

SUNY SCHENECTADY

Annual Report | 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When I first joined SUNY Schenectady nearly a decade ago, I was quickly impressed by various aspects of the College, from the quality of instruction delivered by our outstanding faculty to the innovative student support resources developed by our excellent staff. I was equally impressed by the ways in which those in our community invest in the success of our students, our academic programs, our employees, and SUNY Schenectady as a whole.

This year, the Schenectady County Legislature demonstrated this investment in a profound way, by providing \$1 million to SUNY Schenectady for 2024-25 to help students cover the gap between financial aid and tuition and fees. Through the *Schenectady County Higher Education Promise*, Schenectady County residents can take six credits for free. As a result, students who might not otherwise be able to attend college due to financial constraints now have an avenue to higher education. We are already seeing in real time the significance that *Promise* holds for Schenectady County residents who are and will become SUNY Schenectady students.

Just as Schenectady County has provided an invaluable gift to SUNY Schenectady to benefit current and future students, so too have those who have supported our *Rising Together* campaign. I am humbled by the generosity of those in our community and beyond. We are forever grateful for your recognition of the positive impact we have on our local economy and community, your interest in our breadth of transfer degrees, career degrees, certificates, microcredentials, and Workforce Development programs, and your commitment to the myriad ways in which we change the lives of our students.

I am reminded of the African proverb, “If you want to go fast...go alone. If you want to go far...go together.” Thank you for traveling together with us as we remain steadfast in our mission to empower every student in their pursuit of lifelong success.

Steady H. Moono, Ed.D.
President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board of Trustees

Ann Fleming Brown, Chair
 Tina Chericoni Versaci, Esq., Vice Chair
 Renee Bradley, Secretary
 Damonni Farley
 Raymond R. Gillen
 Gary E. Hughes
 Michael Karl
 Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D.
 Imani Romain-Barthley, Student Trustee

Operating Under the Auspices of the State University of New York

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

Supported by the State of New York

Kathy Hochul, Governor
 James Tedisco, Senator, 49th Senate District
 Michelle Hinchey, Senator, 46th Senate District
 Mary Beth Walsh, Assemblywoman, 112th Assembly District
 Angelo Santabarbara, Assemblyman, 111th Assembly District
 Phil Steck, Assemblyman, 110th Assembly District

Sponsored by the County of Schenectady

Schenectady County Legislature

Gary Hughes, Chair
 Cathy Gatta, Vice Chair
 Philip Fields, Deputy Chair
 Richard Patierne, Majority Leader
 Eric Hess, Minority Leader
 Thomas Constantine
 Josh Cuomo
 Peter Frisoni
 Anthony Jasenski Sr.
 Omar McGill
 Michelle Ostrellich
 Sara Mae Pratt
 Richard Ruzzo
 Haileab Samuel
 Holly Vellano

College Administration – President’s Council

Steady Moono, Ed.D., President
 David Clickner, Ph.D., Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning
 Stephen Fragale, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
 Jaimee King, Executive Director of the SUNY College and Career Outreach Center
 Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer
 Mark Meachem, Ed.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs
 Paula Ohlhaus, Executive Director for Human Resources
 Patrick C. Ryan, Executive Vice President of Administration and Finance
 Marianne Senneca, Vice President of Development and External Affairs
 April Snow, Chief Information Officer
 Karen J. Tanski, Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations
 Tiombé S. Tatum, Chief of Staff
 Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education

SUNY Schenectady Foundation Executive Committee

Kenneth Countermine '93, Chair
 Steady H. Moono, Ed.D., Secretary
 Peter L. Gregory, Treasurer
 Kevin R. Buhrmaster, Chair-elect

Foundation Board Members

Karen Bradley	Paula S. Marshman
Ann Fleming Brown	Keven Mathes
Michelle Carr	Joseph Pigliavento
Juliano Febo	Rev. Francis Rigobert
Kara Haraden	Dr. Kristin M. Seaburg
Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D.	Kimberly Speck
Daria Mallin, AIA	Tina Chericoni Versaci, Esq.
Jeanne M. Maloy	Lyle Woods

Foundation Board Members Emeritus

Terry Phillips
 Yono Purnomo, CEC, CFBE

The SUNY Schenectady Annual Report is published each year for alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of the College by the Office of Marketing and Public Relations.

SUNY Schenectady
 Office of Marketing and Public Relations
 78 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305
 P: 518-381-1323 | pr@sunysccc.edu



Students and SUNY officials joined College leaders in highlighting the benefits and expansion of Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP). See more on page 11.

Presidential Moments	4
College News	6
Academics.....	12
Faculty, Staff, and Emeriti Awards and News	15
Events.....	19
Student/Alumni Awards and News.....	20
In Our Community.....	24
Commencement	25
Partnerships.....	26
Workforce Development	28
Foundation News.....	30
Donor List	32

On the cover: Students in The Rise Gallery in the SUNY Schenectady Center for the Arts.

PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS



Dr. Moono Hosts SUNY Chancellor During Second Campus Visit

Dr. John B. King, Jr., Chancellor of the SUNY system, visited campus for the second time, touring the 44-foot long Mobile Training Lab for Advanced Manufacturing, meeting with students in the Zone 5 Police Academy, a marketing class, and the Student Government Association, followed by tea in the Casola Dining Room with students, faculty and staff, and a cooking demonstration of traditional Zambian cuisine by Ngambela Zulu, Culinary Arts major.

College President Welcomes Zambian Permanent Secretary and Ambassador



Hon. Hope Situmbeko, Zambia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Permanent Secretary, and H.E. Amb. Dr. Chola Milambo, Zambian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, visited campus. College President Dr. Steady Moono and members of the College community showed them around campus with highlights including the Mobile Training Lab for Advanced Manufacturing, Food Truck, Culinary Arts Wing, Learning Commons, Biotechnology Laboratory and Research Facility, and the School of Music.

Zambian Dignitaries Learn More About SUNY Schenectady

Dr. Steady Moono, College President, was pleased to welcome Hon. Annie Kapandula Kalamatila, Mayor of Lufwanyama District, Zambia, and Dr. Stella Syacika Banda, President of the Philadelphia Association of Zambia, to campus for a special visit.



Guest Chefs Delight with **Zambian Demo/Tasting**



Guest Chefs Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Culinary Arts Student Chef Ngambela Zulu, shared their special recipes with a packed crowd during a demo and tasting. Dr. Moono and Ngambela showed the audience how to prepare Zambian specialties chikanda, ifisasha, nshima, vitumbuwa, kapenta, and mango coulis. Guests then sampled the delicious cuisine, including Dr. Moono's favorite: Ifikubala - fried caterpillars. The final week of the Casola Dining Room for the Spring Semester featured Zambian cuisine as well.



Congressman Paul Tonko Donates Books From The Library of Congress

Begley Library was selected to participate in the Library of Congress Book Surplus program. Congressman Paul Tonko, a big supporter of the program and SUNY Schenectady, was in the Library to announce the College's participation in the program and donate books to the College. Afterward, Dr. Moono, members of College leadership, students, and Library staff met with Congressman Tonko.

Aviation Degree Programs Continue to Soar with New Hangar

The new SUNY Schenectady Center for Aviation Sciences hangar at the Schenectady County Airport has added an exciting dimension to the Aviation Science program, with space for the College to store Cessnas and Pipers flown by students in the program, and an area for educational training.

“The new SUNY Schenectady Center for Aviation Sciences will make it possible for many students to realize their dreams. I came to SUNY Schenectady with hopes and dreams of one day achieving my lifelong goal to become a pilot. Through my professors, my mentors, and the instruction that was given to me, I was able to put in my work and make my dreams come true.”

- Wandel Perez '17



Officials from the College, Schenectady County, students, faculty, and alumni during the ribbon cutting for the new SUNY Schenectady Center for Aviation Sciences hangar.



Aviation Science alumni: Joshua Ross '13, First Officer for United Airlines; Matthew Molnar '18, First Officer with Delta Air Lines; and Wandel Perez '17, First Officer with United Airlines

Bowling Team Hosts Schenectady Invitational



The Bowling Team hosted the annual Schenectady Invitational at Boulevard Bowl, welcoming bowling teams from throughout the conference.

“Books Beyond Borders” Reading Group

Library Services and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion launched “Books Beyond Borders,” a heritage, awareness, and recognition-month book group for students and employees, with books including *The Forest of Enchantments* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni for Hindu Heritage Month in October and *There There* by Tommy Orange for Native American Heritage Month in November.



Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Jacqueline Keleher, Director of Library Services

New AACT Center (Academic Advising, Career and Transfer Center) Opens



The new AACT Center (Academic Advising, Career and Transfer Center) officially opened on the first floor of the Stockade Building, in space previously occupied by the Office of Admissions. Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services, and Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement and Retention, and staff members from both areas advise students, organize networking programs, and meet with students/staff members. Both offices were formerly located on the second floor of Elston Hall.

Connecting More Students To Nutrition Assistance

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. toured the Food Pantry highlighting student food security and SUNY's work to improve student success by connecting students to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other public benefits programs. SUNY Schenectady is one of five SUNY community colleges working with SUNY and the national non-profit organization Benefits Data Trust (BDT) on personalized outreach efforts connecting eligible students with SNAP to remove food insecurity as a barrier to students reaching their full academic potential.



SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. (far right) with Dr. Steady Moono, College President; Robyn King, Director of Wellness and Support Services; Latasha Rivera, Student Worker; and Johanna Duncan-Poitier, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline

Food Pantry Receives Grant for Refrigerated Lockers

The Food Pantry received a \$43,000 grant from the Schenectady Foundation to purchase a unit of 16 refrigerated grocery lockers. The lockers keep orders with meat, vegetables, fruit, dairy products, and eggs at safe temperatures. This accommodates individuals who can't pick up their orders when the pantry is open during regular hours.



College Named "Best of the Best" for Fifth Consecutive Year

For the fifth consecutive year, SUNY Schenectady has been named "Best Local College" in the *Daily Gazette of Schenectady* 2024 People's Choice Awards.

"The Best of the Best honor is a reflection of the many hours of hard work demonstrated by each and every member of our faculty and staff, making SUNY Schenectady second to none in the Capital Region for higher education. It is through their commitment to the success of our students, their colleagues, and the College as a whole, that we are able to continue to offer our students an outstanding education with robust support services. The Best of the Best designation also exemplifies the many ways in which our students contribute to the College, sharing their ideas, talent, and input. I remain humbled and honored to stand among our faculty, staff, and students as we continue to soar, and I am extremely proud to share this designation with all of them."

A message from Dr. Steady Moono, College President

COLLEGE NEWS

College Honors Mohawk Colored Giants Baseball Team During Historical Marker Unveiling



Top: Island Park Stadium, now part of campus

Left: Christopher Leonard, City Historian of Schenectady; Josh Rawitch, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; and Bill Buell, Schenectady County Historian

In 1913, there were White baseball teams in the Capital Region, but there was only one Black professional baseball team in the area: the Mohawk Colored Giants of Schenectady. Their home stadium was located at Island Park, now the site of part of campus. To honor the Mohawk Giants, a dedication ceremony and unveiling of a historical marker was held on the grounds where the stadium once stood. Donated by the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR), the new marker describes the impact that the Mohawk Giants had on baseball in Schenectady and in the Capital Region as an independent professional baseball team.

(Photos courtesy of the Schenectady County Historical Society)

Capital Improvements

- Elston Hall's shingled roof that is located over the original hotel section of the building was replaced and high-wind resistant shingles were installed.
- The Admissions Office in the Stockade Building was transformed into the new Academic Advising, Career and Transfer (AACT) Center. This project included a total renovation of the space including private advising areas, a state-of-the-art conference meeting space, a new career closet, and storage space.



- Heating and mechanical systems in the Stockade Building were replaced with removal and installation of three new large boilers and associate circulating pump infrastructure.
- Presentation technology in the two lecture centers in the Stockade Building were replaced and upgraded to a new state-of-the-art system.
- Replacement of six fresh air intakes were installed to ensure optimal air balancing in the baking and pastry kitchen in the Culinary Arts Wing.
- Construction was completed on the new four-bay airport flex pod hangar at the Schenectady County Airport that includes instructional lab space and aircraft storage.
- A new campus-wide emergency generator was installed and balanced. It will power critical systems in the event of a power interruption.
- The West Parking Lot and loop road were paved.
- Begley Lobby restrooms were renovated and two new gender-neutral restrooms were created.

Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Makes Meaningful Impact



"Through *Promise*, students who might not otherwise be able to attend college due to financial barriers, will now have a clear path to higher education, and that is a wonderful thing. We are grateful to the leaders of Schenectady County for having the vision to offer its residents this pipeline to an excellent education."

- Dr. Steady Moono, College President

The Schenectady County Legislature approved a resolution to provide \$1 million to SUNY Schenectady for 2024-25 to help students cover the gap between financial aid and tuition and fees. The funding is available only to Schenectady County residents. Students taking credit-bearing courses can receive up to \$1,242 per year in aid.



College Unveils New Art Center

The College expanded its footprint in downtown Schenectady with a bold new space for art programming that is responsive to the community. What was once the basketball court on the first floor of the former YMCA Building, located at 13 State St. across from campus, was transformed into the SUNY Schenectady Center for the Arts, where students take a variety of visual art courses in a spacious classroom filled with natural light. Just a few feet away is The Rise Gallery, open to the public, featuring the work of local artists, art faculty, alumni, and students.

A Feast for the Eyes: Exhibits in The Rise Gallery

Inaugural Art Exhibit



Miki Conn, former Director of the Hamilton Hill Arts Center, in front of her piece "A Few Of My Favorite Things: Heart Stuff," with Gallery Director and Curator Stephen J. Tyson



*"I Don't Fit In"
Oscar Alberto Bográn*



*"Quiet Pride"
Tayron Lopez '16 (Taiitan)*

Unconfined: Art by B.A. DiLella and Eric Treece, in collaboration with the Hamilton Hill Arts Center and Black Dimensions in Art, Inc.



Eric Treece, Stephen J. Tyson, and B.A. DiLella



King Baobob - Eric Treece



Beauty in the Chaos - B.A. DiLella

Continued on page 29...

COLLEGE NEWS

Students and Experts Lend Their Insight to College Podcast

Many Voices, One Call, the College's podcast, continued to examine a range of topics with appearances by students, faculty members, and experts from the community. Topics included: "Peace, Salaam, Shalom" Connecting



Across Our Differences in a War-Ravaged World; Touch Grass, Make a Difference - Student Views on Civic Engagement; Artificial Intelligence (AI): Why We Need To Talk About It; and Stronger Together: Election '24 Debrief. Students in the Music Audio Technology program continued to serve as audio engineers.

Above: Podcast moderators Dr. Babette Faehmel and Alexandre Lumbala, Business Administration major, with Cooper Patschureck, Liberal Arts: Communication Concentration major; Rabbi Matthew Cutler of the Congregation Gates of Heaven; Paula Weiss, Co-founder and leader of the Children at the Well interfaith Youth Storytelling Program/member of the Woodstock Jewish Congregation; and Dr. Ahmad Abu-Hakmeh, a Muslim Palestinian American and member of the Greater Albany Muslim Community

New eSports Arena and eSports Team

The College opened a new eSports Arena to enhance the student experience, build an engaging campus community, and draw enrollment. The space reimaged the Canalside Café and encompasses three areas: an arena featuring 15 high-end MSI Aegis RS2 gaming PCs, a "shoutcasting" broadcast booth for in-game commentary, and a student lounge for casual video game play that houses consoles for Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo Switch and



space for traditional role or board games. 28 students on the College's new eSports Team participated in the SUNY eSports League and ECAC League in the Fall 2024 semester, with three students reaching the playoffs.



Valerie Dent, Interim Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Deputy for Student Success, SUNY System; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; and Dr. Carlos M. Cotto, Jr., Superintendent, Schenectady City School District, during the Grand Opening of the new esports Arena

Achieving the Dream Recognizes SUNY Schenectady As A 2024 Leader College



Dr. Steady Moono with Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the SUNY Schenectady Board of Trustees, and Dr. Karen Stout, President and Chief Executive Officer of Achieving the Dream, with the SUNY Schenectady Team at the 20th Anniversary DREAM Annual Convening 2024

SUNY Schenectady was one of 10 community colleges from across the country that were designated as Leader Colleges by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and economic mobility in their communities. SUNY Schenectady and the other institutions earned Leader College status after showing steady improvement in outcomes in student success. Collaborating with ATD coaches, SUNY Schenectady reimaged the student onboarding process using a professional advising case management model. Additionally, the College invested in high-quality data structures and systems to provide a more holistic advising experience centered around the student's personal, academic, and career plans.

