

# SUNY SCHENECTADY

Annual Report | 2023



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo by Stan Horaczek

Transformation takes many forms. In our Culinary Arts Labs, students transform a counter full of fresh ingredients into delicious dishes for our Casola Dining Room and in our Joan R. Dembinski '10 Chocolate and Confections Lab, they create high-quality “bean to bar” chocolate beginning with raw cocoa beans. In our newly renovated Braidwood Chemistry Lab, Science students turn solids into liquids during their labs, and talented students in our School of Music take the notes written in a score and interpret them to play a beautiful piece of music.

This year we saw physical transformations on our campus as well. The ground floor of Elston Hall was transformed into a new Welcome Center where staff in our Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Business Offices now greet prospective and current students, answering their questions and serving as a centrally located resource for them. We followed the progress of materials in Indiana as they were transformed into two state-of-the-art Workforce Development Mobile Training Labs, adding to the way we are revolutionizing career education by bringing Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare training directly to businesses and organizations. Our Aviation Science students and faculty are now calling a new Hangar at the Schenectady County Airport home, after land at the airport was transformed into an impressive new facility that houses planes and educational space.

The pinnacle of our work at SUNY Schenectady is being able to play a role in the transformations of our students. They are empowered by learning new things in their courses, taught by outstanding professors who care about them and go out of their way to ensure their success, and they are supported by mentors and advisors. For example, Grace Henderson, a Human Services major, is now an ambassador for the Educational Opportunity Program, chosen by SUNY. Devin Hershberger, a Culinary Arts major, can now add the Hollywood Brown Derby in Disney's Hollywood Studios to his résumé, while he interns at the world-famous resort. And countless alumni had transformative experiences at SUNY Schenectady, expanding their knowledge as they prepared to transfer on for their bachelor's degrees or began their careers.

It is through your continued support that we are able to shape the lives of our students and serve our community. Thank you for your continued support of our students, the College, and the meaningful “transformations” that take place on our campus each day.

Steady H. Moono, Ed.D.  
President



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A new hangar at the Schenectady County Airport was unveiled and houses planes and educational space for the College’s Aviation Science program. See more on page 6.

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# PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS

## College President and Trustees Chair Meet With U.S. Representatives



Dr. Steady Moono, College President, and Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) National Legislative Summit advocacy event in Washington, D.C. The event shined a spotlight on the importance of our nation's community colleges for Congress and the Administration.



Dr. Steady Moono, College President, with Congressman Paul Tonko; Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Moono with Congressman Marc Molinaro; and outside of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's Office.

## College Joins SUNY Campaign to Raise Awareness About Mental Health Resources



Charles Williams, Liberal Arts major and President of the Student Government Association, Dr. Moono, and Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff.

College leaders joined others from SUNY institutions for *Mental Health Matters*, a statewide SUNY social media campaign. The team spread awareness about mental health resources, SUNY's free mental health support, and SUNY Schenectady's in-person and virtual appointments with Counselor Sean Mullen.

## Sharing "The Schenectady Promise"

Dr. Moono, Ann Fleming Brown, and Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, joined Anibal Soler Jr., Superintendent of the Schenectady City School District, in presenting "The Schenectady Promise: Transforming Our Local Community Through Innovative Opportunities and Access to Education" during the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress in Las Vegas, Nev. The Schenectady team



demonstrated how they collaborated to create a community-wide movement to provide access to higher education for local students, families, and community members by removing barriers and committing to early engagement.



## Delegation from University of Zambia Visits Campus

The College was honored to host a delegation from the University of Zambia. Left to right are: Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning, SUNY Schenectady;



Professor Anne L. Sikwibele, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia; Honorable Professor Geoffrey Samukonga, Chairperson, University of Zambia Council; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; Kennedy Msusa, Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia; and Patricia Mwila-Sakala, Manager, International Link Office, University of Zambia.

## Dr. Moono and Presidents of HVCC and University at Albany Meet with SUNY Chancellor



Dr. Moono, with Dr. Roger A. Ramsammy, President of Hudson Valley Community College, Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY), and Dr. Havidán Rodríguez, President of the University at Albany, shortly after Dr. King was appointed the 15th Chancellor of SUNY.



*Dr. Moono had the pleasure of meeting with H.E. Chibamba Kanyama, the new Zambian Ambassador to the United States, during a visit to Washington, D.C.*

## Dr. Moono Lends His Voice to Important SUNY Discussion

Dr. Moono was part of a group of SUNY and New York State experts who discussed efforts for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) student data disaggregation and student success. "It's necessary for us to look at our structures, systems, policies, and protocols to make sure that we are serving our AAPI students and all of our students in a way that empowers them and leads to their success," he said.

## President and Vice President Participate in LevelUP

Dr. Moono and Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning, took part in the SUNY + LevelUP Commitment to Black Learner Excellence convening at the SUNY Global Center in New York City. The event featured a panel discussion with Dr. John B. King Jr., SUNY Chancellor; Dr. Keith Curry, Task Force Lead of the LevelUP effort and President of Compton College; and Dr. Karen A. Stout of LevelUP and President/CEO of Achieving the Dream.

## COLLEGE NEWS

### College Unveils New Welcome Center



*Rondacia McPherson, Student Trustee, (center) and Dr. Steady Moono, College President, prepare to cut the ribbon for the new Welcome Center in Elston Hall, flanked by (l. to r.): Shaun Andriano, C2 Design Group; Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline, SUNY; Michael Roman, C2 Design Group; Michelle Ostrelch, Schenectady County Legislator; Gary Hughes, Majority Leader, Schenectady County Legislature; Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs; Erin Reich, Schenectady County Assistant Facilities Engineer; Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Ray Gillen, College Trustee; and Dr. Margaret King, College Trustee.*

Officials from SUNY Schenectady, Schenectady County, and SUNY officially unveiled the College's new Welcome Center and Welcome Desk during a special ribbon cutting, joined by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and College supporters. A redesign to a large portion of the ground floor of Elston Hall, the Welcome Center houses Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Student Business Office. Funding for the \$537,218 project was provided by Schenectady County (50%) and New York State (50%).



### Aviation Program Soars with New Airport Hangar

Aviation students and faculty are now calling a new hangar at the Schenectady County Airport home, as construction on the new facility was completed in Fall 2023. The new building houses four hangar pods, each 56' x 53'. The College uses the hangar for airplane storage and educational purposes. Funding was provided by a grant from the New York State Department of Transportation, Schenectady County, and New York State Community College capital funding.

