



OUR COLLEGE – OUR FUTURE – The Strategic Plan to 2020

President's Report
December 2020

Expand Access and Increase Student Success

The Office of Academic Affairs reports that as a part of the Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) grant, Instructor Cayla Gaworecki and Interim Dean Kelly Majuri attended the SUNY Placement Meeting on November 19. This recurring professional meeting has become a source of research, information, and networking as the Math Committee continues to reinforce our placement process as it relates to our new mathematics flow chart and our commitment to more immediate access to gateway mathematics courses for all of our students.

CSTEP & LSAMP Director, Dr. Lorena Harris, and the CSTEP students sent out “Notes of Optimism” along with surprise gift bags to boost the morale of students in need during these difficult times.

Interim Dean Eileen Abrahams and Division Secretary Elisabeth Gundlach called and emailed Fall 2020 students who had not yet registered for Spring 2021 classes. Overall, students appreciated the reminder and the personal phone calls.

Interim Dean Eileen Abrahams produced two volumes of a new, campus-wide bulletin called *The Lowdown*, designed to inform adjunct and full-time faculty of upcoming events and deadlines. It will occasionally include relevant narrative, but its primary purpose is to keep faculty informed and up-to-date about issues such as ongoing registration efforts, final exam schedules, and Blackboard preparedness.

This month, the Foundation received an **additional \$14,000 in renewed annual scholarships** for a grand total of \$31,000 for 2021-2022, including the following:

- \$10,000 for the Payback Scholarship
- \$1,000 in Memory of Petia Kassarova
- \$1,000 Stephen Piorkowski Epilepsy Scholarship
- \$2,000 Soroptimist International Scholarship

The Foundation also received an **additional \$15,000 for endowed scholarships:**

- \$10,000 Promise Fund
- \$3,000 Susan Watson New Beginnings Pathways Scholarship
- \$2,000 Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans

On November 18, the Foundation Board voted in favor of a **5% endowment payout** for the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, the Board voted to **seed the Employee Relief Fund with \$5,000.**

On November 25, Thanksgiving Meal Kits were distributed to 200 students, providing **800 total meals**. The Stewardship Officer Worked with Public Relations to develop social media posts and a press release for the efforts, as well as to design and print sponsor cards for each bag.

The Office of Workforce Development and Community Education was pleased to offer the Google IT Support Professional Certificate program to CSEA members. Three members or their families had enrolled by the end of the month.

Ensure a quality, relevant, coherent and innovative curriculum

The Division of Academic Affairs reports Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism Professor Susan Hatalsky, Associate Professor Michael Stamets, Instructor Vanessa Traver, and Assistant Professor Courtney Withey have collaborated to develop and launch a parcel pick-up “food kit” initiative for culinary students taking lab classes. This will allow students to complete the labs in their own kitchens using ingredients provided in these kits. Students will view demonstration videos before they begin their lab and take photos of the food at various stages identified by their instructor and then complete a critique (rubric) of their lab performance.

As part of continued effort to support student success Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, participated in the fall 2020 Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) week being held virtually from Monday, November 30 – Friday, December 4, 2020. She updated previously created webpages and created new webpages for the event which can be accessed [here](#). Jacquie also offered virtual drop research sessions for students from 6:00pm – 10:00pm on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

Giovannine Matheron, Collection Development and E-Resources Librarian, has worked to secure new items electronic and print format to support hotel technology, culinary arts, paralegal studies, public safety, and travel and tourism using monies from the Coordinated Collection Development Grant.

Caroline Buff, Librarian, has continued her work updating all the research guides to highlight materials available electronically.

At the beginning of November, Professor Sheila Foglietta attended the 39th National Conference for the AAPLE (American Association for Paralegal and Legal Education). This 4-day event offered opportunities to virtually attend educational sessions, take away tools and resources, exchange information and ideas with others in the field, and attend a keynote presentation with speaker Barbara Madsen who served for many years on the Washington Supreme Court.

Professor Tammy Calhoun and Interim Dean Kelly Majuri attended “*A View from The Top – The Role of Teacher Education in Post Pandemic New York.*” This webinar was hosted by Rockland Community College on November 12th and featured a conversation with Dr. Merryl Tisch about her views of the current educational landscape.