Overwhelming Participation in National Student Success Model to Improve Support, Retention, and Completion

Students and SUNY officials joined College leaders in highlighting the benefits and expansion of Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP), a transformative two-year model that has been widely demonstrated to increase student completion rates and narrow opportunity gaps.

SUNY Schenectady is one of 25 SUNY campuses statewide that opted into the ASAP program and enrolled 160 students in Fall 2024 to improve retention and graduation rates. Supports including funding to cover textbooks, groceries, transportation, and other costs of attendance, academic assistance, comprehensive personalized advisement, and career development activities help Pell-eligible students overcome barriers that can prevent them from achieving their goals and obtaining a degree.



Kevin Dean, ASAP Executive Director, with students in the ASAP Program

“Day of Action” for Tuition Assistance Benefits for All Veterans

New York State Assemblymembers Patricia Fahy and Angelo Santabarbara, who is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, students, and elected officials participated in a statewide day of action urging Governor Kathy Hochul to sign legislation (A.9205-A/ S.8596-A) that extends tuition assistance benefits to all veterans in New York State. The state prohibits veterans who served but were not deployed to an active combat zone from accessing Veteran Tuition Assistance (VTA). This bill corrects this policy inequity in New York State and ensures that all veterans are recognized equally for their willingness to serve.



l. to r.: Gary Hughes, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature; Cheyenne Lovell, Director of the Schenectady County Veterans Service Agency; New York State Assemblymembers Angelo Santabarbara and Patricia Fahy; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; Student Veteran Wesley Rush, Business Administration major; Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy; and Student Veteran Parsram Pernanand, Business Administration major

College Is Basecamp for HBO’s *Gilded Age*



HBO’s *The Gilded Age* cast and crew set up basecamp on campus as filming took place in the Stockade neighborhood for episodes of Season Three of the popular show. Actors had their hair and makeup done and wardrobe fittings in Elston Hall, as production trailers parked in the School of Music Parking Lot, and cast and crew catering was held at 13 State St.

Exploring AI And Its Applications

Professor of History Babette Faehmel, Director of Library Services Jacquie Keleher, and Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning Dave Wolf were awarded a SUNY Academic Innovation IITG grant to establish an “Interdisciplinary Learning Community on AI Literacy and AI Adaptation in Learning, Teaching, Tutoring, Research, and Assessment Across the Curriculum.”

The initiative began in earnest this past summer, with 12 SUNY Schenectady faculty and staff members participating in an intensive summer institute to explore AI and its applications in not just the classroom, but also across campus. Participants collaborated with colleagues from several other SUNY institutions to deepen their understanding of AI’s role in education and shared their findings with the SUNY Schenectady community during Fall Institute Week. This work is continuing throughout the 2024-2025 academic year.

ACADEMICS

New High-Tech Simulators Provide Hands-On Learning for Student Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers

Students in the Aviation Science and Air Traffic Control (ATC) degree programs are experiencing a whole new level of training, as they utilize industry-leading Flight Simulators and Air Traffic Control (ATC) Simulators.

The 18 Flight Simulators feature flight software from Lockheed Martin's Prepar3D, Honeycomb Yoke/Throttle/Rudder controls, and high-end headsets for a realistic audio experience. Students "fly" flight simulators and conduct actual flight training in aircraft for their certificates and ratings.

New cutting-edge Air Traffic Control Simulators and the awarded FAA curriculum provide world-renowned ATC-education to students in the ATC A.A.S. degree program. Students are able to interact with AI-generated pilots and simultaneously link to pilots in the Aviation Science degree program, controlling AI and human-piloted simulation aircraft, just as they would in a tower. SUNY Schenectady is only the third program in New York State and the only community college in the state with this training capability.



Criminal Justice Faculty Member and Students Assist With State Ceremonies for Fallen Officers



Assistant Professor Lou Aiossa, of the Division of Business and Professional Programs, led a group of Criminal Justice students in a service-learning project, acting as greeters and ushers

during a memorial mass in Albany for family members who lost a loved one in the line of duty. The mass was sponsored by the Empire State Memorial Fund Inc., and the Albany Police Department. They also assisted family and friends of fallen officers with making impressions of the officer's name engraved on the granite wall at the New York State Police Officers Memorial during the New York State Police Officers Memorial Ceremony at the Empire State Plaza sponsored by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services.



Spring Culinary Classic Brings Students, Professional Chefs and Distinguished Judges To Campus

The School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism hosted the 14th Annual Spring Culinary Classic, a national American Culinary Federation (ACF)-sanctioned competition. Professional chefs and students from SUNY Schenectady, SUNY Cobleskill, and Monroe College competed in knife skills, practical and contemporary hot food cooking, and an edible cold food competition with 20 students from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism earning gold, silver, and bronze medals, and diplomas from esteemed ACF-certified judges.



Students In The Mix During Recording Session with Grammy-Award Winning Band

Grammy-award winning reggae band Steel Pulse recorded two songs for their upcoming album with acclaimed engineer Errol Brown in the School of Music's Vianna-Brignola Recording Studio. Associate Professor Sten Isachsen oversaw the recording session and six of his Music Audio Technology students assisted.

New Art Concentration Offered



Stephen J. Tyson, Fine Arts Faculty Member and The Rise Gallery Director/ Curator, with student Veronica Cohen

A new Art Concentration, part of the Liberal Arts: Humanities and Social Sciences A.A. degree program, was offered for the first time, with students taking courses in the SUNY Schenectady Center for the Arts. The concentration has opportunities for collaborations with local artists and civic organizations for students and faculty to create and install public art that speaks to all dimensions of our community.

Students Showcase Original Research During STEM Days

Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP, works with Carly Rader, Kemraj Sooknanan, and Nicole Gray, students in her Biology II Lab. They were examining the relationship between the lion's mane mushroom and the presence of earth worms in the soil.

Science students presented their original research findings during STEM Days. During *Planet vs. Plastics*, students studied the soil, worms, fungi, roly pollies, microbes, and plants to understand our role in becoming a more sustainable community and planet. In the fall, students presented their research as part of National STEM Day.

Disciplines represented during STEM Days are: Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, Medical Coding and Billing, and Physics. STEM Day is organized by the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP).



ACADEMICS

Students Inducted Into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

96 students were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. They all achieved an impressive 3.65 or higher GPA.

“I applaud the students who earned this esteemed recognition and join with their families, friends, professors, and other vision supporters in congratulating them on a job well done. They all exhibit the four hallmarks of PTK: scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. I am very proud of what they have achieved so far and look forward to celebrating their future success,” said Dr. Steady Moono, College President



Students and Faculty Travel to Italy for Study Abroad

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 Kimberly Otis and John O’Connell led the group. Students earned three credits through the “Italian Food and Culture” course. This is the sixth year that a group from the College has traveled to Italy for the program through the partnership with Marco Polo developed by the late Chef Rocco Verrigni, who was a longtime Professor in HCAT.



School of Music Earns Positive Accreditation Report

The College is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). Visiting Evaluators from NASM came to campus and met with students, faculty, and administration, as part of the continued accreditation process. This was followed by a positive report from the team in January 2024 noting, “strong teaching and performing faculty, strong administrative support, a series of concerts that benefits students and serves as a cultural outreach to the community, and well established curricula, malleable enough to change with the demands facing the modern musician.”

FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

Music Dean Conducts Gilded Age Performance at Rhode Island Mansion

Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, conducted the Gilded Age Orchestra of Newport and shared his vast knowledge of the music of The Gilded Age during a performance at Rosecliff Mansion in Newport, R.I. The program included selections from the opening season of the Metropolitan Opera in 1883, featured in Season Two of HBO's *The Gilded Age*. Dr. Brellocks served as a consultant on the show and portrayed composer and conductor John Knowles Paine.



Photo credit: Jennifer Carter Photography. Photo courtesy of the Preservation Society of Newport County

History Professor Named SUNY Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellow



Dr. Babette Faehmel, History Professor in the Liberal Arts Division, was chosen to broaden her work in the area of civil discourse as one of 10 fellows in SUNY's inaugural class for the Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellowship.

In her U.S. History and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses, through her role as a mentor, and as co-host and producer of the *Many Voices, One Call* podcast, Dr. Faehmel has engaged students, faculty, and members of the community in important discussions where differing viewpoints can be examined and explained.

