

**SUNY**  
**SCHENECTADY**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

***President's Report***  
May 15, 2023

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**Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Laura Sprague, Director of Admissions, Susanna Adams, Coordinator of ADA Transition Services, Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, and Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Support Services, hosted Shenendehowa High School students with IEP and 504 plans for an information session on ADA Transition services, TRIO services and tutoring services and tour of campus

Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, took part in the “Universal Design for Learning - Building in Access Webinar” hosted by the SUNY Center for Professional Development. The program presenters focused on ways to build courses and support resources in ways that are accessible for all users. Specific attention was paid to designing and managing accessible documents and images. The topics covered in this training will serve as a critical foundation for the development of TRIO’s Brightspace modules which include academic, financial, and career-focused resources for students.

April 4, 2023, ECHS staff hosted a 10th grade Smart Transfer Transition Day, an event on the SUNY Schenectady campus. This event allowed for 10th grade students to learn about and meet support staff from multiple college offices such as, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, the Career Services Team, Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement and Shannon Stone, Academic Advisor, that would be supporting their success while on campus full time in their 11th and 12th grade years of high school.

Dr. Munaim who is the designated SUNY Guided Pathways (GP) facilitator for our college and the Interim Dean of MSTH collaborated with Mark Bessette, Assistant Dean of Financial Aid and Access, Associate Vice President Steve Fragale and colleagues in offices across campus to implement the Spring 2023 Guided Pathways Institute. President Moono spoke very eloquently about all of us guiding our students to success as well and two guest speakers, Dr. Patty Munsch, Vice President of Student Affairs at Suffolk County Community College, and Mr. Joe Falco, Executive Director of Student Success, Rockland County Community College, presented to the group.

The event was a huge success with representation from all corners of the college with a total of over 75 people attending. Additionally, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Student Services, Ben DeAngelis, Director of TRIO, and Pamela McCall, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, presented student support information during the Institute related to academic supports, especially as it relates to the high school to college transition. Those in attendance included but not limited to a

team of tutors, Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services, Dean of the School of Music, Dr. Christopher Brellocks, from Student Services, Lauren Gallo, Early College High School Student Success Manager, Theresa Polson, Interim Early College High School Program Administrator, Hemwattie Ramnauth, Admissions IPS II, and Jessica Villanova, Admissions IPS III, Mitzi Espinola, Assistant Director of Academic Advisement and Retention, and Leanna Liuzzi, Academic Advisor.

Jaimee King, Executive Director of the SUNY College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC), met with the City Mission's resource navigator to discuss SCCOC resources and a pathway for new participant referrals.

Fidelis Care staff commenced bi-weekly on-site visits to provide health insurance support to SCCOC participants.

The SCCOC's technology upgrade project, overseen by Mr. Milo Orr, Staff Assistant of SCCOC, has been completed. The Center's computer room has 11 new computers, staff offices are equipped with new laptops and the reception area has been upgraded with 2 laptops for online application submission and a tablet for participant check in and data collection.

On April 25, 2023, Jaimee King and Nneka Morgini attended the YWCA Northeastern NY's STRIVE Empowerment Resource Fair.

On April 27, 2023, SCCOC, in partnership with NYS Department of Labor and Schenectady County Connects, hosted a Community Job Fair. Forty-one employers registered and over one hundred job seekers attended the fair.

### **Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience**

Parmesh Thakoordial, a senior Smart Transfer student has been selected as a 2023 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar and will receive a \$2,250 scholarship and was named to the First Team of the All-New York Academic Team. Parmesh was officially introduced during the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention on April 3, in Denver, Colorado. He was also recognized during the USA Today Phi Theta Kappa All-New York Academic Awards on April 24, 2023, at the Albany Capital Center.

Dr. Munaim, Interim Dean of MSTH, led efforts for STEM Day in collaboration with Dr. Lorena Harris and multiple other offices on campus. Dawn Jones, Assistant Director of Career Services, brought in colleges and employers for networking purposes and facilitated the Alumni Panel taking place on STEM day. The event featured approximately 45 students and a faculty member presenting posters on their research work. The many disciplines representing their topics were Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Ecology, Environmental Science, Math, Human Biology, Biology of the Cell, Astronomy, Health Sciences, Nutrition, including posters through the CSTEP program. The poster presentations were followed by the students being treated to lunch and a discussion by MSTH alumni on the alumni panel. Area high school students were invited to this to have their own experience. Altogether about 30 posters were presented (well over the usual 15 every year) and over 75 people attended. This was a resounding experience for all the students who took part in STEM Day.

Migration from Banner self-service 8 to version 9. This will be required to meet the full requirement to enable Preferred name and adding Pronouns.

There are approximately 6 other modules that also need to be migrated to allow continued use of items such as payroll, faculty, and student use of grades, as well as other functions currently used and expected by faculty, staff, and students.

### **Building Organizational Effectiveness**

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, provided data to the following offices: The Foundation for a grant proposal; Human Resources for an organization report; Academic Services for faculty outreach; Hotel Culinary Arts & Tourism division for Food for Thought; Guided Pathways committee for a presentation; the Success Center for mid-term grades outreach; and the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Planning and Academic Affairs for Schenectady County data. Mr. Miller submitted Spring term student data to SUNY IR.

