

SUNY
SCHENECTADY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report
March 20, 2023

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/VA Certifying Officer, Tiombe (Farley) Tatum, Director of EOP, Assistant Director of Career Services, Dawn Jones, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, and Dr. Hector Iwuka, Dean of Business, Criminal Justice and Law, along with a team of other SUNY Schenectady professionals, attended the 2023 DREAM Conference hosted by Achieving the Dream, which hosted dozens of sessions focusing on student access, momentum, mobility, and community impact (The conference topics/sessions touched on all 4 Pillars).

Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, attended the DREAM 2023 conference along with 13 other colleagues from SUNY Schenectady. Pam and Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, presented a 30-minute Lightning Learning session on our Full Class Instant Admit events.

On February 10, Michelle Kraines and Tiziana Rota met with Our Abilities to begin collaborative work on Count Me In Grant project. Also, on February 23, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended a webinar on Providing Services to Immigrant Workers and Refugees.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, conducted numerous classroom visits, as well as hosted classroom session in the Learning Commons/Learning Center to acclimate students to the academic support options available to them. A majority of the classes visited were first-time students (FYS classes) and students taking workshop classes in need of additional support.

Thairy Echevarria, Admissions Advisor, Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, and Tiombé (Farley) Tatum, Director of EOP, hosted an in-person information session for low income and/or First-Generation students from Schalmont High School. Students received step-by-step instructions on how to enroll, information on the support services offered, instructions on how to apply for the grant-funded programs, and a campus tour.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President for Workforce Development, Stephen Fragale, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Donna Corbisiero, Faculty member, Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access, met to discuss Intensive English Learning Language program to support ELL students prior to attending matriculated coursework at SUNY Schenectady. This workgroup will continue to meet to implement an ELL program.

Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, met with representatives from University at Albany's TRIO Educational Opportunity Center to explore collaborative opportunities. The TRIO EOC focuses on recruiting adults interested in pursuing higher education and provides guidance for them to identify programs of study that fit their goals. TRIO at SUNY Schenectady and TRIO EOC will develop a partnership that ensures participants in EOC's programs have access to TRIO's services at the SUNY Schenectady campus. TRIO EOC also serves as a valuable supporter in efforts to launch community college students into bachelor's degree programs, and will host a series of sessions providing resources to eligible SUNY Schenectady student looking to pursue further degrees.

Melanie Uebele, Interim Program Administrator of Liberty Partnership Program (LPP), Maggy White, LPP School Counselor, and Carly Forestieri, LPP intern, brought a group of 6 LPP students (4 high school and 2 middle school) to the NYS Legislative Office Building for Student Aid Advocacy Day on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 to meet with legislators and advocate for student aid funding. Students met with staff in the offices of Assembly members Angelo Santabarbara and Phil Steck to advocate for LPP and to ask for support for the New York State Board of Regents legislative agenda for the 2023-24 school year. Students spoke about how LPP has supported them in creating and realizing academic, personal, and college and career goals.

Six Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP) Students and Dr. Lorena Harris participated in the Student AID and Advocacy Day at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) Capitol, where students share the goals and request to increase funding and prevent any cuts to the Students AID funds for Higher Educations, our school representative met with Assembly women Patricia Fahy, and Assembly men Gustavo Rivera on February 14th. Students' stories made an impact in the conversation, but also the community of other 150 programs that joined in the process made a great impact in all gathered at the Capitol.

Melanie Uebele, Interim Program Administrator of LPP, and Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP and Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Director, facilitated the first four modules of the Learn Kind curriculum with a group of 18 middle school students on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school at Mont Pleasant Middle School. Students investigated kindness in the context of scientific inquiry, beginning with the evidence we have that kindness is one of the most effective ways to improve well-being. Students also developed Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies including self-awareness, empathy, and relationship skills.

Abdul Samassa, Assistant Director of LPP, Maggy White, LPP School Counselor, Ian Farmer, Smart Scholars Success Coach, and Haley Peterson, LPP MSW intern, brought a group of 28 LPP students and 9 Smart Scholars students to Fulton Montgomery Community College (FMCC), students participated in a FMCC information session, a campus tour, a College Preparedness Information Session, an informative overview of the TRIO & Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP), and had lunch on campus.

Abdul Samassa, Assistant Director of LPP, Maggy White, LPP School Counselor, Carly Denué, LPP Program Assistant, and Melanie Uebele, Interim Program Administrator of LPP, hosted an LPP Black History Month event at SUNY Schenectady. Ten LPP high school and middle school students attended and participated in programming centered on this year's theme of Black

Resistance. Students engaged in group discussion, educational activities, team building games, and enjoyed a Caribbean-American lunch catered by Vashti's Kitchen Delights.

Through our partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Alice Menis, NYSDEC Education Staff, facilitated educational after school programming to a group of 20 LPP middle school students at Mont Pleasant Middle School. Alice will be coming weekly through May. Students who participate in the DEC activities are eligible to attend monthly NYSDEC field trips throughout the school year, and participate in the NYSDEC summer campership program.