Science Professor Delivers Keynote Address During STEM Day



Dr. Luca Fontana, who has been teaching Chemistry at the College for the past six years, was the keynote speaker during STEM Day: *Planet vs. Plastics*. He discussed ways that we should try to reduce, reuse, and recycle, minimizing the use of primary resources and rationalizing the plastic portfolio in each market. Dr. Fontana is a former vice president of global technology, chief technology officer, chemist, and research, technology, and innovation consultant, and was the main inventor or co-inventor on 25 U.S. patents.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

2024 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service



Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor, Division of Liberal Arts

Dr. Babette Faehmel's advocacy for student mentoring, diversity, equity, and inclusion has been tireless and fruitful. In 2017, Dr. Faehmel was appointed to serve as the Coordinator of the Student Mentoring Program. She achieved a successful application for a SUNY Performance Improvement (PIF) Grant and during the Summer of 2017, she conceived and presented the first workshop at the College on microaggressions.

In July 2019, Dr. Faehmel organized a Summer Research Institute on Equity. This weeklong intensive self-study effort included the interactive workshop, "Sticks. and Stones: Understanding Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and Stereotypes." She also conceived a First-Year Seminar course for BIPOC students along with a colleague.

Dr. Faehmel was instrumental in designing, executing, and overseeing an interdisciplinary program meant to increase the success rate and learner satisfaction of Criminal Justice students in their required Liberal Arts classes (which was awarded a \$96,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities). She has also served as founder, lead researcher, producer, and co-host of the College's first-ever podcast.

Dr. Faehmel holds a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, an M.A. from the University of Cincinnati, and a B.A. from Hamburg University.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service



Jacqueline Keleher, Director of Library Services

Jacqueline Keleher's fundamental belief is that libraries should be providers of trustworthy information to everyone. Her commitment to access and inclusion guided key decisions when she played an imperative role during the \$10 million transformation of the Begley Library into the Begley Learning Commons.

Jacqueline is a staunch supporter of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. For example, her collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion resulted in the creation of the "Let's Talk About It" and "Currently Current" event series, open forums for campus discussions. Jacqueline serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Professional Development Team Lead Group that has planned and hosted College-wide events including the DEI conference.

In addition to her campus service, Jacqueline is the Open Educational Resource (OER) campus liaison with SUNY and a peer reviewer for the most recent round of SUNY OER impact grants. She is a member of the American Library Association, Capital District Library Council, and the State University of New York Librarians Association.

Jacqueline holds an M.L.S. and B.A. in History from the State University of New York at Buffalo and an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Niagara County Community College.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service



Anna Fidler, Principal Library Clerk

Anna Fidler has been an asset to the College and the Begley Library as a self-starter and someone who listens to students, assisting them in any way that she can. Anna taught herself how to use an Application Programming Interface (API) with the Library Services Platform, Alma, to effectively review the Library's physical item inventory. She adds and withdraws records and holdings in Alma to keep the Library catalog up to date.

Following nearly four years of dedicated service as a Senior Library Clerk, Anna was promoted to Principal Library Clerk in 2021. Her commitment and expertise continue to play a crucial role in maintaining the Library's collection and services. For example, when new physical materials are purchased, Anna's unseen work in every step of the process is necessary, and without it, items would not be on the shelf.

Her responsibilities also include staffing the Circulation Desk, troubleshooting basic computer and printer issues for students, working with our student workers, and managing large-scale projects. Anna worked closely with the Facilities staff to facilitate the Library relocation from the Begley Building to Elston Hall and the subsequent move into the Learning Commons.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching



Michael J. Dzikowski, Adjunct Faculty Member, Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health

Michael Dzikowski, a highly skilled Information Technology professional with 25 years of experience in higher education, started his journey at SUNY Schenectady as a Student Worker and Tutor while he was pursuing his associate degree. He has become known for his compassion toward his students and his outstanding technological knowledge.

Michael has taught a wide variety of Computer Science courses in addition to his role as a full-time Systems Architect at the University at Albany. He is an excellent instructor held in high regard by students and administrators. His depth of knowledge and quality of instruction is evident when he simplifies difficult concepts for his students. Michael stays current in the technology trades. For example, he has engaged in professional training including No Code AI and Machine Learning, Quality by Design Faculty Development coursework, and the Teaching and Learning for New Faculty program.

Michael holds an M.B.A. in Technology Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management from SUNY Polytechnic Institute, B.B.A. in Business and Technology Management from SUNY Delhi, and an A.S. in Computer Science from SUNY Schenectady.

College Administrator Part of Inaugural Community College Leadership Academy

Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean for Financial Aid and Access/ Title IX Coordinator, was among the 34 faculty and staff members from across the SUNY system to complete the inaugural New York State Community College Leadership Academy. The program is designed for emerging leaders to strengthen their critical skills and knowledge to build their campus capacity and improve student outcomes.

Bessette has been at SUNY Schenectady since 2016, first hired as Director of Financial Aid. He was promoted to his current position in 2018. He has guided thousands of students and their families through the financial aid process, while leading a team of knowledgeable staff members in the Financial Aid Office. He has also served on the ReaCH, Retention Analytics, Enrollment Management, Strategic Planning, and DEI Committees.



FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

College Welcomes Two New Academic Deans

Dr. Tim Konhaus and Mykha'el Wilson are lending their expertise to the College as the new Deans of the Division of Liberal Arts and the Division of Business and Professional Programs respectively.

Dr. Konhaus has nearly 25 years of experience in higher education. Before coming to SUNY Schenectady, he was a faculty member at Glenville State University in West Virginia where he taught courses in History, Appalachian Studies, and Hip-Hop Studies. He was previously on faculty at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, where he also served as a Dual Enrollment Coordinator. In addition, Dr. Konhaus served as Coordinator of Dual Enrollment and Early College Programs for Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg, Va.

He earned his Ph.D. in History from West Virginia University, and M.A. in History and B.A. in Geography from Slippery Rock University. His teaching and research interests are in 19th Century U.S. History, Black History, Appalachian Studies, and Hip-Hop Studies. Dr. Konhaus currently serves on the editorial board of *West Virginia History: A Journal of Regional Studies*.

Dean Wilson has been with the College since January 2021 when he was hired as an Instructor, teaching Managerial and Financial Accounting, as well as Business and Applied Ethics and MicroEconomics. He spent most of his career in sales and management and caught the teaching bug when he was working in the wine industry in California and loved giving vineyard tours. When Dean Wilson's time was over in that industry, he attended Fulton-Montgomery Community College to earn his A.S. in Business Administration. He went on to the College of Saint Rose as part of their accelerated B.S./M.S. degree in Accounting.



Business and Professional Programs Division Redesigned and Renamed

At the start of the 2024 academic year, the College reconfigured the former Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law to better represent the Division's aims of student career development. Now named the Division of Business and Professional Programs, it includes the Accounting, Aviation Science, Business, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, and Paralegal programs, as well as the Career Services Center.

Sharing the Story of Our Food Pantry With A National Audience



Robyn King, Director of Wellness and Support Services, was chosen to present "Stronger Together: A Collaborative Approach to Addressing College Student Hunger" at the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Annual Conference in Seattle, Wash. The highlight of the presentation was the retention and completion correlational data of Pantry visitors (85% average over the last five semesters) compared to College-wide data (69% average), reflecting the Food Pantry's mission and vision of supporting students' academic success.

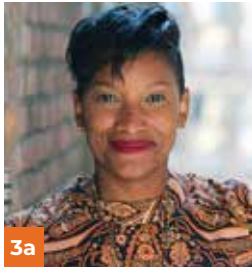
EVENTS



1



2



3a



4



3b



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

1. Community of Care Symposium, January 2024

Dr. Michael “Mykee” Fowlin, psychologist, poet, and performer, kicked off the second campus-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative Community of Care Symposium.

2. “Cultivating a Culture of Intentional Inclusivity,” January 2024

A participant panel featured faculty and staff discussions.

3. Black History Month, February 2024

3a. Elaine Porcher presented *From Past to Purpose- Rewiring Our Response to Historical Trauma*

3b. Brass Abbey’s concert featured works by Duke Ellington, Anthony Barfield, Scott Joplin, David Wilborn and more, spanning genres including ragtime, spirituals, and pop.

4. Guest Chef Fundraiser Dinner, February 2024

Chef Gino Minacapilli of the Marco Polo Institute presented a delicious four-course meal, a James G. Westervelt event to benefit the Culinary Arts Marco Polo Program Abroad in Italy. He also held a demo for the College community.

