Association of Community Colleges' national conference in Nashville, highlighting the essential role campus pantries play in supporting student success.

Throughout the month, we continued to strengthen our campus-community partnerships by welcoming a variety of organizations to table at events, including New Choices Recovery, Planned Parenthood, MVP Healthcare, the League of Women Voters, SAFE, Inc., Schenectady County Opioid Prevention, Veterans Peer to Peer, and Catholic Charities for SNAP screenings, all in support of Pillar 2.3 of our strategic initiatives.

Additionally, we hosted a successful American Red Cross blood drive, collecting 15 pints of blood to contribute to local healthcare needs.

Ongoing collaboration with the Schenectady County Food Council remained a priority, where I participated in meetings for both the Access & Equity Working Group and the Advocacy & Empowerment Working Group.

On campus, Robyn engaged with several key groups to further our initiatives. She met with the Campus Safety Council and participated in meetings with the Safety Officer Search Committee to ensure we maintain a safe learning environment. She also joined discussions with architects to begin redesign plans for the second floor of Elston Hall, creating a more functional and student-centered space.

In addition, Robyn attended the monthly SUNY Food Pantry Coordinators meeting to share best practices and new ideas for combating food insecurity across the SUNY system.

Financial Aid

The financial aid office has successfully rebounded from the prior year's challenges associated with the implementation of FAFSA simplification. As of this month, we have received a FAFSA for 1,501 students for the 2025–26 academic year, representing a 167% increase over the same time last year (901 students in April 2024). In addition to the increase in applications, we have made significant progress in processing efficiency. Award notifications have been issued to 99.6% of applicants (1,495 out of 1,501), ensuring that students are receiving timely financial aid information to support their planning and enrollment decisions.

The positive trend in FAFSA submissions is mirrored in other financial aid programs, indicating broader student engagement and outreach success. For the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the number of applicants has increased substantially. At this time last year, we had 173 applicants. For the 2025–26 year, we have already received 554 TAP applications, representing a 320% year-over-year increase. Similarly, Foundation Scholarship applications are trending positively. We currently have 260 applicants for the 2025–26 year, compared to 169 at the same point last year, marking a 153% increase. These encouraging gains reflect the effectiveness of our outreach efforts and students' growing awareness of available funding opportunities.

Student Government Association/Student Activities

On Monday, April 22nd, our campus community came together to celebrate **Springfest**, a vibrant and inclusive event hosted on the campus quad from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event brought together students, faculty, staff, and administration for an unforgettable afternoon of fun, connection, and school spirit under clear sunny skies.

Event Highlights:

- **Food & Entertainment:** A variety of food trucks—owned and operated by alumni—served delicious meals, fully funded by Student Activities. Music filled the air thanks to a live DJ, also an alumnus, who kept energy levels high throughout the afternoon.
- **Student Giveaways & Attractions:** Students received free Springfest t-shirts, enjoyed interactive entertainment like inflatable obstacle courses, axe throwing, and archery. A rock-climbing wall and an inflatable jousting ring became a highlight, with students, faculty, and staff joining in the friendly competition.
- **Clubs & Community Engagement:**
 - The **Pride Alliance Club** hosted a tie-dye station.
 - The **Criminal Justice Club** set up a creative face painting station.
 - Community organizations set up resource tables, strengthening ties between the college and local partners.
- **Family-Friendly Fun:** A petting zoo with ponies, baby goats, and rabbits brought smiles to all ages. Balloon artists and clowns added whimsy and color throughout the day.
- **Outdoor Activities & Earth Day Celebration:** Students relaxed on the lawn, played basketball shootout and cornhole, and engaged in meaningful sustainability by receiving annual flowers to plant in honor of Earth Day.

Springfest 2025 was a true showcase of campus unity and student engagement. The event successfully fostered community spirit, highlighted student-led initiatives, and celebrated our alumni's continued involvement. The enthusiasm and positive energy radiating from the quad will undoubtedly make this event the talk of campus for weeks to come.

