



OUR COLLEGE – OUR FUTURE – The Strategic Plan to 2020

President's Report
May 2020

Expand Access and Increase Student Success

The Division of Academic Affairs reports the following achievements for this past month:

MSTH faculty, and faculty in other divisions, are using Zoom online meetings and Blackboard Collaborate for synchronous lectures and Blackboard for course content delivery as well as recorded live lectures so students can return to them or see them if they were unavailable during scheduled meeting times. They are also creating a virtual laboratory experience from 'scratch,' using only free resources or materials they are making themselves.

Dr. Lorena Harris reports the SUNY Schenectady Virtual Learning Community (VLC) is using the Flip Grid platform for the College's Art, Music and Science Connection. The video has more than 1000 views as of April 28th. Here is the Flip Grid link: <https://flipgrid.com/f2bc1797>

Dr. Harris also reports CSTEP and FYS Students will be participating in a Virtual Career Day from the American Chemical Society on April 30th. This will include a career Q&A with Forensic Scientist, Dr. L. A. Valentin, addressing the topic "A Day in the Life of a Forensic Chemist."

Ingrid O'Connell attended the virtual Global Meetings Industry Day (GMID) Conference, held on April 14th. There were 275 events broadcasted to 53 countries. Over 12,500 attendees at peak time from around the world, representing the tourism industry. Ingrid attended three workshops, and was able to record two of them to share with her Events Management (TAT 140) students via Blackboard Collaborate. The change in platform allowed for this sharing, which reinforces what students are learning in TAT 140 on a global level. As a result, discussion questions covering force majeure, contracts, and effective communication during crisis were developed to infuse course content with additional insights from industry professions during the COVID-19 period.

Ingrid O'Connell participated in The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Food Industry webinar through Niagara University. Of particular note to support culinary programming, food industry leaders from Wegmans, Rosina Foods, Rich Products, Tops, and the Affinity Group discussed the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the food industry. Attendees learned how manufacturing, retail, brokers and the supply chain are responding to increased demand.

Assistant Professor Jay Larkin earned a Certificate in Hospitality and Tourism Management from the College of Business at Florida Atlantic University. The certificate is part of FAU's Executive Education programs. The course work covered management topics in tourism, hotels, resorts, and hospitality in general.

Jay Larkin also earned certifications from the National Restaurant Association and ServSafe. The National Restaurant Association in coordination with ServSafe provided an opportunity to certify in sanitary practices specific to COVID-19 for both delivery and pick up. Larkin earned both designations and went on to earn the ServSafe Certified Food Handler certification as well.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the School of Music developed, tested, and implemented procedures and protocols for virtual auditions. Students apply for auditions online and School of Music staff work with the prospective students to schedule an online audition and help them prepare for the experience which includes solo performance, scales, sight-reading, and aural skills testing.

Students meet virtually via video conference platforms such as WebEx and perform for a panel of full-time and adjunct faculty members. Moments after the audition, students are notified of audition results and the dean of the School of Music works with them by phone to develop an appropriate array of fall semester courses. Registration forms are completed and students are allowed to register via email. The whole audition/advising/registration process lasts approximately forty-five minutes and has proven to be quite efficient.

Once social distancing protocols are lifted this process will remain useful for prospective students who are unable to travel to Schenectady for in-person auditions. A similar procedure has been developed for end of semester performance examinations required of current Performing Arts: Music A.S. students and Music Audio Technology A.A.S. students.

The Office of Student Affairs continues to provide students with laptops for use during this virtual academic session, as well as maintain communication to students regarding services available to them during this pandemic.

Food pantry continues to be open for student and staff.

Admissions is accepting video clips of accepted student's explaining why they have chosen SUNY Schenectady for the summer and fall. These will be posted on our social media sites.

Student Affairs is hosting a SUNY Schenectady Stronger Together video contest. Students are asked to make a 3-minutes video of how SUNY Schenectady is stronger together. A cash prize will be awarded to the top three videos. Deadline is the end of May.

On April 11th, students from Front End Web Development, part of the Center for Workforce Development and Community Education, and students from JavaScript Frameworks, offered in partnership with Albany Can Code, successfully completed their coursework.

On April 24th, the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC) Staff presented "Breaking down Barriers While Navigating Success with Wrap around Support Services" to colleagues across the statewide system of EOCs and OCs at a videoconference on support services for EOC and OC students. The videoconference was hosted by the staff and the SUNY University Center for Academic and Workforce Development.