5. A Once-In-A-Lifetime View, April 2024

A watch party for the solar eclipse started with a countdown to 97.2 percent totality.

6. International Gala, April 2024

Guests enjoyed global cuisine, dance, music, and storytelling representing the diverse traditions and customs that enrich our society.

7. Faculty/Jazz Combo Concerts, Summer 2024

The group entertained music lovers at Freedom Park (Scotia) and Music Haven in Central Park (Schenectady).

8. “Transforming Our Colleges and Communities,” August 2024

Dr. Karen Stout, President/CEO of Achieving the Dream discussed setting students up to succeed and finding meaningful work that will provide access to fulfilling careers, ensuring the long-term health of our community.

9. Hot Wrk Ensemble Concert, September 2024

This saxophone/woodwind and percussion trio worked out concepts of traditional chamber music.

10. Warren Wolf/Joe Locke Concert, September 2024

A Place for Jazz and the School of Music presented the performance by Warren Wolf, a multi-instrumentalist from Baltimore, Md., trained on the vibraphone/marimba, drums, and piano, and Joe Locke, a composer, bandleader, and conceptualist.

11. 15th Annual Chefs for Success, October 2024

Celebrity Guest Chefs, including alumni, treated attendees to their signature dishes while raising funds for scholarships.

12. Amahl and the Night Visitors, November 2024

Alumni and students performed in this one-act opera.

STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

2024 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence



Melody Roper, Culinary Arts

Melody Roper, Chief Petty Officer with the United States Coast Guard (USCG), was selected for Advanced Education Training in 2021 through the Coast Guard Advanced Education Program, and moved from Miami, Fla., to the

Capital Region to learn from the faculty chefs at the College.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Melody was the Student Manager of the Banquet Management class while the Air National Guard held its annual dinner on campus to honor newly inducted Senior Noncommissioned Officers to the rank of Master Sergeant. She graduated in May and planned to move to Petaluma, Calif., stationed at the USCG Training Center, and become a Culinary Arts Instructor.



Parmesh Thakoordial, Science

A member of the Smart Transfer Program, Parmesh graduated from Schenectady High School in June 2023 and then SUNY Schenectady in August 2023. He is pursuing two bachelor's degrees, a B.S. in Interdisciplinary

Studies: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and a B.A. in Psychology at the University at Albany. His diverse research interests include regenerative medicine, community health research, bioinformatics, and drug delivery therapy. Parmesh is also a volunteer in the Emergency Department at Ellis Hospital and was Vice President of the Student Government Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and he participated in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP).

Student Leaders Participate in SUNY Student Assembly Conference



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

Students Earn Best Poster Award During Women in Computing Conference

Hemmattie Gobind, Math/Science major, and Jasmattie Lutawan, Computer Science major, are shown with their poster "The Programming Alchemist" which earned them the Best Poster Award during the



Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) New York Celebration of Women in Computing (NYC-WiC). They were the only students from a community college who presented during the conference, and earned top honors, chosen from among students who are earning their Ph.D.s, master's degrees, and bachelor's degrees.

Student Recognized with McConney Award for Student Excellence

Health Studies major Aida Balkoulga was honored as a recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence. The award recognizes outstanding EOP students from across the state for their academic merit and perseverance.

Aida has a calling: to help people. Growing up in Burkina Faso, she often took care of her younger brother and her grandmother. After moving to the U.S. in 2017, she settled in Houston, and then upstate New York. She finished training as a Home Health Aide and began working for Home Instead and Ellis Hospital, and decided to enroll at SUNY Schenectady so that she could fulfill her dream of becoming an R.N. She works in the Mental Health Unit at Ellis while going to school.



SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. congratulates Aida Balkoulga on her selection as a recipient of the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence.

Students Selected for All-New York Academic Team

Maureen Mbanga, Business Administration major, and Ayden Budhoo, Computer Science major, were selected for the Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Team, recognized for their academic achievements, leadership accomplishments, and engagement in community service.



Maureen grew up in Zambia and was chosen to attend SUNY Schenectady as an international student on a full scholarship. She followed her love for mathematics as a Business Administration major who plans to become an Accountant. She was Vice President of the International Club, Student Trustee, on the Student Activities Board and Student Government Association, in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and volunteered at the City Mission of Schenectady. She graduated in May 2024.

Ayden was not only a Computer Science major, he was also a senior at Schenectady High School, through the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School program. He graduated in 2024 with both his high school diploma and his associate degree. Ayden was a Tutor with the Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and a participant in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program.

Human Services Major Chosen for National Scholarship



Scholarship recipient Grace Henderson with Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff

Grace Henderson was one of two recipients of the 2024 Harvey Lincoln Student Scholarship from Achieving the Dream, selected from a competitive pool of applicants from colleges across the country for the \$3,000 scholarship.

Grace graduated with her degree in Human Services and was a SUNY EOP Ambassador and participant in the TRIO program. In addition to going to school full time, she is a single mother who volunteers for the PTO at her son Ezra's elementary school and works with the Schenectady Community Action Program to help unhoused families find apartments.

STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

Grattidge-Ohnstad Science Competition Winner



Tamesh Yeapersaud, dual Math/Science and Computer Science major, with Dr. Paul Amy, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Hope Sasway, Dean of the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health

Math/Science and Computer Science major Tamesh Yeapersaud was the winner of the annual Grattidge-Ohnstad Science Competition. He determined the most precise value of Planck's constant h using LEDs. Tamesh is in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program and Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP).

Alumna Recognized by NYCCT and College's Board of Trustees



Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, with Alumna Heather Peterson

Students Gain Service Opportunity Through Empire State Service Corps

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado and SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. came to campus to announce the launch of the new Empire State Service Corps Program, which promotes paid civic and service opportunities for students. About 500 service positions will be created across SUNY's colleges and universities, funded by a \$2.75 million expansion of community service endeavors. Students participating in the program will commit to dedicating at least 300 hours a year to engaging in community service and will convene regularly to share and learn from one another's experiences. Two of the students in the inaugural group are Archer Abbott, a Liberal Arts major and new Student Co-host of the College's *Many Voices, One Call* podcast, and Deevashly Sawh, a Criminal Justice major, who is working in the Food Pantry.



The Board of Trustees honored alumna Heather Peterson, celebrating the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award for Civic Contribution she received from the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) during the organization's 70th Annual Conference in Saratoga.

Peterson, Managing Partner and Principal at Peterson, Campoli & Associates CPAs, is a 1999 graduate, honored as a Distinguished Alumni in 2019. A dedicated advocate for SUNY Schenectady, she is also Board President of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation, an Appointing Authority of the Schenectady Foundation, and a Capital Region Chamber Board Member. Her commitment to community service has earned her awards, including the 2015 YWCA Susan Rosenthal Woman in Business Award and the 2019 BPW Woman of the Year Award.



TRIO Students and Staff Visit Nation’s Capital

30 students and staff from the TRIO Program visited Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable three-day cultural trip. Highlights included tours of the Capitol building, White House, monuments, Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon, and Arlington Cemetery. The group also enjoyed team-building activities and bowling.



Music Student Wows Basketball Fans With National Anthem Performance

Laura Beth Johnson, Performing Arts: Music student, sang *The National Anthem* before the NCAA Division I Women’s Regional game at the MVP Arena in Albany. Laura and her band Girl Love have played to sold-out crowds in Saratoga and finished a national tour last winter.

HCAT Students at Kentucky Derby, Belmont Stakes and Farm Aid

For the 45th year, students and faculty from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism (HCAT) worked at the Kentucky Derby through Churchill Downs with Levy Restaurants. HCAT students also worked at the Belmont Stakes in Saratoga and at Farm Aid at Saratoga Performing Arts Center.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Food Truck Delights Capital Region, Wins Awards



Students Kevin Jiang, Corey Hickman, and Fred Santiago with Chef Gio Lontoc

The College's Food Truck, centerpiece of the Mobile Food Service Certificate program, was a big hit around the Capital Region, winning awards along the way. The Food Truck's Purple Sweet Potato Mont Blanc (inset image) was named Best Flavor Profile and Best Presentation at the Second Annual Tater Trot in Downtown Schenectady.

