



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

**President’s Report**

November 18, 2024

**PROMOTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

*Office of Diversity and Inclusion*

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, hosted the first Books Beyond Borders reading group sessions to discuss “The Forest of Enchantments” by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni for Hindu Heritage Month.

The DEI Professional Development Initiative has partnered with the Office of ADA Transition Services and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to host an Institute Week symposium addressing the theme of digital inclusion and accessibility.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, accepted an invitation to join the Capital Region DEIBJ Leadership Consortium and began attending the consortium’s monthly meetings.

On October 9, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended “Putting Equity into Practice: 2024 New York State DEIA Workforce Symposium” hosted by Gov. Hochul’s Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

On October 16, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, facilitated a Digital Inclusion Professional Learning Series hybrid session titled “Microsoft PowerPoint Accessibility Fundamentals” at SUNY Schenectady.

On October 16, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a National Center for Institutional Diversity virtual panel titled “Who Belongs? Politics of Identity, Inclusion, and Belonging” that explored the nuance of the context of *belonging* as it applies to DEI efforts.

### Academic Affairs

This month, LPP collaborated with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado to bring the LPP Peer Mentoring Program to Schenectady High School. On October 19, Maggy White, LPP School Counselor, hosted the inaugural training for 11th and 12th grade student mentors at SUNY Schenectady. (1.4, 2.4)

October 1 was a busy day for the EOP program. Michael Henderson, EOP Director, attended a Directors' Retreat and Training in Saratoga Springs, NY which focused on administrative updates, grant reporting and a review of best practices for student retention. (1.1, 1.3, 1.5)

Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer led the *Books Beyond Borders* monthly reading group on Tuesday, October 22, and Monday, October 28. They discussed *The Forest of Enchantments* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in honor of Hindu Heritage Month. Insightful conversations were held in both sessions. (Gen P1)

On October 16, Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/VA Certifying Official organized a Press event on campus to highlight recent legislation extending tuition assistance benefits to all veterans as part of a statewide "day of action". (1.4, 1.5)

### Strategic Initiatives and Planning

The Office of Admissions, in conjunction with the Office of Financial Aid and the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center hosted approximately 40 guests from Schenectady City Schools' Washington Irving Adult & Continuing Education Center. Prospective students enrolled in GED and English Language Learning programs visited campus for an informational session and campus tours. Guests contact information was collected for dedicated follow up and to provide wraparound services across areas (Gen P1).

David Gonzalez and Jacob Young, Admissions Advisors, attended SUNYCAP's (College Admissions Professionals) OpInform events at University at Albany and SUNY Oneonta. Attendance allowed networking and professional development activities between secondary and college counseling and admissions personnel. 300 local high school counselors were reached during the peak college counseling season for seniors. Each event also hosted a "Professional Exchange" fair with a focus on facilitating continued collaboration among groups post meeting sessions (1.4; 2.4).

### Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC and Elizabeth Cowan, Participant Services Specialist of SCCOC presented college and career exploration workshops to students in Washington Irving Educational Center's adult GED and ESL classes.

Ms. Elizabeth Cowan conducted outreach bi-weekly outreach at Schenectady Works- City Mission.

SCCOC hosted a SUNY Schenectady college tour for thirty students in Washington Irving Educational Center's adult GED and ESL classes. Staff from Financial Aid and Admissions presented to the group and provided a tour.

### *Workforce Development and Continuing Education*

On October 9, 2024, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Lauren Lankau and Michell Kraines met with Trent Griffin-Braaf to discuss how apprenticeship could be used to support re-entering citizens as they seek employment after incarceration.

On October 11, 2024, Congressman Paul Tonko visited the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) class to learn about their stories and support their journey to helping others in recovery.

## DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Academic Affairs

Career & Transfer Services staff worked with ASAP, TRIO, EOP, and CSTEP to plan a series of fall workshops to help students meet their professional development needs and increase their access to career development resources. (2.0, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5).

Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services, began recruiting for the Empire State Service Corps which will provide 5 paid service positions for SUNY Schenectady students. (2.2, 2.3 & 2.5)

As part of her commitment to furthering “civic discourse” on campus, Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor participated in the “Unify America Challenge”; a unique, Guided Virtual Conversation with life partners from opposite end of the political spectrum as a way to practice civic dialogue. She also attended a Campus Compact CLDE Coalition virtual session about ways educators can inspire civic and democracy learning across their curriculum.