At the Schenectady County Airport, SUNY Schenectady Aviation Science students fly Cessnas and Pipers during their flight training in Introduction to Flight, Elements of Instrument Flight, and Commercial Operations Labs through both Westfield

Flight Academy and Richmor Aviation. In addition to the Aviation Science Pilot Option, the College also offers an Aviation Science Non-Pilot Administration and Management option and an Air Traffic Control degree program with students learning hands-on in the Schenectady County Airport Control Tower.





## “Welcome to Campus Chancellor King”

The College was excited to host SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. as the 29th campus on his tour of all 64 SUNY colleges and universities. Chancellor King had important discussions with students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The College community gave Dr. King a warm welcome and showed him what makes SUNY Schenectady so special.



*Above: Students and staff from the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and Dr. Steady Moono, with SUNY Chancellor, Dr. John B. King Jr.*

*Left: The School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism (HCAT) presented Chancellor King with his own chef's coat. (l. to r.) Dr. David Brough, Dean of HCAT, Dr. Moono, and Courtney Withey, Assistant Professor.*

## “Growing Potential,” CannaBusiness Education Hub Hosts First SUNY Cannabis and Career Education Expo

Industry leaders, business owners, educators, and those interested in the cannabis industry attended “Growing Potential: SUNY Cannabis Career and Education Expo” in downtown Schenectady, hosted by the CannaBusiness Education Hub. Featured speakers were Chris Alexander, Executive Director of the New York State Office of Cannabis Management, Shelley Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of E29 Labs, and David Serrano, Project Manager for the Cannabis Workforce Initiative.

The CannaBusiness Education Hub is the vision of the C4 Cannabis Consortium comprised of SUNY Schenectady, SUNY Adirondack, SUNY Columbia-Greene, and SUNY Fulton-Montgomery. It was funded by a \$1 million grant from New York State and is dedicated to creating cannabis-based workforce development. Each of the colleges highlighted new educational initiatives with SUNY Schenectady offering a Culinary Cannabis Microcredential along with community education courses in Cannabis Cultivation at Home and Cultural History of Cannabis in the U.S.; SUNY Adirondack offering a Cannabis Business & Entrepreneurship Microcredential and Cannabis & Hemp Cultivation Microcredential; Columbia-Greene Community College offering a Cannabis Retail and Sales Microcredential and Cannabis Cultivation and Processing Microcredential; and SUNY Fulton-Montgomery offering a Cultivation Technician Concentration, Dispensary Manager Certificate, and Quality Lab Assurance Technician Certificate.



*Presidents of the colleges that comprise the CannaBusiness Education Hub: (l. to r.), Dr. Greg Truckenmiller, President of SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Dr. Kristine Duffy, President of SUNY Adirondack; Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY Schenectady; and Dr. Carlee Drummer, President of Columbia-Greene Community College.*

## COLLEGE NEWS

### Students Co-Host, Record, Mix, and Master College Podcast

Now in its third season, the “Many Voices, One Call” podcast featured experts delving into topics from the global climate crisis to the impact of Artificial Intelligence on education. Recorded in the Vianna-Brignola Recording Studio in the School of Music, students from the Music Audio Technology degree program record, mix, and edit each episode.



Above: Co-hosts Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor, and Alexandre Lumbala, Business Administration major, with guests from the University at Albany’s AI+ initiative: Dr. Justin Curry, Associate Professor of Math and Statistics; Dr. Alessandra Buccella, Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Dr. George Berg, Associate Professor of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity; Jacqueline Keleher, Director of Library Services, SUNY Schenectady; and Dr. Rukhsana Ahmed, Associate Professor for Communication, University at Albany.

Left: Aidan Farley and Aidan Bachorik, Music Audio Technology majors, and audio engineers on the “Many Voices, One Call” podcast.

Find all the episodes of the “Voices, One Call” podcast!



### College Earns “Share Our Strength” Grant



The Food Pantry was chosen as one of 10 food pantries from among those on SUNY’s 64 campuses to be awarded \$1,200 from the “Share Our Strength” Grant through a partnership between SUNY System Administration and the organizations No Kid Hungry and Hunger Solutions New York. The grant aims to link students who are parents to federal nutrition programs including SNAP and WIC while creating awareness about the College’s Food Pantry. It will be used to purchase food, supplies, and incentives to promote applying for these resources and using the Food Pantry.

Geraldine Gutierrez, Interim Director of Student Engagement for SUNY System Administration, Robyn King, Director of Wellness and Support Services for SUNY Schenectady, and Gillian Kiernan, Anti-Hunger/Nutrition Coordinator for SUNY System Administration, host a table near the Welcome Center to share information about WIC, SNAP, the Food Pantry, childcare, and more with students who are parents.



## College Recognized With National Holistic Advising Award

SUNY Schenectady was one of five institutions from across the country chosen to receive a \$35,000 Holistic Advising Award from the Advising Success Network (ASN). The awards were created by the ASN to “recognize holistic advising redesign efforts supported by cross-functional teams and centered around student experiences to increase completion and success indicators for Black, Latino/a/x, Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander students and poverty-affected students.” The funding will be used for services to directly support students, as well as technology upgrades. SUNY Schenectady was also one of seven institutions to receive the Student Choice Award for a commitment to the inclusion of student voices and perspectives.



(l. to r.), Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs; Shannon Stone, Academic Advisor; Leanna Liuzzi, Academic Advisor; Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement and Retention; Margaret Anne Williams, Academic Advisor; and Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor/Veteran’s Certifying Official.

## SUNY Schenectady Is “Best Local College”

SUNY Schenectady was named “Best Local College” for the fourth consecutive year in the Daily Gazette of Schenectady Official 2023 People’s Choice Awards. This top honor is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff to educating and supporting our students to reach their highest potential. We thank everyone in our community who supports SUNY Schenectady and walks with us on our journey to “empower every student in their pursuit of lifelong success.” Thank you!



## Capital Improvements

- Elston Hall’s façade (Washington Avenue) underwent a major restoration project during the Spring, Summer, and Fall of 2023. This project included replacement of the building’s ornamentations, cleaning of the brick work, replacement of the third-floor relief angle, and reconstruction of deteriorated cast stone.
- The Braidwood Chemistry Laboratory in the Center for Science and Technology was renovated with new workbenches, fume hoods, flooring, ceiling tiles/lighting and emergency wash stations.
- Replacement ovens and dishwashers were purchased and installed in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism laboratories in Elston Hall.
- Carpet was replaced and the stage floor refinished in the Carl B. Taylor Community Auditorium.
- Outdoor emergency call phones throughout the main campus and in the South Church Parking Lot were replaced or installed.
- The main campus information technology infrastructure to include fiber optic cabling, new switchgear, and connectivity to the Internet was replaced with a state-of-the art system that permits enhanced virtual education.
- The College replaced 19 teacher stations, projection equipment, and peripherals at both the main campus and the Center City site.
- The College purchased and replaced 110 wireless access points throughout the campus to improve high speed wireless communications to facilitate virtual learning and eliminate Internet “dead zones.”
- Architectural work was completed on the new Student Services Center in the Stockade Building.



