



MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

**President’s Report**

June 17th, 2024

**Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Jaimee King, Executive Director of Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center, reviewed the SCCOC Application for Admission and identified opportunities for improved inclusivity.

Laura Ficarra, ECHS Student Success Coach, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, discussed strategies for improving outreach and connections at the K-12 level with an emphasis on community-building opportunities at the K-7 levels.

Members of the DEI Professional Development Initiative launched an Inclusive Leadership Professional Development Project. The project began with focus groups to learn more about what our campus community values in inclusive leadership styles, and the summer months will be devoted to cohort members development of recommended materials, best practices, and recommendations.

On May 17, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, presented “Elements of DEI within the Middle States Self-Study” to the Middle States Steering Committee. The presentation included a discussion of how to frame reflection on diversity, equity, and inclusion within the context of the College’s mission and vision; examples of DEI within the seven standards; additional opportunities for reflection within each standard; and guiding questions to consider throughout the self-study process.

Academic Affairs

This month, the CSTEP program welcomed Em Gordon, their new Coordinator. She has already created a SUNY Schenectady CSTEP alumni Gmail and LinkedIn account and is actively working on a SUNY Schenectady CSTEP website to be a repository of all the research

projects, days of services (DoS) and applied learning opportunities hosted by CSTEP since the inception of the program in AY 2015-2016. (3.4, 3.5)

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning was asked to be a keynote speaker during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology (CIT 2024) held at University of Buffalo. He presented his abstract *Using Intelligent Agents in Brightspace to Promote a Scaffolded Professional Development Training*. The College had three staff in attendance. (1.1, 1.3)

On May 1, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, and Co-Advisor to the SUNY Schenectady PRIDE Alliance, assisted the PRIDE Alliance in a very successful “Pie a Professor” fundraiser. Subsequently, on May 17, she met with Amy Student, Academic Advisor to finalize details for the upcoming Schenectady Pride event to be held June 1. (1.4, 1.5)

On May 1, many College staff attended the Schenectady Promise event held at Schenectady High School. The event admitted the entire class of 2024. Attendees included Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement, Anna Westerman, Academic Advisor II/ VA Certifying Official, Mary Silvestri, Director of TRIO, Melanie Uebele, LPP Program Administrator, Abdul Samassa, Assistant Director LPP, Maggy White, LPP Counselor, and Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support. That evening, students and their families were invited back to find out more about the College. Academic Advising, LPP, and TRIO staff were available to answer questions and schedule appointments to plan for beginning in the fall. Five SUNY Schenectady LPP alumni were on hand to speak with prospective students and families about their personal experiences as students at SUNY Schenectady (1.3, 1.4)

### Strategic Planning and Initiatives

The Vice Presidents and Directors across Strategic Initiatives & Planning and Academic Affairs hosted the 2024 Schenectady Promise at Schenectady High School on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 in conjunction with Schenectady City Schools. The entire graduating class of approximately 700 students were admitted to the College (450 of whom had not previously applied) and were provided enrollment support over day and evening programs which took place directly at Schenectady High School through the Schenectady Promise Instant Admit event. Booths were hosted by leadership of Admissions, Financial Aid, EOP, LPP, ECHS, Advising, TRIO, Career Services, and ASAP teams. Approximately 175 Schenectady High School Seniors attended programming across the day and evening sessions, resulting in 13 new applicants tied to the event and 5 additional registration appointments. Follow up emails to encourage engagement and a call to action to take the next steps to enroll were sent to participants on to encourage application finalization and registration (1.4; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with Karen Tanski, Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations, and teams across the entire campus to host the 2024 Career Jam on the SUNY Schenectady Campus on Thursday, May 30, 2024. The program was targeted to bring approximately 800 local high school students, as well

as almost 100 school districts, employers, and community-based organizations to campus to participate in career development and planning activities for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders from Schenectady City Schools. Interactive exhibits and workshops were held across campus, exposing our facilities and resources to new audiences. Tours were prepared to meet the needs of prospective students through the School of Music and the School of Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Tourism. This was an exceptional collaboration across virtually all units of the College (1.4; 2.3; 3.1).