October has been a very busy month for the School of Music. They have hosted five concert events featuring guests including the all-female jazz ensemble Artemis, the Bill O’Connell Quartet featuring Craig Handy and the Capital Region Wind Ensemble. All were open to the public. These events provide invaluable industry experience for Music Business students who help to organize all of the logistics. They also provide an avenue for community outreach and recruitment of future Music students.

Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services has been busy this month with activities related to AI and its influence on academic libraries. She attended several SUNY OER Virtual Conference sessions and she, Caroline Buff, Research and Instruction Librarian and Giovannine Matheron, Electronic Resources and Collection Development Librarian all attended the Capital District Library Council Symposium on AI and Libraries on October 28. (Gen P2)

On October 6 - 7, Ingrid O’Connell, Professor of Hospitality and Tourism attended the NYS Hospitality and Tourism (NYSHTA) Annual Conference, held in Rochester. Highlights included interactive sessions on the use of AI in the Hospitality industry, harnessing AI for day-to-day operations, marketing and concerns about ethical use. She also serves as a board member for several organizations that provide scholarships. (Gen P2)

On October 14, Michael Henderson, Director of EOP, Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support, and Jacqueline Keleher-Hughes, Director of Library Services met to discuss the Paige Elementary Community School and ways to mentor and expose elementary school students to the value of a college education at SUNY Schenectady. They focused on trying to inspire young students who may believe they have no way to attend college, and overcoming their “perceived” barriers to success in college. (2.3)

On October 15, Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of Math, Science, Technology and Health and Dr. Lorena Harris, Biology Instructor invited the University Relations Professional from Regeneron to meet with MSTH students to inform them about summer internship and educational programs that they offer some of which may offer the possibility of future employment. (2.2, 2.5)

On October 25, ten members of Academic Affairs attended a Transfer Pathway Workshop at SUNY Oneonta. Four FT faculty members, three division deans VPP Dr. Mark Meachem, LPP and Career

Services were present to represent different areas and to learn about the programs and supports Oneonta can offer our students. (Gen P2)

### Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, collaborated with Dr. David Brough and faculty/staff from School of Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Tourism to highlight the Casola Dining Room to our local educational communities, hosting multiple high school staff for lunch in Casola. The Slate CRM was used to communicate with guidance counselors and articulation partners these opportunities through a custom landing page and communications that highlight the College and HCAT's offerings. Guests were welcomed individually upon arrival and introduced to the student staff and adjunct instructor Kim Baker for deeper engagement. Tours of campus and meetings with Admissions followed each reservation to help build familiarity of the College's distinguishing features and signature offerings during the key season when these partners are assisting students with the college search process. Recent guests include leadership at Maria College and University at Albany, as well as guidance counselors from Columbia High School, Clayton A Bouton High School, and Hoosic Valley High School. Feedback has been very positive and in one case the student server in Casola was an alum of the high school attending that day, resulting in the student sharing testimonials directly with high school staff from his alma matter (Gen P2; 1.4).

The ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean attended the Ellis Medicine -Belanger School of Nursing Open house along with 7 current ASAP students. This experience helped the students gain a greater understanding of the path to nursing school after completing their associate's degree from SUNY Schenectady County Community College (1.4; 2.3; 2.4; 3.1).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, optimized the Instant Admit process to ensure a more impactful and efficient experience for all parties, including applicants, guidance offices, and the College. The Admissions Office identified key takeaways and moments of friction within the process to better communicate and set expectations with students and high schools for a successful event. Prior to attending these events, communications were scheduled encouraging early submission of applications and other best practices that promote a smooth enrollment process. These additions allowed for access to student contact information in advance, an efficient application review process, and dedicated communications for students to receive a print conditional acceptance letter and a personalized full acceptance notification within 24 hours of participating, increasing student participation engagement. Events were held at Niskayuna, Guilderland, Shenendehowa, Columbia, and Shaker High Schools with additional events scheduled during November (2.2; 2,3; 1.4).

The ASAP program created and distributed its October newsletter to current ASAP students (1.4).

The College hosted an ASAP Press Event, highlighting the program and its successes and drawing attention to budget advocacy as we enter New York State budget development period. The event, emceed by Kevin Dean, ASAP Executive Director, was well attended by ASAP students and staff from across the College. Speakers included, ASAP Students and Trustee, Imani Romain-Barthley, Trustee and Chair of the Legislature, Gary Hughes, Assemblymember Pat Fahy, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara, and Associate Chancellor for Student Success, Casey O'Brien, and Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Planning (Gen. P2).