On April 29th, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with alumna Joan Dembinski to discuss scholarship support for international students.

Our Chief Diversity Officer is working with Dean Aaron Tolbert on a proposed collaboration with the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC). The DDPC is a State agency that creates and funds innovative projects to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) live independently and participate fully in the community. The goal is to implement programs and initiatives, in compliance with SUNY's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, ensuring access for all and eliminating barriers based in the intersections of identity and cultural backgrounds, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, status as a veteran, or disability status.

Ensure a quality, relevant, coherent and innovative curriculum

Members of the AST team continue to develop a comprehensive COVID response plan (thank you to LAS dean Dr. Aaron Tolbert for putting together a draft covering multiple options).

Having successfully moved to virtual online instruction, academic divisions now continue to work toward retaining students through quality instruction and support in the virtual online environment.

Division deans and staff in multiple areas of Academic Affairs, worked to call all students who had not logged into their virtual online courses.

In addition to outreach in a variety of areas, the LAS division is contacting all students not yet registered for fall to encourage enrollment. Each call is tailored to the student's specific degree plan with recommendations based on what courses are available and what courses the students need. Computer science, communication, and human services students were contacted in April and calls will continue through the coming months.

Faculty have participated in a number of efforts, including retention calls, and partaking in professional training through ATD, The Chronicle, and SUNY outlets in teaching in an online environment.

For online Microbiology laboratory, adjunct instructor Shalini Varna added innovative content by making a project for the students to understand the material better and directed specific attention to supporting students in learning more about scientific writing. Students were introduced to the techniques used by pathologists and then role played in their writing as they identified a bacterium in a patient sample. In addition to supporting students' knowledge of the scientific writing style, it also helped them to connect their learning to a real-life situation.

In adjunct instructor Shalini Varma's Human Body course, she asked students to look for new research articles on COVID-19 and then present a paper or Power Point presentation, providing students with an opportunity to engage in providing real-time, professional updates on the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic using peer-reviewed literature from the scientific community just as those working in the field do in response to issues such as the epidemic.

The STEM Celebration scheduled to occur on campus was canceled as a result of COVID-19, but that will not stop Dr. Lorena Harris and Dean Tania Cabrera who are planning a virtual online STEM Celebration (VLC) from May 4 to 6 within a timeframe designed specifically to accommodate students' schedules. The Flip Grid platform will be used to support this VLC and research presentations.

Professor Sten Isachsen has been busy creating YouTube channels for all groups such as the Musicians of Ma'alwyck and Jim Gaudet and the Railroad Boys to be used for streaming performances with studio quality audio. He will be using these channels and more to set up live and post production streaming of performances with profession quality audio for SUNY Schenectady student performances in the Fall.

Invest in Campus Renewal

The Office of Administration reports that work on the Begley Learning Commons continued in April. During this time, wallboard and HVAC systems were installed. Our contractors are working on wiring and starting finish items such as the ceiling grid/panels, tiling, doors, restroom fixtures and railings in May. The two metal security doors for the Commons entryway and the café are to be installed this month. A request for bids was released by the County for room signage that will match the campus-wide wayfinding standards. At this time, completion of the Learning Commons is on schedule for mid-August, 2020.

Bids were solicited for replacement of flooring in the Stockade Building. The lowest bid received was on State contract and within budget. Contracting documents are with the County and we anticipate work will begin this summer.

Quotes for the Campus-wide IT Infrastructure project were received. Items sought were available on existing State contract and the quotations were submitted to the County Purchasing Office for consideration and approval. We anticipate this project will be completed during the summer of 2020.

A planning committee made up of various constituents from the College community met with our Architect from C2 Architecture for preliminary conversations on the new Welcome Center and Admissions Office space in Elston Hall. The group is seeking a welcoming one-stop area where questions can be answered and basic transactions could be processed. The Welcome Center and Admissions space needs to be exciting and impressive for prospective students, the public and others who seek information about the college. Follow up meetings are scheduled for May.

A working team from the college continued work on the Mill Lane culinary space. Our design contractor from Hospitality House completed the design layout and specifications for the space. Equipment items and layout were finalized. A request for bids was issued in late April for the culinary equipment. We anticipate receipt of bids in mid to late May of 2020. Our construction contractor BBL is reviewing space design plans at this time.