### Workforce Development

Lauren Lankau met with students enrolled in the Child Development Micro credential to discuss funding opportunities to support tuition and testing fees. Lauren Lankau attended Building the Health Workforce and Care Economy: Lessons from the Health Professions Opportunity Grant webinar. Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau met with the Schenectady Police Department to review group sponsorship for apprenticeship and finalize the application for the Police Officer occupation. Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau met with the 1199 SEIU to discuss apprenticeship funding opportunities including support and incentive funds for Certified Nurse Aide. Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau met with the Council for Children and Families to discuss apprenticeship funding opportunities including support and incentive funds for childcare assistants.

### Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

The Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC) walked in the Sycamore Collaborative Sponsored “Phil Grigsby Memorial Crop Walk” to bring awareness to food insecurity issues. The SCCOC team raised \$300. Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC met with the City Mission- Schenectady Works and SUNY Schenectady’s WFD staff to discuss an opportunity to support Schenectady Works Career Readiness and GED programs. Ms. Christine Goss, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC and Elizabeth Cowan, Participant Services Specialist of SCCOC tabled at Cohoes High School Spring Career Fair. SCCOC staff encouraged students to utilize VR headsets for career exploration on SUNY Schenectady Workforce Development & Community Educations Mobile Training Labs. SCCOC staff collaborated with SUNY Schenectady Workforce Development & Community Education’s staff to encourage high school students to explore careers through VR technology on the Mobile Training Labs at Career Jam. SCCOC tabled at Schenectady High Schools Senior Hiring Event to offer services to graduating seniors who plan to enter the workforce after graduation.

## **Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience**

### Academic Affairs

Dr. Lorena Harris, CSTEP Director worked with five Teen Science Café student leaders who entered a Teen Catalyst competition and they have won a mini-grant to attend several professional development webinars over the summer to enhance their leadership skills. If the

students complete all requirements of the grant, they will be eligible for a scholarship. Dr. Harris continues to actively mentor them throughout the process.

The Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning, in collaboration with Dr Faehmel and the Director of Library Sciences *received an IITG grant for “Interdisciplinary Learning Community on AI literacy and AI Adaptation in Learning, Teaching, Tutoring, Research, and Assessment Across the Curriculum”* in the amount of \$29,467. Work on this will begin this summer. (2.3, 2.4)

Dave Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning, collaborated, designed, and contributed to the “Teaching with AI: A Cross Campus Community of Practice” The IITG grant was approved for \$52,245. The grant is collaboration with SUNY Alfred State College of Technology, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Oswego, and SUNY Schenectady. Funding for the college will include stipends for faculty to infuse AI technology and literacy into their courses as well as for support in faculty training in these tools. (2.3, 2.4)

Eileen Abrahams, Dean of Liberal Arts was nominated to run for the Modern Language Association (MLA) Delegate Assembly to represent the Community Colleges Cohort for a three-year term. She accepted the nomination. (Gen P2)

In May, Liberal Arts faculty made a concerted effort to focus on learning more about Artificial Intelligence. Babette Faehmel, Professor attended the SUNY CIT Conference in Buffalo and began a six-week course entitled *Using AI Effectively for Teaching and Learning* sponsored by SUNY CPD. Additionally, Rae Doyle, Professor and Michelle Garretson, Assistant Professor both attended the SUNY FACT2 AI Symposium. (Gen P2)

### Strategic Planning and Initiatives

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation Programs, to host an Aviation Open House at the Center City location. 17 prospective students, ages 15-33, and 3 local guidance counselors were in attendance for a presentation of aviation programs, a tour of Center City, a demonstration of flight simulators, and a Q&A session (2.2; 2.3; 3.1).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, coordinated a program with Niskayuna High School guidance counselors to assist them in supporting prospective students who had not yet finalized enrollment decisions due to delays in the FAFSA and the postponement of the typical May 1 enrollment deadline for four-year colleges. Two students completed their applications. Another scheduled a New Student Registration Day (2.3; 2.4). The Office of Admissions in conjunction with Stephen Fragale, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, collaborated to host an informational booth to promote awareness and future enrollment at the College’s commencement ceremony. Approximately 30 families visited the

booth to collect admissions information and the brother of a graduate and past applicant updated his application for acceptance for the Fall 2024 semester (2.3; 3.1).

