

Expand Access and Increase Student Success

Holly Sociagrosch, Assistant Registrar, conducted extensive research and testing in Banner in an effort to 'link' remedial math courses to their matching credit courses as well as 'linking' English ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) courses together. These are two unrelated processes in Banner and represents a big win for the Business and Law Division (which includes math), the Liberal Arts Division, Academic Advisement and the Registrar's Office. In the past, students who needed to take remedial courses intended to be taken together were able to drop one of the classes and continue in the other or 'mix and match' their math or English courses. The College's new co-requisite math and English models require students to take the remedial and credit courses concurrently.

The ability to tie sections together during registration has streamlined the process and had a tremendously positive impact on the Registrar's Office, saving time and effort previously spent checking class lists, tracking down students who changed their schedules, and making registration modifications to correct mistakes. It also created a more seamless registration experience for students, as their classes go through the first time rather than having to get 'permission' to bypass what appears to be a separate course pre-requisite.

The Center for Workforce Development and Community Education report that on October 6, Alyson Bingham attended the HPOG webinar: "Moving from Minimum Wage to Economic Independence: Navigating Benefits Cliffs in HPOG."

Professor Laurie Lacey, PhD, spearheaded an effort with the Math Committee to expand their scope beyond the Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) grant to include the implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) for math courses, making access for students easier and less expensive. This effort included research to find the best materials, editing the materials to suit the needs of our students, and working with IT to allow for direct access of homework platforms through Blackboard.

CSTEP & LSAMP Director Lorena Harris, PhD, is working virtually with CSTEP and LSAMP students via an informational portal she created. In this portal, students have the opportunity to interact with Dr. Harris, study and talk with one another, find information about the "Plastic Around Us" research project, and connect with their other research mentor, Associate Professor Richard Simons, PhD.

On October 8, the Stewardship Officer sent our 2021-2022 scholarship renewal requests to 37 scholarship owners, resulting in the following:

- \$10,000 for the Jenson Merriam Memorial Scholarship

- \$5,000 for the KeyBank Scholarship
- \$1,000 for the Tony Lauria Scholarship
- \$500 for the Stuart J. Spitz Memorial Scholarship
- \$500 for the Junior League of Schenectady and Saratoga Counties Scholarship

Foundation reported that on October 15, the Golub Foundation confirmed an in-kind donation of turkeys for our Thanksgiving meal kits. An additional \$2,000 was raised from Corporate Champions for this effort.

On October 15, Alyson Bingham attended the "7th Annual ACEs Symposium" hosted by the LaSalle School. The topics focused on dealing with youth justice by including a healing framework in the effort to achieve equity and fairness as well as gain a better understanding of the underlying causes of inequities in the U.S. Presenters were Greg Owens ~Deputy Commissioner, Office of Youth Justice NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services and Adam J. Foss, JD~ Founder, Executive Director or Prosecutor Impact.

An Academic Affairs team including, Eileen Abrahams, Mitzi Espinola, Jessica Gilbert, Michael Stamets, Dawn Jones, and David Clickner, attended SUNY Guided Pathways: Cohort 2 Conference from Wednesday, October 21 to Friday, October 23. The group attended sessions on various topics including how to help students identify career pathways, the alignment of programs with transfer and employment, using data to catalyze change, and met as a team for planning purposes.

On October 21, Foundation Board member and alumna Laura Primiano '00 led a virtual discussion with Student Mentoring Program participants about working and thriving in the hospitality industry in times of crisis.

On October 23, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with members of the Women's Fund of the Capital Region to discuss the need for additional support for part-time students this year.

Professor Tammy Calhoun attends bi-weekly meetings of the Grow Your Own Initiative. This is an ongoing collaboration between Schenectady Schools, Cazenovia College, Clarkson University, and SUNY Schenectady to provide local students and Schenectady City School District employees a direct path to the teaching profession and teacher certification. The group held a Virtual Information Session for prospective students on Wednesday, October 28.

The Stewardship Officer Worked with Public Relations to develop social media posts regarding the SEFCU Food Pantry matching gift challenge.

Student Affairs has dispersed 154 laptops to date, through the Laptop Loan Program.

As of November 2, we have completed 999 COVID surveillance pool tests.

Student Government Association (SGA) elections have completed. Congratulations to the following individuals:

Student Trustee David Seecharran

President Jennifer Malave
Vice President Frances Pagadora
Treasurer Kalia Reid
Senator Joseph Burnetter
Senator Lindsay Feulner
Senator Destany Jackson
Senator Miles Murphy
Senator Mikayla Schoonmaker
Senator Sydney Swedick

SGA training was held on November 4, 6, and 9.

The CARES Review Committee have awarded \$839,109 to students since April.

