

**SUNY**  
**SCHENECTADY**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OUR COLLEGE – OUR FUTURE – The Strategic Plan to 2020

***President's Report***  
January 2020

***Expand Access and Increase Student Success***

SUNY Schenectady's Men and Women's bowling teams have been very busy this fall semester under new head coach, Ronald Williams, who replaced Ray Ross. Ross retired from the position in the spring of 2019 after serving 25 years at the helm. The Royals have participated this fall in the Fulton Montgomery Community College (FMCC) Invitational, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Tiger Cup Invitational and Keystone Quaker and Lehigh Valley Invitational.

The SUNY Schenectady Women's crew team completed their brief fall schedule and will look forward to their spring races when they come back to school for the second semester.



The SUNY Schenectady Men's basketball team finished their season on December 14<sup>th</sup> when they travelled to New York City (NYC) to take on Borough of Manhattan Community College. It was a chance

for a number of players on the team from the NYC area to play in front of family and friends. This has become an annual homecoming for them.

The Student Government Association (SGA) participated in the Toys for Tots campaign and a food pantry campaign this holiday season.

Derlye McCann, Student Activities Advisor, co-hosted alongside SGA members, a student body Stress/Less Day right before final exams began to provide students a stress-free day in preparation of final exams.

Our Admissions Office, held numerous Instant Admit Days at twelve local high schools throughout the capital region. They have also conducted many admission events on and off campus throughout the fall semester, see below:

- On Campus Admissions Events
  - 11/19: Veteran Resource and Career Expo
  - 11/20: High School Counselor's Banquet celebrating 50 years at SUNY Schenectady. Nice mix of counselors throughout the capital district attended.
  - 11/21: Mohonasen Students with IEPs visited with Admissions and ADA Transition Services
  - 11/25: Mohonasen Students toured Aviation
  - 11/26: Capital District EOC visited SUNY Schenectady
  - 12/05: Admissions Represented at SCCOC Holiday Job Fair/Open House
  - 12/10 & 12/12: Held Group Information Sessions
  
- Off-Campus Recruitment
  - 11/18 – 11/22: BOCES College Fair week along with HCAT faculty
  - Transition Coordinator Services – Non Traditional Fair at Tamarac High School

On November 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, Laura Sprague attended the SUNY Directors of Admissions Meeting.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, Financial Aid's Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit took place. While the final report is not yet available, there were no findings reported as it relates to the operations for the financial aid office.

Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP Director, accompanied Nkeiru Ubadike, former Student Trustee, to Carnegie Mellon University to present her summer research project at the American Physics Society Conference.

Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP Director, worked with C-STEP students on transfer preparation to four-year colleges and universities by assisting them with writing essays, securing recommendations, and much more.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the DEKA String Quartet, graduate students from SUNY Stony Brook and Artists in Residence at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, visited the School of Music in support of the continuing collaboration with the Empire State Youth Orchestra's CHIME program. Members of the DEKA Quartet provided SKYPE lessons and coaching to School of Music students and CHIME students. The Quartet will visit the area again in February for more work with students from both institutions and a concert in the Taylor Auditorium.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the SUNY Schenectady School of Music A Cappella Club, led by adjunct Arla Wilding and advised by Professor Mark Evans, presented an evening of Cabaret in the Lally Mohawk Room as part of a fundraiser for the SUNY Schenectady Food Pantry. The club also performed on the WGY Weekend Show with Joe Gallagher on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Hannah Daignault, a student in SUNY Schenectady's PTK honor society, was nominated for (by PTK), and won, an award through the International Baccalaureate Society. In May, she will travel to Australia for a conference and travel experience focused on medical advances. This is one more example of the successes of SUNY Schenectady students and their competitiveness for some of the most advanced and prestigious awards and recognition available to undergraduate students.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education announced that the college is serving as the lead campus to launch a new workforce development program with Google that will result in training at least 100 new Google IT Support Professionals over the next year. The college will receive a grant of at least \$50,000, with additional funds available for performance that exceeds initial estimates.

In collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Security, Theresa Hobbs, Chief Diversity Officer/ Title IX Coordinator, will be drafting out our current processes around student conduct/discipline and Title IX handling, among other areas. This is being done in preparation for implementation of Maxient, a platform for managing these processes, the contract for which was executed in December.

This new comprehensive platform, which is used by a majority of SUNY campuses, will support our efforts in ensuring consistency in handling compliance across associated legal and policy requirements.

### ***Ensure a Quality, Relevant, Coherent and Innovative Curriculum***

Becky Daniels, Executive Director of Discover Schenectady, visited the HOT 277 Tourism Development class on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Becky shared what she does in her role as Executive Director of a tourism promotion agency (TPA). She also shared various initiatives that Discover Schenectady is pursuing in order to promote tourism in Schenectady County. This annual visit ties directly to what students learn as part of the course. The visit also allows students the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about careers in tourism from a professional currently employed in the field.



On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism faculty held the Golden Ticket potluck dinner in the Casola Dining Room. This effort celebrates students who had perfect attendance in the fall 2019 semester.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Sean Maguire, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, and Christine McLear, Coordinator of Workforce Development, traveled to Goodwin College to see their Mobile Skills Lab.

### ***Strengthen and expand community and strategic partnerships***

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Program Director Tiziana Rota and Program Coordinator Christine McLear from the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education attended the regional Workforce Coalition Meeting to announce the college's recent success with the Google IT Support Professional program and extension of HPOG.

Dr. Richard Simons, Associate Professor, continued to work with students on research in collaboration with the Vale Park Task Force.

Dr. Syeda Munaim, Professor, had her summer project *Art Through the Microscope* for students at Trinity Alliance featured in the SUNY Central Newsletter ("The Umbrella").

Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP Director, and Tania Cabrera, Dean of Math, Science, Technology and Health (MSTH), have planned the first "No Limits: Empowering Youth to Challenge Stereotypes" event on

January 10 in collaboration with CSTEP, Liberty Partnerships and CHS Smart Scholars. We are expecting 60 middle school students from Mt. Pleasant, Central Park, and Oneida middle schools.

Adjunct Al Fedak (organ) earned first prize in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' 2019 Anthem Composition Competition for his composition, Blessed Are the Saints. The award included a cash prize of \$1,000 plus performances at the 2020 General Synod in Baltimore, MD, and the PAM summer conference in Montreat, NC.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Albany Pro Musica Holiday concert took place at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Many School of Music faculty participated, including Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz (concertmaster), Petia Kassarova (cello), Norman Thibodeau (flute), Karen Hosmer (oboe), Paul Green (clarinet), Brett Wery (clarinet), Katy Svatek (horn), Andrew Janack (timpani), and Professor Dean Bennett in the chorus.

The Liberal Arts Division has completed an articulation agreement with the Capital Region BOCES for students completing Network Cabling coursework to earn SUNY Schenectady credits in Computer Science.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC) hosted their Third Annual Job Fair and Holiday Open House in the lobby on the first floor of Center City. Forty-two employers represented various career fields and a mix of SCCOC participants and community members attended the Job Fair. Additionally, the purpose of our Open House is to open the Center to the community so they can see first-hand the services provided at SCCOC.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, Stacy McIlduff, Executive Director of Development, made a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary presentation to Schenectady Rotary Club at the Stockade Inn. The presentation included a viewing of the anniversary video and the Executive Director read aloud a "thank you" letter from a student who received their Club's sponsored scholarship.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Stacy McIlduff, Executive Director of Development, met with alumna Mary Clare O'Connor, who is the owner of Yoga Bliss, to begin discussing the College's involvement in the "Bliss in the City" initiative. She is working with the Global Peaceful Cities Organization, who will provide research assistance for the Schenectady Peace Project week, which will happen in August. Last year's project resulted in approximately 25% reduction in crime for that week and the week following the project.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Stacy McIlduff, Executive Director of Development, had a call with Jason Van Curler, a descendant of Schenectady's founder, Arent Van Curler. Jason is setting up a Van Curler family reunion in Schenectady in June and reached out to see if their family could have a tour of the College. The Executive Director will be working with Jason to set up this event, which will serendipitously take place at the end of our milestone 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and will be a unique opportunity to engage some of our most special donors and friends.