Admissions Advisors, Anna Sherman and David Gonzalez, hosted an online information session for an organization of Family and Consumer Science Teachers from Upstate NY. 14 teachers from middle and high schools in Eastern and Central Upstate New York attended to learn about Career and Technical Education and signature programs of SUNY Schenectady (2.2; 2.4).

To reduce summer melt within the ASAP program, a contact plan was developed and put in place for students taking summer courses, requiring them to have two contacts per month with at least one being in person during summer sessions. Students have been contacted and the plan has been implemented (2.3).

### Workforce Development

On May 2, 2024, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Empire State College to discuss non-credit to credit alignment for the Credits as You Go grant. Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with the City of Schenectady Fire Department to discuss the Fire Science curriculum and tuition support opportunities. Danielle Sloan and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the SUNY SCC 2 Community of Practice on Prior Learning Assessment. Members of the WFD team attended Career Jam and provided hands-on activities and career exploration to high school students from the region. Matthew Maloy and Lauren Lankau met with the Board of SMIST (Schoharie Mohawk Initiative for Science and Technology) to discuss the use of the mobile units for their current programming. Office of Workforce Development and Community Education utilized for the first time SUNY Apprenticeship Grant funding for stipends for Truck Driver pre-apprentices.

### Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, met with NYS Civil Service's Program Outreach Specialist to discuss a potential partnership to support participant access to Civil Service jobs. Ms. Christine Goss, met with colleagues from Dollar General to enhance participant access to employment opportunities with their organizations. SCCOC staff attended UCAWD's virtual presentation on Civil Services' NY HELP program.

SCCOC hosted the last SCCOC Advisory Board meeting of the program year. SCCOC staff attended and provide advisory board members insight into the Center's operations.

The SCCOC staff attended training with Expertise VR staff to learn how to operate the Center's virtual reality (VR) headsets. The VR headsets will be used by participants, at community events and in workshops to support career exploration.

### Information Technology

Password requirement for the SCCC-Guest Wi-Fi network has been removed.

This will enhance convenience and overall experience for student and event visitors. It will allow seamless internet connection without a password. Additional security measures have

been implemented to maintain network security. This reflects commitment to improving guest satisfaction and operational efficiency.

## **Building Organizational Effectiveness**

### Academic Affairs

The College hosted four New Student Registration days on May 1, 9, 14, 20. These special registration days are an ongoing, campus-wide collaborative effort. New students meet with a College staffer to log into the Portal and complete the *My Survey to Success*, then go on to meet with their Academic Advisor for their first career/advising/registration session in which the *New Student Checklist* is reviewed to ensure completion of the onboarding process. This allows for individual attention and wrap around services. (2.1, 2.3, 2.5)

This month was especially busy for Dawn Jones, Director of Career & Transfer Services. She co-facilitated the Middle States Steering Committee Standard 1 Working Group meeting, lead the review process of *My Survey to Success*, bringing in stakeholders including Mitzi Espinola, Director of Academic Advisement and Retention, Jessica Gilbert, Dean of Learner Support and May Silvestri, Director of TRIO to determine any need for changes to questions or referral processes as well as to incorporate questions targeted toward support of ELL students. Meetings will continue during the summer months with the goal of implementing the changes by the start of the Fall semester (Gen P3).

Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services and Kevin Rivenburg, our new Director of Admissions, designed and launched an online appointment scheduler via Slate to provide increased accessibility and greater functionality for students with disabilities who utilize the Testing Center. (3.5)

Dr. Sine Rofofsky, part-time Reference Librarian, and Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, completed the Copyright First Responders New York (CFRNY) training led by Kyle Courtney, a lawyer, librarian, and Copyright Advisor at Harvard University. Both are now part of the Copyright First Responders Network which is designed to provide a peer-to-peer network and awareness of copyright issues. (Gen. 3)

### Office of Diversity and Inclusion

On May 3, 2024, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended portions of the White House Initiative Advisory Commission meeting on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics, which included updates from senior leaders across industries on the Biden-Harris Administration's educational and workforce development opportunities pertaining to Hispanic and Latinx communities as well as discussion of recommendations from the Commission's subcommittees, including Advancing PreK-12

Educational Equity, Advancing Higher Education and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Strengthening Economic Opportunity & Workforce.

On May 23, 2024, Laura Ficarra, ECHS Student Success Coach, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and three student volunteers from the Smart Transfer Program represented the College at William C. Keane Elementary School's Community Day Fair. All five attendees discussed learning opportunities at SUNY Schenectady and careers with Community Day attendees and distributed information about youth programs offered through Workforce Development & Community Education as well as College in the High School Partnerships programs.

### Student Affairs

Director King connected with Kean University and Bunker Hill Community College on the implementation of refrigerated lockers to support the food pantry and hosted part of the implementation team on campus on Thursday, May 30 as the College prepares to receive the lockers.

### Strategic Planning and Initiatives

ASAP Executive Director, Kevin K. Dean, redesigned, streamlined, and automated a Starfish cohort to be able to track students' use for college services such as career services and tutoring. Creating the cohort increases the efficiency of SUNY mandated reporting for ASAP (3.4; 3.5).

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, completed an audit of the data in the new Middle States Annual Institutional Update, submitted a SUNY Systems report, and provided data for a number of projects including: graduate data for remarks at graduation; Perkins data for the annual report; TRIO data for the annual report; FTE data for budgeting; and Middle States IPEDS trends data to the Middle States Steering Committee (3.3).

Kevin Rivenburg, Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, implemented Slate CRM optimizations with a focus on increasing student engagement and personalization to increase student conversions to yield and follow toward enrollment (3.1; 3.4; 3.5).

Collection of parent/guardian/vision supporter contact information on the College application to increase our reach with prospective students and their supporters in follow up communications to encourage application completion as well as event registration and attendance.

The importing of FAFSA data of prospective and current students to identify and communicate with students who may qualify for ASAP based on credit history and Pell eligibility with Kevin Dean, ASAP Executive Director.

The addition of SMS communications for event invitees and registrants to increase likelihood of event attendance (i.e., event reminders with location for Aviation Open House), ease of arrival (i.e., setting expectations and readiness for New Student Registration) and automating follow up for those who do not show up to events in order to encourage future registration and connections.

## Workforce Development

Danielle Sloan and Lauren Lankau attending the Credit to Non-Credit Alignment Workshop I through the DOL SCC 2 grant. Michelle Kraines, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Lou Aiossa to discuss Police Officer programming. Danielle Sloan and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with members of the Culinary Division to discuss Culinary Cannabis Micro credential and Concentration.

## Marketing and Public Relations

The Center for the Arts continues to generate positive press for the College and the new Arts Concentration programming. On 4/30/24, WMHT filmed interviews at the new Rise Gallery, featuring professor and curator Stephen Tyson, student artist Emely Davila, and local artist in the exhibit Miki Conn. The finished segment (over 7 minutes of air time and in the first position of the show) ran on the weekly *AHA-a house for arts* program on 5/22/24. This opportunity stemmed from pitching the WMHT producer and inviting them to attend the Center for the Arts Gala opening night event back on March 28, which they did, resulting in WMHT committing to a half day of on-site preparation and filming. The interview is available at <https://video.wmht.org/video/art-resilience-rise-gallery-rhonda-rosenheck-cassandra-kubinski-gniary/>

The College hosted the Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado and SUNY Chancellor King for a press event on Tuesday, May 21. There were over 130 guests in attendance, including 25 SUNY Schenectady students, to hear about the latest Empire State Service Corp initiatives. Maureen Mbanga, '24, was the student speaker for the event.

