



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President’s Report

August 19th, 2024

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, consulted with the Officer of Marketing & Public Relations and Office of the President during the planning of the unveiling of the Mohawk Giants’ historic-site plaque.

On June 1, 2024, the following individuals represented the College at the 2024 Schenectady Pride Festival at Gateway Park:

- Amy Student, Academic Advisor
- Christine Goss, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC
- Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment
- Anna Sherman, Admissions Counselor
- Jasper Thorpe, Student

The Food Truck was also in attendance and represented by Chef Giovanni Lontoc, Ron Ragucci, Lisa Riley, and Jasmine Solana.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended the University of Buffalo and uAspire summit titled “Summit on Supporting SUNY Student-Parents,” which addressed challenges faced by student-parents and research-based strategies to foster community and support of student-parents.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended the SUNY Civil Engagement and Civic Education Fellows interactive training pilot on engaging in deliberative dialogue.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Lorena Harris, CSTEP Director and Em Gordon, CSTEP Coordinator led the summer BRITE program, which provided a wide variety of STEM learning activities for high school and middle school students from Schenectady and the surrounding areas. With the help of ten interns,

participants researched historical women in STEM, worked on engineering challenges, and learned computer skills. (1.1, 1.4)

Dr. Laurie Lacey and Cayla Gaworecki continued their ongoing participation in the SUNY Launch Years Initiative as part of a 20-state collaboration that supports the scaling of mathematics pathways from high school through postsecondary education and into the workplace. Over the next three years, along with national organizations and leaders in mathematics education and educational equity, they are collaborating to improve the math experiences and outcomes for students transitioning from high school to college to improve student success and degree completion. (1.1)

On June 6, Margaret White, LPP School Counselor, Melanie Uebele, LPP Program Administrator, and Carly Denué, LPP Program Coordinator hosted the Annual LPP Awards Ceremony and Banquet in the Taylor Auditorium and Van Curler Room. 242 Schenectady City School District students and their families came for a night of heartfelt student speeches and community. (1.4)

From July 22 - August 8, Caroline Buff, Research and Instruction Librarian and Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services participated in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Learning Community: Teaching and Learning with Generative AI, which emphasizes how to integrate Generative AI into teaching and learning in a responsible and ethical way. Both intend to integrate AI into their own research and teach students how to perform research utilizing AI responsibly. (1.1)

Strategic Planning and Initiatives

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment; Anna Sherman, Admissions Advisor; and Amy Student, Academic Advisor, represented the College at Schenectady Pride on June 1, 2024 in Gateway Park. Interactive activities were organized to bring traffic to the College's booth and to promote SUNY Schenectady's academic offerings and commitment to diversity and inclusion. Admissions and Community Education brochures were distributed to support summer and fall enrollment (Gen. P1; 2.3).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, exhibited at Hamilton Hill Arts Center's Juneteenth Celebration in Schenectady's Central Park on June 22, 2024. Instant admission and inquiry card fulfillment were offered in an exhibit space shared with other Schenectady County and community-based organizations. Contact information and publications were collected from these organizations that provide shelter, medical services, mental health interventions and similar services and distributed across pertinent College offices to provide additional resources that support our students' successes (1.1; 1.3;1.4; 2.3).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, organized SUNY Schenectady tabling at Schenectady High School's Commencement on June 27, 2024, with campus office including Liberty Partnership Program, College and High School Programs, EOP, ASAP, and TRIO. The graduates and their guests visited the SUNY Schenectady booth to get information about admissions; make appointments to support their enrollment such as FAFSA submission and registration; and to sign up for student support services programs (1.1; 1.3; 1.4; 2.1; 2.3; 2.4; 3.1)

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, attended the Transitions Day at Albany High School. Transitions Day serves graduating students without confirmed four-year college, military, or employment plans as they prepare to graduate to connect them with open enrollment colleges and local employers. Students were supported through the guided submission of SUNY Schenectady admission applications, securing of transcripts, and creation of FAFSA IDs live using College personnel and laptops (1.4; 1.5; 2.1; 2.4; 2.5).

Workforce Development

On July 9, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the “From Equity Walk to Equity Talk” summer reading group, led by Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer.