In his role as Biology Coordinator, Associate Professor Richard Simons, Ph.D., worked with faculty to develop laboratory practicals for BIO 117 Biology of the Cell and BIO 152 Anatomy and Physiology II on campus. He also generated virtual laboratory practical materials for BIO 112 Human Biology.

Professors Megan Hall and Alicia Richardson, along with Interim Dean Eileen Abrahams have all registered for the IFWE (International Forum for Women in E-Learning) 2020 Conference, to be held

virtually and scheduled for the first week of December. This year's conference focuses on best practices for online learning during a pandemic and covers such topics as virtual collaboration in the age of COVID19, online learning as social justice, and facilitating online group work.

On November 5 and 6, Dr. Tiziana Rota, Lauren Lankau, Maria Kotary, Christine McLearn and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the 2020 Continuing Education Association of New York (CEANY) Conference.

On November 5, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow presented on the SUNY Apprenticeship program with Denise Zieske, Director of Workforce Development Office of Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline SUNY and Franca Armstrong, Associate Vice President of Workforce Development MVCC.

On November 16, Professor Megan Hall gave a talk, "Increasing Student Engagement in Online Learning," as a guest speaker for SSI's *Fall 2020 Speaker Series*. Her PowerPoint and video presentation, full of tech tips and pedagogical strategies was distributed to faculty later that week.

Professor Shalini Varma and Dean Tania Cabrera organized a virtual presentation of the original research projects done by students in BIO 142 General Biology II. Students will present their work via Zoom on December 10th.

Invest in Campus Renewal

The Office of Administration reports construction of the College's exclusive culinary educational space at Mill Lane is underway. During November and December, construction contracts were let and work began on the flooring, drainage, electrical, walls and HVAC systems. At this time, wall, doorway and window partitions were framed with wallboard installation scheduled for the week of December 7th. Our in floor electrical and data wiring installation was completed the week of November 30th. Construction of this space and installation of kitchen equipment is on schedule for completion in January of 2021.

Major construction on the Begley Learning Commons continued to wrap up in November. Only items remaining to complete include an extension of custom millwork on the first floor circulation desk where the large two-story light fixture anchors to the desk. In addition to that item, final labeling of the IT data lines was completed the week of November 30th with testing of the systems to finish in early December.

The College met with representatives from Discover Schenectady on placement of an informational kiosk on-site at SUNY Schenectady. The kiosk will be located in the Elston Commons, near the security desk and entranceway from the main parking lot/quad. The kiosk is to be installed on December 16th and 17th at no cost to the College. This kiosk will provide information on events and activities in downtown Schenectady and has a feature where the College can insert advertising and content that will show on the College's kiosk and five other kiosk's located throughout downtown Schenectady.

Conversations between the College and the Livingston Energy Group continued concerning installation of EV (Electric Vehicle) pumps on the main campus. Livingston has met twice with members of our Facilities department to look at the electrical capacities on campus and to determine the location of potential future EV charging stations. We anticipate a report from Livingston during December or January that will propose pumping station locations and an estimated cost to install this service.

Representatives of the College and the County continue to work on various 2020 capital projects. A professional services agreement for C2 Architecture to work on design of the Elston Hall Admissions and

Welcome Center is finished and under final approval at the County. Restoration work on the Elston and Begley Hall roofs is progressing. A professional services agreement for asbestos abatement was signed in late October and architectural design work for the project was completed. A bid document is in progress with anticipated award during the Winter of 2021; with construction to begin in the Spring of 2021. Bid documents for the campus-wide Emergency Generator are complete and under review by the county and college. A professional services agreement was completed between the County and Ryan Biggs for work on the bid documents for the Elston Hall Façade renovation project. Representatives from Ryan Biggs will meet with College personnel during the Winter to finalize bid documents required for construction to begin in the Spring of 2021. Work continues on selection of an architectural vision and plan for the Route 5 Skybridge renovation. Preliminary architectural proposals were reviewed and a preferred design was selected. Next step in this project is to value engineer the selected renovation design and prepare architectural drawings needed for the construction phase of this project.