## Development Office

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

Foundation received a gift in support of scholarship in the amount of \$1,200 from Douglas Woodward and Dianna Clifford.

The Foundation has received several donations to the Patricia and Thomas Baker Human Services Scholarship in memory of Professor Emeritus Baker, who recently passed away.

## Administration

Work on the Elston Hall shingle roof continued in May. New underlayment and structural supports were replaced to ensure the new roof is ready to support snow loads and high winds. It is estimated the work will be completed during June and scaffolding will be removed.



The Stockade building boilers were removed in late May to create space for our new replacements. HVAC services to Stockade was suspended in mid-May as classes ended to ensure completion of this project by late July.

New culinary kitchen fresh air units are on order and will arrive in mid-June for installation. These units will provide fresh air into the Van Curler Room kitchen laboratories to provide regulated kitchen temperatures while cooking and other preparation activities are underway.

The new Student Service Center glass entry in the Stockade building was shipped from the manufacturer and will arrive in mid-June for installation. This custom-made entry will frame the new Student Service Center entry which will house Student Advising and Career Services.

## Human Resources

Human Resources (HR) is excited to be hosting the annual Employee Service Awards and Retiree Recognition Ceremony on Friday, August 23, 2024. We will be serving a barbeque lunch outdoors following the ceremony. This year, we have added an additional category called the Peer-to-Peer Awards to allow employees to nominate colleagues in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the College. The Peer-to-Peer Awards includes three separate categories: Working Behind the Scenes, Making it Happen, and Brightening the Day. We hope to foster comradery and community within the College through these awards.

With approval and support from the President's Office, HR will be announcing the start of Fun Fridays occurring every Friday during summer hours. Employees are invited and encouraged to dress up in various themes throughout the summer. We hope to garner employee engagement through these events.

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

### Academic Affairs

Lawrence Hazel-Mullen, Instructor was awarded a Cultivation grant of \$2000 by the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers to undertake a digital humanities project tentatively entitled *Emma Frances Dawson & the Supernatural*. (4.5)

Dawn Jones, Director of Career & Transfer Services, Matt Farron, Professor and Mary Silvestri, Director TRIO submitted a proposal for the framework of the Opportunity Fellowship program to support the Foundation's efforts to provide Fellowship awards to students participating in unpaid credit-based internships and field experiences. This directly aligns with the Department of Education's new requirements regarding a College's obligation to provide Internship/Externship/Field Experiences for any student enrolled in programs where there is a requirement for such. (Gen P4)

On May 3, Melanie Uebele, LPP Program Administrator, met with Schenectady City School District's Food Service Manager to set up District breakfast and lunch service for the LPP summer programs held at SUNY Schenectady. (4.1, 4.5)

On May 4, the School of Music hosted the Music Teachers National Association which brought private music teachers, their students, and parents from the community to campus. An informational table highlighting our music programs and summer institutes was set up in the lobby as part of our ongoing recruitment efforts. (4.3)

Mary Silvestri, Director of TRIO, completed the US Department of Education's TRIO Virtual Training for the TRIO Grant Application on May 22. The virtual session focused on best practices for writing, developing, and submitting a successful grant application. The College's TRIO program will be entering the last year of its 5-year cycle this fall. The new grant will begin in Fall of 2025. (4.3, 4.5)

### Student Affairs

**2023-2024 Enhancing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Success Program (SWDPS)** is a grant program administered by the New York State Education Department (SED) in collaboration with New York's Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), both public and private. This academic year (2023-2024) we received \$21,159. This is a significant increase over the past two years. The purpose of this grant is to help degree-granting colleges and universities in NYS to enhance the supports and services they provide to their enrolled students with disabilities. This grant program does not provide direct aid to students, but rather, it provides funding to eligible colleges and universities so they can expand their existing supports for students with disabilities.