On April 10th, the Office of Student Activities successfully hosted the **4th Annual International Gala**, a vibrant celebration of global cultures and community. The event drew an impressive attendance of **over 160 students, staff, and administrators**, making it one of the most well-attended cultural events of the year.

Guests were treated to an array of **authentic cultural cuisine**, generously provided by a diverse range of local restaurants representing international flavors. The evening featured a dynamic lineup of **live performances and interactive cultural experiences**, highlighting the rich diversity within our campus community and beyond.

Highlights included:

- **Traditional African drumming and dance** by the **Akwaaba Ensemble** from New Hampshire
- A return performance by the **An Clár School of Irish Dance**, with dancers aged 8 to 18 showcasing traditional Irish choreography
- A wide range of **interactive dances**, from **Bachata** to **Moroccan dance**, encouraging audience participation and cultural exchange
- The finale by **Brazilian Capoeira performers**, blending martial arts, dance, and music
- Music throughout the evening was provided by **international Swedish DJ Eric Sveensen**, who set a vibrant, global atmosphere for the entire event

After the formal performances, students and attendees took to the dance floor to enjoy music, socialize, and celebrate the success of the evening in a relaxed and inclusive environment.

The International Gala continues to serve as a cornerstone event for promoting cultural awareness, inclusion, and community engagement. We are grateful for the support of all involved and look forward to building on this success for future years.

From April 25 to April 27, four student representatives from the **Student Government Association (SGA)** attended the **SUNY Student Assembly Conference** in **Syracuse, New York**. This annual gathering brought together student leaders from **over 75 SUNY campuses**, creating a dynamic forum for collaboration, governance, and professional development.

Throughout the conference, students actively participated in **spring voting sessions**, conducted in accordance with **Robert's Rules of Order**, providing hands-on experience in formal legislative procedures. These sessions allowed students to vote on key issues impacting the SUNY system and share perspectives from their respective campuses.

A highlight of the weekend was a **Q&A session with SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr.**, who addressed a wide range of student questions and offered valuable insights on the future of higher education in the SUNY system.

In addition to legislative activities, students engaged in **breakout workshops focused on leadership development and student engagement**, equipping them with tools and strategies to

bring back to their campus communities. All meals were provided, allowing for informal networking opportunities among peers from across the state.

Participation in the SUNY Student Assembly enhances our students' leadership capacity and ensures that our campus has a voice in broader statewide conversations. The attending students have expressed enthusiasm in applying what they learned to strengthen our local student government and campus initiatives.

Campus Club Highlights

The Office of Student Activities is pleased to share exciting updates on club growth and engagement across campus. Student clubs continue to play a vital role in building community, promoting leadership, and enriching the student experience. Below are key developments from recent weeks:

New Club Approval

On **April 20, 2025**, the **Pagan Interfaith Alliance Club** was officially approved as a recognized student organization on campus. This club will serve as an inclusive space for students of diverse spiritual paths to gather, learn, and foster mutual respect and understanding. A club of this nature offers opportunities for:

- **Interfaith dialogue and education**
- **Support for spiritual diversity and religious literacy**
- **Workshops, observances, and cultural celebrations** that broaden campus perspectives
- **Community service and outreach** with a focus on inclusivity and wellness

Its presence reflects our institution's continued commitment to **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, and provides a meaningful platform for underrepresented voices.

Club Reactivation: Hospitality Club

The **Hospitality Club** has been reactivated under the guidance of faculty advisor **Kim Otis**. This revitalized group began its new chapter by actively **assisting at the 4th Annual International Gala**, helping with event setup, service, and hospitality duties. Their contribution added professionalism and real-world experience for students in the hospitality field, while supporting a major campus-wide event.

Criminal Justice Club Event

The **Criminal Justice Club** successfully hosted a **campus-wide Murder Mystery event** on **May 7, 2025**, which engaged both students and staff in a fun and intellectually stimulating activity. Participants followed clues, solved puzzles, and interacted with actors across campus to uncover the "culprit." The event concluded with a **\$50 prize** awarded to the winning participant. This creative program promoted critical thinking, collaboration, and community engagement.

