



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report
December 2022

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

On November 7, 2022, SCCOC, in partnership with Mr. Ron Gardner of the City of Schenectady's Office of Affirmative Action, commenced the 8th Construction Training Cohort with eleven trainees. Cohort 7 concluded on October 21, 2022 with eleven trainee completions. Upon completion, trainees received NCCER certification, OSHA 30 certification and EPA RRP Lead Initial certification. SCCOC staff provides educational and employment preparatory services and wrap-around services to trainees enrolled in the program.

On November 8, TRIO hosted First-Generation Day Celebration in the Begley Lobby. First-Generation Day is celebrated across the nation on the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 which created new opportunities for underserved populations. This event highlighted the experiences of first-generation students – giving them an opportunity to voice their challenges, their accomplishments, and their ideas for moving forward. In addition to celebratory activities (photo booth, snacks, giveaways), the program featured support opportunities available on campus. Students were encouraged to visit the Student Success Center station to pick up school supplies, and to check in with staff from Academic Advisement and Financial Aid to confirm their spring enrollment and financial support. The program attracted more than 150 students and was cosponsored by a variety of campus departments including Academic Advisement, Leanna Liuzzi, Academic Advisor, participated, Admissions, Begley Library, College and High School Programs, EOP, Michael Henderson, EOP Student Success Coach, participated, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Student Success Center, and the SUNY Schenectady Foundation.

In November 2022, TRIO conducted direct outreach to encourage spring enrollment. Students who are not currently enrolled for the spring semester were contacted by a TRIO Academic Specialist to discuss the process and motivate students to finalize a course schedule. This one-on-one approach enabled TRIO staff to personalize the conversation and help design a path toward success for each student. Staff use the DegreeWorks degree audit tool and curriculum worksheets to discuss what courses a student should be planning to take. The staff then utilize College Scheduler to suggest what a potential schedule might look like. Through these conversations, students are also referred to Financial Aid, Academic Services, and other supports based on their individual needs.

On November 22nd and 23rd, 2022, the Office of Wellness and Support Services coordinated the collection and distribution of over 135 Thanksgiving meals for student and employees. Members

of the Foundation Board boxed the ingredients together and a large volunteer force transported turkeys and placed boxed items in vehicles.

On Tuesday, November 29, 2022, the Office of Wellness and Support Services coordinated the annual Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) for students from 5pm until 11pm. The event began in Germany in 2010 and is meant to jump-start students and provide extra motivation to start and complete projects and research papers before the end of the term.

Jaimee King, Executive Director of the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC), met with Schenectady County's youth and adult probation officers to discuss SCCOC's services and create a referral partnership. SCCOC staff has been invited to conduct monthly onsite outreach and recruitment. In addition, she and Dan Murphy, Senior Staff Associate at SUNY UCAWD and SCCOC's Liaison, met with members of the Schenectady City School District staff to discuss opportunities to connect SCCOC staff with their high school students and parents.

SCCOC and SUNY Schenectady's Work Force Development and Continuing Education (WFD & CE) staff are collaborating to provide support services to participants enrolled in WFD & CE training classes. SCCOC staff will provide educational and employment preparatory services and wrap around services to trainees enrolled in their programs.

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Part-time librarian Dr. Sine Rofofsky and library intern Farah Douglas created an interactive gratitude board in the Begley Learning Commons. The board has the word gratitude in many languages and allows patrons to leave messages expressing what they are grateful or thankful for this year.

Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning David Wolf travelled to Valencia, Spain as an invited speaker at the International Conference on Innovation, Documentation and Education (INNO DOC/22). He presented "More Bridges, Less Barriers: How inclusivity is the path for success in education" to an international audience. A corresponding peer-reviewed paper is in the works to be included in the conference's proceedings that should appear in 2023.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, participated in the SUNY Supporting Transitioning and Returning Service Members (STARS) workshop as well as the Schenectady County Cares presentation which informed SUNY Schenectady staff about childcare subsidies offered by Schenectady County and how to connect our students to this service.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, launched the Academic Services Student Survey for the fall 2022 semester. This survey collects information from students regarding the level of support they received during the semester, their satisfaction with the support(s), and engages them in communicating their needs and assessing whether or not they were met. Results

will be assessed and reviewed by the Director and staff within Academic Services, who will then identify gaps and potential changes for the spring semester.

TRIO Director, Ben DeAngelis, and Testing Center Coordinator, Mary Silvestri, participated in a session to explore new ways to serve students in need. The SUNY REACH and Pathways Learning Session on Student Basic Needs presented case studies focused on the current needs of student populations at community colleges in the state. New approaches toward food insecurity, housing insecurity, and mental health supports were discussed. Based on this presentation, TRIO (in collaborating with Wellness Services) is developing an online repository of resources (on a TRIO Brightspace page) for students to access necessary supports without stigma.

Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience

Two of our Math, Science, Technology and Health (MSTH) students have been selected to present their group research at the Student Poster Session of the Middle States Annual Conference in December. They are Parmesh Thakoordial, AS Science Bio concentration (on path to graduate Spring 2023) and Cassiel Achan, AS Science Biotechnology (on path to graduate in 2023). The Poster Title is Applied Learning in Practice Using the Vale Park and Cemetery as a Classroom for Biology Students and Community Outreach Programs, Including the Analysis of Environmental Effects of an Invasive Species on the Flora and Fauna in Park. Instructors involved in their research project are Drs. Richard Simons and Lorena Harris. Twenty institutions will be represented, including three SUNY institutions. Scholarship improves Teaching and Learning here at SUNY Schenectady.

Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning David Wolf integrated Brainfuse Online Tutoring into D2L. This service allows students to schedule sessions with tutors as well as enables faculty to glean information about student participation in services to aid planning for making it more effective.

Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning David Wolf also developed instructor access for TRIO staff. This will house media and needed documents for students, as well as offer a space to help better inform them. After they have completed its development, we will use intelligent agents (AI in D2L) to enroll all TRIO students to ensure that they will have this resource easily accessible to them.

Choral Director Dr. Joseph Han was invited to the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico (CNM) to promote music programs offered at SUNY Schenectady and discuss the overall process of studying in the U.S. with the Mexican students.

On November 4, Choral Director Dr. Joseph Han organized a Choral Workshop involving five high school choirs totaling over 200 students to visit the School of Music for a performance and masterclass with a guest clinician. School of Music Dean Dr. Christopher Brellocks and current students shared information about our programs and material was personally handed to each attendee. The event was a rousing success!

On November 9, Dean Hector Iweka, Ph.D. and Division Secretary Omawatie Dwarka hosted a welcome event with the newly constituted BCJL Advisory Board. Twelve students attended and

mingled with faculty and Advisory Board members. It was a great way to cultivate an inclusive community in the BCJL Division.

Thairy Echevarria, Admissions Advisor, and David Gonzalez, Director of Athletics, held Instant Admit days at the following high schools: Schalmont High School, Columbia High School, Schenectady High School, Scotia-Glenville High School, Ballston Spa High School, Saratoga Springs High School, Averill Park High School, Schoharie High School, Mohonasen High School and Steinmetz Career & Leadership Academy.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, along with Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, Jacquie Keleher-Hughes, Director of Library Services, and Robyn King, Director of Campus Wellness, planned, developed, and executed a successful Long Night Against Procrastination student event. Students were invited to take part in late-night studying and tutoring, participate in numerous activities, interact with Interim Chief Diversity Officer, Alicia Richardson who conducted “Let’s Talk about DEI” open chats, and receive additional late-night support, such as chatting about financial wellness and meeting with an academic advisor. The intent of this event is to re-energize students and motivate them to finish the semester strong, as well as aiding in the College’s retention efforts and reduce student melt. More than 100 students participated in the program, with the help of Tiombe Farley, Director of EOP, and Michael Henderson, EOP Success Coach, students engaged in activities, games, and accessed services and spoke with Academic Advisors, Leanna Liuzzi and Shannon Stone, to prepare for the Spring 2023 semester.

Building Organizational Effectiveness

Website prospect traffic for the month of November was 34,210 visitors (up 24.22% over November 2021 and an increase of 16.53% over last month). 30,282 were new users to our website (up 38.15% over last year and up 21.0% over last month respectively). There were 7,371 visits to the Open House site. The Open House campaign runs through 12/9/22.

Marketing has started a Student Social Media Ambassadors program, where two students will collaborate with the department and Baker Public Relations to create content for the College’s Tik Tok and Instagram REELS in an effort to increase the institution’s presence on the social media platforms that are most prevalent with high school students and Gen Z. The Student Social Media Ambassadors will also author blog content for the website to further enhance SEO initiatives and provide authentic student insights for prospective and current students alike. The inaugural ambassadors are SGA Vice President Sara Nava (Math and Science) and Lashay Broomer (Communications).

A request for proposals to replace the outdoor Emergency Phone Call Stands throughout campus was issued by the County. A vendor walk through is scheduled for December 8th.

Final project close-out commenced for the Begley lobby restroom renovation project that involved the renovation of the two lobby restrooms and the addition of two additional ADA compliant restrooms for use by Auditorium patrons.

The College and County officials met on acquisition of lower State Street properties and the abatement and demolition of existing on-site structures.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

On November 7, the Foundation received a gift of \$25,000 for the Food Pantry endowment from Gus and Magda Mininberg.

The Foundation's first annual Online Winter Auction opened to the public for bidding on Wednesday, November 16 and has raised \$2,900 in unrestricted operating support so far.