Ensure a quality, relevant, coherent and innovative curriculum

The Math Committee met on September 28 and October 26 to continue its work related to the Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) grant. This grant work has resulted in the creation of co-requisite mathematics courses that place students directly into their mathematics gateway course even if they have gaps in learning. It also includes a new placement process aligned with recent research and best practices for implementing multiple measures course placement. During these past two meetings, the Committee has begun work to ensure correct alignment and fit of these new mathematics courses in the programs offered at SUNY Schenectady.

The Center for Workforce Development and Community Education report that on October 6, Program Coordinator Christine McLear attended the Debugged: Diversifying IT through Effective Training Programs webinar offered by JFF.

On October 14, Christine McLear & Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Craft Brewing representatives in the region to continue work on a Craft Brewing Continuing Education series of workshops in partnership with the Carey Institute.

The Division of Academic Affairs reports that Associate Professor Rae Ellen Doyle attended the SUNY Faculty Development Conference 2020: Teaching and Learning for Student Success from Monday, October 23 to Friday, October 27th. Sessions focused on equity, COVID, and methods for teaching faculty expectations for textbook reading.

On October 27, Christine McLear and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Wolfjaw Studios (<https://wolfjawstudios.com>) and Amanda Vitullo of the Center for Economic Growth to discuss the development of a Network Engineering apprenticeship program to serve game development companies in the Capital Region.

Interim Dean Kelly Majuri and Instructor Cayla Gaworecki attended a professional development opportunity, Workshop on Mapping and Aligning Student Success Work, offered by Achieving the Dream (ATD). This is one of many professional development offerings that have been made available through the SSTF grant.

Professor Syeda Munaim, PhD, and Associate Professor Richard Simons, PhD, worked together to develop a virtual laboratory practical and virtual materials to support in-person cat dissections.

On October 29, Christine McLearn and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Jennifer Lawrence of the SEAT Center to discuss partnering on a manufacturing grant utilizing SUNY Schenectady's Certified Production Technician program.

Invest in Campus Renewal

The Office of Administration reports that The Mill Lane project continued in October and November. Meetings were held with our general contractor BBL and various sub-contractors. A project timeline was developed with a projected completion date of mid-January 2021. Contracts were drafted and submitted to each sub-contractor for plumbing, HVAC, electrical, concrete work, drywall, and flooring. Kittredge, our kitchen equipment contractor has ordered all kitchen-related items and the large exhaust vent hood and assembly. A special concher was also located and ordered for use in the exclusive space. The College is meeting bi-weekly with the contractors as this construction project gets underway.

Work on the Begley Learning Commons continues. During October and November, our contractors completed work on infilling new areas in the Begley lobby terrazzo floor. Regular and donor signage installation was completed. Glass partition safety decals were selected and ordered for installation. Acoustic sound tiles arrived and were prepared for installation. Additional work is needed in the café, the customized circulation desk, and the exterior large window feature. In addition, the College is waiting on brushed nickel caps to the glass partitions located around the central opening area of the learning commons. We anticipate completion of the Commons in mid-November to mid-December of 2020.

Representatives of the College and the County met to discuss outstanding capital projects. Due to the pandemic and its impact on State finances, the team reviewed currently active projects and approved State financing. This review permitted the release of certain contracts for the Elston Façade, Elston and Begley Roof Projects, and the Campus-wide Generator project. Additional contracts will be released upon further review of projects and State financing allowances.

In early November, the College transitioned from the SchoolDude maintenance ticketing system to AiM O&M which is a maintenance ticket system available through the State University of New York. AiM is SUNY's system-wide fixed asset system which has been used by SUNY Schenectady for many years. The addition of O&M to this system will provide the campus community with a robust system connected to our physical space inventory. The cost of O&M is half the cost of the SchoolDude system.

Representatives from the College met with individuals from the Livingston Energy Group to discuss installation of EV (Electric Vehicle) pumps on the main campus. Livingston is currently installing EV infrastructure on multiple campuses, including Hudson Valley Community College. Using energy incentive programs, Livingston will provide a proposal for the installation of up to six clusters of EV car pumps on campus to serve the campus and local community. It is estimated in the next three years, 25% of automobiles will be electric and in need of EV charging stations.

Foundation reports that donor signage was installed in the Learning Commons on October 13, 2020.

Strengthen and Expand Community and Strategic Partnerships

Instructor Vanessa Traver received online conflict resolution training provided by ServSafe on October 1. This training examined conflicts that arise in the hospitality industry because of the new COVID-19 regulations, emphasizing how to approach and successfully resolve problems with customers who find the new regulations an inconvenience or unacceptable. It specifically covered the rights of the establishment to refuse service to customers who do not want to follow the new regulations associated with COVID-19.

On October 1 and October 15, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Project Manager for the Center of Workforce Development & Community Education attended SUNY Apprenticeship meetings to discuss apprenticeship applications in the state.