Upcoming Reactivations

Three student organizations under the **HCAT (Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Tourism)** programs are currently in the process of **reactivating their club statuses**. These reactivations will further expand student involvement opportunities and foster stronger connections between academics and extracurricular activities.

We are excited about the continued growth and re-engagement of student clubs, which play an essential role in fostering leadership, belonging, and co-curricular learning on campus.

Student Intern Hiring – Esports Center & Student Activities

We are pleased to report the successful hiring of **six student interns** through the **SUNY Internship Scholarship Program** to support the operations of both the **Esports Gaming Center** and **Student Activities Office**. During the Spring 2025 semester

Esports Gaming Center Staffing Expansion

With the addition of these interns, the **new Esports Gaming Arena** is now fully staffed and operational from **1:00 PM to 10:00 PM daily**. These student interns are responsible for:

- Monitoring and maintaining equipment
- Assisting users and managing gameplay scheduling
- Promoting inclusive and respectful gaming environments
- Supporting organized tournaments and events

This extended coverage not only maximizes the center's accessibility to students but also enhances supervision, peer leadership, and event facilitation within this rapidly growing area of student engagement.

Support for Student Activities

In addition, interns have been placed in roles to assist with the **day-to-day functions of the Office of Student Activities**, including:

- Event setup and breakdown
- Communications and outreach
- Supporting club events and major campus programming

These roles provide interns with **hands-on leadership experience**, while significantly increasing the office's capacity to serve the student body.

This initiative demonstrates an effective use of SUNY resources to provide meaningful student employment, support high-impact programs, and strengthen student services. The internship model also supports our institutional goals around career readiness and experiential learning.

The **Student Government Association (SGA)** successfully conducted multiple rounds of elections during the spring 2025 semester to ensure strong student representation for the upcoming academic year.

In March, SGA held internal elections to fill **six vacant Senate seats** left by graduating members. The process followed all SGA constitutional guidelines and included campaigning and outreach efforts to engage the student body. We are pleased to welcome **six newly elected student senators** who will serve during the 2025–2026 academic year. These students bring fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and a strong commitment to student advocacy and leadership.

At the end of April, we launched **school-wide elections** for SGA Executive Board and additional leadership positions. The response was outstanding, with **over 24 student candidates** running for various roles. Candidates are currently in the **campaign phase** during this open voting period, which will conclude on **May 7, 2025**.

Following the election results, the newly elected SGA leadership will begin their **official term on June 1, 2025**. This transition ensures a seamless handover of responsibilities and continued momentum for student-driven initiatives.

The high level of interest and participation in this year's elections reflects strong student engagement and a healthy democratic process on campus.

Esports Program Highlights – Spring 2025 / May 2025

The Esports program continues to grow in both participation and competitive success, with multiple teams and individual players representing our college across **SUNY and ECAC leagues** this spring. Below is a summary of performance highlights by game title, including outstanding achievements by individual players.

Marvel Rivals

Team Members: Gabrielle Fass, Aidan Haldeman, Daniel Van Buren, Elijah West, Zachary Talbot, Jelessa Harvey

- The team advanced to the **final round before playoffs**, demonstrating strong team coordination and competitive skill in this fast-paced, team-based title.

Guilty Gear Strive

Players: Daniel Van Buren and Noah Wylie

- **Noah Wylie** achieved **1st Place in the Grand Finals of the SUNY Guilty Gear Strive League**, outperforming players from across the entire SUNY system.
- **Daniel Van Buren** placed a commendable **5th overall**, further contributing to the college's strong showing in this title.

Street Fighter 6

Players: Noah Wylie, Elijah West

- **Noah Wylie** placed **5th overall**, continuing his consistent performance across multiple competitive fighting games.
- **Elijah West** participated but was **eliminated before the playoffs**.

