



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

President's Report

April 17, 2023

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions in collaboration with many other offices on campus held the second annual Schenectady Promise event where the full graduating class of Schenectady High School was admitted to SUNY Schenectady. Offices of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), TRIO, Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services, Admissions, and Financial Aid, participated in tabling at the event. Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services and Mary Silvestri, Testing Center Coordinator, helped with supporting academic and financial support information to students and families. This year family members of students were also encouraged to apply and enroll.

Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, hosted two presentations for members of SUNY Schenectady's Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) at Schenectady High School. The sessions "Understanding College Options" and "Student Support Services" highlighted the various pathways into and through higher education, as well as the variety of resources available to support students. Students in the audience included 9th, 10th and 11th graders.

The CCE committee (Vanessa Traver, Assistant Professor, Ingrid C O'Connell, Professor, Michelle Garretson, Assistant Professor, Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, Dr. Lorena Harris, C-STEP Program Director, and Kim Scheuerman, Professor), worked in organizing Picture a Scientist Program, a panel of MSTH Division Professionals (including Dr. Amy Osborne, Instructor, Keion Clinton, and Dr. Michelle Gilson, Biology Lab Technician) shared their opinion in regards to their reactions to the film and their views about what we can do about it. The film Picture a Scientist is a sobering exposé on sexual and gender harassment in the STEM fields, particularly in higher education. The films recount the stories of female students and scientists who leave the field because of discrimination and bias.

TRIO partnered with EOP, LPP and the Early Childhood Education School Program (ECHS) to offer a Financial Wellness program hosted by YOU INC – Wealth Education Services. The program "Acquiring a Wealthy Mindset" is instrumental to the development of TRIO students' sense of self-efficacy in financial matters, including budgeting and understanding assets and liabilities.

TRIO partnered with EOP, LPP and ECHS to offer a cooking and food budgeting program. The program "Cooking Healthy on a Budget" explored a variety of ways to choose food selections that are economical and part of a balanced diet.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Pam McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. David Clickner, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Academic Affairs, Dr. Syeda Munaim, Interim Dean of Math, Science, Technology and Health, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, and Dr. Hamin Shabazz, Chief of Staff, attended a meeting with Schenectady City School District and Ellis Medicine to develop pipelines and support for students from high school through college and the workforce

Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience

Over 75 students took part in Food for Thought and All That Jazz, cooking, performing, and hosting 200+ Foundation guests.

SUNY Schenectady hosted the Regional SkillsUSA competition. Dr. Moono spoke at the opening ceremonies and 30 high schools were represented in this regional competition. Scholarships from the SUNY Schenectady School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism were presented to the first-place students at the event's award ceremony.

Dean of the Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism (HCAT), Dr. David Brough and Associate Professor, James Larkin participated in the New York State ProStart Competition at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. Dr. Brough served as a judge for the culinary competition and James Larkin served at the SUNY Schenectady recruiting table answering question for numerous prospective students and their parents. Scholarships from HCAT were presented by Professor Larkin to the first-place students at the event's award ceremony.

HCAT held their spring advisory Committee meeting and Annual Networking Night. A wonderful time was had by all. This event gives the advisory committee the opportunity to network with our current faculty, staff, students and alumni. Much information and suggestions were shared by all. A special thank you to John O'Connell, Professor, Rain O'Donnell, Instructor, and their students.

Career Services gained 21 new employer and one new Career Mentor registrations in College Central Network.

Assistant Director of Career Services, Dawn Jones, facilitated three Speed Networking workshops for classes and 3 info sessions for MAT 081, MAT 083, and MAT 123.

Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning is working with a group of SUNY Administrators to further implement and employ Blackboard Ally and improve accessibility across all of SUNY.

Working with Professor, Matt Farron, David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning, secured funding to assist in the implementation of a HyFlex course in the Spring 2023 semester.

Mary Silvestri, Welcome Center Triage Point, working with Admissions, Success Center, and the Advisement Center, began New Student Registration Days. During the days, new students are greeted at the Welcome Center, given the My Survey to Success with the success coaches, given a short tour and then taken to advisement to register for classes. Through these small

enrollment events, we can personalize our approach to each student and ensure they are completing all the steps necessary to enroll.