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, with Jacquie Keleher-Hughes, Director of Library Services, and Babette Faehmel, Professor within the Liberal Arts Division, hosted a faculty open forum to discuss challenges and concerns related to the use of Artificial Intelligence in academia, with a specific focus on the most widely used tool, ChatGPT.

Professor, Megan Hall, completed several courses at Southern New Hampshire University: "Introduction to the Online MFA," and "Advanced Studies in Literature".

Lupini Contractors started work on the Elston Hall Façade project. Work began 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. At this time window seals are being replaced. This work will be completed in mid-October 2023.

Planning for the new Student Service Center in the Stockade Building continued during April. Members of the college community met with the architect and project clerk of the works to outline the project's guiding principles, departments occupying the space and other needs. Our architect is to present concepts on May 16th. We anticipate construction will begin in mid-October with a projected completion date of January 15, 2024.

Bids were awarded for the Chemistry laboratory renovation. Demolition and construction will occur during the Summer with an anticipated completion date of August 2023.

Work continues on the IT Infrastructure project. On the weekend of April 29th, the college's old system was disconnected and the new switches and fiber cable infrastructure was put on-line. Our contractor who is replacing technology infrastructure in 19 classrooms next month has begun work and acquired hardware needed to complete the project. Construction will begin after graduation on this project.

The Office of Human Resources (HR) organized a conference call with Benetech representatives, the Controller, the VP of Administration and the VP of Academic Affairs to better understand and address potential errors in the monthly “hours worked” report that is sent to Benetech to ensure that the College remains in compliance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Compliance with the ACA is incredibly important, and large fines can be administered for non-compliance. Part of the College/County contract with Benetech includes their services to assess our compliance with the ACA on a monthly basis, through the hours worked report that comes from Payroll, and the active/termed employee report that comes from HR.

During the conference call, discrepancies in the hours worked report were identified. Subsequently, the Controller and the VP of Administration worked with Payroll to identify errors that were being produced, and a way to correct those errors.

With the hours worked report now functioning correctly, HR has assurance that Benetech can more accurately assess the College’s compliance with the ACA going forward.

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

Marianne Senneca, Vice President of Development and External Affairs has been working with an anonymous donor who sent in the first installment of \$12,900 for a \$25,000 endowed scholarship in honor of retired paralegal professor Jerry Evans.

Updates to our emergency notification system, Everbridge, are now going directly to the system. Previously we sent them to SUNY who then uploaded for us. We now are conducting automated updates twice a day.

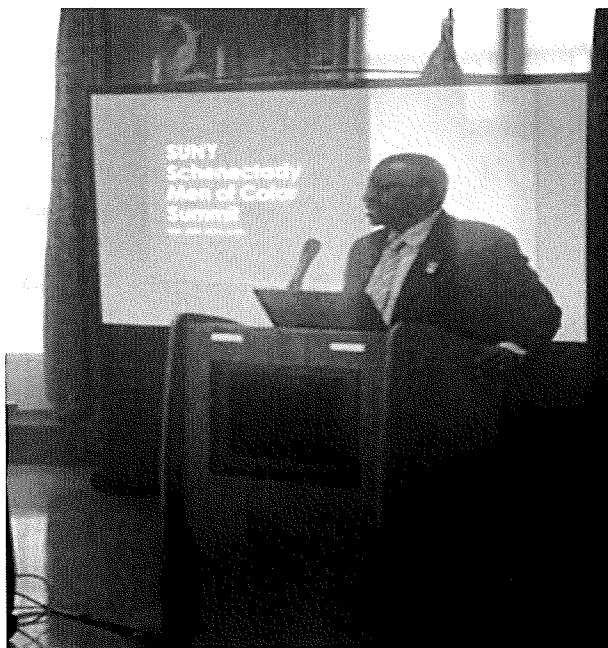
### **Ensuring Financial Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency**

The 2023-24 operating budget development is underway. As of April 26th, 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

Marianne Senneca, Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with several Board members to develop effective marketing materials for promoting the NYS Charitable Education Tax Credit Program in 2023.

A Foundation Board focused retreat will be held on May 16 at the College. Convergent Non-Profit Solutions will share their findings from the feasibility study and present training to the Board on fundraising during a campaign.

## President's Outreach



On May 3, 2023, SUNY Schenectady welcomed 11th- and 12th-grade young men of color from Schenectady High School for the inaugural Men of Color Summit, a daylong event with a series of discussions that highlighted the educational pathways and student supports offered at SUNY Schenectady. The 45 students are all participants in the Schenectady City School District's My Brother's Keeper (MBK), Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), and Early College in the High School (ECHS) program.

During the daylong event, organized by the College's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the high school students heard from Dr. Steady Moono, President of the College, and Anibal Soler, Superintendent of the Schenectady City School District. "Men of Color in Higher Education," a panel discussion, brought together College and high school educators and members of the Schenectady community. The high school students also had the opportunity to participate in small group discussions, meet with representatives from College clubs and student organizations, and tour the SUNY Schenectady campus to gain a better understanding of the exciting educational opportunities and resources available to them.

"At SUNY Schenectady, we have all of the support structures in place to ensure student success and we were very proud to be able to demonstrate that directly to students here today," said Dr. Steady Moono, College President. "We are going to be their visions supporters and walk alongside them as they pursue their dreams and aspirations. The College is well poised and committed to their success. We were very proud and humbled to host this first Men of Color Summit and we look forward to many more in the coming years."