



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report
January 2022

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

On December 2, Director of Library Services Jacquie Keleher, co-hosted and attended the panel “Attica 50 Years After: A Teachable Moment?”.

Jacquie Keleher continued her participation in the SUNY Libraries Diversity, Equity and Inclusion group which works on collection development strategies to build more inclusive library collections.

On December 3rd, Interim Chief Diversity Officer Alicia Richardson, along with Mrs. Stacy McIlduff, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs, and Mrs. Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development & Community Education, met with Josh Kilmer-Purcell, the Co-Founder of Beekman 1802, and other members of their Human Resources team, to discuss ways in which we can collaborate to achieve our mutual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals.

On December 7, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow presented at the Capital District Counseling Association to discuss alternative pathways, opportunities, and delivery methods for non-traditional students.

On December 13, Adjunct Instructors Brian Patneau and Dylan Canterbury met with School of Music Dean Christopher Brellochs, D.M.A. to discuss and plan for the Fall 2022 Jazz Competition that will provide access and scholarships to students throughout the Capitol Region.

On December 21, Michelle Kraines, Professor Lou Aiossa, and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Ron Gardner of the City of Schenectady to discuss the development of a program to support increasing the talent pool and diversity of future Schenectady City Police Officers.

By special invitation from the SUNY Center for Professional Development, David Wolf participated in a roundtable presentation entitled “What Inclusive Teachers Do.” He has been invited to work on the [FACT2 Inclusive Teaching Task Group](#). The group aims to move forward the recommendations C3.1 and C3.2 of SUNY’s DEI Action Plan. The Task Group will research, document, and distribute best practices and framework to help SUNY campuses and their faculty to adopt anti-racist curriculum.

Another micro-training was released focusing on both criterion of the first guideline of the Principle of Actional & Expression. The training has multiple formats, and requires only 3 minutes to impart the information.

School of Music Dean Christopher Brellocks, D.M.A. and School of Music faculty began revising audition requirements to be more inclusive of different styles of music.

Student Activities

In an effort to build better collaboration and develop unique programming, Student Activities is working with CDO Alicia Richardson to establish a working group to plan Heritage Months on campus. With an immediate focus on Black History Month and Women's History Month, the group hopes to build an infrastructure for long-term planning and collaboration across the college's divisions.

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office has submitted a draft version of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) to the Dean of Student Affairs and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning. These SLOs, once finalized, will be the foundation of our annual assessment plan.

The Financial Aid Office hosted five financial literacy events in the month of November; one budgeting workshop and four FAFSA completion workshops. The post-workshop survey indicates that students benefited from the experience and felt they would be more self-sufficient in the future.

A survey was sent to local high school guidance counselors. The goal of the survey is to communicate trainings and webinars that we can offer to counselors and students, identify if the high schools have existing relationships with local colleges, and identify additional offerings that we can deliver to their schools.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, joined efforts with Eileen Abrahams, Dean of Liberal Arts, Alicia Richardson, Interim Chief Diversity Officer, Michael Henderson, Success Coach, Lorena Harris, Director of C-STEP, Keion Clinton, Associate Professor, Dean Bennett, Professor, and Maggie McLellan-Zabielski, Assistant Professor, to develop an updated SUNY Schenectady DEI Plan draft which will be submitted to SUNY this spring.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Planning, Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager, Brian Kasler, Assistant Vice President of Administration, Stephen Fragale, Dean of Student Affairs, Tania Cabrera, Dean of Math, Science, Technology and Health, Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access, Jessica McHugh-Green, Graphic Designer II, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, Dr. Hamin Shabazz, Dean of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, and Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/Veteran's Certifying Officer, attended the SUNY Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) kickoff workshop on December 17, 2021. SUNY received a Lumina grant to support SEM planning for SUNY community colleges. Tom Green from AACRAO will be working with SUNY Schenectady to provide technical assistance in developing a SEM plan.