SCI Interiors completed furnishings installation in the new Center City Gaming space. In early May, they returned to the college to install the classroom computer monitor arms and wiring conduit required to finish the space.

The Office of Administration submitted a proposal to the Federal Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau for a TTB permit for the Mill Lane project. The permit was granted in late April. During May, the State Liquor Authority (SLA) application will be submitted for consideration and approval.

During April, representatives from the college and County met to discuss 2021 Capital Projects. A preliminary list was discussed along with concerns about the potential impact of reduced State funding during the next year or two. Both parties agreed to form a working group to prioritize the potential

funding request and watch potential developments from SUNY and the State Division of Budget that could impact future projects.

Strengthen and Expand Community and Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Margaret McLellan-Zabielski completed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses through SUNY professional development programming with distinction. Dr. Margaret McLellan-Zabielski also took part in her SUNY PRODiG cohort which works to support and empower minority instructors and women in STEM.

School of Music (SoM) adjunct faculty member, Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz has been live-streaming performances by Musicians of Ma'alwyck, the chamber ensemble in residence at SUNY Schenectady School of Music. Concerts occur every Sunday at First Reformed Church in Schenectady. She has been performing with a reduced version of the group which includes herself on violin, Professor Sten Isachsen on guitar, and adjunct faculty member Norman Thibodeau on flute. For Easter, the group presented a Telemann Cantata, *Der Harmonische Gottesdienst*. Musicians of Ma'alwyck will continue to offer these weekly concerts as long as the church remains closed.

SoM adjunct faculty member Clifford Brucker performed piano for Jazz Vespers at First Reformed Church in Scotia. It was streamed live over the churches website and Facebook.

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, SoM adjunct faculty member, and the Musicians of Ma'alwyck streamed a concert from her historic Scotia home (Ma'alwyck) featuring the music of Robert Burns. Here is the link to the performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZsSOLEu5yw&feature=youtu.be>

Our Chief Diversity Officer continues to work with community partners and organizations that create bridges of opportunities for individuals who may not otherwise have access to education. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion is currently in conversation with Young Parents United, a local nonprofit organization that works with teen parents to get them back on track with their education, to develop pipelines with other SUNY Schenectady programs for at-risk populations.

Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability

During April, an update on the 2020-21 Budget was presented to the Board of Trustees. Declining enrollment and a decrease in State funding and tuition revenues created a gap in revenue and expenditures. College leadership proposed steps to close this gap with additional revenue resources and expenditure reductions.

During April, SUNY and the State made strong overtures towards a mid-year reduction in State support that would impact the College's 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years. Details on these reductions in financial support are not available at this time but are anticipated over the next few weeks. The 2020-21 budget process has slowed due to this uncertainty of State revenues.

The College continues to monitor and respond to Federal financial stimulus legislation and programs. SUNY Schenectady is estimated to receive \$2.2 million dollars in the first round of CARES Act funding; of which \$1.1 million is restricted to assist student with COVID-19 expenses. The remaining \$1.1 million is earmarked for college operations. Prior to drawdown of these funds, SUNY and the NYS Division of Budget will require the College to submit a justification for these funds. The College also may be eligible for an additional \$112K in Federal funds from the Federal CARES act under support to Title III recipient institutions.

SUNY Schenectady's CDO is also serving as a member of SUNY's Advisory Committee for the Diversity Dashboard, a project aimed at collecting system-wide diversity data for dash boarding. The dashboard will also feature information for all ODEI funded/administered programs (e.g., PRODiG) and dashboard participation as well as impacts, serving as a report card for each campus. This SUNY initiative dovetails nicely with SUNY Schenectady's diversity mapping project, which is currently in development.

President's Outreach

In the current State budget, there is a provision to review tax revenues and expenditures. Community colleges have already taken disproportionate cuts. The "floor" was not in the budget plus with the realities of COVID-19, and enrollment down, federal assistance is necessary. Chief of Staff Paula Ohlhaus led the legislative outreach resulting in my one on one conversations with Senator Tedisco, Assemblyman SantaBarbara, Assemblyman Steck, Assemblywoman Fahy, and Assemblywoman Walsh in requesting their assistance in advocating for community colleges to the federal legislators. We want to mitigate any further cuts to community colleges as we will and are part of any recovery efforts relative to education and training. There is a need for more unrestricted aid from our feds so the State does not need to continue cuts at the local level.

We miss seeing you on campus and hope you are all well and staying safe.