ASAP Students participated in the October Health and Wellness workshop (2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 3.1).

The ASAP program had 390 student contacts for the month of October with 160 students in the program. 91% of the students had an in person contact and a second meaningful contact with the ASAP office during the month (2.1; 2.3).

### Student Affairs

#### Wellness and Student Support Services:

New refrigerated lockers have been delivered and installed and are in the process of being tested. Staff are also undergoing training for operations.

#### Financial Aid:

During the Transfer Planning Workshop, hosted by the Office of Career and Transfer Services, Financial Aid presented guidance for SUNY Schenectady students planning to graduate this fall or next spring. The session covered topics for a successful transition to four-year institutions, including steps for applying for financial aid, details on SUNY Free Application Week, and information about SUNY Application Fee Waivers for graduates from a SUNY community college with an AA or AS degree. The workshop provided students with valuable information to support a smooth financial aid application process as they continue their academic journey.

Financial Aid was invited to present to students from the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC), some of whom are considering enrolling at SUNY Schenectady in either spring or fall of 2025. The discussion focused on the range of financial aid options available at SUNY Schenectady, the dedicated staff ready to support them through the application process, and practical tips for navigating financial aid applications. Throughout the session, Financial Aid emphasized the institution's commitment to affordability, helping students understand the resources available to make their education financially accessible.

### Workforce Development and Community Education

Beginning of October, Tricia Terleckey, Assistant Director of Workforce Development held workshops for the DSP Micro Credential students through the OPWDD Grant on the E-Badging Academy.

On October 18, 2024, 10 students in the Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) class, successfully completed the class and received CRPA-P certification

On October 24, 2024, Tricia Terleckey held an information session for Saratoga Bridges.

### Information Technology Services

**In Progress** – Improve campus wide Wi-Fi coverage.

- First step is to conduct a campus wide signal audit to identify dead spots and areas needing improvement.
- Contractor has been obtained we have discussed and reviewed campus floor plans and they will walk every building every hallway once classes end for the semester since they need to access every classroom.

### Development Office

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

Vice President and Stewardship Officer Liuzzi are active Middle States participants.

Senior Stewardship Officer secured 125 turkeys for Thanksgiving for Students from Price Chopper.

### Marketing and Public Relations

On October 20, the Daily Gazette announced that SUNY Schenectady was once again named “Best Local College” (for the fifth consecutive year) in the *Daily Gazette of Schenectady Official 2024 People’s Choice Awards*. The designation provides the College positive media coverage and an opportunity to promote its winning status in our advertising for the next year.

On October 25, Marketing co-hosted a public relations and media training seminar with the College’s agency of record, Baker Public Relations. The training seminar was attended by Dr. Moono, all of President’s Council, the Academic Deans, and the Director of Aviation Programs. The training focused on how to prepare for media interviews, the types of media interview formats, do’s & don’ts of being interviewed, how the media landscape is changing in the digital world and their use of AI to get story ranking and clicks, how reporters prepare for interviews and the techniques and types of questions they use to coax the answers they are looking for, question traps and strategies to handle them, attire and personal presence, and the process of how the College works with the agency along with the benefits of using an agency. As a follow up, Marketing is working with Baker to arrange for individual mock/practice interview training and feedback sessions.

Open House is November 16, from 10am to 1pm. The Marketing team has been working closely with Admissions to support the event with a mix of paid digital, print, traditional, and social media tactics, as well as the new LED roadside boards.

Marketing and Public Relations promoted the college and programs through several media events in October. On 10/16, Assemblymembers Patricia Fahy and Angelo Santabarbara held a conference in support of the new Veterans Tuition Assistance Bill. Student Wesley Rush shared his experiences with the audience, and were joined by coverage from News Channel 6, Spectrum News, Channel 13, and WMHT. On 10/28, the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Planning cohosted a press event with SUNY to announce the 160 students enrolled in the new ASAP program.

## **BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

### *Office of Diversity and Inclusion*

On October 4, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, held a DEI Dialogues Series session to discuss identity-based obstacles to belonging and inclusion and strategies to support those navigating challenges.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, completed the annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Highlights Report for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

### *Academic Affairs*

As part of her efforts to support data-driven decision-making in the library, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services met with a SUNY Office of Library and Information Services representative to discuss optimizing their use of Alma Analytics, a Library Services Platform that reports on acquisitions, fulfillment, and eResource use. (3.5)

### *Strategic Initiatives and Planning*

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, submitted three SUNY Systems reports, three federal IPEDS reports, and one New York Department of Education report. Mr. Miller collaborated with IT to develop a new graduate report. Mr. Miller provided data for the following projects: the Fast Facts booklet, the SUNY REACH grant, and the Department of Labor SCCC2 grant (3.3).

The ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean participated in the Academic Student Services monthly meeting and created and shared a training document for using cohorts in the student success programs (1.2; 3.2).

The ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean, participated as a member of the Starfish Admin and Planning Team in October. The team continues to reimagine the use of Starfish for its most effective and efficient use. A valuable advancement in this effort includes implementing cohorts in Starfish to help programs manage student data (3.1; 3.4; 3.5).

ASAP staff participated in the professional development training, “Understanding Healthy Boundaries with Students, facilitated” by Robyn King (3.3).

The ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean attended the U.S. Department of Education’s webinar titled, “New playbook, Implementing Holistic Advising and Wraparound Services to Equitably Improve Postsecondary Student Success” (3.3).



## Development Office

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

- Stewardship Officer hosted a meet and greet with Julie Panke and Thursday Musical Club Scholarship Recipient, Kourtney Brand.
- Scholarship Donors continue to receive thank you letters from their scholarship recipient(s).

## Human Resources

We continued to provide Wednesday Wellbeing messages. For the month of October, these messages included:

- 10/2- Walktober Challenge – Physical Wellbeing
- 10/9 – Breast Cancer Awareness – Physical Wellbeing
- 10/16 – Personal Cyber-security awareness – Financial Wellbeing
- 10/23 – Fall Fire Safety – Environmental Wellbeing
- 10/30 – Wellbeing Checklist – Overall Wellbeing

We onboarded 14 new employees, two visiting MSW interns, and 12 student workers in the month of October.

We planned a Halloween parade for staff to participate in as our little neighbors from the Gateway Daycare Center came to trick or treat.

We met with a representative from Aflac and discussed extending the short-term disability benefit to new hires. There is no employer contribution to this benefit which is currently only available during open enrollment. Extending the option to participate to new hires will be received favorably for recruitment and retention.

We attended a webinar on rewards and recognition.

We attended part one of a three-part series addressing the full spectrum of leave issues: leave as a reasonable accommodation, family leaves under the FMLA and PFL, and other protected leaves and leave issues. The first session focused on disability-related leaves and other common reasonable accommodation concerns. Through discussion surrounding real case studies, we learned how to reconcile obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York Human Rights Law, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

We have been busy planning for our Employee Benefits fair on November 4th. This is the first on-site benefits fair that we have held in several years. We will welcome 14 benefits providers to engage with our employees.

We currently have 16 total open positions which consist of two faculty, seven Civil Service, and seven Professional positions.

## Workforce Development and Community Education

On October 7, 2024, members of the WFDCE team met with LuAnn Miller-Meeks from the Registrar's office and Marisa Daigle, Bursar to discuss streamlining the registration process of non-credit students.

## Information Technology Services

### **In Progress** – Cyber Security

- Increased password security level to require 14 characters with special characters has begun. This full implementation will be complete Dec 14.
- We have begun our annual Penetration Test (PEN Test) with Suny looking for vulnerabilities in our system.
- Moved all user accounts to a higher level of encryption to increase protection.
- Working on adding an additional Multi-factor Authentication MFA as a requirement for using and signing on to VPN access to campus.

### **In Progress** – Banner Self Service continued improvement.

- Banner Self Service 9 was customized with SCCC branding which replaced the existing Ellucian branding.

### **In Progress** – Faculty Leave and Compensation module.

- Project approved and initial kick off has been scheduled.
- This should be a be improvement and lead to many other possibilities for improving Banner productivity.

### **In Progress** – Began project to replace aging integration for computer account creation from Banner to our network systems.

- Work continues this is a pretty heavy lift but we have a years' worth of notes for items to improve upon.

### **In Progress** – Phone system replacement

- A project for total phone service replacement has begun. The goal is to streamline all College systems to a single system and integrate into the MS Teams Apps to provide enhance productivity features. This project will take months to see completion.
- A team has met to determine possible features, now a broker we've used in the past has been tasked to find vendors and obtain demos, quotes and engage in a final selection process.