Thairy Echevarria, Admissions Advisor, joined the Planning Working Group along with Babette Faehmel, Professor, Harry Rolle, Student Success Coach, Janet Danz, Associate Director of Financial Aid, Jenny Diaz, Student, Jacqueline Keleher-Hughes, Director of Library Services, and Nneka Morgini, Confidential Secretary, Human Resources, and Christopher Lloyd, Utility Worker. The goal of this group is to identify any gaps in our current calendar to create events for heritage or history months and other observances to celebrate and learn about diversity.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Pamela McCall, Director of College and High School Partnerships, and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development & Community Education, met with Dr. Carlos Cotton, Assistant Superintendent of Schenectady City Schools and Jesse Roylance, Washington Irvine Principal to discuss creating a clear pathway for traditional and non-traditional aged students from Washington Irvine to SUNY Schenectady, as well as, building stronger ties to workforce training programs.

The TRIO program continued to recruit students for the 21-22 academic year through outreach, referrals and presentations.

Eight students signed up to join EOP members Ruby Roberts, Retention Advisor; and Tiombe Farley, Interim EOP Director, for a field trip to the Schenectady County Historical Society Festival of Trees. EOP students and staff were able to tour the decorated trees and learn about different culture's celebrations of Christmas trees.

Pamela McCall, Director of College and High School Partnerships, met with the founders of the Capital Region Nursing Middle College which will be opening in Albany Fall of 2022. SUNY Schenectady will look to partner with the college by offering College in the High School programming, student/faculty mentoring opportunities and early college courses during their senior year. Students will come from districts all over the capital region and focus on recruiting a diverse student body.

On December 23rd, Alicia Richardson met with Teaching and Learning Specialist David Wolf to discuss future collaboration in regards to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training and the development of online resources, mini-trainings, and professional development programming.

Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience

On December 1, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with representatives from Tompkins-Cortland Community College regarding a brewer/distiller collaborative between SUNYs.

On December 2, Pam McCall, Laura Sprague and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Assistant Superintendent Carlos Cotto and Jesse Roylance of Washington Irving Adult Education to discuss a partnership between the Schenectady City School District and the college.

On December 2, Professor Babette Faehmel convened and participated in a panel commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Attica Prison Uprising, "Attica 50 Years after: a teachable moment?" The panel consisted of adjunct, student, and community voices, including (among others): Adjunct Instructor Oscar Alberto Bogran (artist and activist), (Communications student) Daniel Petrillo, Lieutenant Ryan D. Macherone of the Schenectady Police Department; and Chief Curator of History for the New York State Museum, Jennifer Lemak. The panel coincides with a poster display commemorating the uprising; sponsored by the Begley Library and the Division of Liberal Arts.

On December 2, David Wolf co-chaired a subgroup of the SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology (SUNY FACT2) Examining Pedagogy and Learning in Online Domains (Explode) Task Force and oversaw the development of an all-purpose tool for evaluating online tools called the Rubric for Evaluating E-Learning Tools (REET). He also helped analyze data from a SUNY wide survey that was included in a recent Task Force Report.

During the first week of December, the School of Music presented six student performances open to friends, family and the general public. These events greatly benefit students as they provide significant motivation throughout the semester. Performances included the Winds and Strings Division Recital on December 1, (coordinated by Professor Karen Hosmer (oboe)), the Chamber Ensembles Concert on December 1, (directed by Professor Mark Evans (piano) and Adjunct Instructor Tom Gerbino (woodwinds)), the Chorus and Vocal Chamber Ensemble Concert on December 6, (directed by Dr. Yiping Wu (voice)), the Audio Recording Technology Projects on December 7 (from the class of Assistant Professor Sten Isachsen (guitar)), the Jazz Combos and Jazz Ensemble Concert on December 8, (directed by Adjunct Instructors Brian Patneau and Dylan Canterbury), and the Wind Ensemble Concert on December 10 (directed by Professor Allyson Keyser, D.M.A. (trumpet)).

