



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report

August 18, 2025

THE CULTURE OF CARE AND SUCCESS

Academic Affairs

Margaret White, LPP School Counselor and 10 LPP Schenectady H.S. student mentors attended the STARS National Conference (SNC) at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. SNC is an action-packed, three-day event that brings teens together to learn about self-awareness, healthy decision making and serving their communities. Participants get the opportunity to live as a college student on campus and participate in workshops, group discussions, a Denver area excursion, a block party and a career fair. It is an opportunity for teens to build positive relationships and find their place within the mentoring movement. (Gen P 1)

Margaret White, LPP School Counselor, also facilitated the LPP College and Career Readiness summer program on campus from July 21 - August 14 with a group of 20 Schenectady City School high school students. This is a robust 4-week educational program in which students develop their hard and soft skills around career readiness, including resume writing, networking, elevator pitches, financial management, and stress management. Students also became certified in Mental Health First Aid. (Gen P1)

The Digital Content Accessibility Competition developed by David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, aims to improve the accessibility of documents and course content throughout the college in preparation for the Title II requirements in 2026. Course accessibility is tracked and each month departments are evaluated. A semester long competition is being prepared for the Fall of 2025. (1.1, 1.3, 1.4)

TRIO staff participated in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Summer Institute and presented workshops highlighting TRIO services to EOP students. (1.1, 1.3)

In July, Tiffany Wilson, EOP Student Success Coach, participated in the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Scholarship Program committee, reviewing applications and qualifying students for financial support awards. (1.3)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

On June 1, 2025, the Food Truck attended Schenectady Pride Festival and shared print promo materials for the *Many Voices, One Call Podcast*.

On June 10-11, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended the biannual SUNY CDO Convening in Albany, NY.

On June 25, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled “Shaping the Future: Policy, Advocacy, and Impact for Military Learners” offered by the Council of College and Military Educators and sponsored by the American Council on Education.

Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, collaborated on the development of Fall 2025 Books Beyond Borders Reading Group selections in recognition of federal heritage, awareness, and recognition months. Reading group sessions are open to SUNY Schenectady students and employees.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC and Ms. Dara Orederu, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC, conducted a walk-through of the Schenectady County Correctional Facility to engage with individuals that are incarcerated. This visit allowed the Center to promote the services now available within the facility and to enroll those who expressed interest.

SCCOC staff have initiated weekly case management services at the facility and will continue to provide them on an ongoing basis

- SCCOC hosted the annual ‘Stories of Success’ event to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the Center’s participants.
- Ms. Elizabeth Cowan, Participant Services Specialist of SCCOC, participated in LPP’s Networking Panel and presented a Work Readiness workshop and discussion to upcoming high school juniors and seniors attending LPP’s Summer Program.
- Ms. Dara Orederu, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC, tabled at a Juneteenth celebration to connect with members of the community.
- On June 5, 2025, SCCOC, in partnership with Schenectady County Connects and Department of Labor, hosted a community job fair at Center City. Over 100 job seekers attended the fair and had the opportunity to meet in person with 45 employers to discuss employment opportunities.
- SCCOC staff attended Sycamore Collaboratives’ mass distribution day at the food pantry to engage with community members.
- Ms. Jaimee King met with partners from The Center for Community Justice, Healthy Capital District, Liberty Partnership program and the Department of Labor to strengthen our partnerships and increase collaborative efforts.

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Anna Sherman, Admissions Advisor, represented SUNY Schenectady at the inaugural Capital Region BOCES Adult Education Fair, held at the Capital Region BOCES Family Welcome Center and Literacy Zone on Wednesday, June 4th. This event was designed to connect adult learners with postsecondary educational opportunities, career pathways, and support services (1.4; 2.3).

Anna Sherman, Admissions Advisor, hosted and led a campus tour for a group from the Social Enterprise and Training (SEAT) Center based in Schenectady. The SEAT Center supports youth and young adults through workforce readiness, education, and empowerment programming. During the visit, students had the opportunity to explore SUNY Schenectady's academic spaces, learn about available support services, and engage in conversations about college readiness, career pathways, and the benefits of starting their education locally, especially focusing on the SUNY Reconnect funds available to adult learners (1.4; 2.3).