The Chanko Nabe (Hotpot Soup/Sumo Wrestler Soup), with chicken meatballs and assorted spring vegetables in a chicken and bonito broth, was a crowd-pleaser during the Eighth Annual Downtown Schenectady

Soup Stroll, winning Best Gluten-Free. The Food Truck was also at the Empire State Plaza, Downtown Schenectady Wing Walk, and Liberty Foundation's Electric City Trucks, Taps, Corks & Forks.



Sociology Students Assist Local Organizations And Agencies

Students in Professor Renee Adamany's Sociology: Interpersonal and Group Dynamics courses developed service learning projects that connected them with local organizations.

At Kingsway Manor Assisted Living, students assisted with a bingo game and collected items for five prize baskets. Each participant also received a gift bag.

Students led budding artists at Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region in painting and jewelry making projects. Each girl also received a gift bag filled with books and crafts, while enjoying pizza, drinks, and snacks.

At the YWCA NorthEastern NY, students tie-dyed T-shirts with residents and provided pizza, drinks, and snacks. Each resident received a gift bag filled with personal care items and winter apparel.

Students led craft activities and game stations for children ages 5-12 at Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc. (RISSE). They provided pizza, chicken, desserts, and drinks. Each child received a backpack filled with a notebook, pencils, and craft items. They also chose winter apparel including hats, mittens, and scarves.



COMMENCEMENT



The Class of 2024 earned their degrees, certificates, and microcredentials, as their families, friends, mentors, professors, College staff, and other vision supporters applauded and cheered for them during a wonderful outdoor ceremony. New York State Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado delivered an inspiring keynote address in which he spoke about the “power of love.”

- **336 graduates**
- **Average Age - 25 years old**
- **Youngest graduate: 17 years old**
- **Oldest graduate: 60 years old**
- **17 international students** from **14 countries** were among the graduates.



“I hail from a place where the road to higher education is fraught with obstacles, and the dream of attending college seemed unattainable. However, through the grace of divine providence and the generosity of the Joan R. Dembinski '10 Study Abroad Scholarship and African Education Program, my path was illuminated.”

Maureen Mbanga, Business Administration A.S., Student Trustee, International Student

High School Students Earn Associate Degrees and High School Diplomas At The Same Time

Among the Class of 2024 were 19 Early College High School (ECHS) students who graduated with their associate degrees at the same time they were earning high school diplomas through the Schenectady Smart Transfer, Smart Scholar, and P-Tech programs, in addition to one student from Brown School. Most of these students transferred on to four-year institutions including Colgate University, the University at Albany, the University at Buffalo, and Siena College.



PARTNERSHIPS

Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Academy on Campus

Through a relationship with the Workforce Development and Community Education Division, the Business and Professional Programs Division, and nearby Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, members of the Academy staff and the newly-formed Basic Class for Police Officers took courses and training on campus.



Early College High School Students Take Courses On Campus

More than 360 ninth through 12th-graders took summer courses in Environmental Science, First Year Seminar, History, Management, Math, Psychology, Public Speaking, and Sociology through the Early College High School program. Some students were going into ninth grade and taking their first college course and some are working on their associate degrees. They are in Smart Scholars, Smart Transfer, P-Tech, and Duanesburg 1+1 Programs.

College Accepts Entire Senior Class at Schenectady High School

SUNY Schenectady took part in *The Schenectady Promise*, a special Instant Admission



program at Schenectady High School, offering acceptance to the entire senior class for admission to the College for the fall if they apply. Representatives from Admissions, Advising, ASAP, Career Services, College and High School Partnerships, EOP, Financial Aid, and TRIO answered questions and helped students with the application process.

SUNY Oneonta and College Collaborate on New Transfer Pathways Program

Through the SUNY Oneonta Transfer Pathways Program, SUNY Schenectady and SUNY Oneonta have partnered to provide clear pathways for students completing their associate degrees at SUNY Schenectady to transfer to SUNY Oneonta with a guaranteed smooth transition into a bachelor's degree program. Debra Sisco, SUNY Oneonta Transfer Advisor, has been on campus, meeting with students and answering their questions about transferring.



Debra Sisco, SUNY Oneonta Transfer Advisor

Career Jam Launch Brings Career Exploration to Highschoolers



The College partnered with Career Jam, a pioneering organization dedicated to inspiring the next generation workforce, and the Schenectady City School District to host Career Jam Launch, an exciting career exploration event tailored for students in grades 10 through 12. The event welcomed nearly 1,000 students from various school districts. 40 employers representing 16 career clusters engaged students through hands-on demonstrations, discussions about potential career pathways, and direct-entry opportunities. Attendees also explored the Mobile Training Labs.

New Sheriff College Resource Vehicle

The Office of Campus Safety, in partnership with the Schenectady County Office of the Sheriff, acquired a new vehicle solely dedicated to SUNY Schenectady's Campus Safety Division.

Pictured are Joe Glasser, College Resource Officer, Dr. Steady Moono, and Eric Fluty, Associate Vice President of Campus Safety Division



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Schenectady Police Department Recruits Join Newly Updated NYSDOL, SUNY, and SUNY Schenectady Police Officer Apprenticeship Program



With the new recruits are: Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; Honorable Angelo Santabarbara, New York State Assemblyman; SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr.; Chief Eric Clifford, Schenectady Police Department; and Commissioner Roberta Reardon, New York State Department of Labor.

Seven new Schenectady Police Department recruits signed on as apprentices under the newly updated New York State Police Officer Apprenticeship Title Program during a ceremony in the Taylor Auditorium. The Workforce Development and Community Education Division, Criminal Justice Faculty, College administrators, officials from the Schenectady Police Department and Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, representatives from the New York State Department of Labor, and the SUNY Apprenticeship Team partnered to update the apprenticeship. Through the SUNY Apprenticeship Grant, Police Officer apprentices receive tuition and other supports, including mentoring, toward earning their journey worker card and Criminal Justice Certificate.

College Partners with Albany Medical Center on “Dining With Diabetes” Class

“Dining with Diabetes” is the result of a partnership between the College and Albany Medical Center (AMC), in support of kids with diabetes and their caregivers. The class, taught by Chef Alexis Schrom '23, with Assistant Professor Chef Rain O'Donnell, is designed to support patients and their families as they learn different recipes that promote healthy eating habits. The classes, offered through Workforce Development and Community Education, in partnership with the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, are made possible by a grant to AMC by the Lonnie and Thomas Schwartz Foundation.



Pictured are Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff; Maria Kotary, Associate for Workforce Development and Community Education; Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education; Chef Alexis Schrom, Instructor; Chef Rain O'Donnell, Assistant Professor; Dr. Steady Moono, College President; Nancy Jones, RN, CDCES, Albany Medical Center (AMC); Dr. Linda Riddick, Head of the Pediatric Endocrinology Program, AMC; and Michael Henderson, Director of EOP

Workforce Development and Community Education Team Recognized by NYCCT and College's Board of Trustees



Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Matt Maloy, Director of Workforce Development Mobile Training Labs; Dr. Tiziana Rota, Project Director Emerita; Lauren Lankau, Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education; and Dr. Steady Moono, College President, during the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) Conference on October 5.



Lauren Lankau, Ann Fleming Brown, and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education

The Board of Trustees recognized the team from Workforce Development and Community Education (WFDCE) after they earned the New York Community College Trustees Community College Innovation Award, recognizing the new Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare Mobile Training Labs that bring training programs directly to business and industry partners and educational programs to local schools and organizations.

Continued from page 9...

A Feast for the Eyes: Exhibits in The Rise Gallery

Life and Fantasy: Artworks by Craig Petreikis and Elinur Danon



Union Square - Craig Petreikis



Cats' Love - Elinur Danon

FOUNDATION

From the Chair



As an alumnus of SUNY Schenectady and Chair of the Foundation Board, it's a privilege to witness the transformative impact made by our generous donors. Every donation, no matter the size, raises up our students, not just in their studies, but for lifelong success.

SUNY Schenectady's mission goes beyond academics—we're here to open doors to futures filled with opportunity. To expand our efforts, we recently launched the *Rising Together Campaign for SUNY Schenectady*. Thanks to your dedication and kindness, we can continue supporting dreams, fostering resilience, and building a brighter tomorrow for our entire community.

From all of us at the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are *Rising Together* to make a lasting difference.

Kenneth R. Counterline '93
Foundation Board Chair

New Foundation Board Members

Juliano Febo, a proud SUNY Schenectady graduate, is deeply committed to giving back to the community that helped shape his success. As a Project Manager with Hudson Meridian Construction Group, he's at the forefront of their new Capital Region office. His active role in local government and volunteer board memberships highlight his dedication to making a positive impact in the growth of our community.



