



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report

February 17, 2025

PROMOTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, collaborated with Susanna Adams, ADA Coordinator; the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Professional Development Initiative; and the Academic Senate's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee on the development of Community of Care workshops around the theme of "Fostering Inclusion through Digital Content Accessibility" to support our campus in meeting the accessibility requirements outlined in the Americans With Disabilities Act. These optional workshops were offered during Institute Week by volunteer presenters from among our colleagues, including:

- Megan Hall, Professor: "Designing Inclusive Documents in PowerPoint"
- Dawn Jones, Director of Career and Transfer Services, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer: "Designing Digitally Inclusive Documents in Microsoft Word"
- Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services: "Canva and Accessibility Design in Mind: Designing and Distributing Inclusive Canva Content"
- David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning: "TABLES: Accessibility Fundamentals"

100% of those who completed the feedback survey indicated they felt the workshop they attended was relevant to their professional development as it relates to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on campus, 91% indicated it enhanced their digital content accessibility abilities, and 73% indicated they wanted additional sessions on the topic of the workshop they attended.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor, and Sean Mullen, Counselor, presented on an Institute Week panel and facilitated group dialogue in a session titled "Navigating Disagreement in Academic Discourse."

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, began a collaboration with Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor and VA Certifying Official, and Kevin Dean, Executive Director of ASAP, to gauge student interest in the revival of a student club for Military Veterans and Active Service Members.

On January 14, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended the SUNY CDO convening in Albany, NY.

Academic Affairs

This January, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services and Dr. Sine Rofofsky, Librarian (PT), continued their studies and incorporation of diversity, equity and inclusive practices into Library operations. Jacquie Keleher attended the SUNY-sponsored workshop entitled *Civic Learning Through a Lens of Racial Equity* during Spring 2025 Institute Week. Dr. Rofofsky continued his studies at Deque University and is currently working on three more programs: *Accessibility Program Management 2.0*, *Designers 2.0*, and *Customer Service for People with Disabilities 1.0*. He also completed SUNY CPD's inaugural *Beyond the Basics - Universal Design for Learning with Distinction* and gained a deeper understanding of universal design and its intersections with DEI (Gen. 1).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services hosted a presentation during Institution Week focused on accessibility when designing in Canva. Over 20 faculty and staff attended, including many recent hires; this is an especially important session with the upcoming Title II mandate regarding accessibility compliance. (1.1)

This month, LPP began a new partnership with Young Futures Company to collaborate on a targeted after-school program for at-risk middle schoolers that integrates financial principles and creative crafts to create an immersive learning experience. By combining the benefits of hands-on, experiential learning with crucial financial concepts, students will gain practical skills and upon completion of the program, their artwork will be showcased at SUNY Schenectady's Rise Gallery. To further emphasize the importance of financial literacy, students will receive a monetary reward for completing the program which can be used for saving or investing. (1.4)

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, and Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Student Services, hosted counselors, teachers, and case workers from Schenectady City Schools who service Adult Education programs at Washington Irving Education Center. The agenda included ways to expand partnerships, understanding of dedicated programs and audiences, and opportunities for referrals. SUNY Schenectady staff spoke on Admissions and Financial Aid processes, requirements and resources, and how each party can support continuity and success for adult learners across their educational journey. The 24-Credit Hour Program, Schenectady County Higher Education Promise, GED, ESL were discussed in depth. A tour of campus spaces followed (1.4; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1).

Workforce Development and Community Education

On January 7, 2025, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with STEAM Garden to discuss partnership on WFD programming and event kickoff.

On January 8, 2025, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines, and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended "Removing Employment Barriers for Justice Impacted Individuals" conference at HVCC.

Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

Schenectady College and Career Outreach staff attended the Removing Employment Barriers for Justice Impacted Individuals conference at Hudson Valley Community College.

Ms. Elizabeth Cowan, Participant Services Specialist of SCCOC, conducted bi-weekly outreach at Schenectady Works resource hub.

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, met with guidance counselors and case managers from Washington Irving Educational Center to discuss opportunities for SCCOC to provide employment and educational support to their adult and incarcerated student population.

DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Academic Affairs

In January, David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning continued ongoing work using IITG grant funds to promote interdisciplinary learning, AI literacy, adaptation and assessment here at the college. He focused on reducing cheating among students. He introduced trainings on an [AI Assessment Scale](#) based on Leon Fuse's work to enable faculty to better express their expectations and on assessment design to thwart students' use of AI to circumvent learning. On January 16, David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning collaborated with SUNY Center of Professional Development and grant leads from four other SUNY institutions to host a webinar entitled *Teaching with AI: Building Critical AI Literacy While Advancing Existing Learning Outcomes* by Community College and AI specialist, Anna Mills. Over 100 people registered from across the country, including several SUNY faculty. He also hosted a session during Institute Week which was recorded and available for faculty viewing.

Jacque Keleher, Director of Library Services continued educating herself on AI-related topics by attending the session *Teaching with AI: Building Critical AI Literacy While Advancing Existing Learning Outcomes* with Anna Mills and served as a panelist for *AI in Action: Perspectives from Education and Industry*, led by the Spring Institute keynote speaker Todd McLees, founder and CEO.

On January 22, Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, adjunct faculty, and Musicians of Ma'alwyck present a free preview of their *Celebrated Emblems* performance with contemporary works by Missy Mazzoli, James Lee III, William Jay Sydeman, and George Walker. Musicians of Ma'alwyck is a flexible-size chamber ensemble in residence at the Schuyler Mansion New York State Historic Site and Schenectady County Community College. Founded in 1999 by violinist and director Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, the group specializes in music performed in America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. (Gen P2)

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with the Co-Heads of School at the Brown School to organize a partner visit for twenty of Brown's 7-11 grade students and five parent chaperones. A presentation was given with a focus on community opportunities across all audience types and interest areas (Community Education, open-to-the-public experiences such as Casola and School of Music performances, Early College, and traditional enrollment and degree programs). An in-depth tour followed with interactive stops hosted across campus in the Begley Learning Commons, the eSports Arena, and concluding at the Food Pantry where a cart of food that had been pre-collected by the Brown School guests was given to Karen Smith, Food Pantry Coordinator (Gen. P2; Gen. P1).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, lead the charge of New Student Orientation invitations and communications using intentionally timed communications across email, print, and SMS (text message) channels at targeted times to support student engagement. Offices from across campus collaborated on this outstanding program. 89 new and returning students attended the January 15, 2025 event, which was an increase of 29 students and almost 50% year-over-year (2.1; 2.3; 3.1).

ASAP continued to provide excellent support to students, reporting that the program retained 83% of the ASAP students from Fall 2024 semester to Spring 2025 Semester (2.1; 2.5).

Student Affairs

89 new students attended the new student orientation for the spring 2025 semester. Students and their guests were treated to a student support fair, tours, a technology primer and an information session with their respective deans.

Wellness and Student Support Services

Director of Wellness Robyn King presented a program on how families and vision supporters can best support their college student during New Student Orientation. Robyn also volunteered at the Welcome Week table to help students find their way during the first two days of classes at the welcome table.

Financial Aid

SUNY Schenectady's financial aid, admissions, and SCCOC staff met with members of the Schenectady Adult Education Center to explore ways to strengthen their partnership. The Adult Education Center plays a vital role in the community by supporting recently incarcerated individuals, GED graduates, and ESL students in their pursuit of higher education. During the meeting, the teams discussed admission requirements, financial aid options at SUNY Schenectady, and potential opportunities for SUNY Schenectady staff to visit the center and engage with students. Attendees from SUNY Schenectady were: Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial; Jaimee King, Executive Director of Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center; Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Matriculated Enrollment.

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation Scholarship application opened on January 27th for the 2025-26 academic year. Nicole Grant, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, will be leading the scholarship awarding process for the upcoming year. Nicole has been working closely with the foundation and marketing to publicize the availability of the application. Students can apply through Award Spring with an application deadline of May 19th for current students and July 14th for New Students.

Marketing and Public Relations

On January 29, the college held a press event to unveil the new Air Traffic Control simulator, the largest and most comprehensive simulator at a community college east of the Mississippi River, and the only college in the country with ATSpeak™ technology – only the United States military has ATSpeak™. Government officials, community leaders, Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students gathered to learn more about the new training facilities and advanced technology. The college's new simulator includes:

- Three (3) ATC Tower stations for ultra-realistic training
- Seven (7) 75" monitors for 215-degrees of complete tower immersion
- Four (4) radar TRACON stations for multi-training scenarios and realism
- Seven (7) Remote Pilot stations for real human-voice responses and pilotage
- FAA Academy Curriculum for the BEST in ATC Training
- ATSpeak™ for Voice Recognition and Response (VRR) enabling e-learning of phraseology, skills, and language training for Controllers

The Marketing and Public Relations team partnered with Dr. Mark Meacham, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dean of Business and Professional Programs Mykha'el Wilson; Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation Sciences; Barbara Jones, Aviation Instructor; and Amy Parish, Vice President of Northern Operations for UFA Inc., to provide an immersive tour of the new training capabilities. Additional support came from the President's Office, Events, IT, Security, and Facilities.