On July 25, Dr. Moono, Dr. Clickner, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow coordinated a tour at GE Vernova for a group from SMART Zambia to see the green energy training and equipment at GE’s site as well as provided a tour of the STEAAM Mobile Training Labs.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

The Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC) increased the annual enrollment by 111% from the 2022-2023 program year. The Center staff enrolled 386 new participants, reaching 77.2 percent of their annual enrollment goal of 500. SCCOC staff assisted 84 participants in obtaining employment, supported 19 students through the Instant Admissions process into SUNY Schenectady and connected 144 participants to training opportunities.

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, attended Schenectady Municipal Housing Authorities Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinator Committee meeting. Community resources attend to share opportunities for residents to take apart of, as well as identify ways to collaborate with the Family Self-Sufficiency staff to support the residents.

Ms. Christine Goss, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC and Ms. Elizabeth Cowan, Participant Services Specialist of SCCOC, supported SUNY Schenectady’s Workforce Development & Community Education’s Mobile Training Labs at the Washington Irving Educational Center’s Career Day. Virtual Reality headsets were provided for career exploration of healthcare and manufacturing careers.

Ms. Christine Goss attended the Schenectady School District’s Paraprofessional Hiring Event at the district’s Family and Community Engagement Center. Ms. Goss met with applicants to ensure that they were prepared with a resume to apply for jobs with the school district.

Ms. Jaimee King met with the City Mission’s Schenectady Works program director to develop a plan for SCCOC staff to conduct onsite recruitment in their community room, as well as create a pipeline for their team to refer residents and community members to SCCOC.

Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience

Academic Affairs

In June and July, Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement, Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support, Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services worked closely with student support staff to host recurring New Student Registration Days to facilitate successful MySCCC onboarding and fall registration for new students. Meanwhile, this group, as well as Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation also met to plan special NSR days focusing exclusively on Aviation and Air Traffic Control to support enrollment and help students navigate the complicated requirements of these programs. (2.1, 2.3, 2.5)

On June 4-9, Ron Ragucci, Senior Technical Specialist chaperoned four SUNY Schenectady students and nine students from the Capital Region EOC at the Saratoga Race Track in Saratoga Springs, NY for the Belmont Stakes internship offered through Mazzone Hospitality and Levy restaurants. (2.2, 2.3, 2.5)

In July the LPP Program brought groups of middle and high school students to Thacher and Grafton Lakes State Parks for days of teambuilding and discovery, and also visited the Vale Urban and the Patroon Land Farms to engage in community service. (2.4)

In July, Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation hosted the F.A.A. Team, who visited campus to review our brand new STANDARD-CTI (Collegiate Training Initiative) Air Traffic Control Program. This revolutionary initiative is part of the Federal Government's concerted effort to address the nationwide shortage of Air Traffic Controllers by streamlining the education and hiring processes. (Gen P2)

On July 1, the ECHS 6-week summer session began. More than 360 high school students in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program, the Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School Program, and the Duanesburg 1 + 1 Program took college courses on campus and online this summer. (2.4)

On July 7, Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music and the Jazz Faculty Combo performed with recent alumni at Freedom Park in Scotia, NY. The School of Music provided an information table to promote their programs. (P2.5)

Strategic Planning and Initiatives

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, organized a visit of the Associate Vice President and Director of Admissions at SUNY Oneonta as part of the SUNY System Multi-Campus Transfer efforts. SUNY Schenectady leadership from Strategic

Initiatives & Planning, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Marketing and Public Relations outlined collaborative opportunities to support a strategic student experience for potential transfer students from onboarding, advising, transfer planning, and collaborative events and visits between campuses to support the retention and transfer experience of our shared students as part of the Community of Practice meeting (2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.5)

ASAP staff participated in New Student Registration Days, supporting a comprehensive onboarding process for new students entering Fall 2024 and using the opportunity to share information about the ASAP program with attendees (2.1; 2.3; 3.1).

ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean, and Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, Kevin Rivenburg, regularly meet to track ASAP enrollment efforts and to review enrollment data. A weekly automated Slate email was developed is being used to track the student response and engagement rates with outreach (1.4; Gen P2; 3.1).