# COLLEGE NEWS

## Guided Pathways Institute Focuses on Student Affairs

The Spring 2023 Guided Pathways Institute, part of a SUNY-wide initiative to improve rates of college completion, transfer, and job attainment, brought together 70 staff members, administrators, and faculty members. Focusing primarily on Student Affairs and Student Support Services, the program included a virtual presentation by Joe Falco, Executive Director of Student Success at Rockland County Community College, about “Embedding the Guided Pathways Framework Throughout Student Affairs,” and discussions about retention/enrollment and academic supports.

*Dr. Patricia Munsch, Vice President of Student Affairs at Suffolk County Community College, visited campus to present “Guided Pathways: Recognizing the Critical Role for Student Affairs”*



## Casola Dining Room Ranked Fifth Among Top 10 Restaurants in Upstate New York

Open Table, the online resource that connects restaurants and diners with their communities worldwide, named the Casola Dining Room number five on the list of Top Ten Restaurants in Upstate New York. The Casola, part of the hands-on learning in the Toby Strianese Culinary Arts Wing, earned a 4.8 out of 5 rating.



## College Receives SUNY ASAP Replication Grant

Led by Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning, the College was awarded SUNY Transformational Funds to complete an Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) replication. ASAP is a program designed to accelerate student completion through a combination of intensive advising support, the use of a learning community, and connections to support services.



## ACADEMICS

### First “HyFlex” Course Brings More Flexibility To Learning



Jasmine Virgile, a Business Administration/ Entrepreneurship major, was not able to come to campus for her Marketing class, but she was still able to attend.

She logged on from home and connected with Professor Matt Farron as part of the College’s first “HyFlex” course. Students chose three different modalities: learning in person, logging on synchronously to participate in real-time through Zoom Rooms, or logging on asynchronously at a different time. Students choose from week to week which format they prefer. The College was selected for an Innovative Instruction and Technology Grant (IITG) to support the new HyFlex course.

### Delizioso! Students and Faculty Travel to Italy for Study Abroad



Students and faculty from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism (HCAT) experienced 17 exciting days of cooking classes, culinary excursions, and cultural awareness, learning from chefs and

cooking in labs at ALMA-The School of Italian Culinary Arts. They also toured regional producers of coffee, prosecco wine, Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, balsamic vinegar and lambrusco wine, visited the FICO Bologna-the Italian food theme park, and toured restaurants, farms, and vineyards in Trieste, Venice, Parma, Asti, Rome, and Nettuno, through the Marco Polo Institute Program Abroad. Professor Susan Hatalsky and Assistant Professor Courtney Withey led the group. Students earned three credits through the Italian Food and Culture course. This was the fifth year of the program.

### Students and Faculty Carry on the Tradition at the Kentucky Derby, Walt Disney World



Assistant Professor Courtney Withey, CEC, with students at the Kentucky Derby.



For the 41st year, students and faculty from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism worked in culinary, concessions, and front-of-the-house positions at some of the most prestigious venues at Churchill Downs

during the Kentucky Derby. Jay Larkin, Associate Professor; Courtney Withey, Assistant Professor; Ron Ragucci, Senior Technical Specialist;

and Jasmine Solana, Educational Aide/ Adjunct Faculty Member led the group as

students and faculty worked alongside industry professionals from Levy Restaurants of Compass Group.

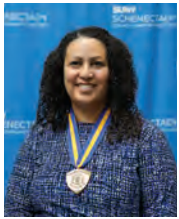


Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, Fla., is serving as a large scale “classroom” for some students from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism. They are all interning for six months at restaurants throughout the famed entertainment resort complex and earning college credits. It’s an invaluable opportunity that students from the College have participated in for nearly 40 years through the Disney College Program.

# FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/NEWS

## 2023 SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching



**Catia Laird de Polanco, Associate Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts**

Since she began teaching as a participant in the Internship Program for the Development of Minority Faculty in the Division of Liberal Arts more than a decade ago, and then was named Instructor in 2013, Assistant Professor in 2016, and Associate Professor in 2021, Catia Laird de Polanco has created a more inclusive learning community and a more meaningful learning experience for her students.

In her Spanish courses, she has included lessons that directly address how indigenous populations are challenging Western conceptualizations of sexual identities in Bolivia and transgender identities in certain regions of Mexico, as well as a reading comprehension assignment that explores the career of a Guatemalan badminton parathlete who has won medals in several international competitions. She also wanted her courses to offer an academically supportive learning environment.

Ms. Laird de Polanco is an active member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). She wrote the current Student Learning Outcomes for SUNY Schenectady's Spanish courses to reflect both SUNY World Languages General Education requirements and ACTFL's World Readiness Standards. She holds an M.A. and B.A. in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies from the University at Albany and an A.A. in Individual Studies from SUNY Schenectady.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service



**John L. O'Connell, Associate Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism**

In addition to teaching in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, Associate Professor John O'Connell has enriched the lives of students through his service to the College community.

During his 17 years at the College, Associate Professor O'Connell has accompanied students to 13 Kentucky Derbies, the Ryder Cup, and The Belmont Stakes. He has earned Instructor and Exam Proctor status with ServSafe and Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPs). Mr. O'Connell has served as President of the Union of Faculty and Professionals (UFP) since 2018, was Co-Chair for Standard VI during the Middle States reaccreditation process, and has served on the organizing committee for *Food for Thought and All That Jazz*, and the Faculty-Student Association. He conducts in-house lab inspections that prepare the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism for Schenectady County health inspections. His involvement with numerous events, including those through the New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association, ProStart NY competitions, and Albany's Alive at Five, for example, provide him with knowledge and experience that he shares with students in his classes.

He holds his M.B.A. from Empire State College, B.S. in Economics and Finance from the University at Albany, and A.O.S. in Culinary Arts/A.A.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Management from SUNY Schenectady.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service



**Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services**

Through her leadership and creativity, Dawn Jones has consistently offered opportunities for students to engage with employers and explore career options, while also serving as a valuable resource for her colleagues.