Reporters from ABC News 10, Spectrum News 1, and Daily Gazette were in attendance. Broadcast segments appeared throughout the evening news blocks as well as online stories and social media posts. Gazette provided front page coverage, online stories and photo gallery. The college has garnered extended coverage through the segment airing on Spectrum affiliates in the Syracuse, Rome, and Utica broadcast markets.

Workforce Development and Community Education

WFD&CE completed healthcare career pathway documents and shared with Admissions, SCCOC, MSTH, and Human Services.

CannaBusiness Education Hub website is complete and live. <https://cbe.suny.edu/>

On January 31, 2025, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with STEAM Garden and Capital Region Workforce Development Board to discuss programming needs and regional partnerships.

Information Technology Services

In Progress – Improve campus wide Wi-Fi coverage.

- **Wi-fi Coverage Audit:** Audit complete awaiting report and plan for upgrading the entire campus.

Completed – Operations Team Activities

- **Ticket Resolutions:**
 - According to Remedy, the Operations team completed 450 tickets in the past month.
 - IT and facilities have responded to 31 events for this time period.

In Progress – Equipment and Faculty Moves

- **Aviation Equipment Preparation:** Flight Simulator relocation from Center City to Stockade 301 in Progress. Expected to be operational the first week of January.
- **Faculty Relocation:** Faculty are being moved from the CST building to Elston.

Development Office

Foundation staff continue to organize and participate in Panera donation pick-ups each Monday.

Vice President and Stewardship Officer Liuzzi are active Middle States participants.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

On January 7, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a virtual training titled “Advanced Title VI Workshop” offered by SUNY System.

Academic Affairs

This month, Lauren Gallo, Director of College in the High School worked alongside Kevin Rivenberg, Director of Admissions to completely integrate ECHS recruitment and onboarding processes into Slate using connective software called Constituo. Kevin also provided training to ECHS and Schenectady County School District staff so they can use Slate effectively. Additionally, Lauren collaborated with the Registrar’s office and CHS partner high schools to finalize Spring courses, create them in Banner, in them in the Slate registration form and format the data so Constituo can access it. (3.3, 3.4 & 3.5)

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning created an [AI Tools Repository](#) for the college to provide insights about various tools that can be used for education, their respective costs, and samples of possible assessments. He also coordinated an all-day workshop in which seven faculty completed AI training sessions and worked on developing assessments using subscriptions to top level AI tools for Fall 2025 courses. (2.3, 2.4)

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning began of enabling the integration of Cengage libraries into Brightspace. This can potentially save students money on textbooks as well as make the online interface easier for both students and instructors to use.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, designed and launched a streamlined appointment system for ATB (ability to benefit) exams via Slate forms. Prospective and current students utilize the ATB exam for financial aid purposes, as well as entry into the 24-credit hour program; the streamlined appointment request improves accessibility and convenience for both our students and staff. (3.5)

The Starfish Administration Team has been analyzing Starfish use and strategic changes have been implemented to optimize our use of the software. These changes were communicated to faculty and will be reevaluated at the end of the semester. Starfish Administrators have also created Student Success Plans to provide weekly to-do items to help students organize themselves. These plans have been provided to students and will be monitored by the Administrators. (3.1; 3.3; 3.4; 3.5)

Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learning Support, to create a new, separate Slate CRM SMS (text message) line and telephone number dedicated to Advising. This new number allows mass and automated text messages to be sent to prospective and current students on matters related to course registration and retention, including sending a message to 1,266 registered students prior to the Spring semester to remind them of the first day of class and to connect them with support resources. Students who replied to the messages by text or calling were automatically directed to a separately managed inbox and the existing Academic Advising telephone extension to ensure they are rapidly connected with a member of the Advising team (3.1; 3.4; 2.1; 2.3).

ASAP worked closely with the admissions department to recruit students during Winter Break using the Slate CRM system. 78 applications were received over the last four weeks before the Spring semester. A tiered messaging system was used to contact students. First, an email went out, next a reminder email was sent, and lastly a text message about the ASAP program went out to students. As a result of this

tiered communication system, 27 Students were accepted into the ASAP program (5 of the students are now on a waiting list for the program, but enrolled at the College, and 46 students were not eligible for the program). ASAP's recruiting effectiveness is in large part due to the partnership with the Admissions Office. ASAP recruited during the Winter Break between semesters and remains fully enrolled at 160 students (3.1; 2.3).