Evelyn A Makulski, ASAP Advisor, met with the Director of Wellness & Support Services, Robyn King, Sean Mullen, Counselor, to plan a fall wellness workshop, including a specific focus on substance abuse, for students (2.3).

The ASAP program team attended and participated in the SUNY Schenectady Liberty Partnership Program summer program information session and tour to support LPP and to make the participants aware of the ASAP program and the paths to enrollment (2.3; 2.4; 2.5).

Student Affairs

Wellness and Support Services:

The Food Pantry continues to meet the ever-growing demand of food insecurity on our campus. Compared to the previous academic year, they experienced a 28% increase in the number of visitors, the number of total people fed increased by 34%, and they managed a 25% increase in the number of food pantry visits.

With the generous assistance from our Maintenance Department, the Food Pantry brought in 26,383 pounds of inventory (over 13 tons), a 3% increase. However, because of the rising costs of food (even for food banks), the cost of this inventory was over \$15,000, 46% more than was spent in the previous year.

The most notable data is the intended results of the campus food pantry as a retention and completion effort. Between the Fall 2021 and Spring 2024 semesters, an average of 92% of food pantry visitors either registered for the next semester, didn't register but successfully completed at least one course, or graduated, compared to 70% for the entire student population. This correlational data strongly suggests that providing food relief for our students greatly increases their chances of success, which reflects the Food Pantry's mission.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

On June 6, 2024, SCCOC, in partnership with Schenectady County Connects and Department of Labor, hosted a community job fair at Center City. Over 90 job seekers attended the fair and had the opportunity to meet in person with 45 employers to discuss employment opportunities. Ms. Jaimee King, met with the owner of the Earn, Learn and Drive Program (ELDP) to create a pipeline for interested trainees that are not qualified for ELDP to be referred to SCCOC for support services.

On June 28, 2024 SCCOC hosted the Center's annual Celebrating Stories of Success event to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the Center's participants throughout the 2023-24 program year.

Building Organizational Effectiveness

Academic Affairs

Lauren Gallo, Director of College and High School Partnerships and Theresa Polson, Project Director for College and High School Programs, attended the SLATE conference in Chicago, Ill. They learned how to expand their usage of SLATE to enhance recruitment, retention, family engagement, and alumni relations. (Gen P3)

The advising team had team meetings on June 5th and July 17th. Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid joined the meeting on the 5th to review SOT, TAP and PELL rules and regulations and the Excelsior scholarship. Preparations and procedural changes for the upcoming August registration period were discussed. (Gen P3)

On July 9 & 25, Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, met with consultants regarding the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium lighting and sound reinforcement renovations that will substantially improve the space for School of Music students and guest artists. (3.4)

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, spearheaded the first Peer to Peer Awards selection process with a committee of campus professionals. The awards, generated and planned by the Office of Human Resources, offer a unique opportunity to highlight the day to day contributions of SUNY Schenectady employees. (3.2)

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Between June 28 and July 1, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, completed the "Title VI Overview" training offered through Vector and submitted recommendations regarding employee training in Title IV to the Office of Human Resources for their consideration.

In June 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, began meeting with search committees at the start of the search process to discuss engaging in the search process through a DEI lens.

On June 7, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, held a DEI Dialogues Series session on the intersections between civil discourse and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

On July 10, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended SUNY webinars titled “Civic and Civil Discourse on Campuses: Fall 2024 and Beyond” and “Content-Neutral Time, Place, & Manner Restrictions and Reporting Discrimination & Harassment” to learn current strategies for supporting civil discourse on campus.

On July 12, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, held a DEI Dialogues Series session on bystander intervention strategies to build awareness of different strategies to interrupt discrimination.

Student Affairs

Financial Aid

The rollout of the FAFSA was plagued by challenges and setbacks this year. The FAFSA revamp required a comprehensive overhaul of our operations: all Banner functionality had to be redone, every communication document needed to be revised, all processes required redesigning, and every report had to be rebuilt from scratch.