Valorant

Team Members: Yuta Duffy, Ross, Thomas Rooney, Cesarina, Aidan O'Rourke

- The Valorant team competed in both the **ECAC and SUNY leagues**, advancing to the **final round before playoffs** in both brackets.
- Final player roster confirmation is pending, as additional team members were submitted via email correspondence.

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate

Player: Elijah West

- Competed in the season but was **eliminated before playoffs**.

Player Spotlight: Noah Wylie

We are proud to recognize **Noah Wylie** for his exceptional performance in **Guilty Gear Strive**, where he secured **1st place in the SUNY League Grand Finals**, distinguishing himself as the top player across all participating SUNY colleges. His dedication and talent serve as an example of the high level of competition and professionalism our Esports athletes are achieving.

The continued success of our Esports program reflects the students' hard work and the supportive infrastructure provided by staff and coaches. As participation grows, we look forward to building even greater opportunities for skill development, school spirit, and intercollegiate competition.

Workforce Development and Community Education

On April 3, 2025, Tricia Terleckey, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Division of Liberal Arts, OPWDD and SUNY Administration to discuss revamping DSP micro credential curriculum.

On April 30, 2025, Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau celebrated National Apprenticeship Day by delivering gift bags to apprentices at their place of employment.

On April 9 and 28, 2025, Michelle Kraines, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Chief Eric Clifford of the Schenectady Police Department to discuss prior learning and current apprenticeship programs.

On April 7, 2025, Danielle Miller and Lauren Lankau led Apprenticeship/Earn and Learn working group through the DOL SCC2 grant.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Academic Affairs

After several months of work, new **online analytics and reporting** is now available for all divisions. Deans can acquire detailed engagement reports about instructors as well as students, including knowing how many times one accesses a course, posts in the course and takes quizzes. (Gen P3)

Earlier this month, Dr. Babette Faehmel was announced as the winner of the *FACT2 Excellence Award: Excellence in Instruction at a Community College*. This award embodies her commitment to educational innovation and to serving all of our students. This is a SUNY honor designed to confer system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement. (3.3)

Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/VA Certifying Official participated in a GI Bill and Scholarship meeting with stakeholders from several different offices to attempt to streamline the process. LuAnn Meeks, IPS II Registrar's Office, Leanna Liuzzi, Stewardship Officer from the Foundation and Nicole Grant, Assistant Director of Financial Aid joined her to help streamline the process. (Gen P3)

Administration

Summer construction season is upon us.

The Elston Hall Skylight/President's Terrace and SGA Conference Room project is underway. The SGA conference room was demolished during April and measurements for the Skylight were made. The Skylight is on order and will be ready for installation in mid-August. After Memorial Day, our contractor will erect scaffolding in the Cafeteria area for ceiling work and start demolition of the President's Terrace. The cafeteria area is closed for the summer. This project is scheduled for completion in mid-August.

On May 5th, our contractor working on the CST Lobby/Entry Project will start demolition work on the project. This project's scope of work includes the CST Lobby, entry doors, internal main staircase, ceiling fixtures and lighting and replacement of the first and ground floor restrooms. Most of the work will occur after Spring classes end and will be complete by the start of the Fall semester.

Representatives from the college, the county engineering department and C2 Architecture met with an engineer who will start a Mechanical, electrical and Plumbing condition study on Elston Hall. This critical project provides an assessment of the mechanical condition of the building, critical projects and guidance on how future work will help lead to LEED certification. The project is also critical to map out the future conversion from fossil fuel heating systems to new electric technologies being mandated for use by New York State.

Planning on renovation of Elston Hall's second floor Student Affairs area continued in April. Representatives for Student Affairs met with the architects where programmatic needs were discussed which led to a proposed rendering of the space. This drawing is being used to formulate the construction project cost estimate to be presented for consideration with the 2026 capital project request.

During April our contractors finished installing an external door swipe card system. This system was integrated with the college's Alertus instant notification system, Everbridge which is our mass notification system and connections to the regional emergency management call center. In late April, a test of the integrated system was completed that simulated a campus lockdown. This successful test was the cumulation of the installation and configuration of multiple systems which now allows an instant

emergency lockdown of the campus; while at the same time notifying our local emergency response officials. The system's capabilities will be expanded over the summer with programming of external card swipe readers for student, faculty and staff use on certain external doors.