ASAP requires students to meet specific financial aid requirements. The Financial Aid Office checked weekly during the last four weeks leading up to the semester to ensure that the recruited students meet the SUNY ASAP program eligibility requirements (2.3; 3.1).

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, submitted five federal IPEDS reports, one SUNY Systems report, and three New York Department of Education report. Mr. Miller provided data for the following projects: enrollment data to Administration for budgeting, employment data for HR's annual DOL report, enrollment data to Admissions, enrollment data to the Registrar, enrollment data to Finance for the auditors, EOP enrollment data, full-time faculty data to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Middle States data to the Middle States committee (3.3).

Student Affairs

Wellness and Student Support Services

Robyn has been actively engaged in food security advocacy and student support initiatives. She recently connected with Student Affairs colleagues from the University of New Mexico Taos to discuss the implementation of PantrySoft for managing their food pantry. In addition, she provided a tour of the Food Pantry to colleagues from Russell Sage, who are in the process of developing a similar resource on their campus.

Robyn also collaborated with Feeding New York State, leading a tour and in-depth discussion about food insecurity on campus. As a result of these conversations, FNYS will be tabling on campus this semester to encourage SNAP enrollment and promote food justice advocacy opportunities.

Beyond her work on campus, Robyn was invited to speak at the People's State of the State at the NYS Capitol, where she addressed college hunger and the benefits of food pantries and SNAP. Additionally, during Institute Week, she presented a session on de-escalating difficult interactions, equipping attendees with strategies to manage challenging conversations effectively.

Through these efforts, Robyn continues to make a meaningful impact in addressing food insecurity and fostering student well-being.

Development Office

The Foundation continues to work to refine the scholarship program to maximize funding available to support the student experience.

- The Women's Fund of the Capital Region alerted us to an additional scholarship of \$2,500 for this spring.

Administration

In early February, Executive Vice President Ryan participated in a Middle States Commission Peer Review of Union College of New Jersey in Cranston, New Jersey.

The Elston Hall Lobby and Lally-Mohawk Room project is underway. In late January cloth electrical wiring in the construction area and the President's Office was replaced. Also during the month, the lobby area was painted and the original terrazzo floor was cut and polished. Lighting work in the Mohawk Room progressed. It is anticipated this project will be completed by late March.

The College's 2025 capital project request to SUNY was included with the Governor's Executive Budget. This request included significant renovation projects needed to maintain our campus facilities and included the Aquatic Center project. The State Legislature will consider the budget request during the first quarter of 2025 with an anticipated approval by April 1st.

Planning for our spring capital projects continued during January. Equipment for our Fire Alarm project was ordered. Our contractor conducted a survey identifying wifi "dead zones" for future coverage. Bids were received for the CST Bathroom and Lobby project that are pending review by the County. Bids were also received for the President's Terrace and Cafeteria Skylight project.

During January, our contractors were installing magnetic lock devices controlled by ID card swipe access. Once implemented, the college will limit external entry points for visitors to locations with a security presence. Students, faculty and staff with valid IDs will be able to access certain locked exterior doors. This effort is being put in place to enhance security.

The Biology Lab storage room and the Hyflex classroom projects were completed. The new biology storage room includes a new external SUNY Schenectady marquee sign and enhanced laboratory ventilation.

Work continued on the proposed Facilities Master Plan that will cover the years 2026 to 2030. Based on student enrollment and staff data, proposed renovation projects were reviewed by college leadership. A final draft of the plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees in March.

Work continued on the Aquatic Center project. The County and the College continue to meet weekly to review project schedules and activities. This month discussions centered around site preparation, design and logistics. The SUNY Board of Trustees are scheduled to consider property acquisitions related to the Aquatic Center at their March 2025 meeting.

Marketing and Public Relations

The college was chosen to host New York State Governor Kathy Hochul on January 28, for a press event held in the Carl B. Taylor Auditorium, where she announced \$100 million in new investments across the state for projects located in certified Pro-Housing Communities. This included \$4.9 million in state funding directed for apartments and a child care center for the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) at the corner of State Street and Brandywine Avenue, bringing much needed support to communities near the campus. Over 200 guests from statewide agencies, community leaders, and the campus community joined together to learn about the critical investments that will be made possible in housing, childcare, and infrastructure.