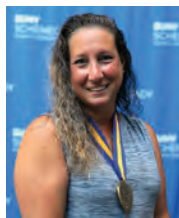
Ms. Jones first joined the College in April 2008 as a Non-Traditional Career Specialist. During the pandemic when the College moved to online instruction, she was instrumental in the implementation of a College-wide live chat system to engage visitors to the College's website and to provide online assistance. She worked to provide students with access to live virtual speed networking sessions and virtual speaker panels, and she helped to establish the SUNY Schenectady CONNEX online career mentoring network. Ms. Jones facilitated a team to develop and implement the "My



Survey to Success” to improve onboarding processes for new students. In addition, she established a Career Clothing Closet for students. She was a Team Lead for the DEI Professional Development Initiative. She was the Two-Year Director Liaison for the SUNY Career Development Organization from 2019-2022 and is a Member of the Perkins Grant Advisory Committee and Local Needs Assessment.

Ms. Jones holds an M.A. in Adult Learning from Empire State University, B.S. in Psychology and Sociology from SUNY Potsdam, and an A.S. in Human Services from SUNY Schenectady.

## SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Classified Service



**Kimberly Kirker, Executive Secretary II, Office of Student Affairs**

Kimberly Kirker has contributed to the betterment of the College in a myriad of ways and is an outstanding source of support and a wealth of information for students and her colleagues alike.

Mrs. Kirker treats everyone with respect and has a compassionate way of solving problems before they escalate, while providing exemplary customer service to students. She continually goes beyond the scope of her job description. For example, during the pandemic, Mrs. Kirker was called upon to review and input thousands of COVID immunization records. She used Banner and other technologies to assist her with this monumental task, utilizing resources in creative and adaptive ways. Mrs. Kirker’s patience and the compassion she exhibits on a daily basis is admirable. Her ability to think quickly on her feet and anticipate unintended consequences is impressive.

Mrs. Kirker plans all facets of travel requests including arranging transportation, making reservations for lodging/meals, and planning reimbursements. She plans morale-building events for staff, helps to onboard new staff, and mentors new employees. A member of the Commencement Committee, she routinely assists with other major events including Accepted Student Day and Welcome Week. Mrs. Kirker has also been an advocate for equity in food service on campus making sure offerings include gluten-free options.

## SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching



**Maria Farina, Adjunct Instructor, Division of Liberal Arts**

Maria Farina has been a member of the College’s Adjunct Teaching Faculty in the Division of Liberal Arts for nearly 20 years, consistently earning high marks from her students in both introductory and advanced courses.

Ms. Farina has taught an impressive array of courses including Introductory, Developmental, Adolescent, Abnormal, and Educational Psychology. Her students describe her as “professional and creative” as well as “warm and caring.” Her classes are the first to be filled and always have a waitlist. Ms. Farina has actively engaged in professional development to continuously improve her pedagogy, participating in SUNY Online Training and Lumen Circles, and in 2022 she earned a Certificate in Teaching and Learning from the SUNY Center for Professional Development in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In addition, she is active in the Adjunct Faculty Union, always striving for fair and equitable working conditions for herself and colleagues. Ms. Farina has been instrumental over the past 10 years as an Instructor and Mentor for new instructors in the Early College High School Program (ECHS). She has served more than 250 students through the five-week summer program.

Ms. Farina holds an M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Westfield State University and a B.S. in Psychology from Castleton State University.

## FACULTY, STAFF, AND EMERITI AWARDS/ NEWS

### Choral Director Sings College's Praises in Mexico City



Dr. Joseph Han, Choral Director and Vocal Area Coordinator for the School of Music, was a guest lecturer and performer at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City. He presented Master Classes about Korean Art Song and Diction and delivered a presentation about studying at SUNY Schenectady's School of Music.

### Advising Expert Appointed to SUNY Task Force

Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Advising and Retention, was appointed to the SUNY Transfer Task Force, comprised of



staff from campuses across the SUNY System. The charge of this task force is to revisit and revise existing seamless transfer policies; refresh transfer path processes; identify strategies to expand transfer opportunities for students; and draw on the collective expertise of the entire SUNY System.



### Science Instructor Gives Students Behind-The-Scenes Look at NASA Program

Erin Potter, who teaches Meteorology, helped lead a team of University at Albany atmospheric science students in launching weather balloons from the UAlbany campus as part of a NASA field campaign called IMPACTS (the Investigation of Microphysics and Precipitation for Atlantic Coast-Threatening Snowstorms). She invited SUNY Schenectady students to observe the launches and wove her NASA work into her courses.

### Emeritus Named 2023 Woman of Excellence

Dr. Margaret (Peggy) King, Emeritus, was the recipient of the Distinguished Career Award and named one of the 2023 Women of Excellence, presented by the Capital Region Chamber Capital Region Women's Business Council during its 32nd Annual Women of Excellence Awards program. Peggy retired as Associate Dean for Student Development in 2010. She has served as a Trustee at the College since 2018 and as a member of the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board of Directors since 2014. She has impacted higher education on a national scale as a founding member of NACADA-The Global Community for Academic Advising, and as a consultant to colleges and universities on academic advising prior to her retirement.



### Staff Share Successful Strategies for Instant Admit Programs During National Conference

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, and Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, delivered a presentation titled, "Full Class Instant Admit Days: Let's Do Things Differently" to educators from across the country during Achieving the Dream's DREAM 2023 convening in Chicago, Ill. They described the impressive instant admission events they have designed and implemented at local high schools to enroll an entire graduating senior class to the College.





# EVENTS



## 1. DEI Conference January 2023

The first college-wide, full-day Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative Day of Professional Development, “Building Pathways to Each Other, Learning and Growing Together,” featured Keynote Speaker Dr. Royel Johnson, Associate Professor at the University of Southern California, pictured with College President Dr. Steady Moono, and DEI Professional Development Initiative Leads Dawn Jones, Jacquie Keleher, Dr. Maggie McLellan-Zabielski, Alicia Richardson, and Tiombé Tatum.



## 2. Guest Chef Anessa Waheed, February 2023

The School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism welcomed guest Chef Anessa Waheed, Owner of Tara Kitchen, who demonstrated dishes from her new cookbook, *Easy Moroccan Cooking*, as part of the James G. Westervelt Guest Chef Series.



## 3. Black History Month, February 2023

Alicia Richardson (3a.), Interim Chief Diversity Officer at SUNY Schenectady, and Dr. Deirdre Hill Butler (3b.), Associate Professor of Sociology at Union College, presented “Black History in the Making: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging – Reflections from Two Capital Region Institutions of Higher Education.”