A second round of bids to replace lighting and audio equipment in the Taylor auditorium was released in April. Bids are due back in mid-May. If a successful bid is approved, work on the Auditorium may begin during the Summer of 2025.

Our contractors replacing the college's Fire Alarm System began work in early May. The first phase of project includes replacement of the fire alarm system in CST and Gateway; plus installation of the main fire panel in Elston Hall. This project will occur during the Summer of 2025. In late April, the County issued a Purchase Order to have a contractor "balance" our campus-wide WiFi system; needed to eliminate conflicting hot spots resulting in "dead zones" in certain campus buildings.

As of early May, the SUNY Board of Trustees decision on acquisition of the college's request to acquire lower State Street properties for the Aquatic Center is still pending.

Development Office

The Foundation continues to work to refine the scholarship program to maximize funding available to support the student experience.

- Music scholarship donors have been invited to see their recipients perform in upcoming recitals
- 40 graduating scholarship recipients have been asked to provide an update for scholarship donors with 9 responses so far

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

On April 29, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled "'Spring Cleaning' Your Handbook: Key Legal Updates & Maintenance Tips" offered by HRCL.

Human Resources

Wednesday Wellbeing messages included:

4/3 – Distracted Driving Awareness
4/9 – Tax filing resources
4/16 – Volunteerism
4/23 – Environmental Sustainability
4/30 – Procrastination

We onboarded five new employees in the month of April.

We had pre-retirement counseling sessions with 1 current staff member.

We had five new FMLA cases.

HR presented two additional sessions of Workplace Violence Trainings.

April was Healthcare Decisions and Organ Donation month. Representatives from Donate Life NY were invited to campus to provide information on organ and tissue donation.

A Workplace Wellbeing committee was organized and held its first meeting.

HR has been at the table for preliminary discussions for upcoming CSEA negotiations and SEIU negotiations.

We currently have 10 searches which consist of three faculty, one Civil Service, and six Professional positions.

Information Technology Services

In Progress – Cyber Security

- **Enhanced VPN Security:** Testing continues implementing secondary Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all users accessing college assets via VPN, improving off-campus security.
- **Cyber Security Alert:** Continuing with Microsoft SAAS solution with its 24/7 call center. This will help us with the following:
 - **User Identity Validation:** Ensure only authorized users on authorized devices can gain access to your critical company SaaS applications.
 - **Monitor & Detection:** Detect unusual user activity or behavior using powerful SaaS application monitoring tools.
 - **Remediation:** Stop detected threats automatically to protect against data theft, data-at-risk, and bad actors.
 - **Microsoft Security Recommendations:** Ensure Microsoft security recommendations are implemented to boost your security posture.
 - **Vulnerability Assessments:** Monitor your Microsoft secure score and ensure it stays in line with industry benchmarks.
 - We will have a meeting with LogicalNet to discuss findings and pricing.
- **Restrict Shared drive (NFS) access: we interacted with all users involved to verify they no longer use the NFS drive and removed access. We are continuing to configure those users can only see what they are required to for their position.**
 - The NFS drive has been secured. Groups were created and users were added to those groups. The group membership allows access to only the folders that those users need to use. We have also archived 54 folders that are unused for removal at a later date.

In Progress – New Help Desk Ticketing System

- **Moved to the new TDX ticketing system**
 - Training for 10 out of 12 modules is completed. If things go as planned, then the remaining two modules will be completed in the next two weeks.

In Progress – Internet Infrastructure Upgrade

- **Working with LogicalNet and our network providers to ensure redundancy and load balancing**
 - We are working with our existing three Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to upgrade our current network to 1GB for both primary and backup connections. We are also looking into adding a crucial security feature allowing legitimate users to access services without interruption by filtering malicious traffic and maintaining system availability during attacks.