The Marketing and Public Relations team worked with the Governor's press and logistics teams to prepare the campus for the Governor's arrival, in collaboration with Tiombe Tatum, Chief-of-Staff; Eric Fluty, Associate Vice President of Campus Safety; Emily Baker, Campus Events Coordinator; Facilities, and Chris Henry, Director of FSA. The event elevated visibility of the college with statewide media coverage from Spectrum News, as well as regional media from Poughkeepsie, Syracuse, and Binghamton.

Link to Governor's webpage for transcript, audio, and photos:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/pro-housing-communities-governor-hochul-announces-more-100-million-awarded-projects>

Human Resources

We continued to provide Wednesday Wellbeing messages:

- 1/8 – Setting SMART goals for Wellbeing resolutions
- 1/15- Celebrating a year of wellbeing
- 1/22 – Social Wellbeing during the winter

We onboarded nine new employees in the month of January.

We are finalizing the year end benefits reports, including the preparation of 1095Cs, and reconciliations of benefits data.

Understanding Social Styles in the Workplace and Workplace Violence Prevention were presented during Institute Week to begin the spring semester.

A survey of the first year of Wellbeing initiatives was emailed to all employees.

Plans are in place for our very first Employee Wellbeing Fair (February 26th).

We currently have seven total open positions which consist of two faculty, two Civil Service, and three Professional positions.

Information Technology Services

In Progress – Cyber Security

- **Enhanced VPN Security:** Testing continues implementing secondary Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all users accessing college assets via VPN, improving off-campus security.
- **Penetration Testing:** SUNY SOC Penetration and Vulnerabilities testing has been completed. We have created ticket to track and work on issue within IT and Logical Net
- **Restrict Shared drive (NFS) access:** we interacted with all users involved to verify they no longer use the NFS drive and removed access. We are continuing to configure that users can only see what they are required to for their position.

In Progress – Replacement for Account Creation

- **Upgrading Account Creation Systems:** Work has begun to replace the aging integration process for creating computer accounts from Banner to network systems. This is a complex project, but we are leveraging a year's worth of notes to address areas for improvement.
- Kick off meeting complete actual work expected to begin in January.

In Progress – Phone system replacement

- **System Overhaul:** A comprehensive project to replace the College's phone service is underway. The goal is to consolidate all systems into a single platform integrated with MS Teams Apps, providing enhanced productivity features. This project will require several months to complete.
- **Next Steps:** Final proposals have been received. 2 bids and 2 no bids. Working with Patrick, the broker and the county to finalize paperwork and plan.

ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Academic Affairs

Mary Silvestri, Director of TRIO attended an American Council on Education webinar entitled Navigating Trump's First Week. Interactive discussion focused on the first few days of the Trump administration and how their actions may impact grant-funded education programs such as TRIO. Hosted by dotEDU, the webinar highlighted what grant-funded programs can anticipate and how to advocate at various levels for much-needed funding and support. (4.5)

The School of Hotel, Culinary and Tourism doubled down on its recruitment efforts this month. On January 6, Dean Dr. David Brough attended the Restaurant Collaboration Meeting held by Downtown Schenectady to brainstorm collaborative initiatives among local restaurateurs and the city, he gave a tour of the culinary wing to SUNY Oneonta President Dr. Alberto Cardelle on his January 23 visit and ended the month at the Friends of SUNY reception at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Three HCAT staff accompanied him to serve delectable appetizers and interact with guests, provide promotional materials and answer questions.

On January 25, Chef Courtney Withey was one of the Signature Chefs for the Albany Wine and Dine for the Arts Festival. This is her eighth year as a Signature Chef. Chef Withey and a team of SUNY Schenectady culinary and pastry students (and alumni) volunteered their time at the Grand Gala Dinner, a 5-course, 800-person dinner featuring wine pairings. Students worked alongside Chef Withey and many top chefs from the area. This year's theme was Italian Food and Culture, which gave Chef Withey a phenomenal opportunity to promote HCAT's transformative Marco Polo Study Abroad Program in Italy. All student volunteers were either alumni of the Marco Polo Program or plan to participate in the future.

Strategic Initiatives & Planning

The ASAP program has registered all 160 ASAP students for the Spring 2025 semester. The ASAP program is on track to exceed the SUNY ASAP goals for graduation (Gen. P4).