Jacob Young and Anna Sherman, Admissions Advisors, hosted a campus visit for 15 adult learners from the Schenectady City School District's Adult ESL program as part of SUNY Reconnect outreach efforts. The visit provided an opportunity for prospective students to learn about academic programs, campus resources, and the support available for adult learners entering higher education (1.4; 2.; Gen P3).

Mary Silvestri, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, developed and launched a targeted outreach campaign to veterans through Slate in recognition of the Fourth of July. The campaign highlighted the financial benefits available to veterans and their families, including VA education benefits and additional support resources for those pursuing a degree at SUNY Schenectady (1.4; 2.1; 2.3; Gen P3).

Kevin Dean, Executive Director of ASAP, was a member of a Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) panel on July 8th for Schenectady High School students as part of the LPP summer melt prevention program (1.3; 1.4; 2.1; 2.4).

Between June and July, ASAP accepted 87 new students for the Fall ASAP cohort, supporting enrollment goals and fostering program return on investment (1.4; 2.3; Gen P4)

Student Affairs

Financial Aid

The financial aid office actively supported campus engagement initiatives this month to strengthen connections with diverse student populations and increase awareness of available resources. Staff participated in the Liberty Partnerships Program Scavenger Hunt, providing students with information on financial aid offerings while building relationships with participants. Additionally, during the Educational Opportunity Program Summer Orientation, the office met with incoming EOP students to discuss financial aid programs and eligibility requirements, ensuring these students are well-informed and supported as they begin their academic journey.

Workforce Development and Community Education

A student originally from Afghanistan was able to complete their studies here at SUNY Schenectady and is successfully transitioning to SUNY Albany in the fall to finish their undergrad. Through the efforts of Dr. Hope Sasway, Professors Keion Clinton, Michael Dzikowski, Nicole Grant, and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, this student was able to find a course substitution at SUNY Albany for one remaining course needed at SUNY Schenectady to complete their AAS. In this way the student will be able to achieve their AAS while working on their BS. It takes a village to support our students.

DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Academic Affairs

On June 30, LPP hosted the Young Futures Art Show at the Rise Gallery. The Art Show serves as a celebration and capstone for students who have completed the Young Futures Financial Literacy Art Program and the event functions as a live exchange that reinforces key lessons about value, earning, and contribution. (2.4)

In July, Michael Henderson, Director of EOP, Tiffany Wilson, EOP Student Success Coach and Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support collaborated to solidify plans for an EOP trip to SUNY Oneonta. EOP students enjoyed a campus tour, a review of admission requirements, and a chance to meet with SUNY Oneonta EOP students and discuss their experiences at SUNY Oneonta. (2.1)

From July 7 - August 15 the SUNY Schenectady Food Truck MFS 103 Mobile Food Service 3 class participated in the Empire State Lunch vending program held at the Empire State Plaza. Adjunct Instructor Giovanni Lontoc, Educational Aide Vicky Gizzy & student Deja Glenn represented the College. (Gen P2)

Suzanne Neary, Director of College & High School Partnerships, Kayla Pallas, Project Director for College & High School Programs and Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services worked with ECHS staff to develop and implement an academic support schedule specifically for ECHS students over the summer including supplemental resources and guidance. In collaboration with the Career and Transfer Services Office, they also created workshops exploring the Focus2Career program and presented two Career panel events that reached over 130 first year ECHS Summer Program participants. (2.3, 2.4, 2.5)

The Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning worked with SUNY Online to ensure that SUNY Schenectady will have access to **D2L LUMI Pro for one year free of charge**. This tool provides faculty access to Anthropic's Claude LLM that will focus only on content assigned by the instructor and in which the data is private. This tool will assist in rapid development of online courses and will allow faculty to be able to spend more time on instruction. (2.3, 2.4)

David Wolf also received \$120,000 of funding for AY 2025-26 to continue two collaborative SUNY IITG grants entitled "Teaching with AI: A Cross Campus Community of Practice" and "Examining the usability and efficacy of Gen AI tools in creating impactful AI-infused learning experiences: A multi-campus action research project". These collaborations with SUNY Oneonta and seven other SUNY schools will increase our AI literacy and AI infused learning activities in the curriculum as well as throughout the school. (2.3, 2.4)

On July 18, School of Music faculty Dylan Canterbury, Brian Patneaude, Kevin Grudecki, David Gleason, Erik Johnson, Bob Halek, Mia Scirocco, along with Dean Dr. Christopher Brellocks and Latin Grammy-winning guest artist Nestor Torres performed at Music Haven in Schenectady's Central Park. Recent alum Vinny Marotta, Jayden Mignot, and Alden Dicruattlo performed alongside the faculty. The College food truck, Admissions staff, and The Foundation were all present, and the event received widespread media coverage (including an interview with our guest artist on the local CBS station. (Gen P2)

Outstanding Student Achievement

Allyson (Ally) Becker, a dedicated Hospitality & Tourism Management major, has been awarded the prestigious New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association's (NYSHTA) Fred and Gertrude England Hospitality Education Foundation Scholarship for 2025. Ally is the third HCAT student to receive this scholarship.

This recognition highlights Ally's exceptional commitment and potential within the hospitality and tourism industry. For your reference, the official award letter Ally will receive is attached.

Ally is currently gaining valuable practical experience, completing a summer tour guide position in Alaska. She recently concluded her required internship with Discover Schenectady, further demonstrating her proactive engagement in the field. Additionally, she was a recipient of the New York State Tourism Association (NYSTIA) scholarship last semester, underscoring her consistent academic and professional excellence.

As a member of the NYSHTA Board and Secretary for the Fred & Gertrude England Educational Foundation, and serving on the Education Advisory Board for NYSTIA, I have seen firsthand the rigorous selection process for these scholarships. Ally's success is a testament to her hard work and the quality of education she is receiving at our institution.

Development Office

Vice President, Stewardship Officer, Leanna Liuzzi, and Senior Stewardship Officer Sarah Boink are serving on Middle States working groups.

The Foundation continues to organize and participate in Panera donation pick-ups each Monday.

Information Technology Services

In Progress – Improve campus wide Wi-Fi coverage

- Based on the detailed assessment of the existing campus WiFi infrastructure provided by a third-party vendor, an initial review was conducted by the same vendor remotely and minor changes were made to some of our WiFi hardware/software. An additional on-campus/in-person review has been scheduled for later this week.

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

Jacob Young, Admissions Advisor, hosted an information session and campus tour for students participating in the SUNY Schenectady Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP). The visit, part of the LPP summer program for middle school students, introduced participants to SUNY Schenectady's academic offerings and campus resources as they began their summer enrichment activities (2.3; 2.4; 3.1).

Jacob Young, Admissions Advisor, represented the SUNY Schenectady Admissions Office at Albany High School's Transition Day on June 11th. The event was designed to support graduating seniors as

they prepare for life after high school. The event brought together local colleges, workforce agencies, and community organizations to provide students with critical information and resources as they plan their next steps (2.3; 2.4).

The Admissions Office successfully hosted two SUNY Reconnect Information Sessions on June 4th (in-person) and June 5th (virtual) to introduce prospective students to the new SUNY Reconnect program, designed to support adult learners returning to college. The sessions garnered a total of 69 registrations, with 21 individuals attending live. To extend the reach, the virtual session was recorded and distributed to all eligible SUNY Reconnect prospects. As a result, the recording received an additional 90 views, significantly expanding the impact of the outreach (2.3; Gen P3).

Mary Silvestri, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, and Jacob Young, Admissions Advisor, partnered with the Culinary Food Truck at Schenectady's Summer Nights, the Liberty Foundation's Electric City Trucks, Taps, Corks, and Forks Event, and Music Haven at Central Park to promote SUNY Schenectady. The community open events provided an opportunity for the admissions office to share information about Schenectady Higher Education Promise, SUNY Reconnect, and the College's Academic programs and support services in an engaging and open setting (2.3).

Mary Silvestri, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, and Eric Savage, Director of Aviation, collaborated to host an Aviation Open House on June 25th, highlighting SUNY Schenectady's aviation programs—particularly the Air Traffic Controller program. The event featured a live demonstration of the College's new Air Traffic Control simulator, offering attendees a hands-on look at this state-of-the-art training tool. The event generated strong interest, with 38 prospective students registered for the event and 18 in attendance (2.3; 3.1).

ASAP staff actively participated in enrollment onboarding through participation in New Student Registration Days (2.1; 3.1).

78 ASAP Students took summer courses from June 16 to July 17th. The team had 155 contacts with the students enrolled in summer courses to support persistence and to help address students' needs (2.1; 2.3).

The ASAP and TRIO offices held a joint summer picnic brought together 20 students and their families to celebrate student achievements and foster engagement with the programs (2.3).

On June 30th, Kevin Dean, Executive Director of ASAP, attended the LPP Young Futures Closing Event and Art Show at the RISE Gallery to support LPP students and join the celebration of their accomplishments (2.3).

Student Affairs

Disability Resource Office

EITA Committee Progress

Throughout the summer, our EITA Committee has continued to make steady progress:

- An **Adobe Acrobat Pro** license has been designated to all faculty and staff to begin accessible document creation and remediation efforts during the Fall 2025 semester.

- Digital accessibility inventory templates will be in use across departments starting this Fall 2025 semester.
- Support structures are in place through our newly appointed Faculty and Staff Liaisons (Megan Hall and Michelle Ragucci), who will actively assist with content review, remediation, and accessibility training throughout the Fall 2025 semester.
- The Digital Accessibility Hub will launch during Faculty Institute Week offering practical tools and professional development opportunities to support campus-wide compliance efforts.

These efforts remain aligned with our phased implementation plan and upcoming compliance deadlines. We are well-positioned to support faculty, staff, and students as we head into the Fall 2025 semester.

Financial Aid

This summer marked the end of the 2024–25 FAFSA cycle, a year defined by the challenges of FAFSA Simplification. The most significant disruption was the delay in the FAFSA’s opening date from the traditional October 1 to April 1—a six-month setback. Despite this, the Financial Aid Office successfully processed applications for 2,806 students, reaching 98.5% of the prior year’s total (2,849 students). Notably, the number of matriculated students with a valid FAFSA rose to 1,268 compared to 1,218 the year before, signaling improved application follow-through among enrolled students. State aid recipients increased by 11%, while loan recipients decreased by 12%, highlighting our continued commitment to promoting responsible borrowing by our students. Additionally, 75.5% of matriculated FAFSA applicants were Pell-eligible, the highest proportion in the past five years, further underscoring the College’s commitment to serving students with high financial need.

As we ramp up for the Fall 2025 semester the financial aid office has seen strong early engagement for the 2025-26 year. Thus far we have processed 2,362 FAFSA applications, representing 122% of the total received by the same date last year (1,926). Additionally, 618 students have submitted Foundation Scholarship applications, with 102 students already receiving awards totaling \$199,000. As we move through August and approach the start of the semester, we anticipate awarding additional funds to further support students in achieving their educational goals.

Wellness and Student Support Services

Robyn King engaged in several collaborative and outreach initiatives to advance student wellness and strengthen community partnerships. She met with representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Alpha Pregnancy Care Center to coordinate regular tabling opportunities on campus, aimed at increased access to health and wellness resources. Additionally, she delivered a presentation titled, "Mindsets Formed, Mindsets Changed" as part of the Schenectady County Food Council's Community Advocates training program, focusing on the influence of mindset on poverty and bridging basic needs gaps.

To support sustained resource availability on campus (including after her retirement at the end of January), Robyn developed a comprehensive tabling calendar for the 2025-26 academic year. This schedule includes participation from twelve community agencies, each providing information and support on wellness topics and essential services to help bridge gaps in basic needs.

Workforce Development and Community Education

The Office of Workforce Development and Community Education as well as other college stakeholders met with the Institute for Career Advancement in Medicine (ICAM). This online platform serves as a network for students seeking training and career pathways in healthcare

professions. SUNY Schenectady healthcare programs have been uploaded to the platform, and we are looking at who to include in editing access.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Academic Affairs

On June 10, Grace Ferris, (PT) Library IPS I, gave staff a presentation on Ways to Use Notion and Notion AI to boost their productivity and organization. (Gen. Pillar 3).

In June, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, planned and hosted a SUNY-wide conference for members of STAMP (SUNY Testing & Assessment Management Professionals) on campus. This full-day conference offered four concurrent sessions surrounding best practices for campus testing centers, including accommodative software and policies, faculty/center communications, NCTA membership opportunities, and other assessment-related topics. (3.3)

Administration

Construction on the President's Terrace and Cafeteria area continued in July. The large skylight was dismantled, and a new skylight is anticipated to be installed the week of August 3rd. In addition to the window replacement work, new walls were constructed on the SGA conference room above the Lally-Mohawk Room. Work on the skylights, windows and President's Terrace will continue through August.

Renovation of the Center for Science and Technology (CST) building lobby and restrooms continued. Our contractors replaced the interior staircase between the lobby and science labs, re-built the lobby restrooms and renovated the ground floor restrooms. The Ground floor restrooms required replacement of the below grade pipes to facilitate water discharge. This project will continue into early September.

Schenectady County Highway Department re-paved the college's main parking lot during the month of July. Work included new speed bumps to encourage vehicles to slow down while traversing the lot. In addition to the main lot, the Elston Hall loading dock area was paved along with the Washington Avenue entrance. During August, the School of Music parking lot will be sealed and re-striped.

In early August, a new sump pump will be installed in the basement of Elston Hall. On July 30th, a contractor walk through of the Kindle building occurred as we seek vendors to perform first floor renovations to the building for relocation of the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center from Center City to this space. We anticipate construction in the space during the Fall of 2025.

Various capital projects are in the design to bid stage. In late August, we anticipate release of bid documents for the Cafeteria and Gathering Space and Auditorium renovation projects. Concept drawings for the Mobile Lab Garage are underway and renovations to the Casola Dining Room.

A Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing study of Elston Hall is underway to help determine the overall condition of the building and critical maintenance projects. This study will also look at the building's future needs in order to be compliant with new NYS building code regulations that require movement away from fossil fuel sources to electric energy solutions.

The fire alarm replacement project is underway. Our contractors continue to pull wiring in the CST and Gateway; with the main panel installation in Elston Hall.

Pre-construction meetings on the SUNY Schenectady Aquatic Center continued. Working together, the County, City and our contractors continue to refine the project. Recent activities have included traffic studies, location of utilities, site work and architectural planning. The college also continues to work with SUNY to finalize access to capital funding for the project.

Development Office

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

- Returning student scholarship were selected on June 20 for returning students and on July 24 for new students.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

On June 23, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled “Know Your Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Workplace Protections Under EEOC” offered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In July 24, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled “You’re at the Table, Now Bring Strategic Impact to the Feast” and completed an additional webinar titled “Hiding in Plain Sight: Putting a Spotlight on the Second Leading Cause of Global Disability,” both offered by HRCI.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, accepted a position on SUNY’s Electronic Information Technology Accessibility (EITA) Advisory Committee. On June 24, 2025, Ms. Laird de Polanco attended the SUNY EITA Advisory Committee meeting in Albany, NY.

Diane Molloy, CSTEP Director, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, collaborated on updates to CSTEP materials.

Susanna Adams, ADA Coordinator and EITA Officer, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, are collaborating on the development of a Digital Accessibility Hub to support the College’s EITA awareness and skill-building efforts. The Digital Accessibility Hub will be available to students and employees in the College Portal.

Human Resources

Wednesday Wellbeing messages included:

- 7/2 – A fun summary of safe holiday tips
- 7/9 – Hydration tips
- 7/16 – Experiencing nature, and the free CDTA Nature Bus program
- 7/23 – Reading nutrition labels
- 7/27 – Storm preparedness

The Workplace Wellbeing committee has been rounding on each Friday, as we celebrated the college’s summer hours with Fun Friday theme days.

- (Thursday 7/3) Patriotic Day – Put a sparkle in this holiday weekend! Celebrate with your red-white-and-blue!
- 7/11 Sports Team Day - It’s a great time of the year for outdoor activities! Show your support for your favorite sport or team and wear your favorite team apparel.
- 7/18 Character Day – Cartoon, Disney, Movie, Book, Rock Star - Step into the shoes of your favorite character and bring some fun into the office. Workplace appropriate costumes, props and personality welcome!

· 7/25 Hat Day - Tip your hat to another summer Friday and get ready to kick off the weekend in style! Whether it's a floppy sunhat, a sparkly headband, a vintage bow, or a whimsical fascinator, it's the perfect time to show off your flair and “top” off the week.

· 8/1 Decade Day/Throwback Day - Turn back time this Friday, embrace your favorite era and celebrate the decades in style! Whether you're grooving in '70s disco, rocking '80s neon, channeling '90s grunge, or throwing it way back to the roaring 1920s—this Friday is all about vintage threads, retro vibes, and timeless fun.

The final 2025 summer fun Friday will be held on 8/8 as we embrace our School Spirit!

Human Resources onboarded 11 new employees.

Human Resources is planning for the fall semester's Institute Week, including our annual employee awards and retiree recognition event to be held on August 22nd.

There are currently 15 searches which consist of five Civil Service, and 10 Professional positions.

Information Technology Services

Completed – Cyber Security

○ **Enhanced VPN Security:**

- The transition to a more secure VPN infrastructure is complete.
- A new endpoint (vpn.mfa.sunysccc.edu) is now live.
- Users are required to authenticate using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) before gaining access.
- All faculty and staff have been notified and provided with setup instructions.

○ **Restrict Shared Drive (NFS) Access:**

- The NFS access project has been fully completed.
- Access is now restricted based on job function via security groups.
- Inactive folders were archived, and unnecessary access has been removed.
- This project significantly improves internal data security and reduces unnecessary exposure.

In Progress – Microsoft SaaS Security Platform

- A one-year agreement has been signed to implement Microsoft's SaaS-based security solution. Key benefits include:
 - Identity validation and MFA integration
 - Real-time monitoring and automated remediation
 - Alignment with Microsoft security best practices
 - Ongoing Secure Score and vulnerability reporting
 - Deployment planning is underway

In Progress – Internet Infrastructure Upgrade

- Progress continues toward internet backbone redundancy and performance improvements:
- We are coordinating with SUNY and ARIN to ensure our public IP space can be shared across multiple ISPs.
- FirstLight has made multiple visits to assess and splice fiber and is finalizing the installation of a 1 Gbps connection.

- Once live, we will activate load balancing and failover routing with both providers to enhance uptime and DDoS resilience.

In Progress – Upgrading existing Windows computers

- Eligible devices are being upgraded to Windows 11 using a combination of remote and in-person methods.
- Devices that do not meet Windows 11 requirements are being maintained on Windows 10 with Extended Security Updates (ESU), which we've procured.
- Group Policy and scripting are being used to automate deployments and enforce security configurations.
- Planning is underway for phased hardware replacements over the next two years

In Progress – Adobe Licensing & Access Expansion

- Faculty & Staff:
 - Adobe Acrobat Pro licenses have been assigned to all users in the Employee_A3 group.
 - These licenses are provisioned automatically based on user onboarding/offboarding status.
 - Users can access Acrobat Pro via Adobe.com and will also receive the desktop version through remote installation.
 - Mass deployment is currently being tested using Group Policy and scripting.
- Students:
 - We are enabling access to Adobe Express for students through Adobe.com.
 - This requires Azure AD configuration and license sync with Adobe to ensure appropriate access.
 - Once complete, students will have access to a suite of online creative tools for academic and personal use.

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

Enterprise team, along with Internet Security Officer and Logical Net is working with Ellucian consultant to resolve all technical/functional issues that unexpectedly comes up during configuration.

Marketing and Public Relations

June and July 2025 continued strong awareness-building and engagement for the launch of the new FAA-approved Enhanced AT-CTI program at SUNY Schenectady. The second nationwide distribution of a press release from the college's Marketing and Public Relations office and Baker PR resulted in another 300 news outlets picking up the new release. This second release focused on the technology of the new ATC simulator lab and promoted the Aviation Open House that was to be held on June 25. In addition, Heather Meaney (Public Relations/Publications Specialist II) supported efforts with social media to amplify the event and new ATC degree program. Her 6/16 post was picked up and shared by our advertising partner, Aviation Digest, which was then seen and shared out by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy on his official Twitter/X account. Secretary Duffy directly tagged the College and commented on his page "*@SUNY Schenectady is getting ready to train our nation's best and brightest to be our next air traffic controllers.*" Our social media post appearing on Secretary Duffy's page resulted in our post receiving 44,500 Views, 950 Likes, and 188 Shares, which organically increased awareness of our ATC program and aviation event, drove traffic to our web site, and new visitor interest/investigation of our ATC degree. Post at: <https://x.com/SecDuffy/status/1934992603230994925> New ATC-focused digital advertising and keyword search campaigns also began in June.

The Marketing and Public Relations department partnered with Admissions to strategize and develop the new virtual campus tour. EAB Global Inc. was on site from 6/3/25 – 6/5/25 to film 20 locations with 360-degree enabled cameras to highlight the campus and student experience. Marketing is working through August on script writing and providing supplemental photography for each of the 20 location galleries. The new virtual campus tour is scheduled to be available in September and will be a valuable admissions tool.

Marketing and Public Relations collaborated with SUNY Communications and the President's Office in support of SUNY Chancellor King's Reconnect Tour campus visit, held on July 17. The visit highlighted the new Enhanced AT-CTI program with a demonstration of the ATC simulator lab; a tour of the new eSports Arena and conversation with several eSports students, their eSports coach, and one of the CIS faculty in conjunction with the college's SUNY Reconnect-eligible computer degrees; and concluded with a round table session with local officials, students in the Reconnect-eligible Chemical Dependency Counseling program, and College leadership. The Reconnect Tour event at SUNY Schenectady generated statewide interest with coverage in 14 news stories.

Marketing and Public Relations has been working with Eric Fluty, Associate Vice President of Campus Safety to bring awareness to new security measures that will roll out in August 2025. Communications for students and employees, and signage informing visitors of the new process, has been prepared for the launch and conversion to college ID badge swipe access this fall.

Marketing and Public Relations collaborated with Academic Affairs, Admissions, and Institutional Research to develop a marketing campaign using a new digital advertising resource, Motimatic. The data-driven marketing will test the platform's ability to deliver timely messaging based upon a prospective student, continuing student, or stop-out's current status along the Fall 2025 enrollment cycle and help guide them in their next steps to be enrolled for the start of classes.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

SCCOC staff attended the Multigenerational Workforce Capacity Building workshop at the City Mission to deepen their understanding of the different generations we serve; especially the growing number of younger participants.

SCCOC staff attended SUNY University Center for Academic and Workforce Development's systemwide Student Services conference in Albany, NY.

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Mary Silvestri, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, attended the SUNY Enrollment Management Meeting and the SUNY College Admissions Professionals (SUNYCAP) Conference in June. Both events focused on professional development, enhancing efficiency within admissions operations, and strengthening integration with SUNY System. The conference additionally highlighted upcoming SUNY initiatives, positioning SUNY Schenectady admissions and enrollment efforts to be in alignment with System's strategic goals and to prepare for future system-wide initiatives (3.2; 3.3).

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, submitted two SUNY Systems reports, and one New York Department of Education report. Mr. Miller also provided data for the following projects: enrollment data to Administration for budgeting, enrollment data to Admissions, enrollment data to EOP, enrollment data to the Registrar, College in the High School data to the ECHS director, and Middle States data for the Middle States Working Groups. Mr. Miller initiated the data coordination

for the following new projects: Richmond Fed data submission, SUNY Systems brand recognition survey, and the SUNY Schenectady data governance committee (3.3).

Kevin Dean, Executive Director of ASAP and Lakota Lewandowski, ASAP Advisor, attended the Student Success Summit: Advancing Retention and Completion hosted by the SUNY System Office of Student Success and Transformational Initiatives which oversees the ASAP/ACE Programs, where they learned about innovative practices to support student persistence (1.1; 2.1; 2.5; 3.1; 3.3).

Lakota Lewandowski, ASAP Advisor, attended the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) **Technology and Transfer 2025: A Learning Mobility Summit**. The conference focused on innovative approaches to employing transfer credit and policies to facilitate academic mobility and improve student success (1.1; 1.5; 3.3; 3.4).

Student Affairs

Disability Resource Office

Office Professional Development

AHEAD 2025 Conference: July 14 - 18, Denver, CO

Earlier this month, Susanna Adams attended the AHEAD 2025 Conference (*Equity & Excellence: Access in Higher Education*), held July 14–18 in Denver. The event brought together disability service professionals from across the country. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues and gain practical strategies related to digital accessibility, faculty engagement, and ADA Title II implementation. Several of the insights and tools shared will directly support our local efforts as we continue toward the April 2026 ADA Title II compliance milestone.

Wellness and Support Services/Food Pantry

In recognition of her expertise, RPI invited Robyn to consult on operations at their campus food pantry. She provided guidance on improving inventory management systems and refining outreach strategies to enhance service delivery for their student population.

Workforce Development and Community Education

On July 1, Tricia Terleckey and Lauran Lankau participated in a DSP Celebration Luncheon at our provider partner, The Center for Disability Services to recognize 6 of their employees who completed DSP I Micro Credential through the OPWDD grant. Cyndi Proctor from SUNY System and Alison Pingelski from OPWDD also attended.

Tricia Terleckey has been holding Information sessions throughout the month of July at Wildwood, Living Resources, Catholic Charities Disability Services and the Center of Disability Services to promote the DSP Micro Credential Program through the OPWDD grant.

ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Academic Affairs

July was extremely busy for the SUNY Schenectady Food Truck and staff from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts & Tourism. The Truck attended several community events including two Schenectady Summer Nights and the Electric City Trucks, Taps, Corks and Forks event (held on the SUNY Schenectady campus for the very first time this year). Part-time Technical Specialist Jasmine Solana, Educational Aide Vicky Gizzy, Adjunct Instructor Giovanni Lontoc, Technical Specialist/Purchaser Michelle Anaya and David Brough, Dean HCAT worked together to man the Truck at these events. (Gen P4)

Michael Henderson, Director of EOP, Tiffany Wilson, EOP Student Success Coach and Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support submitted a proposal and received funding for a SUNY Schenectady EOP Summer Academy to prepare incoming EOP students for success as they embark upon their first college experience in the FALL of 2025. The Summer Academy runs from July 21 - August 8 and includes English and Math classes, as well as a review of support services available at the college. (4.1, 4.3)

Administration

Over the Summer, the college's proposed 2025-26 operating budget was presented to the County Legislature for public comment and consideration. The budget was passed by the legislature and will be sent to SUNY in August for consideration by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Development Office

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

- Barbara Casey has agreed to join the Foundation Board, pending approval.

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

- Nearly \$60,000 in unrestricted funds will come in each year for the next four years as a result of Rising Together Campaign pledges.

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

- A SYBUNT mailing (Some Year But Unfortunately Not This) was sent to 100 alumni mid-July to remind folks of their loyal support. Initial results are promising.

Engaging our alumni:

- The Foundation is planning an alumni reunion on campus on **October 10, 2025 from 9-12pm**. Please attend if you are able.
- Alumni News sent to 8,000 emails with a 24% open rate
- Community News sent to 8,700 emails with a 32% open rate
- Music Haven Schedule sent to 162 emails with a 24% open rate
- LinkedIn gained 87 new followers with 250-page views and 118 unique visitors

Engaging our corporate and community supporters:

Notable Commitments:

- Additional \$120,000 distribution from Benita Allaire
- \$20,000 bequest from alumni William Wachel for scholarships
- \$10,000 from Re4orm Architecture for Campaign Gala
- \$25,000 grant from KeyBank for President's Workforce Innovation Fund

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

66% of ASAP students enrolled in Summer Session I courses, with 30 out of 32 students successfully completed their courses, demonstrating a strong return on investment and supporting enrollment and retention (Gen P4).

Student Affairs

Financial Aid

The financial aid totals presented below reflect the full 2024–25 academic year, encompassing Summer 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025. As in years past, the Financial Aid Office worked diligently to process aid applications and support students in achieving affordability. These efforts were particularly important in a year marked by the complexities of FAFSA Simplification, which introduced systemic delays and required significant adjustments. Despite these challenges, total grant funding reached \$7.0 million, an increase of 6% over the prior year and the highest amount awarded in the past five years. Scholarship funding rose sharply to \$716,647, more than doubling last year's total and nearly tripling the amount awarded four years ago. These results reflect a strategic shift toward maximizing grant and scholarship aid and reducing reliance on student loans. The Financial Aid Office continues to prioritize debt-conscious advising and packaging strategies that advance the College's commitment to financial sustainability for its students.

PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH



President, Dr. Steady Moono with Congressman Paul Tonko at the Rising Together Campaign Gala on June 20, 2025 at the Rivers Casino & Resort.



President, Dr. Steady Moono with SUNY Schenectady alumna and former student trustee, Rondacia McPherson. Ms. McPherson is now in her 4th year and headed to Med School: UPenn.



President, Dr. Steady Moono with Chancellor John King, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature, Board Secretary Renee Bradley, SUNY Schenectady administrators as well as SUNY System Administration administrators and SUNY Reconnect students during the Chancellor's SUNY Reconnect Campus Tour on July 17, 2025.