In Progress – Upgrading existing Windows computers

- Due to official end of support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025, we are working on upgrading as many Windows 10 machines to Windows 11 prior to Oct 14 as practically possible. We are working with Logical net to implement Microsoft Intune which will allow us to remotely manage applications (deploying, securing, and managing apps across different platforms and devices), device settings (profiles for different devices and platforms or allow/deny WiFi/Bluetooth/VPN access), and security policies (account protection, antivirus, disk encryption, etc.).
- In cases where we are not able to upgrade existing Windows 10 machines due to not meeting Windows 11 systems requirements, we will implement Extended Support for Windows 10 offered by Microsoft.
- Device Replacement Strategy: Over the next two years, we will systematically replace aging devices that cannot support Windows 11 with new, compliant hardware.
- Budget Considerations: We are currently evaluating costs associated with licensing, extended support, and hardware replacements to ensure a smooth transition within our allocated budget.

In Progress – Replacement of provisioning/deprovisioning system with cloud-based system

- As of now, we have agreed on the consulting engagement with the vendor and schedule for engagement has been finalized. Work will start during first week of June and should be completed within 6 weeks.

In Progress – Phone system replacement

- Quotes from three different existing vendors have been provided to the higher management for review. As of now, the project has been put on hold so that it can be started when the new CIO is hired. The goal of this project is to consolidate all systems into a single platform integrated with MS Teams Apps, providing enhanced productivity features. This project will take several months to complete.

Marketing and Public Relations

Update: With the completion of several large-scale construction projects, Marketing is working with Admissions to strategize and develop a new digital virtual campus tour through EAB Global Inc., Consulting. The tour will feature 20 themed areas, 360-degree views, and all new photography and drone footage to showcase the student experience and many facilities upgrades throughout the campus. Concepting and pre-production planning were completed April, site preparation will happen throughout May, and filming be June 3-5, with the finished digital tour delivered 9/1 for publishing to the college website and additional promotions.

The College received significant press coverage in April, with 19 placements for the month. This included several news stories stemming from the joint pitch of the Elston Lobby/Lally Mohawk Room renovation completion being paired with the Food For Thought and All That Jazz event, and tremendous buzz received for the Enhanced AT-CTI program. With statewide media placements generated by the Senator Schumer letter-of-support to the FAA for the upcoming ATC Simulator assessment and the additional communication from the Metroplex, there was elevated awareness for the new program. Further coverage came from an on-site interview with SUNY Schenectady alumni reporter James de la Fuente '20, of ABC News 10, who conducted the interview with Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance Patrick Ryan within the ATC Simulator Lab, and Assemblyman Angela Santabarbara. The Channel 10 news story broadcast the night before the Aviation Open House (held on 4/29) and there was an overnight uptick in prospective students who pre-registered for the event indicating an ATC interest. The News 10 interview can be seen at <https://www.news10.com/news/schenectady-county/suny-schenectadys-simulator-addresses-air-traffic-shortage/>

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

SCCOC Staff attended the bi-annual Tri-State Consortium of Opportunity Programs Conference in Albany, NY. Staff attended workshops to strengthen their knowledge and skills to support our participants and had the opportunity to network with opportunity program staff across New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, coordinated with the College and High School Partnerships office to provide data and administrative support for their annual Early College High School (ECHS) Transition Day on Wednesday, April 30. Cross-department meetings were held to identify the optimal data flow of student information as they matriculate into degree programs, including the strategic use of Slate to capture key student information. Campus tours were also arranged to support student success in their transition to on campus courses (3.1; 3.4; 1.3; 2.4).

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, submitted two SUNY Systems reports, and one New York Department of Education report. Mr. Miller provided data for the following projects: enrollment data to Administration for budgeting, enrollment data to Admissions, enrollment data to the Registrar, College in the High School data to the ECHS director, and Middle States data to the Middle States Steering Committee (3.3).

Student Affairs

Associate VP Fragale has been extremely busy developing two new job titles and descriptions to align with future directions and the SGA budget.

Additionally, board updates for May 19, 2025 will include an informational item for the entire SGA budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as well as policy revisions for the Student Code of Conduct and SGA Constitution.