TRIO continues to offer the TRIO Success Seminar series which features weekly gatherings to connect with students, discuss resources, troubleshoot challenges, and encourage use of campus and community support systems. This month's topics included Collaboration and Group Work and Paper Writing Tips.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions in collaboration with College in the High School staff and Admissions Staff held the second annual full class instant admit program at Mohonasen High School. Students listened to an admissions presentation about the college's degree and transfer opportunities.

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Thairy Echevarria, Admissions Advisor, and David Gonzalez, Director of Athletics, attended the CASDA College fairs at Schenectady High School, Schalmont High School, Guilderland High School, Capital Region BOCES, Shenendehowa High School (2.4)

Margaret Anne Williams arranged for an "Advisor in Residence" for the College of Saint Rose, University at Albany, SUNY Plattsburgh, Siena College, SUNY Empire College, SUNY Buffalo State University and Belanger School of Nursing.

Ingrid O'Connell, Professor of Hospitality, accompanied five students in attending the March 7, 2023 NYS Hospitality & Tourism Association's Advocacy Day, held at the Albany Renaissance Hotel. Students had the opportunity to experience a professional trade organization conference, network with industry professionals and meet a SUNY Schenectady Hospitality & Tourism Management graduate, who is now the Sales Manager for NYSHTA.

On March 9, 2023, Karen Tanski, Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations, met with the account team from iFactory (RDW Group), the digital agency selected to redesign the College's website, to officially kick off the project. The team reviewed the scope of work, the payment structure, and the upcoming meetings/input necessary to complete the initial milestones. The project is expected to take 12-15 months to complete.

On March 21, 2023, the marketing team worked with and directed a contracted photographer for a photo shoot in the HCAT wing. This shoot was part of a series scheduled to obtain new images of students and faculty in action in the culinary labs and hospitality students in the Casola Dining Room. The images will be used for the website, advertising, print materials, social media, and other marketing initiatives to demonstrate the campus and learning experience at the College. This is the third professional photo shoot by marketing this academic year as the department works to modernize images and provide a consistent look and feel across marketing channels.

Karen Tanski, Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations, and Jessica McHugh-Greene, Graphic Designer II, met with Steve Fragale, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, to develop new website communications to improve New Student engagement with the orientation experience. The updated web content will launch on April 17, 2023.

Building Organizational Effectiveness

The Office of Human Resources (HR) has successfully completed the process of sending 1095-C forms to employees, collecting information on errors, and sending corrected forms to those employees in need of a corrected form. 1095-C forms must be sent out to employees each year. They contain information on when the employee was eligible for medical coverage during the previous year, and when the employee had medical coverage from the employer during the previous year. This important, time-sensitive and time-consuming process begins at the beginning of every calendar year and involves receiving the 1095-C forms from Benetech, thoroughly reviewing each form, working with Benetech to clarify content on the forms, and printing and mailing each form.

For the month of March, HR has conducted two new employee orientations. We currently have 27 open searches which consist of two faculty, five CSEA, and 20 Professional positions.

Lupini Contractors started work on the Elston Hall Façade project. Scaffolding was erected in early April and work will begin on repairs to the brickwork, ornamental ironwork, wooden structures and cast concrete. The contractor also will seal windows and clean the exterior of the building. This work will be completed in mid-October 2023.

The county provided an update on the Flexpod Airport Hanger project. The contractor is delivering the building materials the week of April 10th with site preparation and the concrete base completed in late April. The projected completion date of the new hanger and educational space is August 1, 2023.

Planning for the new Student Service Center in the Stockade Building continued during March. In mid-April, our team is meeting with the architect to provide a schedule of guiding principles, number of employees and other details needed for design. We anticipate finalizing design concepts in May.

Representatives from the college met with C2 Architecture for a Facilities Master Plan update kick-off meeting. The process is beginning with completion of data information the architect will use to start the process. This new plan will shape the college's capital planning over the next five to ten years.