Strengthen and Expand Community and Strategic Partnerships

CSTEP and LAMP Director, Dr. Lorena Harris, is assisting the CSTEP Capital Region cohorts in organizing a virtual STEM conference, in place of the typical face to face conference, for spring 2021.

Professor Renee Adamany co-piloted a *Dialogue for Change* Zoom session for Schenectady Community Ministries (SICM) board members. The topic was "Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation." Each member received a guide created by the national Everyday Democracy Organization. SICM is the agency that manages the Schenectady County Embraces Diversity (SCED) group, which has been inactive for about 3 years. SICM is re-structuring this group by piloting sessions for adults, middle and high school students. Sessions are conducted by trained facilitators. The purpose of this pilot session was to recruit individuals who desire to be trained facilitators. The entire training includes three additional Zoom sessions, all of which will be conducted by Professor Adamany and a co-facilitator.

In late September, HCAT Associate Professor Jay Larkin launched the "*Pourin' One with the Pros Guest Speaker Series*". Three guest speakers joined the BMT 105 Beverage Sales and Merchandising class to discuss their roles in the craft beverage industry. These events were made available to all beverage related students as well as prior students and alumni.

On September 30th, the Executive Director of the New York State Brewer's Association (NYSBA) Paul Leone, joined the class. Mr. Leone discussed the role of the NYSBA as a representative of the craft beverage industry in state government, and discussed the assistance available to members from the association. He complimented the students for being a part of the Craft Beer Brewing programs at SUNY Schenectady, and mentioned the skills they are learning are exactly what the industry wants.

On October 14th, SUNY Schenectady HCAT alumni David Gardell joined Mr. Larkin and students. He is the owner of The Ruck (a pub) in Troy, NY, part-owner of Rare Form Brewing also in Troy, NY and a member of the inaugural Craft Beer Brewing graduating class of 2018. He spoke about his path to ownership as well as his time as a student. He described his hands-on approach to his businesses, and stressed being a jack-of-all-trades for the benefit of the organization and employees. He was adamant that his business success is due to courses he took in the CBB program at SUNY Schenectady. Mr. Gardell offered his assistance to all the students and provided his contact information to them.

On October 28th, Brett Goldstock, founder, owner, and brewer at Duck Foot Brewing in Miramar, CA, joined the group. Mr. Goldstock is a Capital Region native with close ties to SUNY Schenectady. Retired

Professor, Chef Lisa Goldstock, is his mother and was one of Associate Professor Jay Larkin's instructors when he was a student here. Mr. Goldstock discussed his transformation from a self-distributing, home brewer from Upstate New York to contracting a distributor as owner of the Duck Foot Brewery in California. He detailed the State of California's willingness to assist the craft beer industry and spoke about challenges facing the industry since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic.

On October 28th, an information session called "*Tomorrow's Teachers Today*" was held by all the stakeholders in the Grow Your Own Initiative, including SUNY Schenectady's Professor Tammy Calhoun and Director Pamela McCall, and representatives from Cazenovia College, Clarkson University, and the Schenectady City School District. This virtual information session was developed for all Schenectady City School District employees who are interested in advancing their career by completing their associates, Bachelors, or Masters degrees in education through the Grow Your Own Initiative.

On November 1, Assistant Professor Sten Isachsen (guitar) gave performances with Musicians of Ma'alwyck (MoM), and Adjunct Instructor Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz (violin) in a concert that was live-streamed from the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. On November 13, MoM released their first Dutch 18th century program sponsored by the Dutch Consulate and on November 20, they released their second Dutch Consulate program. On November 19, MoM collaborated with Union College Music Department recording the final projects of their composition majors. At the end of November, MoM will release a short video in memoriam of their cellist Petia Kassarova, a former SUNY Schenectady adjunct music faculty member.

On November 2, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with SUNY Sullivan, the Department of Labor, and The Center for Discovery to discuss the process of becoming a related instruction provider and registered sponsor for the Direct Support Professional (DSP) title.

On November 2, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with SUNY Rockland to discuss continuing the process of becoming a related instruction provider for the Direct Support Professional title.

On November 3, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with the Center for Economic Growth and Wolfjaw Studios regarding apprenticeship and micro-credential opportunities within the Network Engineer title.