In early December, Teaching and Learning Specialist David Wolf participated in the **Directors of Online/Distance Learning Environments (DOODLE) Conference held during National Professional Development Week**. This group consists of individuals with administrative responsibilities for online and distance learning (ODL) programs on SUNY campuses.

On December 3 and 14, Maria Kotary and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Seat Center to discuss future courses and college transition services for their students.

On December 6, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow and Michelle Kraines met with the Schenectady City Mission to discuss the Bridges/Poverty Simulator.

On December 8, Jacquie Keleher, co-hosted an open, no judgement discussion on the verdicts in the Kyle Rittenhouse and Ahmaud Arbery cases.

On December 9, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Lauren Landau, and Dr. Tiziana Rota met with Schenectady ARC to discuss apprenticeship programming.

On December 9, Professor Mark Evans (piano) and the School of Music String Quartet were invited to perform in the Road Recovery's "Trax Program" Concert at the Creative Connections Clubhouse serving at-risk kids and young adults in Amsterdam, NY. This program offers young people opportunities to work with entertainment industry professionals who have overcome personal setbacks, sharing experiences to bring inspiration, knowledge, and guidance to them at a critical time in their lives. The Quartet was invited by Richard Lyford, a SUNY Schenectady student who teaches there.

On December 9, Teaching and Learning Specialist David Wolf presented a webinar on Inclusive Teaching along with several colleagues from the SUNY Center for Professional Development.

On December 10, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with SUNY Erie for Apprenticeship programming.

On December 10, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Sarah Beach of Murrays Fools Distillery and Christine McLear from Center for Economic Growth regarding the initiation of the Brewer/Distiller apprenticeship program at Murrays Fools.

On December 14, Adjunct Instructor Tom Gerbino and the School of Music Woodwind Trio performed at an off-campus event providing valuable, real-world experience to students.

The Supply Chain Management A.A.S. degree was approved for reactivation. A job posting for a full-time faculty member to coordinate and instruct in this program has been posted. It is anticipated that the degree will officially be opened for a start in the Fall 2022 semester. Academic Program Reviews (APR) are currently underway for the Business and Criminal Justice programs and Certificates. The reviews will take place over the remainder of the Spring 2022 semester and it is anticipated that both reviews will be concluded by the end of the Fall 2022 semester.

Teaching and Learning Specialist David Wolf continues training on the new Brightspace D2L Learning Management System (LMS) and is assisting SUNY's DLE effort to develop faculty training in the new LMS. He is working with Open SUNY and the Digital Learning Environment, to assist in the development of effective template designs to positively affect student learning. His assistance focuses on both meeting the needs of faculty as well as developing a learning experience for our students that enhances productivity.

Professor Ingrid O'Connell and the Student Volunteer Organization and Meeting Professionals International (MPI) Club collaborated to collect pet food for the Schenectady Community Ministries (SCM) food pantry during the months of November & December. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of the SUNY Schenectady community, they donated over 75 pounds of dog and cat food.

Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator Professor Tamara Calhoun, has submitted a proposal for a \$50,000 grant in response to the Request for Proposals SUNY Early Childhood Paid Internship Program.

A ceremonial signing took place at Schenectady High School officially unveiling a new pathway program designed to make obtaining an education degree easier while hopefully addressing the racial disparities between teachers and students within the Schenectady school district. The Grow Your Own program house in the Division of Business, Criminal Justice and Law (BCJL) is a partnership between Schenectady city schools, SUNY Schenectady, Cazenovia College and Clarkson University that will allow students to earn an education degree without having to leave the city.

Math, Science, Technology and Health (MSTH) Dean Tania Cabrera and Assistant Registrar Holly Sociagrosch have completed the paperwork to register Medical Coding and Billing as a fully online certificate program through SUNY.

The President and Vice President of Development and External Affairs traveled to Cincinnati to visit with SUNY Schenectady alumnus George Goldhoff '84, President of the Hard Rock Cincinnati, to discuss internship opportunities for our students.