On November 22, the Foundation Board toured the Food Pantry and worked together to pack 150 Thanksgiving Meal Kits for students; this work will help empower the Foundation Board to discuss food insecurity among students.

The Foundation has garnered support from several Corporate Champions through active engagement this month, including:

- \$5,000 from KeyBank for annual scholarship support.
- \$17,232 from MVP Health Care for the new lab at Center City.
- \$30,000 from the Broughton Foundation for the Mobile Skills Labs.
- A donation of treat bags from Regeneron to support students attending the "Long Night Against Procrastination" to prepare for exams.

On November 11, School of Music Dean Dr. Christopher Brellochs and Adjunct Instructor Ann-Marie Barker-Schwartz met with representatives from the Empire State Youth Orchestra to discuss future partnerships which will lead to attracting more students. Several days later, The Empire State Youth Orchestra Youth Jazz and Chamber Orchestra came to the School of Music and performed in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium. This event brought many prospective students and their families to the campus.

The Times Union published a story featuring SUNY Schenectady as one of only two colleges in the country that offer the Air Traffic Control Operator (CTO) certification program. Coverage included a two-page spread in the print edition and online tu.com site, and the story was picked up and shared by Aviation Digest. The coverage included interviews with current student Brendan Conway and alumni/instructor Brooke Battige Manley '18, along with numerous photos in the Schenectady Tower as the students (Brendan Conway and Jesse Watkins) worked the live air space. The story can be seen at <https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Students-come-to-Schenectady-for-rare-air-traffic-17595577.php>

The College solicited bids to replace 110 CISO Wireless Internet devices that have exceeded their useful life. This project will update and improve wireless internet connectivity on the college's main campus. This is an integral part of the Federal and State funded Information Technology Infrastructure project.

In December, the revised 2022-23 college operating budget is being considered by the Schenectady County Legislature. This revised budget reduces planned expenditures by \$918,740

and provides additional HEERF funded revenue support to off-set a reduction in the college's anticipated chargeback revenues.

Human Resources (HR) has successfully completed the open enrollment period for 2023. We also recently received the 2023 rates for medical and dental insurance from the County, and are in the process of preparing updated rate sheets for our current employees, as well as sending letters to our retirees to notify them of the updated rates for 2023.

This was the first year that the mandatory trainings for all staff were released in one set of 12 at the beginning of the academic year, as opposed to two or three smaller separate sets over the course of the academic year. By releasing the trainings in this manner, we have gained new insights as to how to improve this process going forward, and have engaged with some of our colleagues in the IT department, who have helped us gain a better understanding of Vector, our Learning Management System (LMS) that we use to release the trainings.

HR continues to send updated information regarding COVID positive cases to the College community as well as updated guidance and updates impacting employees.

Michelle Ragucci, Perkins Grant Officer, confirmed the receipt of the 2022-23 Perkins Grant award, which granted \$233,245 to the College for the 2022-23 academic year. The funds will support numerous programs, including salaries for part-time Tutors, Success Coaches, Academic Advisor, Career Services staff, Testing Center staff, and Admissions Advisor, which is a newly supported position for this grant year. Additionally, student supplies, textbooks, memberships, ADA software, Career Services software, and online tutoring, are also funded by the 2022-23 Perkins Grant.

President's Outreach

On November 9, 2022, Dr. Steady Moono held "Wraps with the President". He met with students to hear their likes, dislikes and concerns about SUNY Schenectady. Box lunches were provided to all students that attended.



On November 19, 2022, Dr. Steady Moono, met with a delegation from the University of Zambia on campus recently. Left to right are: Dr. David Clickner, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning, SUNY Schenectady; Professor Anne L. Sikwibele, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia; Honorable Professor Geoffrey Samukonga, Chairperson, University of Zambia Council; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; Kennedy Msusa, Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia; and Patricia Mwila-Sakala, Manager, International Link Office, University of Zambia. As part of the visit, the representatives from the University of Zambia toured on- and off-campus facilities. They met to discuss overlapping programs/international exchange and etched out target deliverables and project planning for the next two semesters.



On December 1, 2022, at 3:00 pm, The President held “Coffee and Conversations in the Lally Mohawk Room to provide the College Community with his updates. All faculty and staff were invited to attend. During the meeting presentations were provided by Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Dr. David Clickner and Vice President of Administration, Patrick Ryan and Vice President of Development, Stacy McIllduff. Topics of discussion were Welcome Center Updates by Dr. David Clickner, Spring 2023 Capital Projects by Patrick Ryan and Capital Campaign Calendar by Stacy McIllduff.



On December 12, 2022, Dr. Moono met with New York State Senator James Tedisco. The meeting was held in his office located in Clifton Park, NY. The topic of their discussion was Investing in SUNY Community College Today and Building the Workforce of Tomorrow.