On October 2, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Maria Kotary, Christine McLear and Amanda Vitullo, with the Center for Economic Growth met to discuss a collaborative grant application for the rethink Adult Education Challenge. On October 15th, all attended a Virtual Information Session to gather further information on grant particulars.

On October 5, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with Board Chair Lynn Manning to discuss first quarter strategies and objectives.

On October 7 and 13, filming finished up for the virtual "Food for Thought & All That Jazz".

On October 7th, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with an Educational Opportunity Center(EOC) representative in partnership with Bronx community to discuss alignment with apprenticeship activities.

On October 7, Program Coordinator Christine McLear attended the Education and Business Partnership Committee meeting with the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce.

On October 8, the Foundation's Board Development Committee met to discuss expanding the Board of Directors. One new candidate has accepted a nomination and will be brought to the Foundation Board for a vote in November.

On October 8, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended an AlbanyCanCode Virtual Networking Event that supports adult learners who are participating in software coding course work in the region.

Associate Professor Richard Simons, PhD, attended the virtual Mid-Year Annual Meeting of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS) Board and Steering Committee October 10 to October 11. He is the HAPS Health and Safety Chairman.

On October 13, WFD&CE was notified of the successful acquisition of the Business Development CFP award of \$9,000.00 to support manufacturing initiatives across the region. The grant team: Dr. Tiziana Rota, Christine McLear and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow.

On October 13 and October 27, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the One Schenectady Workforce Development Coalition meeting. This meeting includes the Schenectady ARC, Schenectady Community

Action Program, Schenectady One-Stop, SEFCU, the City Mission, Employer Resource Network and the Schenectady Foundation to collectively work on COVID-19 response as a collective.

On October 15, Sarah and Christine met with SUNY Adirondack to ensure the sustainability of the Google IT Support Professional Certificate program in our region. The partnership will allow both colleges to continue offering the certificate program while supporting each other's enrollment.

On October 15, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with the new Student Activities Advisor to discuss partnership and engaging students in Giving Tuesday efforts.

On October 19, Foundation staff took part in two alumni engagement platform demos.

On October 22, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Monthly Capital Region Employer Resource Network Advisory Group Meeting including: Union College, Schenectady ARC, Rensselaer ARC, Capital Counseling, Albany Medical College, Baptist Health, the Daily Gazette, Proctors, the City Mission, Empire State College, Sunmark, Home Instead, MVP, Schenectady One Stop. This group meets monthly to support workforce supports in the Capital Region.

On October 27 and 28, Maria Kotary, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Tiziana Rota, Lauren Lankau and Christine McLear attended the NYATEP Forward Together Conference.

On October 30, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Jamie Hungerschafer, Maria Kotary and Christine McLear hosted a virtual WFD&CE Advisory Committee meeting.

On October 30, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Capital Region Workforce Development Board Meeting.

On October 28, Christine McLear hosted a meeting of the NYS Consortia for the Google IT Support Professional Certificate program with Jobs for the Future (JFF).

Professor Ingrid O'Connell attended a webinar, What Do Food Industry Leaders See for 2021, hosted by Niagara University on October 29.

Professor Renee Adamany is facilitating a Dialogue for Change group at the YWCA of Northeastern New York for their senior management team. The topic is "Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation." Each member will receive a guide created by the National Everyday Democracy Organization. Various topics will be presented in a facilitated five-week discussion. The last session focuses on discussion of the book *How to be an Anti-Racist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. Dialogue for Change discussions are part of ongoing education and actions undertaken to assist in the YWCA's mission of the elimination of racism.

Assistant Professor Sten Isachsen (guitar) gave a series of performances during the month of October including: Oct. 2 with The Nellies at The Bull in Galway NY; Oct. 3 with Maria Z at Hill View Farms in Argyle, NY; Oct. 3 with Jim Gaudet and The Railroad Boys at Hill View Farms in Argyle NY; Oct. 4 with Musicians of Ma'alwyck (MoM) at First Reformed in Schenectady, NY; Oct. 10 with The Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet in a live-streamed concert in Milford, PA; Oct 11 with Albany Pro Musica at the Troy Music Hall in Troy, NY; Oct. 18 with MoM at First Reformed in Schenectady, NY; and Oct. 19 with The

Nellies at The Linda WAMC in Albany, NY. Professor Isachsen continues to record with MoM on Oct. 26-27 at Schuyler Mansion in Albany, NY and on Oct. 30 at Crailo House in Rensselaer, NY.