We are confident that Juliano's expertise and community-focused vision will advance the mission of the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board.

Joseph "Joe" Pigliavento is a passionate real estate and property manager and has a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and exceptional service throughout the Capital Region. He is dedicated to achieving optimal results for his clients which has made him a trusted advisor.



Joe comes to us with energy, ideas, and a willingness to be involved. We are thrilled to have his valuable input and participation on the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board.

RISING TOGETHER

*The Campaign for
SUNY Schenectady*



At SUNY Schenectady, we envision a future where education transforms lives and empowers communities. To realize this vision, we have launched a transformative campaign, *Rising Together*, and through our campaign priorities, we are striving to achieve tangible outcomes:

- The **Workforce Innovation Fund** aims to bridge education to industry by creating career pathways and collaborating closely with regional businesses to equip our students with in-demand skills
- Our **Student Opportunity Fund** provides essential support services, mentoring, and scholarships to ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive.
- The **SUNY Schenectady Fund** supports our faculty, enhances campus facilities, and ensures operational excellence.

The public campaign launch was held on September 24, 2024, and will end with a celebration in June 2025. The support received, whether through contributions or advocacy, will play a pivotal role in our collective success. Together, let's rise higher, achieve more, and empower futures.

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 academic year 2023-2024, the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, with the help of a Scholarship Committee, was able to offer 187 scholarship awards to students valued at nearly \$250,000.

Ron and Kathy Cooke, friends and longtime supporters of the College, established the **Mary S. Greco Scholarship** to assist students who are pursuing an Art Concentration within the Liberal Arts A.A. degree program in the Division of Liberal Arts. Greco took many art classes, most of them at SUNY Schenectady, and she took her work very seriously. She had her own traveling art show which made her very proud. This scholarship will assist a student for up to two years, as long as the student remains in good academic standing.



Donor Thomas Rider with dual Music Audio Technology and Performing Arts: Music major Vinny Marotta, recipient of the Dr. T. Lewis Rider Memorial Scholarship. Tom and his wife Barbara established the scholarship in 2013 in memory of Tom's father, who was a



pediatrician in Albany and led the Lew Rider Orchestra, popular in the 1930s in the Capital Region.

The Christopher Meleco Scholarship



was established by Wellness in the Schools in memory of Chef Christopher Meleco. This scholarship is intended to support

a student enrolled in the Culinary Arts A.O.S. degree program who demonstrates financial need. The Christopher Meleco Scholarship can be used toward tuition, fees, books, and course materials such as a knife set and chef uniform. We are grateful for this support from Wellness in the Schools.

The Debra Schimpf Service and Leadership Scholarship

was created to honor the recently retired Executive Director of Schenectady County Action Program (SCAP). For more than 30 years, Debra was a tireless advocate for underserved populations. This scholarship provides support to a student who demonstrates a commitment to community service, leadership, and a passion for social justice, much like Debra did throughout her tenure at SCAP. We hope this scholarship



will inspire the next generation of leaders who will carry forward Debra's spirit of compassion, innovation, and advocacy in their own communities.

The **Mary L. Andrews Scholarship** was established by Grace Henderson '24 in memory of her grandmother. This will support students enrolled in a program leading to employment in the medical field, with preference for those on a path to becoming a Certified Nurse Aide. Mary worked very hard as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 42 years. She loved to feed people and her house was always open to anyone who needed a place to stay. Her family refers to her as a "Superwoman." We are grateful for Grace's generosity and we are honored to keep her grandmother's legacy alive.



Through her generous estate gift, **two scholarships have been established in honor of L. Ann Bish**, a former Liberal Arts Faculty Member at SUNY Schenectady. Ann's passion for education and commitment to philanthropy will open doors for countless students, helping them access an exceptional education for years to come. This meaningful legacy not only honors her dedication to teaching but also fosters opportunities that will shape future generations. We are deeply honored to serve as the stewards of this impactful and transformative gift, ensuring that Ann's spirit of generosity continues to inspire and uplift our students.

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. 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 for their incredible GENEROSITY who have individually contributed \$25,000 or more:

ORGANIZATIONS

1st National Bank of Scotia
AYCO Company
Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc.
CAFE Workers Compensation Trust
Capital District Physicians Health Plan
Community Bank, N.A.
Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rotisseurs Foundation
Daily Gazette
Envision Architects PC
Faculty Student Association
Fenimore Asset Management, Inc. , Manager of the FAM FUNDS
Galesi Group
General Electric Power Systems
Neil Jane William Estelle Golub Family Foundation, Inc.
Greater Capital Region Endowment Fund
Harding Mazzotti, LLP
Helen Boiardi Charitable Remainder Trust
High Voltage Electric Service, Inc.
John C. and Susan K. Hubbard Foundation, Inc.
Judkins Trust Fund
KeyBank
Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory
Legal Aid Society of Schenectady County Inc.
Lillian M. Slater Charitable Trust
Logic Technology Inc.
Marine Corps Coordinating Council NY Capital Region
Marshall + Sterling
Mazzone Hospitality
Mohawk Honda
MVP Health Care
National Grid
New York Propane Gas Association
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation
Richmor Aviation
The Schenectady Foundation, Inc.
Second Chance Scholarship Foundation
Smachlo Foundation

Soroptimist International of Schenectady State University of New York
Statler Foundation
Stewart's Shops
SUNY Schenectady Student Government Association
The Woman's Club of Schenectady
Times Union
Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans
Trustco Bank
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
William G. Broughton Charitable Private Foundation, Inc.
Women's Fund of the Capital Region
Wright Family Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Betty Carol Barlyn
Mrs. Constance Blair
Mr. Stanley Blanchard and Ms. Johanna Petersen
Mr. David Buicko and Ms. Christine Mallozzi
Ms. Diana O. Carter
Mr. Ronald G. Cooke and Dr. Kathleen Cooke
Ms. Susan Law Dake
Ms. Joan R. Dembinski, CC '10
The Ehlinger Family
Ms. Margaret A. Evans '81
Diane Smith Faubion
Mr. and Mrs. George R. Goldhoff '84
Neil and Jane* Golub
Dr. and Mrs. George C. Gould, III
Ms. Loretta Hackathorn
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Kotlow
Mrs. Isabel Krempa
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lohnas
Ms. Jeanne M. Maloy
Gus and Magda Mininberg
Dr. and Mrs. Steady H. Moono
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mutryn
Anne and Terry Phillips
Chef and Mrs. Yono Purnomo
Mr. Charles J. Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Rider
Mrs. Janet P. Robbins
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Rowland
Mr. Michael A. Tobin
Mrs. Diana Vianna-Brignola
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Wollman

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their long-standing LOYALTY of giving consecutively for at least five years:

ORGANIZATIONS

C.T. Male Associates
Fenimore Asset Management, Inc.
Graypoint LLC
Harding Mazzotti, LLP
John C. and Susan K. Hubbard Foundation, Inc.
Junior League of Schenectady and Saratoga
KeyBank
MVP Health Care
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation
Rivers Casino & Resort
Schenectady County Community College Faculty Association
Soroptimist International of Schenectady
Stewart's Shops
SUNY Schenectady Student Government Association
Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans
Trustco Bank
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
Women's Fund of the Capital Region

INDIVIDUALS

Professors Eileen Abrahams and Lewis Schwartz
Anonymous
Dr. Lois Atkinson*
Ms. Victoria R. Barber '86
Dr. Gabriel J. Basil*
Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Baum
Mrs. Olga S. Bertsch
Mr. Stanley Blanchard and Ms. Johanna Petersen
Ms. Renee Bradley
Dr. David E. Brough '81 and Mary Birbilis Brough '95
Ann Fleming Brown and Michael Brown
Nancy Baird Brown
Ms. Caroline Buff
Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Buhrmaster
Mr. David Buicko and Ms. Christine Mallozzi
Ms. Tamara B. Calhoun
Ms. Diana O. Carter
Mr. George B. Christian