MJ Engineering started assessment work on the Elston Hall stair tower and basement project. MJ is conducting a structural analysis and making recommendations on how to repair settling issues in both areas of the building.

Bids were received for the Chemistry laboratory renovation. The bids came in within the budgeted amount for the project. We anticipate the county will finalize the contract in the next few weeks. Demolition and construction will occur during the Summer with an anticipated completion date of August 2023.

Work continues on the IT Infrastructure project. New computer switch gear will be tested during April with a planned cut over to the new switches in late April. Once this change over occurs, the college will be on the new high-speed network infrastructure. A contract was finalized for the update of technology in 19 classrooms via the use of HEERF and State capital funding. This project is to be completed during the summer of 2023.

Scholarship renewals and contributions continue to arrive, including \$10,000 for the Coccio Family Scholarship, \$5,000 for the Cannabicity Scholarship, and \$2,500 for the George Gould Scholarship.

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, worked with SUNY IR on the setup for the state-mandated biennial Sexual Violence Prevalence Campus Climate Survey. Mr. Miller submitted four IPEDS reports and two NYSED reports. Mr. Miller created a database to track weekly the Fall 2023 student registration by course and instruction method.

Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency

The 2023-24 operating budget request development is underway. Departmental and divisional requests continue to be refined. As of April 7th, the New York State budget had not passed. In anticipation of its passage, we are projecting the State support “floor” which means our State support most likely will be the same amount as the current fiscal year.

SUNY Schenectady’s 2023 Capital projects are getting underway. Advanced planning occurred to start various critical summer projects in anticipation of approval of the 2023-24 State funded capital match.

President’s Outreach

On March 20, 2023, new pathways to employment in the fast-growing healthcare field and a pipeline to education in nursing were created by two pillars of higher education and healthcare in the Capital Region. SUNY Schenectady and Ellis Medicine have joined together to design new initiatives and avenues to employment at Ellis Medicine for qualified SUNY Schenectady graduates and provide students with the foundation to further their education at Ellis’ Belanger School of Nursing. Officials from the College and Ellis Medicine signed an agreement today, outlining the new partnership that provides more access and opportunities for those interested in careers in healthcare.



Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education, SUNY Schenectady; Ann Fleming Brown, Board of Trustees Chair, SUNY Schenectady; Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady; Paul Milton, President and CEO, Ellis Medicine; Dr. Dawne Olbrych, Dean, Belanger School of Nursing – Ellis Medicine; and Gary Hughes, Majority Leader, Schenectady County Legislature.



More than 200 guests attended SUNY Schenectady’s 31st Annual Food for Thought & All That Jazz, presented by Community Bank, N.A., on Tuesday, April 4, on campus, a formal and festive evening of delicious food, outstanding music, and an impressive showing of support for SUNY Schenectady students and the College itself. Honorary Chair this year was Daria Mallin, AIA, Principal | President of Envision Architects, WBE and SUNY Schenectady Foundation Board Member.

For the past three decades, proceeds from Food for Thought & All That Jazz have transformed the experiences of SUNY Schenectady students, from the addition of new facilities including the Welcome Center, to scholarship support, and emergency funding that helps students to persist. More than \$80,000 was raised in support of students.

The festivities began at 5:30 p.m. with champagne outside of the Begley Learning Commons. Guests then enjoyed a performance by the College’s Jazz Ensemble, comprised of talented students from the School of Music, under the direction of Dylan Canterbury, Adjunct Instructor of Jazz Studies, in the Taylor Auditorium. Following the concert, guests dined on delicious Italian farm-to-table themed hors d’oeuvres and small plates prepared and served by students in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, in the Van Curler Room. In-person and online silent auction items included a selection of beautiful student-produced works of art and a variety of others.

Dr. Steady Moono, President of the College, expressed his gratitude to guests who attended the event and supported the College through the auction, as well as Community Bank, those who served as Honorary Committee Members, and corporate sponsors.