The Foundation's Stewardship Officer Marianne Senneca continues to arrange scholarship donor and recipient meetings to foster deeper relationships with supporters and students:

- Joan Dembinski met two of her scholarship recipients
- Stephen Piorkowski and his wife met their most recent scholarship recipient via ZOOM

Student Activities

Student Activities has reconnected with Planned Parenthood in an effort to provide supportive services for our students. Collaborative opportunities between the two units include Victim's

Advocacy Services for students in need, and preventive programming targeting domestic partner violence and abuse.

Financial Aid

The College submitted the 2021 fourth quarter HEERF Student Aid Funds to the Department of Education on January 6, 2022. In the fourth quarter of 2021 the College distributed \$2,652,960.75 to 1,157 students. The distribution of HEERF Student Aid Funds will continue in the spring 2022 semester. The College has \$2,129,605.25 of HEERF Student Aid Funds remaining.

The College has been running a program titled Student Outcome Tracking since the Fall 2020 semester. The purpose of this program is to ensure that students take courses applicable to their program of study which will support students in completing their program in a timely fashion and maximizing their financial aid eligibility. This is a collaborative effort between academic advisement, EOP, and financial aid. Here are a few data points. In fall 2020, 310 students were identified as having enrolled in a course that was not applicable to their degree. 52.58% of these students changed their schedule to resolve the issue. In Spring 2021, 288 students were identified as having enrolled in a course that was not applicable to their degree. 62.50 of these students changed their schedule to resolve the issue. In Fall 2021, 237 students were identified as having enrolled in a course that was not applicable to their degree. 71.31% of these students changed their schedule to resolve the issue. This is a tremendous team effort which support our students in completing their program of student without wasted credits and money spent.

The Financial Aid Office hosted a financial literacy event in December. The event theme was “Cookies and Coloring” where students came for a snack, distressed while coloring, and financial literacy topics were intertwined in the event. 23 students attended and the event was well received by our students.

Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/Veteran’s Certifying Officer, worked collaboratively with Jessica McHugh-Greene, Graphic Designer II, to create electronic versions of all VA forms for easy accessibility on our website.

Margaret Anne Williams, part-time Advisor, arranged for an “Advisor in Residence” for the College of Saint Rose and the following week at Russell Sage. Success Coaches offered hour-long sessions for new students during New Student Registration Days, helping them log into their student portal and complete the My Survey to Success, presented on several important topics for new students (importance of email, Blackboard, and Starfish; how to use a course syllabus; myths about college, and Foundation Scholarships). Additionally, they also provided a campus tour. Admissions, Student Success Services and the Advisement Center collaborated to provide new student onboarding, career services, advising and registration support through New Student Registration/Advising Days, December 2, 7, 9, 13, 17.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, along with numerous individuals across all divisions, schools, and departments, took part in the December 2021 Open House to welcome prospective students from the community, answer questions, and share all that SUNY Schenectady has to offer regarding programming, support, and facilities. Prospective and Accepted Students and their vision supporters came to campus to learn more about the Admissions and Financial Aid process, met with School/Division Deans and faculty members and attended open tabling sessions with our student support services.

Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, assisted Laura Sprague, with Ben DeAngelis, Student Activities Advisor, to create an in-person open house. The three-hour event was divided into 60-minute segments to promote social distancing. During the hour, prospective students spent the first third with Admissions and Financial Aid, the second third with their Divisions/Schools, and the last third visiting tabled support services located in Begley and Elston. Students were able to interact with faculty and staff and tour the school. With 82 students and totaling over 200 people with guests, we had a safe and vibrant day of activities on campus.

Members of EOP staff collaborated with Admissions and Laura Sprague in participating in the SUNY Schenectady in person Open House on Saturday December 4th. This event allowed us to engage with prospective students and their families, answer questions and highlight the benefits of the EOP program. We also collected student information and will follow up with them in the near future.

Mary Silvestri attended the Driving OER (Open Educational Resources) Sustainability for Student Success (DOERS3) OER and CTE (Career and Technical Education) Networking Conversation Webinar - The DOERS3 webinar allowed attendees to share tools and techniques to successfully use OER in CTE classes that foster equity and student success.