David Gleason (3c.), Adjunct Instructor of Ethnomusicology, and special guest, Garland Nelson (pictured), musician, presented “Shout It Out: The Evolution of the Black Vocal Tradition.”

## 4. International Student Gala, April 2023

As African drummers from Melody Africa-African Drum and Dance played, the aromas of delicious Nigerian, Ethiopian, Caribbean, Indian, Guyanese, and Italian cuisine filled the Van Curler Room.



## 5. Men of Color Summit, May 2023

SUNY Schenectady welcomed 11th- and 12th-grade young men of color from Schenectady High School for the inaugural Men of Color Summit, a daylong event with a series of discussions that highlighted the educational pathways and student supports offered at the College. The 45 students were all participants in the Schenectady City School District’s My Brother’s Keeper (MBK), Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), and Early College in the High School (ECHS) program.



## 6. Musicians of Ma’alwyck, The Lost Quartet, September 2023

The Musicians of Ma’alwyck, ensemble in residence at the College and directed by Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, brought the music of the Zoellner Quartet to life with remarks by The Honourable Alexandra Foley, great-granddaughter of Joseph Zoellner Sr., who formed The Zoellner Quartet.



## 7. Chefs for Success, October 2023

Six Capital Region Celebrity Guest Chefs prepared small plates with student chefs and faculty, raising funds for student scholarships.

# STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

## From Vale Park to Philadelphia: Science Students Present Original Research Findings During National Conference

During the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Annual Conference, “Empowering Higher Education,” in Philadelphia, Penn., Parmesh Thakoordial, a Science: Biology concentration major, and Cassiel Achan, a Biotechnology major, shared the results of the research that they and other students in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) were conducting at Vale Park in Schenectady. They joined undergraduate and graduate student scholars from colleges and universities throughout New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico. Since 2017, Science students, Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP, and Dr. Richard Simons, Professor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, have been studying the effects of an invasive worm species on-site in Vale Park in Schenectady.



Parmesh Thakoordial, Cassiel Achan, and Dr. Lorena Harris with the poster the students presented during the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Annual Conference, “Empowering Higher Education,” in Philadelphia, Penn.

## And The Winner Is...



Charlie Post, Class of 1993, won his second GRAMMY Award for Best Engineered Album, Classical, *Bates: Philharmonia Fantastique - The Making Of The Orchestra*. He won his first GRAMMY Award

in 2021 for his work as the recording engineer on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s (CSO) *Shostakovich: Symphony No. 13, Babí Yar*. Charlie is a sound engineer with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and owner of PostProductions Audio in Chicago. He graduated from SUNY Schenectady with his degree in Music/Business. He then earned dual bachelor’s degrees in Music/Applied (B.A.) and Sound Recording Technology (B.S.) from SUNY Fredonia.

## Strike! Bowling Team Has Impressive Season



Eliza Arasim, Head Captain on the Men’s/Women’s Bowling Team, and Jared Wachenheim finished in the top five for doubles at nationals, edging out bowlers from community colleges and four-year schools from across the country. The Royals also won the Bobcat Baker Classic in Pennsylvania.



## Alumnus Recognized with Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence



Hemnarine Gobind, who graduated with his degree in Computer Science in December 2022, was recognized as a recipient of the Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. He was one of 46 students in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) from SUNY campuses honored with the award that recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic merit and perseverance. Hemnarine was an active member of EOP, served as secretary of the EOP Club, was named to the Dean's List, and was also a member of the Criminal Justice Club. He is now pursuing his B.S. degree in Computer Science at the University at Albany.

*Hemnarine Gobind '22, with Cesar Perales, Vice Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees, and Dr. John King Jr., SUNY Chancellor, during the Norman R. McConney Jr. Awards for Student Excellence at the New York State Museum.*

## CSTEP Students and Director Participate In Advocacy Day at State Capitol

Students in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP, were in Albany as part of the Association of Program Administrators for CSTEP and STEP/Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day at the Legislative Office Building, advocating for a 20 percent increase in funding for CSTEP and STEP programs for a total of \$45.3 million. The SUNY Schenectady team met with New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chairman of the Committee on Health, New York State Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, and New York State Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and their staff.



*CSTEP students and administrators from SUNY Schenectady and other colleges meet with staff from New York State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office.*

# STUDENT/ALUMNI AWARDS AND NEWS

## Human Services Major Chosen As SUNY EOP Ambassador

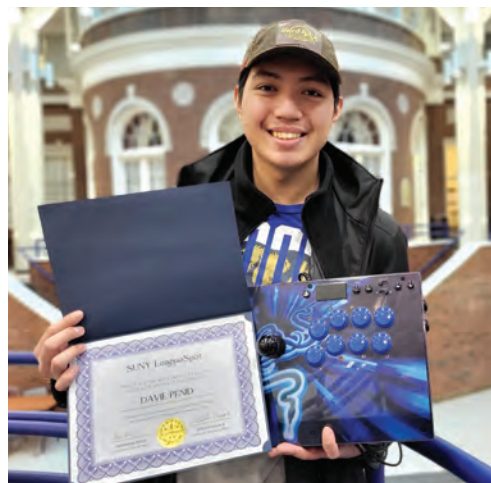
Grace Henderson, who is in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Secretary of the EOP Club, a participant in the TRIO Program, and member of the PTO at her son Ezra's elementary school, added something new to her résumé: SUNY EOP Ambassador. A Human Services major, she was chosen as one of 22 students from 21 SUNY campuses to serve as an EOP Ambassador during the academic year. As such, Grace mentors other students and encourages high school seniors to enroll, helps build on the established student EOP support network across the SUNY system, and advises SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. on strengthening the program. After working as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for 13 years, Grace decided to return to school to become a social worker. A Dean's List student, she plans to graduate from SUNY Schenectady this spring and transfer on for her bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and then her Master of Social Work. Student Ambassadors each receive a stipend of \$5,000.



## 2023 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Niko Nyman, a dual Performing Arts: Music/Music Audio Technology major, and Davie Emmanuel Penid, Computer Science major, were selected as recipients of the prestigious 2023 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE), SUNY's highest honor for academic excellence and leadership.