Wellness/Food Pantry

Throughout April 2025, the Food Pantry remained active and engaged across several areas of service, support, and outreach.

In terms of inventory and processing, the pantry consistently received and managed approximately 1,000 pounds of food weekly from the Regional Food Bank. Additional contributions included a generous anonymous donation valued at \$374, consisting of assorted food items and supplies. The SUNY Transformation initiative continued its support by processing personal care and household items. During the month, 86 items were processed with a total value of \$265. This contributed to an overall total of 3,573 items processed to date, with a cumulative value of \$13,599.

April also saw a significant number of community interactions. The pantry recorded 820 visits, serving 121 unique visitors and feeding a total of 381 individuals.

On the sustainability front, 12 bags of Clynk bottles and cans were collected across campus and prepared for delivery to Hannaford in May. The Sustainability Committee stepped in with additional support, offering to replace Clynk boxes, decorate them, and supply new bags to further assist the pantry's recycling initiative.

The Food Pantry also participated in the *Fight Hunger Bag Program* fundraiser during the month, furthering community awareness and resource support. In tandem, the initial groundwork was laid for the *Mothers Start Here Diaper Program*, with efforts beginning to establish an on-campus diaper distribution system.

April welcomed several tours, including visits from high school and early college students, introducing them to the Food Pantry's operations and impact. Outreach extended internationally as well, with a meeting between pantry staff and administrators from Zambia's NIPA (National Institute of Public Administration) to discuss the pantry program and explore collaboration.

The team also hosted a table at the campus Earth Day/Spring Fest event, engaging participants through sign-ups and surveys. SNAP outreach continued steadily, with staff distributing flyers and information on the "2 for 1" fruits and vegetables program at participating stores.

Finally, efforts to set up the food locker continued, with staff working closely with technicians to address necessary repairs and maintenance.

April was a month of both steady operations and new initiatives, reflecting the pantry's ongoing commitment to addressing food insecurity while fostering education, sustainability, and community outreach.

ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Academic Affairs

This month, Dr. Sine Rofofsky, part-time Reference Librarian, received a 2025 Regional Collection Grant from the Capital District Library Council (CDLC) to purchase a new flatbed scanner that will be dedicated to digitizing the unique collections found in the Begley Library archives especially those related to the history of the Van Curler Hotel and the origins of the College. (Gen P4)

In April, the School of Music really ramped up its recruitment efforts by participating in weekly events with community partners. During the Capital Region Wind Ensemble Side-By-Side Concert (in which local high school students played alongside professionals), Professor Allyson Keyser (trumpet) addressed visiting students about registering at SUNY Schenectady. Kevin Grudecki, Adjunct (guitar) subsequently visited Balston Spa H.S. to work with music students and he also distributed recruitment materials. The following week, the Jazz Ensemble performed at Columbia H.S. and distributed recruitment materials. Finally, the School also hosted the Parillo Piano Competition exclusively for community piano instructors. This was a fabulous way to allow them and their students to become familiar with our campus. (Gen P4)

On April 16, the School of Music hosted Shadow A Student Day. 14 prospective students followed current music students for the day including attending their classes. (Gen P4)

An Aviation Open House on April 30, brought over 50 people to campus to learn about the program and see our new ATC equipment. (Gen P4)

Administration

During April, senior leadership conducted multiple planning sessions on the 2025-26 operating budget. As of early May, the New York State budget had not passed; thus the amount of State support remains unknown. Once this final part of the budget that contains State Support, Rental Aid and Enrollment funding is in place, the college will finalize its 2025-26 proposed budget. We anticipate the State passing the budget during the first full week in May.

Patrick Ryan, Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance participated in an interview with WTEN Channel 10 on the college's new Air Traffic Control simulator and program. This exclusive piece broadcasted on Channel 10 on Tuesday, April 29th and Wednesday, April 30th. An Aviation Open House was held on campus on Wednesday, April 30th and was well attended by prospective students.