## Administration

The Elston Hall Lobby and Mohawk Room renovations continued during October. Our contractors completed demolition of certain areas of the lobby and started construction of the new entrance area and safety/security office. Repairs to the large front facing windows in one of the new offices are underway. Our contractors and project engineer are examining the original wiring found behind the walls and ceiling to determine if replacement is needed. The project is on schedule for completion in mid-January.

The Hyflex classroom in Elston Hall has been installed. With additional capital funding for this project available, we are getting quotes on replacement of the room's ceiling and lighting. The new desks, monitors and AV equipment was installed. This project will be completed for the Spring 2025 semester.

Capital equipment to replace existing instruments in the new chemistry laboratory were ordered and are arriving. This equipment will replace the outdated laboratory equipment used by students and provide a state of the art chemistry laboratory experience for our students.

Fit and finish items for the CST Lobby and restrooms project were selected in October. The request for bids is due for release in early November with proposals due back in early December. This project will start in early January 2025. Physics classrooms and four faculty offices are being moved to accommodate this project which will occur during the Spring 2025 semester.

Final work on the Elston Hall greenhouse is underway. Installation of the front facing panels started in early November and will be completed during the month. New ventilation in the biology lab was completed and some additional work on the lab ceiling is wrapping up.

The new aviation Air Traffic Controller simulator is ready for installation in the Stockade building. Components arrived in late October with installation to start on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Small modifications to the room, such as lighting and internet drops, were made to accommodate the simulator.

Renovation of the President's Terrace and the SGA meeting room in Elston Hall progressed through meetings with the architect to finalize the project scope and pick fit and finish items. An RFP will be issued in early November with anticipated construction to begin in mid-December to early January.

Work continued on the Aquatic Center project. The SUNY Board of Trustees deferred consideration of property purchases until the December 2024 meeting. Our request for construction of the Center will be included with the regular 2025 capital requests.

### *Student Affairs*

#### Wellness and Support Services:

Director Robyn King presented workshops to employees on understanding healthy professional boundaries with students.

## ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

### Academic Affairs

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning is currently involved with three SUNY IITG AI-related grants. He has been invited to be a Co-PI for a \$54,500 grant to purchase subscriptions for AI tools for faculty and students to promote AI literacy. He also collaborates with SUNY Alfred State College of Technology, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Oswego on another \$52,245 “Teaching with AI: A Cross Campus Community of Practice” grant which provides stipends for faculty to infuse AI technology and literacy into their courses and provides training in these tools. Additionally, he is also working closely with Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services and Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor to utilize \$29,467 from a third grant to create an interdisciplinary learning community and promote AI adaptation in teaching, learning, tutoring, research and assessment. This began over the summer and the funds have supported an ongoing series of workshops. (Gen P4)

This month, the School of Music hosted the Capital District Regional Music Educators Symposium (sponsored by the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA). 70, K-12 music educators came to the campus for professional development workshops (several of which were provided by SUNY Schenectady faculty) including Dr. Joseph Han, Assistant Professor (voice), Dr. Karen Hosmer, Professor (oboe), Dr. Allyson Keyser, Professor (trumpet) and Arla Wilding, adjunct Instructor (Voice). Engaging primary school music teachers is a proven strategy to drive enrollment. (4.3)

On October 25 - 26, Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, three FT faculty and four Adjuncts participated in a Choral Workshop that welcomed 400 high school students from four local high schools and one from the mid-Hudson Valley area to work with guest artist Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, in an all-day event. Students were engaged throughout the day in break-out sessions and various workshops. Participation was excellent and the students got a thorough exposure to the School and all it has to offer. Information tables were provided and it was an excellent recruitment opportunity. (4.3)

On October 22, Chef Rain O’Donnell, Assistant Professor acted as the Event Menu Coordinator for three Celebrity Guest Chefs and four alumni of the College, who treated attendees to their signature dishes during The School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism’s 15th Annual Chefs for Success. More than 160 guests enjoyed delicious food stations and a silent auction, while raising funds for student scholarships. Fundraising efforts for the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism have expanded to include the James G. Westervelt Guest Chef Series, ACF-sanctioned student culinary competitions, capital improvement projects, and professional development activities for faculty, staff, and students as well as raising funds for student scholarships.

### Administration

In November, the County Legislature will consider adding the \$2.5M capital project for replacement of Elston Hall’s “relief angle” – which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor exterior support structure that holds up the upper three floor brick façade. This project was approved by the College’s Trustees and is being added to the projects already approved by the County for 2025.