On November 4 and November 19 Program Coordinator Christine McLearn attended the Education and Business Partnership Committee meeting with the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce and the planning meeting for the Junior Executive Program.

On November 4th, Professor Ingrid O'Connell attended the NYSHTA Hospitality Conference where keynote speaker Roger Dow, President and CEO of the US Travel Association shared current and upcoming recovery initiatives from the US Travel Association.

On November 6, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with the Student Government Association Advisor to discuss partnering on the ***Holiday Trees of Hope*** initiative at the Landing Hotel.

On November 9th, Assistant Professor Sten Isachsen (guitar) gave performances with Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys at the Linda WAMC. He also edited video from MoM's Dutch concert at Schuyler Mansion.

On November 9, Christine McLear and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in a review of the Google IT project hosted by Jobs for the Future (JFF).

On November 9, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Dan Paris (Department of Labor) and Coretta Killikelly (CEK RN Consulting) regarding initiating a Community Healthcare Worker apprenticeship program.

On November 10, the Foundation's virtual "*Food for Thought & All That Jazz*" took place, with the online auction running until November 17; proceeds from the auction totaled more than \$7,500 for a **grand total of \$60,000 raised by the event.**

On November 10th, Professor Ingrid O'Connell and a student attended the MPI webinar "*The Science Behind Social Connection*".

On November 12, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended a meeting with NYS community colleges and Workforce Development Boards to discuss apprenticeship opportunities in the state.

On November 12, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Capital Region Employer Resource Network Advisory Group meeting to discuss collaborative pandemic response amongst employers, economic development, not for profits, healthcare organizations and academic institutions.

On November 12, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended an Industry Roundtable with Mohawk Valley Community College, the Department of Labor, SUNY and potential apprenticeship sponsors in the state to discuss apprenticeship opportunities.

On November 13, Program Coordinator Christine McLear participated in the planning and execution of the Community Service and Nonprofit Day for the Leadership Tech Valley Program with the Capital Region Chamber.

On November 13th, Adjunct Instructor Karlinda Caldicott (harp) provided a harp demonstration via Zoom as part of the Hartwick College Music Department's weekly convocation. She also plays at the State Street Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, NY, every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

On November 13, Music Associate Professor, Dr. Karen Hosmer (oboe) performed with the Albany Symphony Orchestra at Universal Preservation Hall in Saratoga, NY. Musical works included Debussy, *Afternoon of a Faun*; Mahler, *Symphony #4* in chamber version (15 players); and a world premiere of Andre Meyers' *Black and Alive*.

On November 16, Christine McLear, Maria Kotary and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended a meeting with the Center for Economic Growth and Capital Region BOCES to finalize the ReThinking Adult Education grant as a collaborative.

On November 20, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with SUNY Ulster to discuss their healthcare apprenticeship application.

On November 23, Program Coordinator Christine McLear hosted a meeting of the NYS Consortia for the Google IT Support Professional Certificate program with JFF.

On November 24, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the One Schenectady Workforce Development Coalition Meeting including Schenectady Works, the Schenectady One Stop, Employer Resource Network, the City Mission, the Schenectady ARC, Schenectady Foundation, and the Schenectady Community Action Program to discuss collaborative pandemic response in Schenectady County.

On November 25, an interim grant report was submitted to the Berkshire Bank Foundation.

On December 4, a reporting of lifetime scholarship recipients was generated for David Wallingford, representative of the McCormick Family Scholarship for Marines.

Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability

On November 14, the Foundation received notice that we are in receipt of a **\$5,000 unrestricted bequest** from an alumna who passed away over the summer.

On November 18, the Foundation Board voted to engage the Winkler Group for the Foundation's Strategic Planning process, which will commence on November 30.

On November 20th, the new LSAMP grant application was submitted by CSTEP and LSAMP Director Lorena Harris, PhD, with support from Dean Tania Cabrera. The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation is a grant that, "is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of students successfully completing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) baccalaureate degree programs, and increasing the number of students interested in, academically qualified for and matriculated into programs of graduate study. LSAMP supports sustained and comprehensive approaches that facilitate achievement of the long-term goal of increasing the number of students who earn doctorates in STEM fields, particularly those from populations underrepresented in STEM fields." The College has previously been awarded this grant and this work was completed to reapply for the next grant cycle. Monies received go toward research stipends to support underrepresented students working in the laboratory doing original research projects.