Abdul Samassa, Assistant Director of LPP, Maggy White, LPP School Counselor, Carly Denué, LPP Program Assistant, and Melanie Uebele, Interim Program Administrator of LPP, conducted home visits throughout February to various LPP students' homes to address concerns of chronic absenteeism of said students.

On Monday February 20, 2023 through Wednesday February 22, 2023, Levy Restaurants visited the SUNY Schenectady campus to interview students in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism for positions at the Kentucky Derby internship held at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The Kentucky Derby, the first horse race of Horse Racing's the Triple Crown is held each year on the first Saturday in May. This year's event takes place on May 6, 2023. This year 41 students were offered positions in the Front of the House, Back of the House and Concessions. Faculty and students will leave on for Churchill Downs on Sunday April 30, 2023 and return on Sunday May 7, 2023. Faculty members planned to participate as faculty chaperones in this year's internship are Kimberly Otis, Associate Professor, James Larkin, Associate Professor, Vanessa Traver, Assistant Professor, and Courtney Withey, Assistant Professor.

The School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism welcomed guest Chef Aneesa Waheed, Owner of Tara Kitchen, who demonstrated dishes from her new cookbook, Easy Moroccan Cooking as part of the James G. Westervelt Guest Chef Series. Guests enjoyed delicious samples prepared by students in Instructor, Rain O'Donnell's Quantitative Foods course and served by students in Adjunct Faculty Member, Michelle Anaya Malone's Banquet Management and Operations course.

Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience

The financial aid staff visited Schenectady High School for our third FAFSA completion event of the 2022-2023 academic year. 15 families registered for the February event and 58 families across the three events. During these events our financial aid staff assisted students with creating their Federal Student Aid ID, completing their FAFSA, and completing their TAP applications.

On February 13, 2023 Tiziana Rota, Danielle Sloan and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Association for Supply Chain Management associate to discuss partnership around curriculum for the new Warehousing Technician Program.

On February 15 and 16, 2023, Lauren Lankau, Michelle Kraines, and Danielle Sloan presented an information session to potential students interested in the new Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Program.

Our SUNY Schenectady Bowling Team finished 3rd in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 3 Bowling Championships held on Saturday, February 18 in Rome, N.Y. Erie C.C. of Buffalo finished 1st With a 9228-pin total, followed by HVCC with an 8480 count and SUNY SCCC with 8261 pins. SUNY SCCC's Eliza Arasim finished 5th in the singles category with an 822 total which averaged out to 206 a game. She also combined with Jared Wachenhiem to come in 4th in the doubles event with a 1539 total pin count. The Royals will make their last start of the season when they travel to Buffalo for the NJCAA Nationals which run from March 2-4. GO ROYALS!

12 students representing C-Step and SGA attended SUNY Advocacy Day May 9, 2023 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. Students were orientated to the SUNY Student Assembly and discussed the following talking points with NYS representatives.

Building Organizational Effectiveness

The Office of Human Resources (HR) has added a section to its Employee Resources webpage to post links to required posters from the DOL, public safety, and other official NYS entities.

HR will be arranging for representatives from all four investment providers under the SUNY ORP to come to campus this semester and meet individually with interested employees. A representative from Voya has already visited campus (on Feb. 20th), and dates have been identified for visits from our AIG/Corebridge Financial representative (March 8th) and our TIAA representative (March 29th). A visit from our Fidelity representative will be scheduled before the end of the Spring semester.

For the months February, HR has conducted two search committee trainings which consisted of five search committees combined for efficiency and has conducted nine new employee orientations.

HR reviewed and updated the following HR policies in compliance with the Middle States Accreditation Review Schedule:

- Policy 2.0 Workplace Violence Policy
- Policy 2.2 Temporary, Grant-Supported Staff Positions & Temporary Assignment
- Policy 2.9 Recruitment & Selection Policy

HR currently has 26 open searches which consist of three faculty, three CSEA, and 20 Professional positions.

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

The new cooling tower installed on the roof of the Begley building was installed during the month of March. Refrigerant lines and connections to the building's HVAC infrastructure was underway.

Planning for the new Student Service Center in the Stockade Building continued during February. In early March, the group comprised of Advising, Student Success, Registrar, Career Services, ADA and Student Affairs will meet with C2 Architecture to begin design work in the space

The College and Faculty Student Association re-opened the main cafeteria space on March 6th after all permits were obtained and equipment repaired to bring this space back into service. The Canal-side café will return to a seating and lounge area. The Schwartz Café in the Begley Learning Commons will now serve Starbucks beverages

An architect was selected by the County and College to update the Facilities Master Plan. The old Facilities Master Plan was last updated in 2017. The new plan will map out capital projects for the next five to ten years.