Mary Silvestri attended a First-Generation Webinar Debriefing – held by Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager, the debriefing discussed a recent webinar attended by many SUNY Schenectady faculty and staff. Discussion focused on how we can best address the needs of our first-generation students.

Laura Sprague and Pamela McCall organized a full-class Instant Admit Day at Mohonasen High School on Wednesday, December 22nd. Over 200 students were admitted to SUNY Schenectady eliminating a barrier to attending college.

Admissions Advisors Thaify Echevarria and Mark Kelly, attended Instant Admit appointments at Steinmetz Career & Leadership Academy (SCLA), Tony Clement Center for Education (Albany High School), Averill Park High School, and Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School.

The TRIO program conducted weekly TRIO cafes (workshops) for TRIO members on finals preparation. They also continued to offer virtual lobby hours for TRIO members to “drop in” to ask questions when not on campus, as well as the staff continued to meet with TRIO members to prepare for final weeks of classes and finals.

Heather Lessard electronically distributed Student Success Center evaluation to all students who met with Success Coaches during the Fall semester. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess what students see as the strengths and weaknesses of the Center, allowing us to adjust our practices as needed.

Leanna Liuzzi, Student Success Coach, coordinated the Foundation Scholarship program, including awarding remaining Student Government Association Awards and School of Music scholarships, and met with students to answer questions and provide information.

The Career and Advising Task Force (Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager, Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services, Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advising and Retention, Mary Silvestri, Testing Center

Coordinator and Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions) continued work on the My Survey to Success referral workflow.

Leanna Liuzzi participated in the Early College High School circle discussion on “*What do you wish ALL your students would do?*” hosted by Professors Babette Faehmel and RaeEllen Doyle.

Heather Lessard, worked with Pam McCall on items associated with the IREPO (Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity) grant, including submitting a requisition for staff laptops and investigating the purchase of additional equipment.

Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) received the Price-Chopper Non-profit Award for our float in the Gazette’s Holiday Parade.

LPP Staff completed Personal Learning Plans with 49 LPP students. Counseling, tutoring and case-management services were also provided during the month of December.

The STARS Peer Mentoring Program site at Mont Pleasant Middle School has five 8th grade mentors and twelve 6th grade mentees and the Schenectady High School site has seven 12th grade mentors and twenty 9th & 10th grade mentees. Both programs met once/week throughout the month of December for one-hour sessions. The first couple of sessions were spent connecting and getting to know each other. Mentors and mentees then completed matching forms where they ranked who they would like to be paired with. A matching ceremony was held during the final session before the holiday break where mentor/mentee pairs were announced. Students will continue meeting weekly in their matched pairs for the remainder of the program at the end of May.

EOP provided its students an “End of the Semester” celebration. We celebrated student’s accomplishments in successfully completing the semester, registering for the spring semester, graduating and transferring. EOP provided light fare and space for students to partake in the festivities, engage with one another and EOP staff.

Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advising and Retention, and Shannon Stone, Academic Advisor, met with Pam McCall and her staff. Mitzi introduced Shannon Stone to their team and they discussed updates in the CHS, Smart Transfer, Smart Scholars, and PTech programs. We continue to collaborate to connect these high school student cohorts to Academic Advisement.

Mitzi Espinola, attended the combined Curriculum and Assessment Meeting to discuss the upcoming changes to SUNY General Education requirements.

Aubrey Seppa-Hodgkins, TRIO Director, was the keynote speaker at the PTK induction ceremony.

Building Organizational Effectiveness

On December 2, School of Music Dean Christopher Brellochs met with music faculty from Union College to discuss potential partnerships.

On December 3, the School of Music Search Committee Orientation prepared faculty to conduct a national search for a new tenure-track Choral Director.

On December 8, Dean Christopher Brellochs attended an accreditation meeting for the National Association of Schools of Music in order to maintain SUNY Schenectady accreditation.

On December 14, Lauren Landau, Director of Apprenticeship and Healthcare, attended the NYS Department of Labor (DOL) Apprenticeship and Training Council meeting.