Several college presidents came together to form a consortium of consisting of 23 higher education institutions and have included Title IX as one of their focus areas. Theresa Hobbs, Chief Diversity Officer/ Title IX Coordinator, has joined and will fully participate in this group, which seeks to meet to discuss ways to collaborate, share best practices and brainstorm recommendations for our Presidents to assist with the issue of sexual violence on our campuses.

Title IX Coordinators and Deputies will come together for their first regional meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, at the College of Saint Rose.

### ***Invest in Campus Renewal***

Progress on the Begley Learning Commons continues. During December, our contractors replaced the original library windows on the East and South-side of the building. Interior work continued on heating and air conditioning systems and ductwork. The back-up boiler was replaced and tested. Construction continues to remain on schedule for occupation during the Summer of 2020.

In December, construction of the HCAT Food Truck storage garage was completed. The new garage is insulated and propane heat was installed to maintain temperatures in the garage at a minimum of 55 degrees. Heating the garage will ensure the water and plumbing systems in the truck will not freeze and cause damage to the vehicle.

During the December to mid-January break in semesters, the College's Facilities Department will be refreshing VLT flooring in the Stockade Building, Finish painting the third floor hallway in Elston Hall, repairing plaster and painting in CST and clearing out old storage rooms in CST. In addition, Facilities will refresh the restrooms in Stockade by cleaning tile grout and repairing holes in the bathroom stall partitions. The Terrazzo flooring in the old Main entrance to Elston Hall will be refreshed.

On December 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, our Chief Diversity Officer attended SUNY's 2019 Diversity Conference "SUNY2030: Envisioning Change in an Evolving Landscape", held at the Albany Marriott in Albany, New York. This two-day conference brought together diversity professionals across SUNY and beyond. Workshops covered a wide variety of topics focused around the changes needed to more effectively advance diversity, equity and inclusion. SUNY has set a policy goal of becoming the most inclusive public university system in the country, and has centered various efforts around this goal.

A planned full-day of training for the 2019 PRODiG Cohort was set to take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but had to be canceled due to inclement weather. As previously reported, PRODiG, which stands for Promoting Recruitment, Opportunity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Growth, is a SUNY-wide program focused on implementing best practices within the hiring process to increase the representation of historically underrepresented faculty at SUNY including underrepresented minority ("URM") faculty in general, and women faculty of all races in STEM fields ("WSTEM").

SUNY Schenectady will receive a total of \$233,748 over a three-year period as salary support for three qualifying faculty members. Additional hires that fit these criteria will likewise be funded, based on SUNY Schenectady's previously approved proposal.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, our Chief Diversity Officer/ Title IX Coordinator participated in Title IX Coordinator Training hosted by the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA). NACUA not only provides up to date training on compliance matters, but also briefs all members on current cases and issues in the news. As previously reported, the New York State Education Department has proposed regulatory changes around Title IX. These proposed changes were recently transmitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is the final step prior to publishing. Through various affiliations and key memberships, our Chief Diversity Officer and Title IX Coordinator will remain plugged in and informed so that this information reaches all college constituents.

Within the Information Technology Council (ITC), discussions continue on the Software Acquisition Procedure, although the December meeting was cancelled.

Within the Academic Technology Committee, discussions on classroom technology continues, opened discussions on future need and upgrades began, and a vendor came on December 11<sup>th</sup> to show and discuss possibilities.