We began receiving FAFSAs in mid-April, which was six months behind schedule. By the end of April, the number of received FAFSAs was 54% of the prior year. We embarked on an aggressive communication campaign and used every resource available to us to close the gap. By the end of May, we reached 82% of the prior year's numbers, by the end of June, 87%, and by the end of July, 94%.

Inaugural New York State Community College Leadership Academy Program

Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access/Title IX Coordinator, completed the Inaugural New York State Community College Leadership Academy Program. New York State, along with Ohio, Michigan, and Texas, was selected to launch and scale up leadership development programs for college practitioners through a year-long curriculum from the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program. The program is funded by the Ascendium Education Group, the ECMC Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation, to strengthen the pipeline of leaders within community colleges who can implement evidence-based reforms that help more students succeed. Thirty-four fellows—both faculty and staff—from across SUNY’s community colleges participated in the leadership development program designed for emerging leaders to strengthen their critical skills and knowledge to build their campus’s capacity and improve student outcomes.

Strategic Planning and Initiatives

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, submitted three SUNY Systems reports and one New York State Department of Education report. Mr. Miller provided data for the following projects: retention and graduation data by program for the College catalog, Human Resources employee data for review, Finance employee and student FTE data, and data for the TRIO annual report (3.3).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement & Retention, and Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support, collaborated in June and July to improve the attendance and outcomes of New Student Registration Days. Analyses of the events' frequency, schedule, invitation and confirmation process were evaluated with optimizers put in place to increase the availability of appointments based on students' schedules and the likelihood of students to register, and for registered students to attend the event and register for classes. These efforts increased the event registration rate from ~75% in early May to an over 90% booking rate for July appointments. Additionally, the show-rate of registrants increased from ~50% to over 60% as additional confirmation reminders such as personalized calls, automated text messages were added. This effort helped us gain enrollment ground over June and July 2024, getting more students into register for courses with their advisors (Gen. P3; 3.1; 3.4; 3.5).

Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning and ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean attended the SUNY ASAP|ACE Leadership Summer Convening at SUNY Westchester Community College (3.3; 4.2).

ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean, joined the New Student Orientation committee to plan for the college's new student orientations this summer (3.1; 3.3; 3.5).

The ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean, completed the Starfish new administrator onboarding training offered by the vendor and is working as part of the Starfish administration and planning team to refine and continuously reimagine how best to use the tool to engage students and support retention and credential completion (3.1; 3.4; 3.5).

Development Office

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

Returning student scholarship were selected on June 20 for returning students and on July 24 for new students. Several scholarships were awarded through Admissions to help with enrollment, including 9 Promise Scholarships and several of our unrestricted scholarships. Profiles of graduating students were sent to their donors which also thanked them for helping to "get our students across the stage."

A stewardship piece for donors to the Promise Scholarship was emailed or mailed to all of the donors to that fund.

Administration

Work continues on the Student Services Center in the Stockade Building. The Student Services Center is completed and ready for staff to move in during the week of August 12th. This space will include Student Advising and Career Services. At the same time, our contractors are replacing the air conditioning, boilers and water pumps in the Stockade Building. HVAC system restoration completion is anticipated for completion by August 9th.

Work began August 5th on the Elston Hall Lobby and Lally Mohawk Room renovation. This project involves demolition of a 1950s retrofit of the lobby area that created a front desk managers office, separate air handling system and utility spaces behind the front desk. It also includes demolition of the campus safety office located near the Van Curler Room. The renovated lobby will remove these retrofitted spaces and open the lobby up to the original windows on the front of the building. A new Safety and management office will be constructed in the space. The Lally-Mohawk Room will receive refreshed wall coverings, lighting and audio/visual systems. President's Office staff have moved from the first floor to the fifth floor of Elston Hall during this construction period.

Additional projects are underway in August. Contractors replaced six fresh air intakes in the Elston Hall culinary kitchens. A second capital project in 2025 will continue this project to replace all fresh air intakes and exhaust fans. The teacher station and all presentation technology in Stockade 101 and 102 was replaced. The new configuration will allow two-way communications in these spaces. The Elston Hall shingle roof project was completed.