### Strategic Initiatives & Planning

ASAP has registered 32% of the program students for the Spring Semester (as of the third week of October). All students will be registered prior to the end of the semester and weekly benchmarks and metrics have been established (Gen P4).

### Workforce Development and Community Education

On October 1, 2024, Michelle Kraines met with representatives from NYS Restaurant Association about becoming a Group Sponsor for Apprenticeship

On October 2, 2024, Lauren Lankau and Michelle Kraines participated in an Apprenticeship meeting with Advanced Manufacturing Group Sponsors from across NYS.

On October 8, 2024, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines and Matt Maloy toured GE and met with their staff to discuss partnering on apprenticeship opportunities in manufacturing.

On October 21, 2024, Michelle Kraines met with Niskayuna Police Chief Kochan to sign paperwork for them to become signatories under our Group Sponsorship for Police Officer.

On October 23, 2024, Lauren Lankau and Michelle Kraines met with Broadview FCU about becoming sponsors for apprenticeship.

On October 24, 2024, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines and Mykha'el Wilson met with 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Scotia about becoming Employer Sponsors for Apprenticeship.

On October 30, 2024, Lauren Lankau and Michelle Kraines met with INF Associates about partnering to provide training for Project Manager Apprentices.

### Development Office

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

- The Fundraising and Engagement Committee is busy collecting reusable bags for Thanksgiving for Students
- Keven Mathes came in to speak to two different business classes about his experience as a banker and entrepreneur

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

- The Foundation will present “30 Days of Gratitude” on social media during the month of November to inspire philanthropy.
- The Foundation *applied* for several grants; \$75,000 for a new eSprinter vehicle, \$18,000 for improvements to the quad, \$2,500 for the Food Pantry from the Common Roots Foundation.

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

**Engaging our alumni:**

- Senior Stewardship Officer gave Gigi Fontaine '98 a tour of the Campus. She was the SGA President while here and she is now in sales for a regional industrial interior design company.
- Vice President and Joe April have been working with Joshua Murphy who will spearhead an alumni fundraising effort for the Rising Together Campaign.

**Engaging our corporate and community supporters:**

- Vice President hosted scholarship donors Stan Blanchard and Johanna Petersen for lunch at Casola.
- Senior Stewardship Officer hosted Casola Dining for guests Daria Mallin, AIA and husband Gregory Myers to talk about the Rising Together campaign.
- The Foundation hosted family and friends of Dr, Gabe Basil at a memorial service in the Van Curler Room.
- Vice President attended the Advisory Board mixer.
- Vice President met with a representative from Cengage to solicit support for the campaign.
- Senior Stewardship Officer hosted a discover call with James Mitchell from Young Futures, Melanie Uebele, Director of Liberty Partnership Program, and Evelice Lopez from TD Bank about working together to extend the afterschool program by one more day for 20 weeks in the Spring semester.
- Senior Stewardship Officer spoke with Kyle Vanvorst from Northwestern Mutual about volunteering for an upcoming Career Services Speed Networking Event.
- Vice President and Senior Stewardship Officer attended 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chefs For Success.
- Senior Stewardship Officer attended a workshop at United Way of the Capital District conducted by Humankind Workshop for facilitation training with a DEI lens.
- Senior Stewardship Officer had lunch with Betsy Sandberg to talk about her positive experience mentoring a SUNY Schenectady student this past semester.
- The alumni and community newsletters have been reformatted to reflect the Rising Together theme.

**\*New Funds and Notable Gifts:**

- \$15,000 pledge from Seymour Fox Foundation for Food Pantry equipment and food
- \$10,000 for the Find Your Way Scholarship
- \$5,000 pledge from Plug Power for Workforce Development Innovation Fund

## PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH



*President Dr. Moono with Assemblymembers Patricia Fahy and Angelo Santabarbara, Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, Schenectady County Legislature Chair and SUNY Schenectady Trustee Gary Hughes, Cheyenne Lovell of the Schenectady County Veterans Service Agency, and SUNY Schenectady veteran students' at the statewide day of action urging Governor Kathy Hochul to sign legislation that extends tuition assistance benefits to all veterans in New York State.*



*Students in the Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program with Gary Hughes, Chair, Schenectady County Legislature; Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Planning; Casey O'Brien, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Transformational Initiatives, SUNY System; Evelyn Makulski, ASAP Advisor; and Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff.*