In late November, the Office of Administration released a call for 2021-22 operating budget requests. The budget request included worksheets and forms required for departmental budget requests with a requirement that each of the College's divisions reduce proposed expenditures based on current 2021-22 revenue projections that include the impact of declining enrollment and State support uncertainty. Budget requests are due on January 6, 2021.

On November 23, the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education, in partnership with Capital Region BOCES, the Center for Economic Growth, and Albany Can Code submitted an application for the Rethinking Adult Education Challenge to develop new programs for pre-apprenticeship in IT. Financial Services continues to wrap up the 2019-20 fiscal year audit with our auditors from Lumsden and McCormick. The virtual audit is on target for completion in early 2021 with a presentation to the Board of Trustees in February.

In December, the College released a Request for Proposals for Public Relations and Marketing Services. This RFP includes a shift from our current contracted public relations services to include both public relations and marketing as the College seeks assistance in this area to emphasize enrollment growth and increased visibility. Proposals are due in late January of 2021.

In November and December, the College engaged in conversations with SUNY ITEC on a shared services Chief Information Officer (CIO) arrangement. During the past three months, the College unsuccessfully searched for a new CIO and found all viable candidates either unable or not willing to take on the position due to location or compensation level. Over the past three years, ITEC has provided a shared CIO service to SUNY community colleges whose IT leadership is in transition or if a community college is seeking longer term shared CIO situation. This service partners a seasoned and experienced CIO with a community college or more than one community college and provides further technical assistance from SUNY ITEC. Through conversations with ITEC, campus leadership and the ITS staff, a shared CIO arrangement was explored.

The Human Resources Office completed activities related to the 2020 Open Enrollment period. This is the once a year period when employees and retirees covered by the College can change their enrollment in various healthcare plans.

The Stewardship Officer attended a webinar; ***Stewardship for Mid-Level Donors***.

The Vice President of Development and External Affairs participated in a virtual ***CASE Development Writing Workshop***, which yielded fresh material for the Foundation's annual appeal efforts.

The Foundation's Student Intern **marked over 1,000 scholarship recipients** in the Raiser's Edge database, which will allow for more targeted solicitations.

The Stewardship Officer completed set up of a new engagement platform called "**ViewSpark**", which will allow the Foundation to reach very targeted groups or individuals with timely email and text communications. It was utilized to thank sponsors of the Thanksgiving Meal Kits as well as for Giving Tuesday.

On December 1, a reminder email went out to all employees about the 2020-2021 Employee Campaign; **a total of \$7,431 has been pledged/donated.**

The Stewardship Officer completed a personalized scholarship photo book for a major donor and family as a Thanksgiving stewardship step.

President's Outreach

On November 24th, SUNY Schenectady hosted a press conference, where SUNY Chancellor, Jim Malatras, announced that SUNY campuses finished mandatory testing of students on campus with 152,788 tests conducted with a positivity rate of 0.63 percent between November 9 and November 23. The Chancellor made his last stop at SUNY Schenectady as one of the campuses that completed its testing close to Thanksgiving, reporting one positive case out of 248 in the two-week window prior to the holiday. Dr. Malatras emphasized the tremendous effort and that students are predominantly doing the right thing with social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding large gatherings. Campuses are working in tandem with their local health departments to ensure that COVID positive students are quarantining safely either on campus, off campus, or at home. The press conference was followed by a leadership discussion with myself, Dr. David Clickner, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mr. Patrick Ryan, Vice President of Administration, Ms. Sabrina McGinty, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Ms. Paula Ohlhaus, Chief of Staff, and Ms. Jessica Beauchemin, Student.

On December 3rd, Ms. Paula Ohlhaus, Chief of Staff, attended a virtual Community College Luncheon, hosted by New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). This is an annual working lunch meeting that focuses on how NYSUT and SUNY can collaborate to effectively advocate for our SUNY Community Colleges, with a focus this year of the challenges faced and continue to face with the COVID-19 pandemic. It usually offers positive interaction and is a gateway for communication among individuals serving in an educational setting throughout the State.

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.