Bids were recently awarded to replace the Elston Hall 3rd floor greenhouse located above the Welcome Center entrance to provide more space for the Biology laboratory program. The new space will improve ventilation to our main Biology laboratory and include an illuminated SUNY Schenectady branded sign facing I-890 as part of the West facing exterior wall. Bids were also accepted to repair building settling cracks in the basement walls of Elston Hall. These cracks must be filled with fire proof caulking per fire code. These projects will begin in late Summer.

Human Resources

Human Resources (HR) plans to release SharePoint live on August 9, 2024. SharePoint will serve as an internal platform for employees sharing resources, policy information, and announcements related to the college. The platform will eliminate the need to post internal documentation in public on the college website. The Schenectady Scoop newsletter will also be available and featured in the HR SharePoint.

Fun Fridays began with the beginning of Summer Hours on June 21, 2024. So far, we have had success with the themes: Tropical Day, Sunglasses Day, Patriotic Day, 80's Day, Sport Day,

and Gaudy Garment Day. HR plans to host an ice cream social on August 9, 2024, to celebrate the start of the new academic year.

Marketing and Public Relations

June and July resulted in strong media coverage, with 26 pick-ups contributing positive press. Coverage was sustained through several large events and announcements, such as hosting Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and SUNY Chancellor King on 6/25/24 to announce the NYS TAP expansion, the Gilded Age/Gilded Productions using SUNY Schenectady parking lots and large meeting spaces on campus for cast and crew preparations and staging in August, the announcement of the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise, and the dedication of the historic marker honoring the Island Park Stadium location and the Mohawk Giants baseball team.

The historic marker event was headlined by the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum president, Josh Rawitch, as keynote speaker. Chris Leonard, of the Historical Society of Schenectady and a SUNY Schenectady adjunct professor, provided remarks describing the challenges the Mohawk Giants faced as a professional, independent Black baseball team and their triumph in defeating an all-star major league team lead by Walter Johnson on October 5, 1913, in front of 7,000+ spectators. That game was played at the Giants home stadium, which once stood on the college's campus grounds. Additional speakers and presentations at the historic marker event included Dr. Moono, and Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara and Senator Jim Tedisco each honoring the team and college with proclamations. The Schenectady County Library donated a rare volume of a book by Frank Keetz, titled "The Mohawk Colored Giants of Schenectady" to the college's Begley Library to become part of their collection. Bill Buell, the Schenectady County Historian, gifted the Begley Library with an original full-page *Schenectady Gazette* newspaper page from October 6, 1913, that captured the momentous game, along with an original newspaper clipping from October 5, 1913, that promoted the game. These newspaper pages were on display during the event. The historic marker dedication event hosted over 100 guests, including local officials and community organizations.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

Academic Affairs

This summer, Mary Silvestri, Director of TRIO, completed the TRIO Student Support Services Grant application for the 2025 - 2030 grant cycle. Awards will be announced in Spring of 2025. This application involved a campus-wide collaboration and required a thorough review of the TRIO program and SUNY Schenectady's expectations for TRIO for the next five years. (4.3, 4.5)

Led by Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services, the College has joined 11 other SUNY campuses to engage as a Community of Practice with SUNY surrounding best practices for internships. We have been given \$5,000 to cover administrative costs and additional funds to pay students for the 5 internships covered in this program. We plan to employ interns in positions in our Food Bank, helping other students to complete their FAFSA Applications and are identifying other internal areas where student interns could be utilized effectively. (Gen P4)

Dr. Michele Gilson, Biology Lab Technician recently completed a comprehensive Account Review with Carolina Biological Supply (one of our largest vendors) to identify cost savings opportunities. Most notably, she has arranged to receive advanced notice of all sales and will consolidate future orders to be eligible for free shipping (resulting in significant savings). (4.2)

The SUNY Schenectady HCAT Food Truck has been quite busy this July, participating in the Schenectady Summer Night and Downtown Schenectady Tater Trot events. Faculty and students offered an award-winning food served at the Tater Trot. The Food Truck has also been offering lunch (for purchase) on-campus every Tuesday (advertised on our new marquee signs on State Street and Washington Ave). (Gen P4)

Student Affairs

ADA Transition:

2023-2024 Enhancing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success Program (SWDPS) is a grant program administered by the New York State Education Department (SED) in collaboration with New York's Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), both public and private. This academic year (2023-2024) we received \$21,159. This is a significant increase over the past two years. The purpose of this grant is to help degree-granting colleges and universities in NYS to enhance the supports and services they provide to their enrolled students with disabilities. This grant program does not provide direct aid to students, but rather, it provides funding to eligible colleges and universities so they can expand their existing supports for students with disabilities.