Niko's interest in music was so strong that he decided to enroll in classes at SUNY Schenectady at the age of 14, graduate early with an advanced Regents diploma from Shenendehowa High School in June 2021 at age 15, and become a full-time student in two degree programs within the School of Music. A percussionist, Niko performed in the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Percussion Ensemble, and Chamber Ensemble. He also accompanied the Chorus, was the Principal Timpanist with the University at Albany Orchestra during their performance of Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8 in G major*, and performed with Albany Pro Musica and the Capital Region Wind Ensemble. A Dean's List student, he graduated in May 2023 and is pursuing his bachelor's degree in Music-Sound Engineering Arts at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J.



Davie turned his passion for gaming into a leadership role at the College as President of the eSports & Gaming Club, competing in the Fall 2022 SUNY Esports Competition and placing third in *Guilty Gear: Strive* PS4. A graduate of Niskayuna High School, Davie was also a Senator on the Student Government Association, President of the International/English Language Learners Club, Chair of the Student Activities Board, Treasurer for SkillsUSA, a member of the Meeting Professionals Club, and a member of

the Intercultural Affairs Committee. He was named to the President's List, received a Faculty-Student Association Award, and earned the Intercultural Leadership Award. Davie graduated in December 2022 and relocated to California to spend time with his family. He is planning to pursue his bachelor's degree in Computer Science.



## Science Major One of Only 20 Students In the Country Named to All-USA Academic Team

Parmesh Thakoordial, who was a senior at Schenectady High School and a Science major at the College through the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School program, was named to the prestigious All-USA Academic Team, comprised of the nation's top community college students. He was one of only 20 college students from across the country named to the All-USA Academic Team, chosen from among more than 2,400 students, and he was the only student from New York State. Students were selected based on their intellectual rigor, academic achievement, leadership, and civic growth, and for extending their educational experiences to better themselves, their colleges, and their surrounding communities. Parmesh received a \$5,000 scholarship and a special medallion. He was recognized when the All-USA Academic Team was officially introduced during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention in Denver, Colo.

A President's List student, Parmesh was Vice President of the Student Government Association and a volunteer in the Emergency Department at Ellis Hospital. He graduated in May 2023 and is currently pursuing his bachelor's degrees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major and Psychology at the University of Albany. His goal is to become a doctor.



*Parmesh Thakoordial during the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Denver, Colo., with Dr. Dean McCurdy, Provost of Ivy Tech Community College (Indiana), Dr. David Clickner, SUNY Schenectady Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Planning and Academic Affairs, and Dr. Monica Marlowe, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.*



*With Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and Dr. Monica Marlowe, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.*

### 2023 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar

Parmesh Thakoordial was also named as a 2023 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, earning a \$2,250 scholarship. New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. More than 2,400 students were nominated from college campuses across the country. Only one New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar, the student receiving the highest application score, is selected from each state.

### All-New York Academic Team

Parmesh was named to the First Team of the All-New York Academic Team. Members of the All-New York Academic Team are recognized for their academic achievements, leadership accomplishments, and engagement in community service.

# IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Sociology Students Connect with Community Organizations



Students (back row) Abigail Donnelly, Sanai Tucker, Jasmine Brown and (front row) Ayla Cianfarani and Alisha Hamdani with Janet, Kingsway resident.

Planting seeds with seniors, designing a beautiful music and meditation room, and creating artwork with preschoolers: all in a day's work for students in Professor Renee Adamany's Sociology: Interpersonal and Group Dynamics course.

- At the YWCA Childcare Center on the College's campus, students read stories to the children, played musical chairs to songs from the Disney channel, and led fun art activities.
- Students created a music and meditation room for clients at New Choices Recovery Center.
- Things bloomed at Kingsway Manor Assisted Living and Memory Care Center in Schenectady when students planted flower seeds with residents.

## Criminal Justice Students Assist with Service for Fallen Officers

Assistant Professor Louis Aioassa, of the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, led students in a service learning project, partnering with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Empire State Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, Inc., and the Albany Police Department in the planning and delivery of the New York State Police Officers Memorial mass and ceremonies in Albany. The memorial, the annual mass, and the Remembrance Ceremony honor the memory and sacrifice of police officers from around New York State who have been slain in the line of duty.



Chef Gio Lontoc and Culinary Arts student Ngambela Zulu

The College's Food Truck was a big hit at community events, placing third out of 22 restaurants at the Schenectady Tater Trot with a delicious sweet potato beignet over coconut and yellow jack fruit cream with pistachio dust, and earning "Best Presentation" at the popular Schenectady Soup Stroll with a Tokyo Style Shoyu Ramen. During the summer, the Food Truck feeds hungry lunchtime crowds at the Empire State Plaza. The Food Truck is the centerpiece of the Mobile Food Service Certificate program.



The Faculty Jazz Combo performed on a beautiful summer night at Music Haven in Schenectady's Central Park featuring Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; Brian Patneau, tenor saxophone; Dr. Christopher Brellocks, tenor saxophone; Kevin Grudecki, guitar; David Gleason, piano; Bob Halek, drums; Bobby Kendall, bass; and Mia Scirocco, vocals.

Culinary Arts major and international student Ngambela Zulu showcased his talent while preparing food from Zambia at Tara Kitchen. Proceeds from the event went to the College's Foundation in support of scholarships.





# COMMENCEMENT

SUNY Schenectady congratulated the members of the Class of 2023 during the College's 53rd Commencement, which took place during an outside ceremony on campus. Approximately 373 graduates were invited to participate in Commencement.

- Average age: **27 years old**
- Youngest graduate: **17 years old**  
(Niko Nyman, who earned his A.S. degree in Performing Arts: Music and his A.A.S. degree in Music Audio Technology)
- Oldest graduate: **72 years old**  
(Faith Byrd, who earned her A.A.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Management)



“From an early age, my mother instilled the importance of an education in me. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school and I am privileged to be able to walk across this stage today and continue my journey toward my bachelor’s degree. SUNY Schenectady taught me how to take on leadership positions. I was able to take care of all of my prerequisites here as I transfer on for my bachelor’s degree. The professors were quite excellent and they made difficult topics easy to understand.”

Jennifer Diaz,  
Science: Biology A.S.,  
Student Government  
Association President,  
now majoring in  
Integrative Neuroscience  
(B.S. Degree) at  
Binghamton University



## Students Graduate with Associate Degrees and High School Diplomas

Among the graduates in the Class of 2023 were 20 students from the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School program. They graduated with their degrees from SUNY Schenectady at the same time they earned their high school diplomas from Schenectady High School, with plans to transfer on for their bachelor’s degrees to institutions including the University at Albany, Siena College, University of Pennsylvania, and RPI. They began taking college courses in ninth grade. Funded by the New York State Education Department, Smart Transfer is a partnership among SUNY Schenectady, the University at Albany, SUNY Delhi, and Schenectady High School (SHS).