On December 15, Professor Mark Evans (piano) and Dean Christopher Brellochs participated in a workshop for the evaluation of the Watermark assessment tool.

On December 16, Dean Brellochs met with Pam McCall to discuss ways to strengthen access for music classes for high school students.

On December 17, MSTH Dean Tania Cabrera attended a Strategic Enrollment Planning (SEM) session. SEM is a comprehensive process designed to achieve and maintain the optimum recruitment, retention, and attainment of students where "optimum" is defined within the academic context of the institution.

The Foundation continues to work to refine the scholarship program to maximize funding available to support the student experience. Two annual scholarship donors have made multi-year pledge commitments for their scholarship funds.

The So. Church Street Parking Lot project is in its final stages. In December, asphalt, curb and sidewalk work was completed and the road and parking lots were opened. Our contractor is waiting on streetlights and other minor streetscaping items to complete the project. These items are backordered due to supply chain issues. The College is in the process of obtaining quotes for emergency phones for the So. Church Street parking lot.

In December/January, our Architects for the Admissions and Welcome Center returned to collect additional information for the re-bid of the project. In November, bids came in that were greater than \$500K for the project which triggered the NYS Wicks Law. Our architects also worked with our IT staff to configure/re-configure the IT storage closet and address other connectivity issues. The new RFP is to be released in January of 2022.

Bids were received for renovation of the Begley Lobby restrooms, located near the entrance to the Taylor Auditorium and the Cooling Tower relocation. The successful bids are currently under review with the County. We anticipate the first pre-construction meeting will occur in late January.

Other capital projects in progress include replacement of ovens and equipment in the Culinary School, replacement of roofs over the Culinary kitchens in Elston Hall and the CST building, and the replacement of laboratory equipment and furniture in the CST Chemistry Laboratory. All of these projects are anticipated to begin in the late Spring of 2022 once weather and the academic schedule allows.

During December and January, construction on 13 State Street began which involves refurbishing the old YMCA gymnasium, installation of new restrooms, wiring and fit up of conference and office space. Construction is progressing and is planned to be completed in February/March.

The College's 2022-23 Capital Projects were submitted to SUNY for inclusion with the State budget. The total value of these projects is \$5.8 million.

Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, attended the eCampus News webinar on Next-Generation Data Strategies and Solutions – The webinar discussed ensuring staff has availability and access to pertinent student data to improve learning outcomes for students, predictive analytics to identify at-risk students, managing data in different places, addressing privacy concerns, and securing data.

Evelyn Maclutsky, Student Success Coach, attended the Center for Teaching (and Learning) Excellence meeting to review two student self-assessments of learning.

Racene Lawes, Academic Advisor, participated in the webinar, Introduction to Productive Persistence

Harry Rolle and Evelyn Maclutsky, Student Success Coaches, attended a webinar titled “*Student Success for Everyone: Serving the Underserved*,” offered by Inside Higher Ed on December 8, 2021.

Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager, facilitated a debriefing meeting on December 14, to discuss a previously viewed webinar: *First-Generation Students: Provide Intentional Supports and Services to Create an Equitable Environment for Success*. Staff in attendance were Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Academic Affairs, Mitzi Espanola, Assistant Director of Academic Advising and Retention, Racene Lawes, Academic Advisor, Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/Veteran’s Certifying Officer, Karyn Raney, Academic Advisor, Margaret Anne Williams, part time Advisor, Meghan Vian and Shannon Stone, Academic Advisors, Harry Rolle, Evelyn Maclutsky, Michael Henderson, and Leanna Liuzzi, Student Success Coaches, Pam Stiansen, part time Student Success Coach, Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services, Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, Aubrey Seppa-Hodgkins, Director of TRIO, Tiombe Farley, Interim Director of EOP, and Professor Babette Faehmel.

Michael Henderson, Student Success Coach, participated in the ReaCH Professional Development subcommittee meeting to offer input into identifying faculty and staff professional development topics of interest, modes of delivery, and presenters.