MJ Engineering was engaged to perform a structural analysis of the Elston Hall West Stair Tower and wall settling in the basement of Elston Hall. The analysis will occur during the early Spring of 2023 with recommendations for ongoing on stabilization of these structures

The Elston Hall Façade project is scheduled to begin in March of 2023. Our contractors and the County presented a plan and timeline to scaffold the front, North and South sides of Elston Hall. This work will start in March and continue through October. The project involves repairs to the brick and stone work, rehabilitation of the roof line gables and general repairs to the façade. Egress to Elston Hall will remain in place during the construction.

Work continued on the IT Infrastructure project. New computer switch gear will be installed during March/April that will allow high speed transmission. A request for bids was released to update technology in 19 classrooms with HEERF and State capital funding. An award of a contract to complete this work will be presented to the Board for consideration in March.

Jacque Keleher, Director of Library Services, attended the webinar “Crisis & Stress Management” presented by Nellie Brown, the Director of Workplace Health and Safety Programs for the Worker Institute at Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations. The session focused on possible crisis events in our workplaces and how to plan for such events.

Dr. Sine Rofofsky, part-time Reference Librarian, completed several webinars in the SUNY Digital Learning Environment Brightspace Illuminations and SUNY Digital Learning Environment Scaled Webinars trainings. He is looking forward to the remaining webinars which will be very helpful when helping students work with Brightspace.

Dr. Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, met Dr. Hamin Shabazz to improve scheduling of events using the Event Management System (EMS).

Dr. Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, attended a meeting to discuss summer/fall scheduling strategies and policies.

Assistant Director, Dawn Jones, facilitated biweekly meetings with Career Services Staff to reinforce training principles and ensure a consistent approach to office objectives.

Carol Maimone, Medical Coding & Billing Instructor, met with Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advising and Retention, and the Academic Advising team to review specifics of the program in an effort to provide both advisors and incoming students with information about the program and the career outlook. This was very well received and will make for a smoother and more informed experience for students.

Erin Potter, Adjunct Professor, Environmental Science and Meteorology, used Comet MetEd modules, with which students learn about topics in an immersive online format beyond lecture and laboratory assignments.

Dr. Iweka, Dean Business, Criminal Justice and Law, was appointed to SUNY Micro-credential Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will make recommendations and share best practice in support of the strategic growth of SUNY's growing Micro-credential program.

The newly created Marketing Coordinator position was posted and the search is active. The position will expand the capabilities of the Marketing and Public Relations department by assisting with the development, execution, and monitoring of digital marketing campaigns and website content. The coordinator will also support the production of promotional email campaigns, digital and traditional advertising, paid social media advertising, copywriting, project management, and campaign reporting.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

On February 2, 2023, Danielle Sloan and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Package One Industries to discuss future partnerships and trainings.

On February 15 & 16 Michelle Kraines and Danielle Sloan held 2 information sessions for students interested in Pilot Certified Clinical Medical Assistant Program. Also, on February 16, 2023, Tiziana Rota, Danielle Sloan and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Plug Power to discuss the Supply Chain Management A.A.S., Global Business & Transportation micro-credential, and Warehousing Technician Program.

The 2023-24 budget request is under review. Departmental and divisional requests are being refined in anticipation of approval of the 2023-24 New York State budget in April. Administration has run revenue forecasts and scenarios in anticipation of State budget passage.

SUNY Schenectady's 2023 Capital projects are getting underway for the warmer weather and summer break. College and County staff are working on schedules to manage projects that will occur during 2023-24.

Jacque Keleher, Director of Library Services, met with Julia Proctor, Executive Director of ConnectNY and Andrew White, Library Director for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Board Member of ConnectNY, to discuss possible future collaborations. This includes having private and public academic institutions in New York State partner to harness purchasing power.

The Division of Business Criminal Justice and Law (BCJL) and Workforce Development are collaborating in developing a Micro-Credential course, Business Startup and Go, the initiative involves collaborating with Black Chamber of Commerce to launch this course.

BCJL is in discussions with internal and external stakeholders to develop an 8week online course in A.A.S and A.S Business Administration.

President's Outreach

On Thursday, February 2, 2023 President, Dr. Steady Moono, Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Patrick Ryan, Vice President of Administration, and Anthony Schwartz, Director of Facilities, visited Niskayuna High School. Superintendent Mummmenthey invited Dr. Moono and his team to sit in a CHS Business Law course offered at the high school as well as tour its facilities in order to strengthen and expand our partnership.

As follow up to our Ellis Promise conversation will Ellis Hospital, on February 22, 2023, the President participated in a tour of the Ellis Belanger School of Nursing. Included on the tour were Paul A. Milton, CEO of Ellis Hospital, Michelle Eden, Virginia Rust, Meredith Robinson, Caitlyn Poole and Carlos Cotto Assistant Superintendent of the Schenectady School District.



Our Royals Dining Center in Elston Hall will reopen on Monday, March 6, 2023. The scheduled hours will be: Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The dining center will feature new menu items, as well as delicious favorites. Canal Side Cafe will end its food service this Friday, March 3, but the area where it was located will still remain open for seating. All Starbucks products will still be available in the Schwartz Cafe located in the Begley Learning Commons. New Schwartz Cafe hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.