Dr. David C. Clickner
 Ken '93 and Kate '93 Counterline
 Ms. Linda D. Czub
 Ms. Joan R. Dembinski, CC '10
 Mr. Takis Dikas '94
 Mrs. Mary D. Dornbush
 Ms. Kimberly Emerson
 Ms. Margaret A. Evans '81
 Dr. Babette Faehmel
 Dr. Luca P. Fontana and Dr. Barbara Galbiati
 Mr. and Mrs. John F. Gajewski
 Reverend Laurie Garramone
 Mr. Raymond R. Gillen
 Mr. and Mrs. George R. Goldhoff '84
 Dr. and Mrs. George C. Gould, III
 Dr. Lorena B. Harris
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hayes
 Lucille '94 and John C. Heid
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Hering
 Mr. Sten Y. Isachsen
 Ms. Dawn A. Jones '97
 Michael and Sharon Karl
 Ms. Jacqueline Keleher
 Mr. K. Scott Kilbourn '97 and
 Ms. Diane Bengtson Kilbourn '97
 Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D.
 Ms. Robyn M. King
 Ms. Kimberly Kirker
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Kotlow
 Mrs. Isabel Krempa
 Mr. Steven M. Krempa
 Henry and Betsie Lind

Linda & Michael '05 Lowenski
 Ceil and Jim Mack
 Carol A. Maimone
 Ms. Evelyn Makulski
 Ms. Jeanne M. Maloy
 Mrs. Lynn D. Manning
 The McCall Family
 Ms. Mary C. Militano
 Mr. Dale J. Miller and Ms. Zoe M. Oxley
 Ms. Kathryn A. Molloy
 Dr. and Mrs. Steady H. Moono
 Ms. Arlene Moran
 Mr. Joshua W. Murphy '00
 Mr. Paul Nance and Glenna Spitze
 Thomas Nelson and Ann Henderson
 Ms. Ingrid C. O'Connell '87
 Mr. John L. O'Connell
 Paula '87 and Howard '88 Ohlhaus
 Dr. and Mrs. Carl Paulsen
 Ms. Marilyn A. Pendergast
 Anne and Terry Phillips
 Ms. Michelle L. Ragucci
 Mr. Charles J. Richardson
 Mr. Terry L. Ross '71
 Joshua P. Ross '13
 Dr. Tiziana Rota '03
 Ms. Lynn M. Rozell
 Mr. Patrick Ryan
 Ms. Kim M. Scheuerman
 Mr. Anthony J. Schwartz
 Patricia A. Shapiro '86
 Ms. Rebecca P. Smith

Andrea Stalpinski '85
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Strauss
 Mrs. Donna L. Tessitore '92
 Mr. Randolph S. Thomas '79
 Lynette and F. Michael Tucker
 Tina Chericoni Versaci, Esq.
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Wade
 Mr. David Wolf and Dr. Audi Matias
 Mr. and Mrs. Albin Zielaskowski '91

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
 Dr. Stephen K. Astmann
 Dr. Lois L. W. Atkinson*
 Helen H. Begley*
 L. Ann Bish*
 Vladia C. Boniewski '71, SCCC Emeritus
 Professor Grayce Susan Burian,
 SCCC Emeritus*
 Justina Campbell '23
 Charles W. Carl, Jr.*

The Generational Impact of Legacy Giving



Karen Brown Johnson passed away peacefully at her home in Schenectady in 2019. She was born in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1942 and raised in Cleveland, Ohio.

Karen earned her bachelor's degree from Radcliffe College and her master's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She was the first woman elected to the Schenectady City Council, and in 1983, became the first woman to be elected Schenectady's mayor, serving in this role for two terms.

Regardless of her focus - education, the arts, city and county governance, health care, or business - Karen was most passionate about bringing people together for the common purpose of creating innovative solutions to community challenges. She lived her belief that "we learn more by listening to the people that we don't agree with."

The Karen Brown Johnson Scholarship was first awarded in 2001 and continues to assist our students with costs associated with their education. Her family enjoys learning about the recipients of the scholarship each year. We are grateful for the remarkable legacy Karen created in scholarship support.

THE MANY POWERS OF PHILANTHROPY

Karin Carreau
Professor Peter Cousins, SCCC Emeritus*
Professor Mary Jane Dike*, SCCC Emeritus
Margaret A. Evans '81
Patricia M. Gioia*
Karen* and Walter* Grattidge
David A. Harris*
Al* and Anita* Haugen
Karen Brown Johnson*
Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D., SCCC
Emeritus
Dick and Kathy Kotlow
Professor Jessica K. Malheiros, SCCC
Emeritus, Founding Faculty Member*
Nadise N. McCloud
Ellie Moore '86
Robert J. Myers
Thomas Nelson, SCCC Emeritus, and
Ann Henderson
Anne and Terry Phillips
Janet P. Robbins, SCCC Emeritus
Gretchen and Lewis* Rubenstein
Donald F. Schenk '74*
Dr. Joshua S. Schwartz
Phyllis E. Gordon Stanton
Esther Swanker*
Martha Szuminskyj*
Marcia E. Vinick*

*If you have included Schenectady County
Community College Foundation, Inc., in
your estate plans please let us know so we
can include you as a member.*

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

In Memory of Christian J. Rohr*

AYCO
Joyce S. Barrett '78
Nancy B. Brown
Laurie Garramone

In Memory of Christopher M. Dzikowski '11*

Michael J. Dzikowski '01
The McCall Family

In Memory of Cynthia A. Russell*

Ann L. Shattuck '07

In Memory of Diane C. Basil*

Charles Trimarchi

In Memory of Dr. Gabriel J. Basil*

Sandra Basil
John A. Basil D.D.S.
Gerald and Karen Dean
Ms. Charleen DeLorenzo
Mr. Steven DeVizio
Thomas Gadomski
Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D.
Michele Kopp
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Lynch
Heather L. Meaney
Lisa Reed
Carolyn and Simon Scott
Marianne and Andy Senneca
Ms. Judith D. Spitz
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Trimarchi
Toni Wright
Starbucks Coffee Niskayuna

In Memory of Ellen J. Heekin '98*

Roger Kennedy

In Memory of Jackie Baldwin '02*

Jasmine Cenicerros
Joyce Chupka
Cheryl Clark
DeGeorge Family
Liliana Degiorgio
Bruce Fishman
Kathy Gavitt
Bruce Genhofer
Gail Gere
David Graham
Erika Groff
Loretta Hackathorn
Jeanne Hastings
Glory-Anne Jones
Patricia Kelly
Lynn Kopka
Jeff Kurto
Peter Liporace
Sonia Long
Timothy MacTurk
Sylva Menard
Paul Minbiolo
Rebecca Molloy
Hafiz Nazri
Vasilios Neroulis
Arlene Nock
Judith A. Norrish
Rebecca Patterson-Kohler
Maria Perez
Faith Pilbeam

Katherine A. Plante '13
Elaine Reynolds
Thomas Reynolds
Rebecca Smith
Janet L. Tanguay
Dianne Trinkala
Ross Tuskey
Anjanette Welch

In Memory of Jean D. Murphy*

Joshua W. Murphy '00

In Memory of Jenson E. Merriam*

Margaret B. Moore

In Memory of Nicholas M. Barbaro '03*

Matthew Barbaro

In Memory of Rocco G. Verrigni*

Anne M. Bronchetti '19

In Memory of Thomas J. Baker*

Joseph J. Anderson
Gabriel J. Basil*
Deborah Buck
Lawrence Butler
Ruth Farrell
Margaret (Peggy) King, Ed.D.
Lois P. Linster '89*
Michelle Race
Bernadette A. Socha '92

In Memory of Thomasina Winslow '95*

Anonymous
Robert Bermingham
Ken Briggs
Michele Brown
John Chiara
Amy L. Corina '13
James Eckl
Kenneth Freimauer
Kathleen Hanley
Janet Kash
Lindalisa Norville
Eleanore Rosenberg
Wendy Williams

* 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.



Celebrating a Lifetime of Leadership and Dedication

SUNY Schenectady's longest serving president, Dr. Gabriel J. Basil, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2024, just a few years after he lost his wife, Diane.

Gabe and Diane were married for 58 years, sharing a beautiful life together. Gabe grew up in West Virginia and his pursuit of education led him to earn a Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia University, a Master of Science from Union College, and a Doctor of Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Gabe had a long and distinguished career in education, beginning as a Professor of Mathematics before making his way up to college administration as Dean of Academic Affairs, Vice President, and eventually, President. He retired after 26 years at Schenectady County Community College, including 17 years as President, where he was beloved and respected by students, faculty, and staff alike and led the College to great success.

"That man is a success who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

SUNY SCHENECTADY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

78 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305
www.sunysccc.edu