Michael Henderson, Student Success Coach, attended a webinar titled “*What it takes to be a student-centered institution*”.

Maggy White, LPP Counselor, Alisha Russo, Director of LPP and Melanie Uebele, Coordinator for LPP, participated in a training with Intellispark. Intellispark is the new online platform for our student Social-Emotional Assessments (SEA). The new platform has many features that make administering the SEAs much easier.

Graduate students Camila Grande and Abdul Samassa started their internships with LPP. Abdul is an Educational Psychology candidate from SUNY Albany. He is placed at Mont Pleasant Middle School assisting with our daily lunch program for students struggling socially. He also works individually with students to complete Personal Learning Plans and providing tutoring. Camila is a first-year Social Work student at SUNY Albany. She is creating a workshop for students about service to others which will be delivered in February and launch a four-month service learning project for LPP students. Camila will also work with a small group of students on completing their Personal Learning Plans.

Tiombe Farley, Interim Director of EOP, met with several departments to discuss sustainable collaboration to increase transactional efficiency.

On December 2 and 14, Dr. Rota, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow and other SUNY Schenectady colleagues to initiate the procurement process of the Healthcare and Advanced Manufacturing mobile labs.

On December 16, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the Capital Region Employer Resource Network Advisory Group meeting.

On December 17, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the annual Start-Up NY Performance Reporting meeting.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

On December 1, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Transfinder regarding the CFA grant.

On December 3, Stacy McIllduff, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow and Alicia Richardson met with Beekman to discuss partnership opportunities.

On December 6, 20, and 21, Dr. Rota and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with the Good Jobs Challenge grant writing team.

On December 7, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Pat Courtney-Strong to discuss a possible grant opportunity with NYSERDA.

On December 7, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Once Schenectady Workforce Development Coalition Meeting.

On December 10, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Capital Region Workforce Development Board Meeting.

On December 10, Lauren Lankau met with Erie County Community College and Erie County ARC to assist with the development of a DSP Apprenticeship.

On December 16, Dr. Rota, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met to develop a budget in partnership with the OPWDD to support healthcare workers in the Direct Support Professional role throughout New York State.

MSTH Dean Tania Cabrera and CSTEP Director Lorena Harris, PhD. attended a workshop on applying for a National Science Foundation S-STEM (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant. This grant is for \$1.5M over 6 years. The goal of the funding is to enable low-income, high-potential students to pursue STEM A.S. degrees and transfer on to 4-year institutions with the understanding that financial aid alone is not enough to support and retain students.

- The Foundation continuously builds and draws upon the strength of the Foundation Board members as advocates for the College: Sandy Miller assisted with securing a \$1,000 gift to the Music Innovation Fund from a brand-new donor to the Foundation.

- The Foundation is creating a bold, new, positive case for growing flexible funding to support our students: Response to the Foundation's year end letter has been positive with approximately \$7,000 in unrestricted donations.

Foundation staff met with the Times Union to discuss a strategic digital storytelling campaign to potentially launch in March with a goal of seeking unrestricted support.

Stewardship Officers have attended several webinars to increase our knowledgebase and help us respond to short- and long-term solicitation and donor trends:

- *Storytelling in a Digital Age*
- *9 Steps to Crafting a More Effective Email Appeal*
- *Easy (but Powerful!) Donor Stewardship Strategies that Drive Donations*

The Foundation is working to increase fundraising effectiveness to grow 5% annually by engaging alumni, businesses, and the community:

- The Foundation utilized ViewSpark and Constant Contact to send the following communications:
- December alumNews emailed to 17,593 alumni (21% open rate)
- Foundation update emailed to 977 friends (38% open rate)
- Year End Appeal emailed to 17,451 individuals (17% open rate)
- Utilized ViewSpark to reach 14 individual donors (mostly scholarship) with student recital performances with a 100% open rate
- Year End Appeal follow-up emailed via Constant Contact on December 30
- Two additional year end appeal ViewSparks on December 31: one to 697 donors (170 Texts, 6.47% click rate - 527 Emails, 26% open rate), and one to 14,304 non-donors (1,653 Texts, 2% click rate - 12,651 Emails, 19% open rate)

The Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with Kristi Milligan of the Schenectady Foundation to discuss funding priorities and project alignment.

A representative of the Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans and Gold Star Mothers came to campus to visit the new Vietnam Veterans Memo Memorial and made a \$2,000 gift to their endowed scholarship.

The Foundation has been notified of two bequests that we will be receiving in the coming months from generous donors who remembered the Foundation in their estate plans. The bequests total approximately \$350,000.

The Foundation received new support for the Royals Care Center, including a \$10,000 grant from the Eastern United Methodist Church's GROWTH Fund and \$3,000 from a donor advised fund through the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region. Total funds raised for the Royals Care Center are \$18,000.

A corporate solicitation mailing went out to 150 organizations requesting sponsorship support. Funds raised for *Food for Thought & All That Jazz* currently total **\$30,000**. Stewardship Officer Sarah Boink submitted online grant requests for sponsorship support to National Grid, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation and KeyBank.

The Foundation submitted the following grant proposals:

- Letter of introduction to the Poore Foundation

- \$2,500 to the H. Schaffer Foundation for the Music Innovation Fund
- \$5,000 request to Network for Good for operating support
- \$2,732 request to *Swipe Out Hunger* for an additional freezer in the Food Pantry
- \$104,000 request for American Rescue Plan Act funding from the City of Schenectady for the Royals Care Center
- \$42,500 request for American Rescue Plan Act funding from the City of Schenectady for the Fitness Court project
- In early December, the Office of Administration released a call for 2022-23 budget requests. The request included worksheets and forms necessary for submission. Departmental requests are due in early January of 2022.

Financial Services continues to wrap up the 2020-21 fiscal year with our auditors from Lumsden and McCormick. The audit is on target for completion in early 2022 with the annual presentation to the Board.

The Office of Administration is preparing several Request for Proposal documents for a variety physical plant and project-related services. It is anticipated they will be released to bid in late January of 2022.

Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Academic Affairs along with, Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, and Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, held Perkin's Local Advisory Council Meeting with local stakeholders in the Career and Technical Educational field to discuss SUNY Schenectady's Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). The CLNA is an assessment required every 3 years by Perkin's to analyze our college's response to developing regional industries.

The Smart Transfer Early College High School grant was awarded a 5-year extension through June of 2026 for \$2,023,590. This partnership with Schenectady City School district will allow for our Early College team to continue to assist Schenectady students graduate high school with their Associates Degree.

Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager, participated in the Title III review on December 15, 2021. Along with being interviewed by the reviewer, Heather prepared data and a narrative of activities within the Student Success Center. She also facilitated identifying student participants for lunch with the reviewer.

Dawn Jones, Director of Career Services, spoke with DOL representatives about free resources and tools available for SUNY Career Centers to supplement in house services.

President's Outreach

I attended the Association of Zambians Conference in Atlanta, Georgia and was the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award from the Zambians Promoting Leadership in America (ZLA) & Association of Zambians in Atlanta (AZA) on December 11.



The Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE) held its annual Conference virtually on December 14th and 15th. The Conference opening session featured an address by the US Department of Education’s Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs. Discussions took place about what challenges our colleges and universities have to face and what colleges can do to equalize opportunity for our nation’s students and the administration’s priorities to better ensure our colleges provide reliable paths to a better future. The MSCHE’s final session closed with reviewing what has happened thus far and what changes may lie ahead, as we end the first year of the Change in Administration.

On December 7, along with Vice President of Administration, Patrick Ryan, met with the Schenectady Police Dept, at their headquarters, to discuss partnerships with the police force and benefits it would have on the College.

SUNY Schenectady hosted the Schenectady County Legislature’s Swearing-In Ceremony on January 3, 2022. The event was well-attended.

On behalf of the Office of the President and SUNY Schenectady, I’d like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!