# PARTNERSHIPS

## Jumpstarting Their College Careers

More than 300 high school students in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School Program & Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School Program took college courses on campus and online during Summer 2023. Schenectady Smart Transfer students are earning their associate degrees and their high school diplomas at the same time. Schenectady Smart Scholars have the opportunity to earn an average of 24 college credits by the time they graduate from high school.



## Local High School Students Admitted to College During Instant Admit Event



Members of the Class of 2023 at Mohonasen High School were granted admission for the Fall Semester to SUNY Schenectady during an Instant Admit event. “Education is empowering, transformational, and lifelong. It’s a wonderful opportunity for us to provide access and a pathway to higher education for all of these students.” — Dr. Steady Moono, College President

## Schenectady Receives \$2.7 Million to Expand Early College Access & Career Mentorship

The Schenectady City School District received \$2.7 million in state funding to expand early college access and career mentorship through the New York State Pathways in Technology (NYS P-Tech) program in partnership with SUNY Schenectady, Ellis Medicine, and the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce. “Smart Tech” will prepare students for high-skill jobs of the future in technology, manufacturing, healthcare, and finance. The NYS P-Tech Program incorporates an integrated four-to-six-year program that combines high school, college, and career training. The program is a public-private partnership designed to provide students with mentorship and opportunities to learn through worksite visits, speakers and internships.



## Collaboration Will Change Landscape of Healthcare Employment Opportunities and Nursing Education in the Capital Region

SUNY Schenectady joined with Ellis Medicine to design new initiatives and avenues to employment at Ellis Medicine for qualified SUNY Schenectady graduates and provide students with the foundation to further their education at Ellis' Belanger School of Nursing. Through the new agreement, Ellis Medicine will be able to fill much-needed positions with qualified SUNY Schenectady graduates. Students in degree and certificate programs, including those in the Health Studies certificate program, will gain invaluable skills and on-the-job experience through newly designed co-op learning initiatives and/or internships through Ellis.

*Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, SUNY Schenectady; Ann Fleming Brown, Board of Trustees Chair, SUNY*

*Schenectady; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; Paul Milton, President and CEO, Ellis Medicine; Dr. Dawne Olbrych, Dean, Belanger School of Nursing – Ellis Medicine; and Gary Hughes, Majority Leader, Schenectady County Legislature.*



## Schenectady Promise Increases Access to Education and Healthcare Careers

Leaders from SUNY Schenectady, Ellis Medicine, and the Schenectady City School District held an assembly with graduating seniors and their parents at Schenectady High School to announce the expansion of the Schenectady Promise which includes additional opportunities for immediate college and career placement for graduating seniors and their families. In addition to instant admission to SUNY Schenectady, the program now ensures that every student, and their family members, have access and the opportunity to attend college, or begin a healthcare pathway or other workforce opportunity through Ellis Medicine.



*Tyrone O'Meally, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, Schenectady City School District; Paul Milton, President and CEO, Ellis Medicine; Anibal Soler Jr., Superintendent, Schenectady City School District; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, SUNY Schenectady; Bibi Mondal, Graduate of Schenectady High School who attended SUNY Schenectady; and Lynne Rutnik, Deputy Superintendent, Schenectady City School District.*

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Front row: Congressman Paul Tonko, Dr. Steady Moono, College President, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, and Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara. Back row: Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, Schenectady School District Superintendent Anibal Soler Jr., and Brian Sano, Regional Executive for National Grid.



(l. to r.), Kim Speck, Vice President of Talent Strategy, Systems, and Analytics, MVP Health Care; Richard Santilli, Director of Government, Commercial & Integrated Health Claims, MVP Health Care; Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, SUNY Schenectady; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; and Ellen Sax, Vice President of Community Engagement, MVP Health Care.

## College Partners with MVP Health Care on Program for Health Care and Insurance Jobs

SUNY Schenectady and MVP Health Care’s new partnership will invest in the Capital Region’s workforce and serve as a pipeline for talent development in the healthcare industry. MVP and the College developed a two-part training program for anyone who is interested in working in the health and dental insurance fields or those who are already working in the industry and looking for professional development opportunities that lead to promotion and increased wages. Students take courses in customer service and claims processing management in the “MVP Health Care Impact Lab,” located at the College’s Center City site. MVP Health Care provided \$17,000 in funding to the SUNY Schenectady Foundation to outfit the lab with technology, software, and equipment.

## “Classrooms on Wheels” Are Ready To Roll

The College is ready to begin offering training to industry partner sites through two Mobile Training Labs focusing on Healthcare and Advanced Manufacturing. Officials held a ribbon cutting for the new labs that will bring education/training opportunities “to the door” of our community, and will:

- Provide employer-driven workforce and professional development training for new and incumbent workers
- Promote awareness to high school and middle school students, inspiring young people to become the next generation’s healthcare and manufacturing workforce
- Support and encourage community members to understand pathways to great careers in healthcare and manufacturing

The College received funding from SUNY in 2021 to procure the Mobile Training Labs. National Grid and P1 Ventures, Inc. are among the first industry partners to provide funding support for the Mobile Training Labs. Additional funding for the labs has also been provided by The William Gundry Broughton Charitable Foundation, Plug Power, and Ellis Medicine.



## Grants

Workforce Development earned the following grants:

- A \$1 million expansion of the SUNY Apprenticeship Grant supports pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship activities across New York State.
- A \$75,000 High Need Grant from SUNY provides tuition support for students taking the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program.
- A \$350,000 grant from the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) will update the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Certificate program to a best practice microcredential model. This project includes alignment with the National Association of Direct Service Professionals (NADSP) whose mission is to, “elevate the status of direct support professionals by improving practice standards, promoting system reform, and advancing their knowledge, skills and values.” Workforce Development and the Division of Liberal Arts are collaborating on developing two stackable microcredentials: Direct Support Professional DSP 1 and DSP 2, to improve the trained talent pipeline in this high-demand field.
- A \$200,000 expansion of the “Count Me In” Grant provides tuition support for students with disabilities who wish to become entrepreneurs and/or move forward in a career-focused education path. Funding was included in the New York State budget, secured by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, and builds upon an initial grant received in 2022.