Since its inception in 2022 this grant has made it possible for SUNY Schenectady to:

- Offer professional development to faculty and staff
- Purchase memberships and conferences for disability services office staff
- Purchase technology, software and other tools to directly support students with disabilities
- Create professional and polished marketing materials (banners, campus flyers, campus notices, office brochures) to increase the visibility of the disability services office

On June 17, 2024 the grant supported 100% of the cost of a physical campus site assessment/audit completed in June to help the institution create a truly inclusive, more accessible, and safer environment. Disability Inclusion Specialists (DIS) provide specific Universal Design recommendations that support the institutions inclusion goals of educating our campus community, creating strategies to improve accessibility, removing physical and social barriers, and creating Universal Design standards that support our mission.

Development

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

Board member, Don Rohr, advocated for the Foundation to receive a \$5,000 grant from his employer, Plug Power. Keven Mathes has been strategizing with Stewardship Officer, Sarah Boink, on several grant submissions. Several Board Members are active on the Campaign Steering Committee.

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

Campaign solicitations continue, with an emphasis on the Workforce Innovation Fund and the SUNY Schenectady Fund. At the time of this writing, there are \$654,000 in active solicitations in progress. The *Your Philanthropy in Action* stewardship piece was mailed to all donors to illustrate the good that can come from unrestricted donations.

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

As of July 15, the Foundation has raised \$760,460 - 132% of its 2023-24 earned revenue goal of \$576,030. A record-breaking year for *Food for Thought & All That Jazz* brought in \$100,000 in proceeds. The NYS Charitable Tax Credit Program provided \$142,500 in revenues, and included a first-time gift of \$59,000. Foundation grant awards totaled \$162,000. An anonymous donor provided an additional \$25,000 toward an endowed scholarship, and the Women's fund renewed their \$20,000 annual scholarship commitment.

A SYBUNT mailing (**Some Year But Unfortunately Not This**) was sent to 200 donors at the end of July to remind folks of their loyal support.

Administration

President Moono, Vice President Ryan, and Assistant Vice President Kasler presented the 2024-25 Operating Budget to the Schenectady County Legislature in July and August. The County Legislature will act on the budget in early August. If approved, the budget will be submitted to SUNY for the SUNY Board of Trustee approval in September.

The College presented the Schenectady Higher Education Promise program to the County Legislature in July. This program provides up to six credits worth of tuition per year to students from Schenectady County who attend SUNY Schenectady. The Legislature approved \$1M per year for 2024-25 and again in 2025-26 for this direct aid to students. Fifty percent of each year's funding will be made available for the Fall and fifty percent in the Spring semesters. College staff met to work out the details of program administration and Marketing. The program's formal launch occurred in early August.

President's Outreach



It was a very special evening in Schenectady on August 5 as some of the talented faculty from the School of Music performed on the [Music Haven](#) Stage in Central Park. The SUNY Schenectady Faculty Jazz Combo was joined by world-class trombonist, producer, composer, and educator Delfeayo Marsalis. Our College Food Truck was there also, as faculty and students from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism served delicious chicken and sausage gumbo with seasoned rice, muffaletta sandwiches, and powdery beignets.

Faculty Jazz Combo:

Dylan Canterbury – trumpet
Brian Patneau – saxophone
Christopher Brellochs – saxophone
Kevin Grudecki – guitar
David Gleason – piano
Erik Johnson/Jarod Greico - bass
Bob Halek – drums
Mia Scirocco - guest vocals



Our employees had some fun this summer celebrating Friday Fundays! Pictured are employees showing their creativity on Silly Hat Day. In the photo are Dr. David Brough, Dr. Hope Sasway, Anthony Schwartz, and Mykha’el Wilson.