Assistant Professor Sten Isachsen, Adjunct Instructor Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz (violin) and Adjunct Instructor Norman Thibodeau (flute), taped a program in the Troy Music Hall featuring Musicians of Ma'alwyck (MoM) and Albany Pro Musica which will air in March on WMHT. MoM continues its Dutch Consulate work, and will be taping a second program on Oct. 26 featuring Dutch music of the late 1700s. The program will be filmed at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site. MoM debuted its first music video "Music in the Crypt" which has received many views on Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBWSxXTMmz8>. MoM continues their weekly livestreams from First Reformed Church in Schenectady.

CSTEP and LSAMP Director Lorena Harris, PhD, is working with Rise High, Inc., and has established SUNY Schenectady as the National Science Foundation NY State STEAM Collaborative Hubsite Leader. As the Hubsite Leader, CSTEP and LSAMP will expand access to the cryptography program for local school district students, Cryptoclub. Cryptoclub combines cryptography and math together, increasing math fluency in a fun way through learning coding and encryption. On October 31, Dr. Harris will be working with at least 60 plus participants (including 7th, 8th and 9th graders plus mentors) on the Cryptoclub project.

CSTEP and LSAMP Director Lorena Harris, PhD, is developing a new research project utilizing the Geo-Inquiry Process that will allow SUNY Schenectady to connect educating students about plastic pollution in our community with a data collection implementation plan. This research aims to increase awareness and educate students to become better environmental citizens. The goal is to learn to gather geospatial data, document microplastic pollution in the community, and share the data with adventure scientists to aid global scientists to answer the question: Are microplastics everywhere?

Michael Hazard, Senior Technical Assistant, represented HCAT as a volunteer at the College's first ever Virtual Speed-Networking Event to provide students opportunities to meet potential mentors and possible future employers.

Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability

Financial Services is wrapping up close-out of the 2019-20 fiscal year to prepare year-end reports to SUNY, the College's Board of Trustees, and the auditors. Final expenses from the 2019-20 fiscal year were processed in October. The College's 2019-20 audit is scheduled to begin in November 2020.

During the Fall of 2020, Benetech conducted a health care dependent audit to verify employee dependents on health care insurance policies paid by the college. This audit concluded in early November and we anticipate the results by mid to late month.

On October 5, the Stewardship Officer sent a first quarter solicitation to 394 constituents, resulting in 7 new anniversary brick donations totaling \$700. As follow up stewardship "thank you" cards mailed to donors with photos of their bricks.

On October 12, 19 and 28, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with Capital CFO (and Lumsden & McCormick additionally on the 28th) to reconcile financial statements and lay the groundwork for the 2019-2020 audit.

On October 22, the Stewardship Officer attended a webinar; Improving Donor Relations with Scholarship Management and Donor Reporting.

On October 28, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs participated in a KeyBank webinar; How Do Nonprofits Plan for 2021 and Beyond?

On October 29, an RFP review committee gathered to select finalists for the Foundation's strategic planning work.

On October 30, the Foundation's Planned Giving Committee met to discuss first quarter strategies for solidifying potential planned gift intentions.

On October 30, the Stewardship Officer sent out 14 New Donor Welcome letters.

The Foundation's 2020-2021 Employee Campaign has raised a total of \$7,296 thus far and a portion of those gifts will be directed to the new Employee Relief Fund.

The Center for Workforce Development & Community Education was awarded \$9,000 from the USDOL Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies to advance apprenticeship titles in Advanced Manufacturing

President's Outreach

On October 13, 2020, the County Legislature passed a resolution appointing me to the Human Rights Commission Board. The term is through December 31, 2021.

On October 16, 2020, I presented at the virtual New York Community College Trustee Institute on Middle States and the Role of the Trustee.

On October 22-24, I, along with other members of the College community, participated in the SUNY Guided Pathways Cohort II. This Cohort was offered virtually and presented on various topics including how to help students identify career pathways, utilizing Advisory Boards for Degrees and Transfer, and a keynote presentation: Beginning with the End in Mind.

SUNY Counsel provided an all campus government relations First Amendment Training webinar on October 26th, of which I attended, along with the Chief of Staff, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, and Diversity and Human Resources Manager.

On October 27th and 28th, New York's Workforce Association held a Fall Conference Virtually. This was attended by me, the Executive Director of Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center, and the Project Manager for Workforce Development and Community Education. A wide variety of sessions were offered, which included **Forward Together; The Future of Workforce & Economic Development** - which reflected on the challenges we have faced over the past 8 months, as well as the opportunities that lie ahead; **Delivering Workforce Services in a New Remote Climate** – in light of recent events, it is

imperative that we create pathways to jobs, and be able to deliver services through new platform models; **Striving to Turn New Challenges into Future Opportunities** – provided insight into how leaders have collaborated and looked at the impact on performers and how it is leading to new transformations.

Presidents of the Community College Consortium continue to meet virtually to discuss challenges they are faced with during the Pandemic, as we continue to move through uncharted waters.