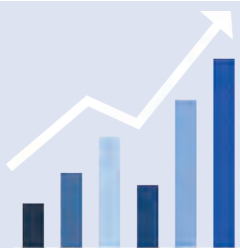
*Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, and Kirk Lewis, Executive Director of Schenectady ARC celebrate Autism Day.*



## New Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Training



A new Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Training is now offered through the Workforce Development and Community Education Division. Medical Assistants play an essential role in medical offices working alongside physicians, nurses, and others in healthcare teams, typically in outpatient settings such as clinics and medical offices. A Medical Assistant manages both clinical and administrative tasks that increase the quality of patient care and improve office efficiency. This program consists of five courses that can be completed over two semesters. As part of the program, students can earn (NHA) National Healthcareer Association certifications in less than one year in Phlebotomy, EKG (Electrocardiogram), MAA (Medical Administrative Assistant), and CCMA (Certified Clinical Medical Assistant).



## New Microcredential for Entrepreneurs

A new “Business Startup and Grow” micro-credential offers an opportunity for anyone who wants to take their “side hustle” to a full business and/or improve an existing business, with courses in accounting, human resources, marketing, management, sales and services, and business plan development.

# FOUNDATION

## From the Chair

As an alumnus of SUNY Schenectady and Chair of the Foundation Board, I am incredibly proud of how, because of you, SUNY Schenectady continues to empower every student in their pursuit of lifelong success.

Your kindness doesn't merely put students in classrooms, books in backpacks, or food on the table, it makes a future possible where some might never have seen one.

From all of us at the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, thank you for changing lives through your ongoing and generous support.

Kenneth R. Counterline '93  
Foundation Board Chair



## New Foundation Board Members

Kimberly "Kim" Speck is passionate about helping others to learn, improve, and grow. From coaching soccer and teaching aerobics to conducting mock interviews, mentoring, and guest lecturing, she is thankful for these opportunities to share knowledge and facilitate learning.

Most of Kim's 30-year career at MVP Health Care has been spent working in Human Resources. Her list of volunteer commitments is admirable and focuses on providing educational opportunities to those who may not otherwise have access. We are thrilled to have Kim share her time and expertise with the Foundation.

Lyle Woods is the Regional Director of Operations at Turf Hotels. He has extensive experience in the hospitality industry in the U.S. and in his native New Zealand.

Lyle's business acumen and volunteer experience with the New York State Hospitality Board and Waiheke Artworks Theatre are impressive. We are thrilled to have him bring his expertise and enthusiasm to the SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board.

## In the Spirit of Giving



The SUNY Schenectady Foundation's Board of Directors assembled Thanksgiving Meal Kits with all of the fixings for a delicious Thanksgiving meal including a turkey, boxed and canned goods, and ingredients to make apple and pumpkin pies. The kits, 115 in total, were distributed to members of the College community. *Thank you!*



## New Scholarships

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation is delighted to thank the donors who chose to donate to existing scholarships or set up new scholarships each year. During academic year 2022-2023, the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, with the help of a scholarship selection committee, was able to offer 218 scholarship awards to students valued at nearly \$342,000.



The **Thomasina Winslow '95 Memorial Scholarship** was generously established by friends and family in memory of Thomasina Winslow—SUNY Schenectady alumna, blues musician, and daughter of folk musician Tom Winslow—who passed away in 2023 at the age of 57. In addition to other criteria, this annual scholarship will support students in our School of Music who are vocalists with an interest in blues, jazz, and popular styles.

Our wonderful friends Stanley Blanchard and Johanna Petersen established the **Helping Hand Scholarship** to support students not eligible for federal and/or state financial aid, with preference for those who are first-generation college students, and/or members of the English Language Learners Club, International Student Club, or their equivalents at the College. The scholarship can be used to cover the cost of tuition, books, and fees at SUNY Schenectady.



The **Professor Gerald J. Evans Scholarship** endowment was established by an anonymous donor in gratitude for the education, help, and financial aid they received from the College and to honor the professionalism, dedication, and teaching skills of Professor Gerald J. Evans in the Paralegal program during his tenure from 1981 to 2016. How wonderful that one of our faculty has been honored by a former student in this way.

The **Kathleen M. Toombs '94 Scholarship** endowment was recently established to assist students pursuing a degree in Accounting or Business Administration, with preference for “non-traditional” students and/or those returning to education after a period of time, who demonstrate perseverance in obtaining an education even when life gets in the way. We are grateful for this support from alumna Kate Toombs.

# THE MANY POWERS OF PHILANTHROPY

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

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

## INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous  
Betty Carol Barlyn  
Dr. Gabriel J. Basil  
Mrs. Helen Begley\*  
Ms. L. Ann Bish\*  
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  
Mr. Michael J. Della Rocco, Jr.\*  
Ms. Joan R. Dembinski, CC '10  
Ms. Elaine Ehlinger  
Ms. Margaret A. Evans '81  
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Mrs. Diana Vianna-Brignola  
Ms. Marcia E. Vinick\*

Mr. Chester A. Watson\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Wollman

## ORGANIZATIONS

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Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc.  
CAFE Workers Compensation Trust  
Capital District Physicians Health Plan  
Capital Region Women's Network  
Community Bank, N.A.  
Community Foundation for the Greater  
Capital Region  
Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rotisseurs  
Foundation  
Daily Gazette  
Envision Architects, PC  
Estate of Alice Smith Allen  
Faculty Student Association  
Fenimore Asset Management, Inc.  
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Galesi Group  
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Helen Boiardi Charitable Remainder Trust  
Judkins Trust Fund  
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Mazzone Hospitality  
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National Grid  
Neil, Jane, William, Estelle Golub Family  
Foundation, Inc.  
New York Propane Gas Association  
Price Chopper's Golub Foundation  
Richmor Aviation  
Schenectady County  
Second Chance Scholarship Foundation  
Smachlo Foundation  
Soroptimist International of Schenectady  
State University of New York (SUNY)  
System Administration  
Statler Foundation  
Stewart's Shops

Student Government Association  
The Schenectady Foundation, Inc.  
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

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

Ms. Victoria R. Barber '86  
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Alfred "Al" Ole Haugen passed away at his home in Glenville in 2021. His wife, Anita, passed away in 2013.

Prior to moving to the Capital Region in 1972, Al was a popular member of the club and jazz scene in the New York City area. His band, Al Haugen and Friends, was a favorite for many in the Capital Region. Anita began her career as a critical care nurse then as a senior nursing instructor. Later in life, she left nursing and began a second career as a real estate appraiser.

Al and Anita were longtime supporters of SUNY Schenectady who enjoyed the music program at the College, attending concerts when they could.

We are truly grateful for the tremendous legacy they have created in the School of Music through their generous bequest.

# THE MANY POWERS OF PHILANTHROPY

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These lists reflect gifts received between September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. 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.





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