“I continue to be humbled by the extraordinary generosity of our community,” Dr. Moono said. “We were overjoyed to welcome guests to our campus to experience what makes SUNY Schenectady so special and to showcase the talents of our students and faculty during Food for

Thought & All That Jazz. We are invested in our students and throughout their journeys here, we show them that everyone at the College — our faculty, staff, administrators, and mentors — are all their vision supporters. Everyone who supports Food for Thought & All That Jazz has invested in our students as well and joined that network of vision supporters, allowing our students to focus on their studies, work toward achieving their goals, and dream big.”



On March 23, 2023, the College was excited to host SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King Jr. on campus. SUNY Schenectady was the 29th campus on his tour of all 64 SUNY colleges and universities. Chancellor King had important discussions with students as they shared what led them to SUNY Schenectady and what their goals are for the future. Faculty, staff, and administrators shared their insights with Dr. King and provided him with an inside look at our academic programs. The College community gave Dr. King a warm welcome and showed him what makes SUNY Schenectady so special. While on this visit the Chancellor was presented with three Proclamations. The Proclamations were from the Schenectady County Legislature, presented by the Deputy Chair, Phillip Fields, the Mayor of the City of Schenectady, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy and New York State Assemblyman, the Honorable Angelo Santabarbara.



On April 10, 2023 SUNY Schenectady and MVP Health Care announced a new partnership that will invest in the Capital Region’s workforce and serve as a pipeline for talent development in the health care industry. A new, two-part training program will be offered to anyone who is interested in working in the health and dental insurance fields or people who are in the industry and looking to invest in their professional development. Those who enroll will take courses in customer service and claims processing management in the newly named MVP Health Care Impact Lab, located at the College’s Center City site. MVP Health Care provided \$17,000 in funding to the SUNY Schenectady Foundation, which will provide the MVP Health Care Impact Lab with technology, software, and equipment necessary to launch the training program.

Students can enroll in two courses: Health Insurance Customer Service Unit 1 (15 weeks) and/or Health Insurance Claim Processor Unit 2 (13 weeks), either separately, in-sequence, or simultaneously. Enrollees will learn about the practices and procedures that are essential to effective operations in a variety of health insurance careers including insurance policies, health plan operations and claims, billing, coding and service processes, eligibility processes, and enrollment management.

“We truly appreciate MVP’s longstanding support of the College and are looking forward to offering training in the new MVP Health Care Impact Lab in our Center City site,” said Dr. Steady Moono, President of SUNY Schenectady. “The new training programs will provide access to careers in healthcare in general and health insurance specifically. This is a high-demand sector with a variety of job openings and we are pleased to partner with MVP on this important new initiative.”

As part of the partnership’s dedication to investing in the region’s workforce, when students complete the courses, MVP will interview and consider students for open rolls, trainee opportunities, and internships at the company. The courses are designed to give students a basic understanding of general medical and insurance terminology and develop the skills necessary to provide specialized administrative assistance in the areas of medical insurance, medical billing, insurance customer service, and healthcare administrative management. These specialized skills will provide the strong foundation needed to fill health care jobs not only at MVP, but potentially at local hospitals, providers offices, or other insurers as well.

“At MVP, we believe that the beating heart of any organization is its employees,” said Chris Del Vecchio, President and CEO of MVP Health Care. “Partnering with SUNY Schenectady to invest in workforce development is vital to the continuation of the health care ecosystem here in the Capital Region. The foundational skills that enrollees will be able to receive through this specialized course load will be able to change the trajectory of someone’s career while supporting local companies as they search for top talent. We are proud to partner with SUNY Schenectady to offer this unique opportunity to those in our community and look forward to welcoming new staff to MVP in the future.”

“This partnership represents a ‘perfect storm’ collaboration between insurance industry experts at MVP and SUNY Schenectady’s Workforce Development and Community Education Division to create relevant and timely training programs designed to assist community members with new gainful employment pathways and/or promotional opportunities in an existing role,” said Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Education at SUNY Schenectady. “We are so thankful to MVP for their partnership, generosity, and expertise.” The training is slated to begin in late summer or early fall.