Administration

In early January departments submitted their 2025-26 budget requests. Each division was asked to reduce expenditures by 6% in anticipation of revenue challenges in the next fiscal year. In early February, the Office of Administration will request adjustments to the student fee schedules needed for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The college's 2023-24 audit was completed by Lumsden & McCormick at the end of January. Our auditors will present the audit to the Board of Trustees at the February 2025 meeting.

Workforce Development and Community Education

On January 14, 2025, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with the Chief of Police at Saratoga Springs Police Department about becoming a signatory under our Police Officer Group Sponsorship for Apprenticeship.

On January 16, 2025, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines, Mark Bessette met with Caring Gene about becoming an educational partner who can receive 1115 Waiver funding for student tuition in 4 different degree pathways.

On January 17, 2025, SUNY Schenectady executed agreement to become a training partner with Caring Gene Career Pathways, Inc. and will be able to accept 1115 waiver funding for tuition related to certain healthcare program offerings.

Information Technology Services

Completed – Login/SSO/MFA

- **Account access migration:** Migrate all system login and Single Sign on, Multi-Factor authentication to Microsoft process.
 - Net saving to college by migrating away from 3rd party Unfyed for this service, 48,750.

Development Office

The Foundation continuously builds and draws upon the strength of the Foundation Board members as advocates for the College:

- Board members wrote thank you notes to eight generous donors, as part of a new engagement strategy. We look forward to communing

The Foundation is creating a bold, new, positive case for growing flexible funding to support our students:

- Campaign solicitations for the SUNY Schenectady Fund continue.
- Food for Thought corporate sponsorship and Honorary Committee requests have been sent and are arriving regularly each day!

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

Engaging our alumni:

- Vice President and Joe April have been working with Joshua Murphy who will spearhead an alumni fundraising effort for the Rising Together Campaign. The outreach campaign commenced in January.
- Joe April and Vice President have met with Heather Peterson to prepare her to call our other distinguished alumni to support Rising Together. She will also help with setting up roundtables of accountants to determine how we can help with their workforce needs.
- Vice President and Joe April had lunch with an anonymous alumna to talk about a Tea Party Fundraiser and her participation in the alumni campaign with a matching gift challenge.

Engaging our corporate and community supporters:

The Foundation hosted local businesses to join us for breakfast and a presentation by Todd McLees from HumanSkills.AI. We will follow up to determine how this pilot session was perceived and look forward to hosting our corporate on campus in the future.

Notable Gifts:

\$11,378 as partial distribution from the estate of Benita Allaire
\$5,000 from Foundation Board member, Kara Haraden, for the SUNY Schenectady Fund
\$1,500 from Jack and Connie Hume for music scholarships
\$1,500 from Lou and Judy Buhrmaster – a 50% increase over last year

PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH



President Dr. Steady Moono, hosted SUNY Oneonta President Dr. Alberto Cardelle on January 23. Dr. Cardelle's visit which included stops in the Learning Commons, Begley Library, Academic Services, the SUNY Oneonta Transfer Admissions Advisor's office space, Air Traffic Control Simulators classroom, Admissions, eSports Arena, Culinary Arts Wing, and the Workforce Development and Community Education Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Training Unit. Dr. Cardelle's visit highlighted the SUNY Schenectady/SUNY Oneonta Transfer Partners program. Students who graduate with their Associate degree from SUNY Schenectady, with a GPA of 2.5 or above, can transfer as juniors into one of SUNY Oneonta's 50+ Bachelor's degree programs. Credits earned at SUNY Schenectady are guaranteed to transfer to SUNY Oneonta.



Dr. Steady Moono, College President, Ann Fleming Brown, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Tiombé Tatum, Chief of Staff, with New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner and CEO of New York State Homes and Community Renewal, and Hope Knight, President, CEO, and Commissioner of Empire State Development. Governor Hochul was on campus on January 28 to announce new investments of more than \$100 million for projects located in certified Pro-Housing Communities, including \$4.9 million in state funding for apartments and a childcare center for the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP) at the corner of State Street and Brandywine Avenue.



President Dr. Steady Moono demonstrates the new Air Traffic Control simulator during its unveiling on January 29th. The simulator is the largest and most comprehensive at a community college east of the Mississippi River. It is the same equipment used by the U.S. Navy, Air Force, and FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.



President Dr. Steady Moono, Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation and Nicole Parisi, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara's Chief Staff, presents the College with a Citation from the New York State Assembly during the unveiling of the college's new Air Traffic Control simulator on January 29th.