The following Enterprise Systems/ IT Operations updates are as follows:

#### **Enterprise Systems**

- Securing Banner middle tier by restricting users to business appropriate reports.
- Enhancing Banner document scanning to include OCR / text scanning mid-January 2020.
- Banner 9 new employee training will be complete W/E 12/18/19
- Rolling out Banner 9 self-service web pages to departmental testing.
- Beginning a Unified mobile application portal upgrade – completion mid-May 2020.

#### **Operations**

- Phishing attempts on 12/6 were intercepted and the proliferation stopped in minutes. The few users that clicked were all assisted with changing their password as a precaution.
- Gaming computers imaged waiting furniture
- SUNY SOC Paperwork initiated, Chuck will be following up during my absence to begin deploying when we hear from SUNY
- Remedyforce
  - Change Management ready to Implement Jan 15
  - Problem Management initiated

### ***Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability***

During December, the College's auditors from Lumsden & McCormick LLP were on campus to finalize the 2018-19 fiscal year. Audited financial statements from this visit are anticipated in February 2020.

The 2020-21 college budget development process began in late November 2019 with budget requests due in early January 2020. Meetings between the individual department budget managers and their divisional Vice Presidents were held in December in anticipation of final budget submissions in January.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education learned that the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3, which included a provision, Section 810, to expand the HPOG program for a new round. The college was actively involved in the advancement of this bill as H.R. 3398; the language from that bill was incorporated into the larger H.R. 3 bill for passage. Vice President Sean Maguire will continue to work to advance the Senate's version of the bill.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Foundation launched a Giving Tuesday campaign aimed at selling bricks for the "Paving the Way for Future Royals" initiative.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation was notified that Berkshire Bank Foundation will be supporting the Capital Campaign with a \$50,000 grant over five years to start a new endowed scholarship fund.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation mailed a holiday postcard to 2,500 friends, prospects and alumni, with a “gingerbread brick” theme to echo our *“Paving the Way for Future Royals”* materials. In an effort to avoid donor exhaustion, the postcard is a “soft ask” that included a gingerbread recipe from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism and information at the bottom if folks are interested in learning more about the brick program.

As of December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Foundation’s *“Paving the Way for Future Royals”* campaign has resulted in more than \$10,000 in unrestricted revenue.

SUNY’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) continues to hold monthly webinars, hosted by Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer Teresa Miller. December’s webinar included a focused discussion around responding to the uptick in bias-related incidents on campus. SUNY System Administration will be issuing some broad guidelines in this area and the conversation will continue on how we can better respond, as an integrated system.

ODEI will also be outlining future funding streams that tie in to campus Strategic Diversity Plans and related initiatives. Our Chief Diversity Officer will continue to stay plugged in with ODEI programs and initiatives in order to share information broadly and capitalize on opportunities to strengthen our campus.

### ***President’s Outreach***

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, I attended the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) Meeting, where we discussed updates and future plans.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I participated in a SUNY President’s Meeting via teleconference, where we discussed recent campus incidents involving racism, hate speech and free speech, activism and accountability, and updates from SUNY Systems.

On the evening of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the YWCA’s VIP Open House, where they thanked SUNY Schenectady and numerous other people and companies that have helped them prosper throughout the past year.

On the evening of December 5<sup>th</sup>, I hosted a Holiday Social for all faculty and staff members to attend and enjoy delicious cuisine provided by our amazing culinary students. It was a great time of socialization and togetherness!

On the evening of December 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Union College Holiday Social.

On the evening of December 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended SUNY Associate Provost and Director of University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD), Lisa McKay’s Holiday Party.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, I had a meeting with Jeff Smetana, Executive Vice President of United Group of Companies, where we discussed future plans and partnerships.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, SUNY Schenectady hosted the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Meeting in the Lally Mohawk Room, in which I serve on the Local Planning Committee. It was such an honor for our institution to host this meeting.