Development Office

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

Vice President met with the Foundation Board Development Committee to discuss board members up for renewal and potential new board members.

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

As of April 30, 2025, Food for Thought & All That Jazz attracted 240 guests and raised more than \$94,000 of unrestricted support.

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

Engaging our alumni:

- Vice president had lunch with an anonymous alumni donor to thank them for their support.
- Vice President hosted alumnus and donor, Chris Coccio and his grandson to see the Air Traffic Control simulator and Esports Gaming Hub.
- LinkedIn engagement this month yielded 215-page views and 75 new followers
- 24% email performance open rate

Engaging our community members:

- As part of the *Level Up* event, the Foundation hosted a panel of business leaders who benefitted from our paid internship program to talk about the process and best practices to other professional guests. Representatives came from Peterson Campoli CPAs, WMHT, and Proctors.
- Vice President and Senior Stewardship Officer attended the Chamber's Good News Awards.
- Vice President met with Stan Blanchard and Johanna Peterson to talk about their scholarship support.
- Vice President attended the Trustee legislative dinner in Casola Dining Room
- Vice President had lunch with Judy Buhrmaster to provide campus updates
- Senior Stewardship Officer Boink coordinated a Wrap-Up Meeting with Food For Thought Steering Committee at Unbeetable Arcade (Alumni Owned Business)
- Senior Stewardship Officer attended the Sales USA Group Luncheon led by Denise Horan
- Senior Stewardship Office met with Tom, the Stewarts Shops Store Manager located on Union Street for a check presentation to promote the Holiday Match program.
- Vice President hosted Community Bank for a photo opportunity with a "big check" for \$30,000 campaign pledge

Pending Major Grant Applications:

60,000 from the Schenectady Foundation for a new electric sprinter van and driver for the food pantry

\$150,000 from the Gladys Brooks Foundation to increase the Food Pantry endowment

\$500,000 from Mother Cabrini in partnership with Workforce Development and two additional agencies for the Community Healthcare Worker program

\$25,000 from KeyBank for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund

\$50,000 from the Broughton Foundation for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund

\$500,000 from the Wright Family Foundation for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund

Recent Notable Gifts:

\$30,000 three-year Campaign pledge to the SUNY Schenectady Fund from Community Bank

\$25,000 from an anonymous donor for the Workforce Innovation Fund

\$20,000 Grant from Stewart's Foundation for College in the High School Scholarships

\$20,000 from the Women's Fund of the Greater Capital Region for 2025-26 Scholarships

Student Affairs

ADA Transition Services

The College was awarded \$18,000 through the Enhancing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success (SWDPS) 2024–2025 grant program. This funding will strengthen our ability to enhance campus services for students with disabilities, further supporting our broader institutional commitment to accessibility, equity, and student success.

As part of this initiative, the Coordinator for ADA Transition Services will attend AHEAD's 48th Annual Conference this July in Denver, Colorado. This in-person professional development and networking event will bring together presenters and participants from diverse fields, including education, technology, law, and government. The conference offers a valuable opportunity to learn best practices, scale new heights in accessibility innovation, and build meaningful connections with colleagues from around the world.

Workforce Development and Community Education

On April 17, 2025, Lauren Lankau attended Workforce Coalition meeting at Center for Economic Growth.

On April 21, 2025, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow submitted Future of Work Center grant in partnership with SUNY's Aviation Department and Hudson Valley Community College.

On April 24, 2025, Sarah Boink and Lauren Lankau submitted Mother Cabrini Healthcare Letter of intent in partnership with Healthy Capital District and Hudson Mohawk Apex supporting the Community Health Worker program.

On April 25, 2025, Lauren Lankau successfully closed out the Workforce Development Contract Training Grant in partnership with Troy Web Design.

PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH



President, Dr. Steady Moono and Schenectady County Legislator Omar McGill at the SUNY Schenectady annual Trustee Legislative Dinner on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.



President, Dr. Steady Moono congratulates SUNY Schenectady student, Jasmatie Lutawan, for being awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE).