

SUNY SCHENECTADY

Annual Report | 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



During the past 11 years as President of SUNY Schenectady, I have tried in earnest to live mindfully and fully experience and appreciate the moment. As I prepare to retire from SUNY Schenectady, and reflect on all of the moments that I have shared with students, faculty, staff, administrators, the Board of Trustees, Foundation Board members, my fellow SUNY Presidents, County leaders, and countless others, I am truly humbled and filled with immense pride.

What I am most proud of is how we kept students at the heart of every decision we made. Our priority on student success has been our north star — and the results speak for themselves. Graduation and retention rates have steadily risen, we have experienced the third highest enrollment growth this year among SUNY community colleges, and our College in the High School enrollments have grown continuously, giving more young people the chance to get ahead. We have introduced innovative and relevant academic and workforce programs, including our Enhanced Air Traffic Control (AT-CTI) degree

program and apprenticeships. As we prepare our Self-Study for Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaccreditation, I take pride in the fact that when we completed the process in 2018, MSCHE had no findings or follow-up reports, granting the College full reaccreditation.

As a national Achieving the Dream Leader College, the College was recognized as an institution that has demonstrated sustained, measurable improvements in student outcomes. We have also built an international presence that enriches our campus through partnerships with institutions in Italy, Indonesia, and Zambia, creating opportunities for exchange, collaboration, and shared learning.

I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support of Schenectady County and their dedication to our students through the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise, for example. We have built strong partnerships with local school districts and industry, which are opening doors to meaningful careers for our students, through our classes and new Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare Mobile Training Labs.

Over the past decade, nearly \$70 million in facility investments from New York State and Schenectady County have transformed our campus into a more vibrant and welcoming place for learning and community engagement, including our new Learning Commons, Welcome Center, and current construction of a new gathering area in Elston Hall.

Our partnership with the Mill Lane Artisan District and Metroplex breathed new life into the lower State Street neighborhood with the Joan R. Dembinski '10 Chocolate and Confections Lab and our presence with health care courses and College in the High School classes at Center City.

What means the most to me, though, is that this transformation has been a shared journey. The College and community have grown together, supported each other, and imagined a new future side by side. I was humbled to champion *The Promise of Our Common Future* and *Rising Together* campaigns which collectively raised more than \$12 million from our generous donors to support student scholarships and opportunities, workforce innovation, and the SUNY Schenectady Fund — the College's annual giving program.

As I say farewell, I couldn't be more optimistic about what lies ahead for the College. SUNY Schenectady is on a strong trajectory — we have made tremendous progress on student success, expanded our workforce and academic programs, deepened our partnerships with schools and industry, and I am confident that the next president will build on this momentum and lead the College into an exciting new chapter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steady H. Moono'.

Steady H. Moono, Ed.D.
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On the cover: Reggie Wilson, Air Traffic Control major, in front of the new Air Traffic Control simulator in the Center for Aviation Sciences. Reggie moved from Dallas, Texas, to complete the ATC program at SUNY Schenectady because of the affordable tuition. Before SUNY Schenectady, he studied at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City, Okla., and worked as an Air Traffic Control Specialist Trainee.

PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS

A Gubernatorial Visit

Governor Hochul was on campus in January 2025 to announce new investments of more than \$100 million for projects located in certified Pro-Housing Communities, including \$4.9 million in state funding for apartments and a childcare center for the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) at the corner of State Street and Brandywine Avenue in Schenectady.

Dr. Steady Moono, College President, Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff, with New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner and CEO of New York State Homes and Community Renewal, and Hope Knight, President, CEO, and Commissioner of Empire State Development.



Convocation 2025

Dr. Moono addressed faculty and staff during the kickoff to Institute Week, his final Fall Convocation as President of the College, saying, “I want to thank you for your resilience, your brilliance, your heart, for believing in this work, and for believing in each other. I have never been more proud to serve as your president. I have never been more hopeful for what we are doing. Let us step into the new academic year with purpose, courage, and a renewed commitment to what we do best – change lives.”

Dr. Moono with Ann Fleming Brown, longtime Chair of the Board of Trustees.



Dr. Moono Meets With United Nations Representative

Dr. Moono welcomed Stenah Shampile, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zambia Mission, to campus.



SUNY RECONNECT



Clockwise, from top left:

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr., New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, College President Dr. Steady Moono, and Board of Trustees Chair Ann Fleming Brown.

Professor Barbara Jones advises Chancellor King on how to use the new Air Traffic Control Simulator inside the Center for Aviation Sciences.

Dr. Moono and Chancellor King, with the coach and members of the eSports Team, and elected officials.

Dr. Moono hosted a discussion about the impact of the SUNY Reconnect program with students, College Trustees, administrators, SUNY officials, and others.

Dr. Moono Hosts SUNY Chancellor During SUNY Reconnect Tour

Dr. Moono welcomed SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. to campus to shine the spotlight on the SUNY Reconnect Initiative which offers free community college tuition, fees, books and supplies for adults ages 25-55 who don't already have a college degree, to help them pursue an associate degree in a high-demand field.

Two SUNY Presidents, One Goal: Successful Transfer Pathways

President Moono and SUNY Oneonta President Dr. Alberto Cardelle discussed the successful transfer partnership between the two colleges, where SUNY Schenectady graduates can seamlessly transfer as juniors into one of SUNY Oneonta's 50+ Bachelor's degree programs.



COLLEGE NEWS



HCAT Faculty and Staff Impress Guests At SUNY Gathering

A team from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism represented the College, preparing and serving food for guests during Friends of SUNY in Albany. Shown with SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. are: Dr. David Brough, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism; Ron Ragucci, Senior Technical Specialist; Michelle Anaya, Technical Specialist/Purchaser; Chef Gio Lontoc, Adjunct Faculty Member; and Vicky Gizzi, Educational Aide.

Achieving the Dream Coach Focuses On Data

Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at Florida State College at Jacksonville and the College's Achieving the Dream (ATD) Data Coach, met with members of the Steering Committee, Working Groups, and the Academic Deans. His visit to campus focused on discussing data, particularly as it relates to Teaching and Learning, the College's new focus within the ATD effort. SUNY Schenectady is an ATD Leader College, a significant achievement.



Front row: Dr. Jerrett Dumouchel, Achieving the Dream Coach, with Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean for Financial Aid & Access/Title IX Coordinator, and Rain O'Donnell, Assistant Professor. Second row: Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services; Cayla Gaworecki, Assistant Professor; Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services; Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement and Retention; Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support; Jacqueline Keleher, Director of Library Services; Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment; Dr. Christopher Brellochs, Dean of the School of Music; and Mary Silvestri, Director of TRIO.

Capital Improvements

- Removal of the Biology greenhouse and replacement with a new storage area off the Biology Laboratory. This project also included a new "SUNY Schenectady" exterior sign above the Welcome Center entrance.
- Renovation of the original 1925 Hotel Van Curler Lobby area and construction of a new campus Safety Office. Renovations to the Lally Mohawk Room included new lighting, electric wiring, and installation of multi-media services.
- Replacement of the Elston Hall Cafeteria, a large skylight, and renovation of the SGA Conference Room.
- Paving of the College's main parking lot.
- Renovation of the entry and lobby of the Center for Science and Technology (CST) and replacement of restrooms on the ground and first floors of the building.
- Replacement of the fire alarm system in CST and the Gateway Building, including a voice annunciator.
- Renovation of Elston Hall Room 240 to a state-of-the-art hyflex learning classroom that allows both in-person and remote learning from one location.
- Repair work to the interior basement walls of Elston Hall.
- Purchase and installation of an Air Traffic Control Simulator that prepares students for work in an FAA-approved airport control tower.
- Replacement of the legacy maintenance and security radio communications system and installation of card-swipe access points on all exterior entrances to the main campus.

Students In SUNY Reconnect Program Earn College Degrees For Free

The SUNY Reconnect program began in Fall 2025 and makes it possible for adult students ages 25-55 who don't already have a college degree to pursue an associate degree in a high-demand field with free community college tuition, fees, books, & supplies. Eligible programs at SUNY Schenectady are: Chemical Dependency Counseling, Computer Networking Systems and Cyber Security, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, Programming for Game Design, and Teacher Education Transfer.

"SUNY Reconnect is a great opportunity for people who can't financially afford to go to school. I was always focused on taking care of my kids first and now that they are both out of school and have jobs, I can focus on me. This has made it possible for me to start earning my college degree."

*Kristina Waters, Chemical Dependency Counseling (A.A.S. degree) major.
Career Goal: Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor*



Dana John Cohick, President of RPA Inc., addresses the College community about next steps for the Presidential Search.

Presidential Search Begins

Dr. Steady Moono announced his plans to retire from SUNY Schenectady after 11 years as the leader of the College and after decades as a leader in higher education, champion for student success, and mentor to students and colleagues alike. RPA Inc., a national executive search firm, is assisting in the presidential search and has hosted listening sessions with the College community.



College Named "Best of the Best" For Sixth Consecutive Year

SUNY Schenectady was named 'Best Local College' in the Daily Gazette of Schenectady's People's Choice Awards for the sixth consecutive year. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding education students receive and the vital role the College plays in our community. We are extremely grateful for this recognition.

COLLEGE NEWS



Significant Expansion of ASAP

Some of the 255 students in the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program, joined by (front row): Dr. Carlos M. Cotto Jr., Superintendent of the Schenectady City School District; Dr. Jennifer Bashant, University Director for ASAP/ACE, State University of New York; Kevin Dean, ASAP Executive Director, SUNY Schenectady; Honorable Gary Hughes, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature and SUNY Schenectady Trustee; Honorable Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assemblymember; Monique Stamps, Criminal Justice A.S. Degree major and ASAP Participant; and Alexa Angel, Liberal Arts: Humanities and Social Sciences A.A. Degree major and ASAP Participant.

The expansion of the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program will mean that 255 students will receive important resources including personalized academic advising, key financial resources, career development support, and a community of fellow learners, to help students gain and maintain academic momentum so they can graduate on time. In the 2025-26 State Budget, Governor Kathy Hochul and state leaders allocated \$12 million for SUNY to expand this initiative. SUNY Schenectady launched the ASAP program in Spring 2024 and began with a cohort of 52 students. During the Fall 2025 Semester, there were 255 students in the program, making it one of the largest ASAP programs among SUNY community colleges.

President of SUNY Oneonta Tours Campus

SUNY Oneonta President Dr. Alberto Cardelle visited campus to highlight the Schenectady/SUNY Oneonta Transfer Partners program. Students who graduate with their Associate degree from SUNY Schenectady with a GPA of 2.5 or above can transfer as juniors into one of SUNY Oneonta's 50+ Bachelor's degree programs. Credits earned at SUNY Schenectady are guaranteed to transfer to SUNY Oneonta.



Outside the Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Training Lab are: Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Planning; Sarah Wilson Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education; Dr. Alberto Cardelle, SUNY Oneonta President; Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff; and Matt Maloy, Director of Workforce Development Mobile Training Labs.



Civic Learning Takes Center Stage During Workshop

John Reiff, Director of Civic Learning and Engagement for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, presented a workshop about civic learning to 16 faculty and staff from SUNY Schenectady, Hudson Valley Community College, and SUNY Buffalo State University. This workshop was designed to assist faculty in thinking about how civic engagement might help their students learn the academic knowledge, skills, dispositions, and values they want to teach in their courses, and to explore linkages between civic learning and racial equity.



Middle States Liaison Provides Insight About Self-Study Process

Dr. Terence Peavy, Lead Vice President for Institutional Field Relations with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), visited campus to discuss the College's Self-Study progress. The College is in the midst of the Self-Study Review and will be preparing for a visit from a Middle States Review team in Spring 2027.

Throughout the day, Dr. Peavy met with the Board of Trustees, the President, the Steering Committee, and members of the campus community. During the Campus-Wide Open Session, faculty, staff, students, and administrators learned more about the Middle States Standards and the accreditation process.



Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor of History; Maria Farina, Adjunct Instructor of Psychology; Sean Mullen, Counselor I; Ashley Lucie Ntumba Lumbala, student and co-host; Khalim Hannah, student; Brittany Bowie, student; and Sion Hardy, student and co-host.

Podcast Kicks Off Fifth Season

The *Many Voices, One Call* podcast began its fifth season with *And Good Things Will Come: Students, Stress, and the Supports We Build Together*, an episode that focused on mental health and community college students, with an inspiring talk about self-care, wellness, and the healing power of the martial arts.

College Expands Evening Support

College administrators launched a Tuesday Evening Support Station to better serve adult learners and evening students. Academic Advising, Career & Transfer Services, TRIO, EOP, and ASAP have been rotating weekly to provide in-person support, designed to increase access and create a consistent support presence for students who may not be on campus during standard hours. The College Store is also open later.

ACADEMICS

College Joins Enhanced Air Traffic - Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) Program



SUNY Schenectady is at the forefront of responding to a critical, national need for qualified Air Traffic Controllers by partnering with the FAA on the new Enhanced AT-CTI program. SUNY Schenectady is one of only seven colleges in the nation, and one of three community colleges nationwide, that the FAA has authorized to provide the same thorough curriculum and advanced training technology offered at the agency's Academy in Oklahoma City.

This means that graduates can earn their Associate degrees in Air Traffic Control with Enhanced CTI in just two years and if they pass the Air Traffic Skills Assessment (ATSA), they are prepared to go to work immediately in an FAA facility. The program will increase the controller training pipeline and ensure graduates have the necessary skills to begin immediate facility employment.

Students are training on the new Air Traffic Control Simulator which includes stations for Controller, TRACON (Radar), En Route, and Pilot training. It is the largest and most comprehensive ATC simulator east of the Mississippi River.



Emily Hamedian (from Fremont, California), Matthew Brooder (from Buffalo, N.Y.) and Hannah Schermerhorn (from Valatie, N.Y.) are students in the new FAA-approved Enhanced Air Traffic – Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI) A.A.S. degree program.

Training Future Air Traffic Controllers With New ATC Simulator



Amy Parish, Vice President of North America Programs for UFA, Inc., guides Cameron Robson, Aviation Science major, on the new Air Traffic Control Simulator.

The College unveiled an impressive, new Air Traffic Control Simulator that features:

- Three ATC Tower stations for ultra-realistic training
- Seven 75" monitors for 215 degrees of complete tower immersion
- Four radar TRACON stations for multi-training scenarios and realism
- Seven Remote Pilot stations for real human-voice responses and pilotage
- FAA Academy Curriculum for the BEST in ATC Training

The simulator was developed by UFA, Inc., the world's premier developer of simulation and training systems for Air Traffic Control and Airport Operation.

School of Music Introduces Music Business Lecture Series

"We wanted to show students the numerous career opportunities in the music industry beyond the two everyone already knows about - teaching and performing," said Dr. Christopher Brellochs, as he introduced a new daytime Music Business Lecture Series. Featured speakers were: Bruce Pilato, Owner/Operator of Pilato Entertainment, Marketing & Media, LLC; Gail Wein, President of Classical Music Communications; Jon Elbaum, Executive Director of the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall; and Michael Kirsty, Executive Director of Friends of Chamber Music of Troy, New York.



Entrepreneur Shares Advice with Business Students



During a visit to Professor Matt Farron's Introduction to Business class, Keven Mathes shared how he spent decades working as a banking specialist focusing on commercial lending and sales during the day, and then cleaned offices and local businesses during evenings and on weekends. A member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, Mathes spent 25 years in the banking industry and is currently a Senior Commercial Loan Officer at First National Federal Credit Union. He is also the owner of Precision Executed Cleaning Company and G & G Vending.

Students Engineer College Podcast



Michael Sevier, Francis Brown, and Beau Greenwood put the finishing touches on a new episode of the College's podcast.

Music Audio Technology students once again gained hands-on experience in the Vianna-Brignola Recording Studio by recording, mixing, and mastering episodes of the College's *Many Voices, One Call* podcast.

Speed Networking Features Quick Conversations Packed With Meaningful Advice

During Speed Networking, students in Interpersonal and Group Dynamics, Business, and Hospitality classes had seven minutes at tables with local employers and the conversations were packed with tips about good points to hit during a "real" job interview, career competencies that employers are looking for, and ways to effectively communicate those skills. The annual program is organized by Career and Transfer Services.



Chris Wessell '00, Managing Partner of PeopleWise, with Business students.

HCAT Students and Faculty Travel to Italy

Students and faculty from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism (HCAT) enjoyed 17 days of cooking classes, culinary excursions, and cultural awareness, learning from chefs and touring restaurants, farms, and vineyards in Nettuno, Ferrara, Parma, and Asti, part of the Marco Polo Institute Program Abroad in Italy. Associate Professors Courtney Withey and John O'Connell led the group. Students earned three credits through the "Italian Food and Culture" course.



HCAT Students and Faculty Make Their Mark at the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes

For the 44th year, students and faculty from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism (HCAT) worked at culinary concessions and front of the house positions at some of the most prestigious venues at Churchill Downs, alongside industry professionals from Levy Restaurants of Compass Group. Associate Professor Kimberly Otis, Associate Professor Jay Larkin, Associate Professor Courtney Withey, and Assistant Professor Rain O'Donnell led the group at the Kentucky Derby.

Students and faculty from HCAT also worked at the Belmont Stakes at the Saratoga Race Course.



ACADEMICS

STEM Day 2025



Students Present Original Research Findings

During STEM Day, students from Dr. Richard Simons' Biology II Lab and Dr. Lorena Harris' Microbiology and Biotechnology courses presented posters with their original research findings examining: the timing of leaf color change in Boxelder trees, the migration of Canada Geese through this area, the growth of moss on trees, the changes in Teasels (a plant with a cone-like seed bearing structure at the top of the plant) as winter approaches, the identification of microbes found in the local area, and the application of an emerging golden gate assembly system to develop a cure for Marfan Syndrome.

More than 200 students and teachers from local high schools were on campus for STEM Day 2025. SUNY Schenectady students impressed them with demos including Correcting Prion Misfolding, Spider Life Cycle of Silk, AI Chat Bot, and a Casino Game App. Faculty and staff from the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health (MSTH) performed demos including DNA Extraction with Strawberries, Math Card Tricks, Be Brite!, Van De Graf Machine, Hands-on Medical Coding, Atomic Spectra, GeoGebra Art, and Game Apps.

Highlights of the day included tours and demos in the Air Traffic Control Simulator Lab and Flight Simulator Lab, as well as the Workforce Development and Community Education Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare Mobile Training Labs. Round-table career discussions with subject matter experts from the Division of MSTH and the local STEM community followed.

Students Inducted Into PTK



There were 53 students inducted into the College's Alpha Zeta Upsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society during a special ceremony in the Taylor Auditorium. They have achieved an impressive 3.65 or higher GPA. They exemplify the four hallmarks of PTK: scholarship, leadership, fellowship, and service.



First Year Seminar Fair Sets Students Up for Success

Hosted by the First Year Seminar (FYS) Working Group and Academic Affairs, the FYS Resource Fair introduced new students to the wide range of academic, support, and engagement opportunities available on campus. More than 200 students attended from FYS classes.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

School of Music Dean Conducts Gilded Age Orchestra of Newport



Dr. Christopher Brellochs, Dean of the School of Music, conducted the Gilded Age Orchestra of Newport during *To Rhode Island, With Love*, an evening of music composed by Ambassador J. William Middendorf II, in celebration of his 100th birthday. Dr. Brellochs' expertise and passion for the music of the Gilded Age has brought him from serving as a consultant for and actor in HBO's *The Gilded Age* to performing and conducting throughout the Northeast.

Photo Credit: Anthony De Luca

Staff's Creativity Recognized With SUNY Awards

Jessica McHugh-Green, Graphic Designer II, and Cooper Hewison, eSports Specialist and Team Coach, both received statewide awards from SUNY CUAD, the organization that represents professionals from institutional advancement areas at every SUNY campus.

Jessica received the Excellence in Creativity: Multi-Page Publication Award for the Rising Together Case for Support folder she created for the SUNY Schenectady Foundation's *Rising Together* campaign. The multi-page folder is eye-catching, effective, cost-conscious, and conveys the importance of investing in SUNY Schenectady and students, while appealing to a broad level of potential donors.

Cooper received the Best of Category in the Excellence in Creativity: Logo Award, for the eSports logo he designed for the eSports team and arena. Paying homage to Schenectady's Electric City history, the logo leans into "lightning" as a core visual and features a blue shield, a historical element of the Hotel Van Curler (now Elston Hall). The logo influenced the design aesthetic of the arena and team jerseys.



Chief of Staff Chosen for Statewide Leadership Academy

Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff, was chosen as a member of the New York State Community College Leadership Academy through The New York Success Center.



Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff, with Valerie Dent, SUNY Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges.

The Academy is designed to provide mid-level community college leaders with a solid foundational understanding of critical student success and change management concepts.

Tiombé began her career at SUNY Schenectady in 2016 as an Academic Specialist in TRIO, was named Assistant Director of the Liberty Partnerships Program in 2017, and became the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program in 2021, providing academic support, access, and linkage to necessary services for eligible EOP students. She was named Chief of Staff in 2023.



Faculty Examine AI

Tamara Calhoun, Professor, Mykha'el Wilson, Dean of the Division of Business and Professional Programs, Daniel Holz, Assistant Professor, and Carol Maimone, Assistant Professor, during the faculty workshop "AI Fundamentals in the Classroom - Transforming Learning," part of Spring Institute Week.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

2025 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

Dr. Laurie Lacey, Professor, Division of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Health

Dr. Laurie Lacey has been a tireless innovator at the College for more than 30 years, always looking for ways to improve not only her own teaching, but the content of mathematics courses.

Of particular note is Dr. Lacey's work in the development and utilization of Open Educational Resources (OER). To aid access to textbooks for her students, Dr. Lacey has made OER materials available in her courses. She has also convinced her colleagues to switch by-and-large to OER materials in their own courses. Her efforts have not been limited to SUNY Schenectady. Her remixed textbooks have been shared with other SUNY institutions and SUNY recognized her accomplishments in 2023 with a grant to help reinforce SUNY Schenectady's commitment to OER materials.

Dr. Lacey finds time to serve the community as well. She has written exams used for the High School Math Contest, reviewed exams for the College in High School program, served as the Local Organizer for the Hudson River Undergraduate Math Conference, and is the College Liaison for the Mathematical Association of America.

She holds her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University at Albany, M.S. and B.A. from the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, and M.S. from the University of Vermont.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Services

Amiee Warfield, Controller, Administration and Finance

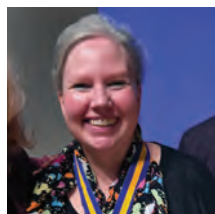
Amiee Warfield is an outstanding asset to the College as she directs and controls all College financial activity.

Managers routinely rely on Amiee for her vast institutional knowledge and expertise in budget, cash flow, and grant management; financial reporting; coordinating compliance with federal, state, and institutional regulations; leadership and development of her team; and strategic planning.

Amiee's attention to detail has been instrumental in keeping the College compliant with federal, state, and institutional regulations, and ensuring the College's financial standing is always clearly communicated to the Board of Trustees and other stakeholders. Her analytical ability has benefited the College's strategic goals, and her financial insights have kept the College on a path of sustainable growth.

Amiee has led College committees and collaborated with those across campus to improve financial modules and student payment plan systems. She is a mentor to her colleagues, is on a statewide ad hoc committee of Educational Opportunity Center financial directors, and even finds time to serve as an Adjunct Faculty Member.

Amiee holds her M.B.A. from Empire State University, B.S. from the State University of New York College at Brockport, and A.A.S. from SUNY Schenectady.



SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

Charles Barber, Information Services Security Officer, Information Technology Division

Charles "Chuck" Barber has played an indispensable role in keeping technology running smoothly across

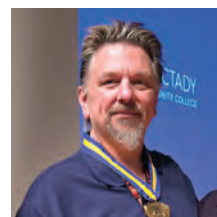
campus. He is often the first person called when technical issues arise and is widely recognized for his ability to diagnose and resolve problems quickly and efficiently.

Known for his calm, composed, and patient approach to troubleshooting, Chuck's exceptional interpersonal skills and commitment to high-quality support make him a trusted resource for faculty, staff, and students alike.

He is highly skilled in working with individuals from diverse backgrounds, abilities, and personal situations. He has been observed engaging with first-generation college students, encouraging them in a kind and approachable manner to seek support and stay on track to complete their degrees.

Chuck's success at SUNY Schenectady is not only reflected in his technical proficiency, but in the way he serves the needs of the entire campus community. He is known for his welcoming demeanor, dedication to service, and for ensuring that every IT issue is resolved with a blend of expert problem-solving and customer service excellence.

Chuck holds his A.A.S. and Certificate from SUNY Schenectady.



Employees Recognized With Peer-to-Peer Appreciation Awards

Brightening the Day Award

Presented to the employee who makes showing up to work a better experience through their positive attitude.

Jessica Gilbert,
Dean of Learner Support

Jessica is described as someone who is driven, supportive, and always looks on the bright side. She provides a positive perspective during group discussions and meetings, and is always focused on solutions. Jessica provides a voice of reason and consistently moves efforts forward due to her leadership ability.



Making Things Happen Award

Presented to the employee who is resourceful and achieves desired outcomes despite adversity.

Matt Farron, Professor

Matt is incredibly resourceful and spends countless hours outside of teaching to enrich the College. He co-organized the *Degrees and Dreams* event to promote programs to adult learners, and works on the Adult Learner Working Group. A participant in the IITG grant: Teaching with AI, Matt implemented AI into his courses. He has added Mohonasen High School to the Business Plan Competition along with Schenectady High School.



Behind the Scenes Award

Presented to the employee who performs critical tasks but is not usually in the spotlight.

Jessica McHugh-Green,
Graphic Designer II

Jessica collaborates behind the scenes with campus members from various departments and impacts the entire campus community with her work, from website updates and daily digital signage messaging to updating campus signage and designing custom graphics for events. She is always willing to offer help to others by collaborating on graphic design projects or reviewing others' work and revising it based on graphic design principles.



Faculty Member Selected for SUNY Fellows Program

Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts, was selected for the inaugural year of the SUNY AI for the Public Good Fellows Program for 2025-2026. She was chosen as one of 20 fellows from more than 200 applications submitted from colleges and universities across the SUNY system.



The AI for the Public Good Fellows will be a resource to SUNY's colleges and universities by providing targeted support for faculty and staff working to update courses and learning activities to incorporate AI literacy. This will include recommendations for the effective and ethical use of AI and support for teaching students to critically evaluate AI-generated content.

Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access Recognized by SUNY Group

Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access, was a recipient of the 2025 Bette Frisino Award from SUNY Student Information and Campus Administrative Systems (SICAS). Mark was honored by SICAS for his work on the SUNY Reconnect program which began in Fall 2025 and offers no cost associate degrees in high demand fields for New Yorkers 25 to 55 years old with no college degree. Mark developed procedures to effectively administer the program and shared his expertise with SICAS to support the other community colleges throughout the SUNY System.



FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

College Welcomes New Chief Information Officer

Dr. Joshua M. Gaul joined the College as the Chief Information Officer, overseeing Information Technology Services. Prior to this role, he was the Associate Vice President and Chief Digital Learning Officer at Edge, a New Jersey-based nonprofit focused on advancing education through technology. He also spent 15 years at SUNY Empire State College, where he held various leadership positions, culminating as Director of Educational and Emerging Technologies.

Dr. Gaul holds an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership, Learning, and Innovation from Wilmington University. He earned a Master's degree in Adult Education and Communications Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Communications Media from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His professional credentials include certifications in digital accessibility, project management, change management, IT service management, and business process analysis.



Art Instructor Co-Curates Exhibit Celebrating 50 Years of Black Dimensions In Art

Well-known area artist Stephen J. Tyson, who has taught a variety of Art courses at the College since 2000, co-curated an exhibition, "For Liberation and for Life: The Legacy of Black Dimensions in Art (BDA)," which was on display at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

A longtime BDA Board Member, Stephen's painting "12 Revolutions" (acrylic on canvas, 48 x 36 in.) was on display, along with the work of Tayron Lopez (Taitan) '16, who was a student of Stephen's.



Faculty Share Ideas and Strategies During Retreats



Assistant Professor Cayla Gaworecki speaks to faculty during the opening session of the first Teaching and Learning Faculty Retreat.

The Teaching and Learning Faculty Retreat Part I: *Rooted in Values, Growing in Practice* brought faculty together for a day of reflection, connection, and professional growth in May 2025. As part of the College's Achieving the Dream student success efforts, the retreat centered on evidence-based pedagogies designed to elevate teaching practice and spark innovation in the classroom.

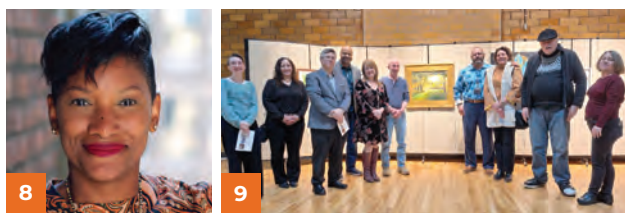
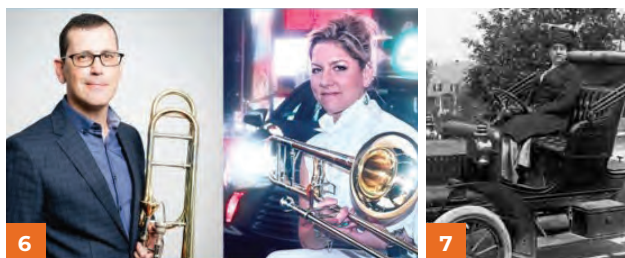
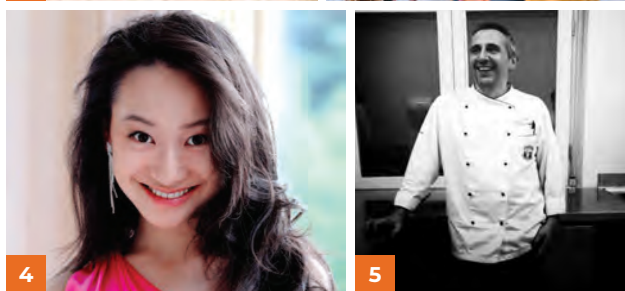


During Part II: *Reignite Our Why: Teaching for Learning*, faculty reconnected with the "why" behind their teaching and explored strategies that support meaningful learning in August 2025. They inspired one another by sharing strategies they planned to implement during the following semester and considered how these approaches support student success.

Digital Accessibility Tech Talks

The Office of Disability Resources hosted monthly digital accessibility tech talks, offering practical tips for faculty and staff on how to incorporate accessibility best practices into their digital content.

EVENTS



1. Exploring AI, January 2025
Todd McLees, Founder of HumanSkills.AI, presented *Building AI Agility: Empowering Human Flourishing in the AI Economy*.
2. Celebrating Music and Dance, January 2025
Celebrated Emblems marked the first-ever collaboration between Musicians of Ma'alwyck and the Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company. (Photo credit: Gary Gold)
3. Black History Month, February 2025
The Schenectady County Historical Society presented, *Favored By Their Custom - The Leadership of Schenectady's Early Black Barbers*.
- 3a. Amaja Croley, Human Services major and owner of Pretty Gurl Bundles, was joined by other stylists doing wigs, braiding hair, and dread retwists.
4. Piano Performance, February 2025
Award-winning pianist, U.S. Presidential Scholar (2024), and Albany Symphony guest artist Harmony Zhu performed in the Taylor Auditorium.
5. Magnifico Culinary Demo, February 2025
Chef Gino Minacapilli brought his expertise to support students participating in the Culinary Study Abroad Program.
6. Trombone Duo, March 2025
An exciting performance by dynamic trombonists Haim Avitsur and Andrea Neumann.
7. *Always Be A Lady: The Pioneering Career of Elizabeth Gillette*, March 2025
The Schenectady County Historical Society examined the life of Elizabeth Gillette who was only the second woman to practice medicine in Schenectady.
8. *Fostering Community and Student Success Through Collective Efficacy*, March 2025
Elaine Porcher's workshop explored how a shared belief in collaborative problem-solving can drive student success and foster lasting trust within school communities.
9. Celebrating Artists in The Rise Gallery, March 2025
A special Artists Reception was held in The Rise Gallery to celebrate faculty and staff whose work was on exhibit as part of *Hidden Talents*, featuring photography, tapestry, painting, illustration, fiber art, mixed media, and jewelry design.
10. *Food for Thought & All That Jazz*, presented by Key Bank, April 2025
The SUNY Schenectady Foundation celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Hotel Van Curler and the *Rising Together Campaign* during this festive evening. Guests toured the newly redesigned Elston Hall lobby and renovated Lally Mohawk Room, open to the public for the first time during the event.
11. A Place for Jazz, September 2025
Jazz greats David Murray, saxophone, and Peter Bernstein, guitar, performed.
12. A Meaningful Micro-Opera, October 2025
Students performed in and directed *Troubleshooting*, a micro-opera written by John Carroll '16.
13. Poet Laureate, November 2025
Adonis Richards, Schenectady's Inaugural Poet Laureate, enthralled audience members during a special reading and open mic event.

STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

Students Named 2025 Phi Theta Kappa All-State Scholars

Jasmatie Lutawan, Computer Repair and Networking, Deviyani Singh, Entrepreneurship, and Alicia Balgobin, Human Services, were selected for the Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Team, recognized for their academic achievements, leadership accomplishments, and engagement in community service. Jasmatie was placed on the First Team, with one of the top 20 scores statewide.

Jasmatie was President of both the International Club and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a Senator on the Student Government Association, member of TRIO, and in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). She was named to the President's List.

Deviyani was President and Secretary of the International Club, Student Government Association Senator, and an Ambassador for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). A member of the TRIO program, she was named to the President's List and was the Public Relations Secretary for Phi Theta Kappa.

Alicia was an intern with the TRIO program. She has attended the College full time as she and her husband raise their 3-year-old son. Alicia has been named to the President's List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



Chamber Ensemble Performs at WMHT Next Generation Festival

The Chamber Ensemble: Ethan Aristizabal, piano, Lyra Lenigk, violin, and Dan La Plante, cello performed at the WMHT Next Generation Festival at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. The concert was later broadcast on both WMHT TV and radio. The Ensemble is directed by Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Violinist, School of Music Faculty Member, and Director of Musicians of Ma'alwyck.

Biotechnology Students Earn Top Honors For STEM Poster



It was only the first time that Biotechnology students Mary Ritter, Siyana Brown, and Darren Seegobin presented their research to anyone, but they so impressed a panel of judges comprised of industry and college representatives during the Third Annual Capital Region STEM Poster Showcase that they took top honors in the community college research category. Their poster "A Synthetic Biology Approach: Applying Emerging GGA Technique to Develop a Cure for Marfan Syndrome" earned the top spot during the STEM event at Hudson Valley Community College. In addition to the prestige of winning their category, each student received a cash prize. The student team was mentored by Dr. Lorena Harris, Assistant Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health.

A Championship Title for eSports Team Member

The new eSports Team had an impressive season with players making it to both the SUNY eSports Playoffs and the ECAC eSports League playoffs for the first time. Noah Wylie, Liberal Arts: Psychology major, and Daniel Van Buren, Teacher Education Transfer major, competed in Guilty Gear Strive at the SUNY eSports Playoffs at the University at Albany. Noah won first place and Dan placed fifth during the championship competition which brought players from SUNY campuses across the state to Albany.



eSports Team Places Second in ECAC League Playoffs



During ECAC Playoffs, the Valorant team placed second, winning silver in the open division, and the Valorant team finished seventh in playoffs for the SUNY league. The eSports program had 33 players competing across six game titles. The team is coached

by Cooper Hewison, eSports Specialist and Team Coach, an alumnus of Programming for Game Design at SUNY Schenectady and a graduate of SUNY Canton's B.S. degree program in Game Design and Development.

Alumnus Returns to Campus for Careers in Gaming and eSports Arena Open House

Gaming enthusiasts and their families and friends were on campus for the Careers in Gaming and eSports Arena Open House. Guests heard from Matt Pirog '99, Audio Designer, and Dan Doptis, Engineer, Designer, and Game Director, both of Velan Studios. Pirog graduated with his degree in Performing Arts: Music and shared his journey into the gaming profession which began with his work on Guitar Hero.



Graduate Earns McConney Award for Student Excellence

Najaya Knuckles, who graduated with her degree in Human Services in December 2024, was a recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence that recognizes outstanding EOP students from SUNY campuses for their academic merit and perseverance.

STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

And the winner is...



Dylan Slater with Dr. Brian Lovelace, Physical Sciences Technical Assistant, and Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health.

Dylan Slater, who is majoring in Mathematics and Science, was the winner of the annual Grattidge-Ohnstad Science Competition held in the Physics Lab. The goal of the competition was to determine the most precise value of Planck's constant, h , by performing the famous Photoelectric Effect experiment for which Albert Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1921. The competition was established by the late Dr. Walter Grattidge, a longtime friend of the College and generous donor to the SUNY Schenectady Foundation.

A junior at Schenectady High School and a Schenectady Smart Transfer student in the Early College High School Program, Dylan is also President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a Senator with the Student Government Association, plays tenor saxophone with the School of Music Jazz Ensemble, and tutors ninth- and 10th graders in science. He plans to graduate from both Schenectady High School and SUNY Schenectady this year to transfer on for his bachelor's degree in either Biology or Molecular Biology. He would like to become a physician.

2025 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence

Latasha Rivera, Paralegal

As a Student Worker in the Food Pantry for two years, Latasha Rivera took on the role of training and mentoring new student employees, assisting new pantry visitors in creating online ordering accounts, and representing the Food Pantry in various capacities, including meeting with SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. A first-generation college student, Latasha is the mother of six children. She has volunteered her time with several organizations that seek to ameliorate basic needs gaps for individuals and families, most notably Schenectady Street Soldiers. Latasha was named to the Dean's List and informally tutored her classmates. She is a member of the New York State Paralegal Association.



Jasmatie Lutawan, Computer Repair and Networking

Jasmatie Lutawan was one of 30 students chosen from institutions across the country to lend her voice and vision to the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) inaugural TRIO Future Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C. She was a Student Worker in the Career and Transfer Services Office, Senator on the Student Government Association, and member of TRIO and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). She was named to the President's List and actively sought ways to engage in academic and experiential learning through the Division of Math, Science, Technology, and Health, including presenting her computer applications at STEM Day and attending professional conferences.



Student Leaders Attend Statewide Conference



Members of the Student Government Association and Student Activities Advisor Christina Charette attended the SUNY Student Assembly Conference in Syracuse. They engaged in workshops designed to enhance their leadership skills and foster personal growth.

Student Lends Her Voice to SUNY Chancellor's State of the University Address

One day before she graduated with her A.A. degree in Liberal Arts: Psychology, Rossiluz Caceres spoke to a packed crowd at The Egg in Albany as part of SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr.'s State of the University Address. Describing her journey to higher education, she was the first student in the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) Program to ever speak as part of the Chancellor's annual address, crediting ASAP with helping her to persevere while at the College because of the necessary academic and financial supports it provided to her.



Students Gain Valuable Experience During Statewide Tourism Summit



Professor Ingrid O'Connell, of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, led students on a weekend of networking with professionals in the hospitality field during the New York State Tourism Industry Association's (NYSTIA) Tourism Summit in Lake George.

Ally Becker, Hospitality and Tourism Management major, and Averri Ricks, Hotel and Restaurant Management major, attended the conference where they learned about successful tourism promotion campaigns from counties across the state and networked with tourism professionals.

A highlight of the program was when the NYSTIA awarded scholarships to Ally Becker and Chloe Pierce, who graduated in 2024 with her degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management and is an intern with the NYSTIA while she pursues a graphic design degree.

A Talented Baritone Performs



LayVon Scott, Performing Arts: Music student, performed music from the collection of William James Knapp during performances at The Sembrich in Bolton Landing and Historic Cherry Hill in Albany.

Scott performed musical selections from Mr. Knapp's extensive personal collection of sheet music, acquired between 1865 to 1885. The concerts also featured Dr. Elizabeth Gerbi, School of Music Faculty Member, piano, and Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, producer/speaker.

Two New Student Co-hosts Join College Podcast



Podcast co-hosts Sion Hardy, Dr. Babette Faehmel, and AshleyLucie Ntumba Lumbala in the Vianna-Brignola Recording Studio.

The fifth season of the *Many Voices, One Call* podcast kicked off with two new student co-hosts, AshleyLucie Ntumba Lumbala and Sion Hardy, alongside Faculty co-host Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts. AshleyLucie is a Computer Science major and joined the podcast through the Empire State Service Corps program.

Sion Hardy, a Teacher Education Transfer major and artist, has her own YouTube channel where she interviews other artists and creators about what inspires them.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

From Boxing Gloves to Baby Formula, Human Services Students Support Local Organizations

Students in Professor Renee Adamany's SOC 127: Interpersonal and Group Dynamics course were out in the community, pouring their time and energy into their service-learning projects and making an impact on local organizations.

Human Services major Patricia McGuire and fellow student John May set up a GoFundMe account and collected donations to purchase boxing gloves, a punching



Standing: Amber Ferdula, Kelsey Daverin, Shively Flavius and seated: Mariah Becker and Madison Tribley, inside The Wildwood Cupboard.

bag, overhead light covers, and Rocky T-shirts, as well as gift cards and corn hole games to support the Schenectady Ring of Hope Boxing Club's weekly lessons for middle school and high school students at Washington Irving Education Center.

Students organized a bottle drive and collected donations from the Regional Food Bank, as well as from family and friends, including non-perishables such as peanut butter, jelly, pasta, personal hygiene products, household items, baby essentials, baby clothes, and refillable water bottles to increase what was on the shelves of The Wildwood Cupboard, a free resource for staff of Wildwood Programs.



Washington Irving Principal Maria DeNovio, eighth-grader Malachi McCully, Human Services major Patricia McGuire, and Director of the Schenectady Ring of Hope Boxing Club Jacki Kinnicutt-Sawyer, inside the gym at Washington Irving Educational Center in Schenectady.

Food Truck Is Popular Attraction Throughout Capital Region



The College's Food Truck, the centerpiece of the Mobile Food Service Certificate program, traveled throughout the Capital Region to:

- Ninth Annual Schenectady Soup Stroll, January 2025
Serving Ozoni, Japanese New Year Soup Mochi with assortment of vegetables, fish cake, chicken, and dashi broth (gf)
- Schenectady Summer Night, July 11, 2025
- Liberty Foundation's Electric City Trucks, Taps, Corks and Forks, July 17, 2025
- Music Haven, Central Park, Schenectady, Summer 2025
- Empire State Plaza, Summer 2025
- 12th Annual Downtown Schenectady Wing Walk, October 4, 2025
Serving a General Tso's Chicken Wing with Broccoli Salad in Sesame Ginger Dressing.

COMMENCEMENT



Celebrating the Class of 2025!

"Class of 2025, you are the generation our world needs now, more than ever. We need your insight, your energy, and your willingness to thoughtfully engage in solving some of the toughest challenges we face. Your time at SUNY Schenectady has helped shape you into thoughtful listeners, accountable leaders, and brave communicators."

Keynote Speaker Angelo Mazzone '74,
Founder of Mazzone Hospitality



- **380 graduates**
- **Average Age - 27 years old**
- **Youngest graduate: 16 years old**
- **Oldest graduate: 65 years old**
- **4 international students from 4 countries**
- **5 military veteran graduates**



Student Speaker
Imani Romain-Barthley,
Student Trustee



- **16 Smart Transfer students** graduated through the Early College High School (ECHS) program with their Associate Degrees at the same time they are graduating with their diplomas from Schenectady High School.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Young Archaeologists Unearth Foundation in Historic Stockade

It was another successful dig for students in the Summer Archaeology for Teens class who unearthed the foundation of a 19th century building in the Stockade including clam and oyster shells, utensils, glass, and other household items, all artifacts that reflect the daily lives of the former owners. They learned careful field methods and how to record their findings.



Celebrating Graduates of the Direct Support Professional Microcredential

Workforce Development and Community Education held a celebration for the six graduates of the Direct Support Professional I and II Microcredential programs, offered in partnership with SUNY, the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, and Wildwood Programs.

The Direct Support Professional (DSP) Microcredentials help enrolled students with skills, education, and training as they work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These courses meet the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) education accreditation requirements and prepares students to achieve the NADSP DSP Certification.



Left to right: Shannon Fox, Madison Tribley, and Shirverly Flavius. (Not shown: Mariah Becker and Eva Atwood)

Mobile Training Labs



(ACAP), WFDCE held a five-day Introduction to Healthcare course in the Healthcare Mobile Training Lab. The course was taught by Dan Rivers and Rick Conley, who are both long-time instructors and subject matter experts in the allied healthcare field. Students were introduced to basic skills, professionalism, and career/training options in the healthcare field. Eleven students earned their First Aid and Basic Life Support (BLS) certifications.

The Workforce Development and Community Education (WFD&CE) Mobile Training Labs shared information and delivered trainings throughout the Capital Region. For example, in partnership with the Albany Community Action Partnership

The Mobile Training Labs supported the following events:

- Career Expo with National Grid
- Shenendehowa Central School District Information Fair
- Manufacturing Career Fair at Fulton Montgomery Community College
- SUNY Schenectady All-Class Reunion
- SUNY Binghamton New Energy New York Battery Week
- SUNY Schenectady Open House
- SUNY Schenectady STEM Day
- Mohonasen High School Trade Fair
- Manufacturing Innovators event in partnership with Plug Power and Hudson Valley Community College at Bethlehem Central High School

PARTNERSHIPS

Regional Adult Education Network Capital North Grant

The College received a \$2.75M Regional Adult Education Network Capital North Grant from the New York State Education Department (NYSED). This agreement provides SUNY Schenectady with the resources to provide Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN) activities to adult education teachers and administrators within the Capital North Country Region and coordinate, host, and manage professional development training conferences for NYSED Adult Education Programs and Policy (AEPP) funded programs. The RAEN system is how the NYSED/AEPP provides technical assistance to funded adult education programs across New York State in order to meet workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II, Section 223 requirements as well as requirements of State Funding administered by NYSED/AEPP.

Health Care Training Expansion

WFD&CE received two SUNY grants for \$75,000 to support and expand the variety of allied healthcare programs currently offered and in development. The first round was used to purchase simulation equipment to augment education/training programs and to be used on the Healthcare Mobile Training Lab, an official extension site for Personal Care Aide training through the NYSED. Next, WFD&CE intends to purchase more simulation equipment, provide professional development, expand recruitment, and assist in hiring additional staff.

High School Students Get A Jumpstart On College



More than 380 students from Schenectady High School participated in the six-week Summer Early College High School program taking courses in Art History, Psychology, Western Civilization, Public Speaking, Computer Applications, Environmental Science, First Year Seminar, Statistics, College Algebra, Trigonometry, Statistics,

Precalculus, Business, U.S. Government and Politics, and Sociology, and students in 11th and 12th grade were on campus full time during the Fall Semester.

Students in the Smart Transfer program have the goal of either earning 60 college credits or completing an associate's degree by high school graduation. Most of them go on to transfer to a four-year college or university after they graduate. Those in the Smart Scholars program have the goal of earning an average of 24 college credits by high school graduation.

Sharing *The Schenectady Promise* at Schenectady High School



Seniors at Schenectady High School and their families were extended *The Schenectady Promise* during a special program at the high school hosted by the College's Admissions Office. *The Schenectady Promise* ensures that Schenectady High School graduates and their families are guaranteed admission to SUNY Schenectady.

FOUNDATION

From the Chair



It is an honor to serve as Chair of the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board. As someone who has lived, studied, and built a career in Schenectady County, I have seen firsthand how SUNY Schenectady fulfills its mission to provide accessible, high-quality education that empowers students and strengthens our community. The College equips students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue their goals and make a meaningful impact in their lives and the world around them.

Our work as a Foundation Board is guided by a commitment to support the College through partnerships with donors, alumni, and friends. Every gift, large or small, plays a vital role in advancing the College's mission and opening doors for students, helping them succeed academically and beyond. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for standing with us in this important work.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students and the vitality of our community.

Kevin R. Buhrmaster
Foundation Board Chair

New Foundation Board Members



Claudia Brown is an accomplished business professional with experience in banking, account management, and nonprofit leadership. She began her career in financial services, gaining expertise in client relations, financial management, and strategic planning. At the heart of her work is an interest in expanding access to education, supporting workforce development, and creating pathways to economic opportunity in the community. She is passionate about fostering

partnerships that connect people and resources to drive lasting change.

The Foundation is thrilled to have Claudia's expertise, leadership, and participation on the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board.



Barbara "Barb" Casey retired in September 2023 after a 30-year career in higher education advancement, most recently serving as Director of Donor Engagement and Stewardship at Skidmore College. A dedicated community volunteer, Barb is passionate about initiatives that promote education and support local residents and the environment in which they live. She has served on the College's *Food for Thought & All That Jazz* steering committee for two years,

most recently as co-chair, and also lends her expertise to the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy, where she chairs the development committee.

Barb's experience, passion, and community spirit will greatly enhance the mission of the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board.

Campus Improvements Strengthened by Community Support



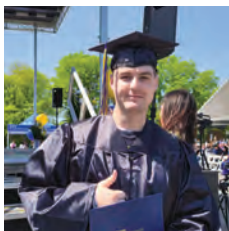
Thanks to the Carlilian Foundation, three new benches have been installed and are a wonderful addition to The Quad. The grant also assisted with concrete repairs and flowers for the fountain, also supported by the Carlilian Foundation.

New Scholarships

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation is thrilled to thank the generous donors who contribute to existing scholarships or establish new ones each year. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, with the help of a scholarship committee, was able to offer 218 scholarship awards valued at nearly \$327,000 to students.



The **Ellen Brenecki Heekin '98 Memorial Scholarship** endowment was established by Richard Heekin in memory of his wife Ellen Heekin who worked as a Senior Technical Specialist in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism. This scholarship will assist students pursuing a degree in Culinary Arts. We are grateful to honor Ellen with this support.



In memory of alumnus Randy Collins, SUNY Schenectady staff created the **Randy Collins '23 Memorial Scholarship**. Randy returned to college in his late 20s to study Business and Accounting. He quickly became friends with many staff and faculty on campus and was well known for his sense of humor and infectious smile. This scholarship will support students returning to college after a period of absence. The Foundation

is grateful to honor Randy's life and spirit in such a meaningful way.

Through his bequest, two scholarships have been established in honor of alumnus William J. Wachel '72. A proud graduate of the Schenectady school system, Mr. Wachel formed lifelong friendships and a deep sense of community that remained with him throughout his life. The **William J. Wachel Culinary Scholarship** and the **William J. Wachel Music Scholarship** will support students in those respective programs for five years. These scholarships will be awarded to students residing in the city of Schenectady, with second priority to students living in Schenectady County. The Foundation is deeply grateful for Mr. Wachel's thoughtful generosity and commitment to generations of SUNY Schenectady students.



The **Grayce Burian Drama Scholarship** was established from a generous bequest by Professor Grayce Susan Burian, Emeritus. Professor Burian joined the faculty at the College in 1970 and taught theater and other courses in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for 20 years, retiring in 1990. This scholarship will benefit students pursuing studies in the Humanities or Arts-related academic programs. We are honored to celebrate Professor Burian's legacy and her support of education.



The **Charlie's Gift Scholarship** endowment was created through the generosity of anonymous donors. This scholarship provides support for students with financial need, helping to cover the cost of tuition, books, and fees. The Foundation deeply appreciates this thoughtful act of kindness.

Welcome Back Alumni!



Dr. David Brough '81, Vladia Boniewski '71, and Joan Dembinski '10



There were a lot of laughs, hugs, and warm conversations as alumni from the Class of 1971 (the College's first graduating class) through the Class of 2025 returned to campus for a fun and festive All-Class Reunion. The day started off in the Lally Mohawk Room with alumni reconnecting and reminiscing about old times.

Jay Murphy was on the Men's Baseball Team and Men's Basketball Team during his two years at the College. He graduated in 1979 with his degree in Humanities and Social Sciences. "I've been active with the College's Alumni Association," he said. "I looked forward to the reunion, meeting up with past teammates, friends, and colleagues. For all of us who have remained friends, SCCC is where it all started almost 50 years ago."

FOUNDATION

Celebrating the Success of the *Rising Together Campaign*



Through the *Rising Together Campaign*, public investment and private generosity joined forces to expand opportunities for SUNY Schenectady students. Hand in hand, we eliminated barriers and opened new pathways to achievement, raising more than \$8.5 million to support three initiatives:

Student Opportunity Fund

Nurturing Student Success

- Established five new endowed scholarships and six new annual scholarships, including a new anonymous scholarship endowed at over \$600,000.
- 55,585 pounds of food distributed to 655 households through the campus Food Pantry.
- Scholarships awarded to more than 500 students.
- More than 2,000 high school students gained college credits through scholarships for College in the High School programs.

SUNY Schenectady Fund

Opening Doors, Changing Futures

- Funded the American Culinary Federation certifications for students.
- Conducted a two-year alumni survey and concluded nine out of 10 graduates would recommend SUNY Schenectady to a friend, colleague, or family member.
- Sponsored the Faculty Jazz Combos Concert at Music Haven in Central Park in Schenectady.
- Supported the production of a student-centered podcast.

President's Workforce Innovation Fund

Bridging Education to Industry

- Hosted a strategic forum with local business leaders, featuring a keynote address by renowned economist Hugh Johnson.
- Funded a bus trip for Culinary Arts students to the New York Restaurant Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan.
- Partnered with key industry players in the healthcare industry, manufacturing, aviation, and the criminal justice fields.
- Expanded learning with Workforce Development and Community Education's Mobile Training Labs.



Guests enjoy the Rising Together Gala celebrating the Campaign's success.



Thanks to the support of our dedicated donors, friends, and volunteers, SUNY Schenectady students have greater access to the tools, training, and resources they need to thrive—both in the classroom and beyond. Together, we are building a stronger future for our students and our community.



New Electric Van for Food Pantry

A new electric van will allow the College's Food Pantry to keep pace with rising needs, enabling more efficient pick-ups from the Regional Food Bank and other community partners. With demand increasing steadily, the added transportation capacity ensures we can deliver fresh, reliable support to everyone who relies on the Pantry. We are grateful to the anonymous donors who provided funding for this vehicle.

THE MANY POWERS OF PHILANTHROPY

Every day, our students work to realize their dreams of furthering their education, getting a better job, or training for a new one. The SUNY Schenectady Foundation is fortunate to have a community of donors who, in so many ways, provide the resources we need to keep our students on the path to success.

We are proud to recognize the following individuals and organizations who have contributed a total of \$25,000 or more for their incredible GENEROSITY:

ORGANIZATIONS

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A key to student success depends on the generosity of alumni and friends who include the College in their estate plans. The Keystone Society recognizes and honors donors who believe passionately in our educational mission and the dreams of our students to make the world a better place. We continue to honor those in The Keystone Society who perpetuate our mission by CREATING A LEGACY at the College:

Benita C. Allaire*
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Helen H. Begley*
L. Ann Bish*
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THE MANY POWERS OF PHILANTHROPY

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**Thank you to those who made TRIBUTE
GIFTS in honor or memory of friends and
loved ones:**

In Memory of Thomas J. Baker*

Vladia C. Boniewski '71

In Memory of Nicholas M. Barbaro*

Matthew Barbaro

In Memory of Gabriel J. Basil*

Dr. John A. Basil and Mary Basil
Sandra Basil
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Laurie Garramone

In Honor of Caitlin L. Sive

Alfred Sive

In Memory of Thomasina Winslow

James Eckl
Lindalisa Norville

* In Memoriam

Great care was taken in the preparation of all listings. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions and notify the Foundation Office at 518-381-1324 so that we may correct our records.

Preserving a Legacy, Inspiring the Future



Grayce Burian passed away on November 16, 2023, at the age of 97. She was born into an Italian-American family in Boston, where she studied acting and performed in theatre productions.

After high school, Grayce moved to New York City to pursue a career in theater. Her acting ambitions were sidetracked by both World War II and the Korean War, during which her husband, Jarka, served in the army. When he returned, he pursued an academic theater career. Grayce was his strongest supporter and advisor.

Grayce later launched her own distinguished career in theatre education. She established the theater program at SUNY Schenectady, where she taught and directed for more than 20 years. Following Jarka's passing, she devoted many years to preserving his legacy. Now, she leaves a legacy of her own.

The Grayce Burian Drama Scholarship assists our students with costs associated with their education. Grayce's generous bequest will support this scholarship for generations to come, ensuring her dedication to student success endures. We are grateful for the remarkable legacy Grayce created in scholarship support.

THANK YOU DR. MOONO!



Clockwise from top right:
Schenectady County Airport
Hangar Ground Breaking,
June 8, 2022

A visit to the Food Pantry with
SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr.
and Johanna Duncan-Poitier,
SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for
Community Colleges and the
Education Pipeline,
February 15, 2024

Naming of Joan R. Dembinski '10
Chocolate and Confections Lab,
April 8, 2022

Food for Thought & All That Jazz,
April 2, 2019

Commencement 2017

Mobile Training Labs Ribbon
Cutting, November 21, 2023

Celebrating the new College
Brand, SUNY Schenectady, 2018

Learning Commons Ribbon
Cutting, August 10, 2021

Dr. Moono and Students, 2019

Meeting H.E. Chibamba
Kanyama, Zambian Ambassador
to the United States in
Washington, D.C., 2023

Zambian Guest Chefs, Dr. Moono
and Culinary Arts student
Ngambela Zulu, April 17, 2024



SUNY SCHENECTADY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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