On June 17, 2024 the grant will support 100% of the cost of a physical campus site assessment/audit to help the institution create a truly inclusive, more accessible, and safer environment. Disability Inclusion Specialists (DIS) provide specific Universal Design recommendations that support the institutions inclusion goals of educating our campus community, creating strategies to improve accessibility, removing physical and social barriers, and creating Universal Design standards that support our mission. DIS Founder and CEO, Andy Houghton, will be assigned to our project and will conduct the site visit.

### Workforce Development

Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow and Professor Lou Aiossa met with the Department of Labor Occupational Analyst to finalize the trade outline for Police Officer and open the occupation up to funding through the SUNY Apprenticeship Program. WFDCE secured funding through a SUNY Workforce Development Training Grant to deliver project management training to Troy Web, LLC. Jason Lohraseb and Lauren Lankau met with Anchor Health to discuss PCA and HHA training for their employees. Tricia Terleckey, Dr. Tiziana Rota, Lauren Lankau and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with SUNY to discuss additional

OPWDD funding to support Direct Support Professionals. Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau met with Healthy Capital District to discuss funding opportunities for Certified Peer Recovery Advocate students. Michelle Kraines and Lauren Lankau met with The Disonell Group to discuss applying for additional pre-apprenticeship slots, connecting with the Department of Labor and articulating the current pre-apprenticeship course. WFDCE received the first enrollments in Upright Education's computer bootcamps. Dr. Tiziana Rota was invited and presented at the Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS) 2024. RECS is a forum for researchers, state and local administrators, practitioners, federal officials, and policymakers to discuss cutting-edge research on programs, policies, and services that support families on the path to economic self-sufficiency and well-being.

## Development

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

Personal interviews for two prospective board members were held. The candidates were recommended to and approved by the Foundation Board.

Stewardship Liuzzi hosted the kick-off committee meeting with the Board of Directors Scholarship Review Committee. The application closes and the committee reviewing begins on June 10.

The Foundation Board Finance Committee approved the 2024-2025 Foundation Budget.

Joe April provided the third of 5 training sessions for Campaign Fundraising to the Foundation Board.

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

The spring *Impact Newsletter* was mailed to 484 donors to illustrate the impact of their generosity to our "annual funds", such as the Food Pantry, Student Emergency Funding and general scholarship.

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

May LinkedIn activity had 397 views, and 135 new followers.

The spring FreeWill campaign was emailed (twice) to 15,717 constituents with a 27% open rate resulting in (2) two new legacy gifts.

Alumni Newsletter was sent to 15,604 alumni with a 35% open rate.

Community Newsletter was sent to 2,562 with a 40% open rate.

Class Notes continue to come in response to our Alumni Newsletter. Most recently, we learned about a former hospitality student who is now a personal banker at KeyBank, and a Class of 1990 alumna who worked with Disney and Publix down south.

We have engaged several Alumni volunteers to spearhead a fundraising effort for the campaign.

## Administration

The Proposed 2024-25 Operating Budget was finalized during May of 2024. As of the date of this report, SUNY had not finalized how to distribute the additional \$8 million in additional operating aid for the community colleges. System Administration provided guidance that any additional funds will not impact the proposed 2024-25 operating budget.

President Moono and Executive Vice President Ryan met with the County Manager to discuss the final 2025 Capital Project budget request and the proposed 2024-25 Operating Budget. The Capital request was submitted to the County in late May and after the college's BOT approval, the Operating budget will go to the County Legislature for consideration.

Administration finalized Project Financing Applications for ten new capital projects approved for the 2024-25 State fiscal year totaling \$4.8M. Applications must be submitted prior to DASNY accounts being set up for expenditure.

### **President's Outreach**



Mother, Davetta Simmons and her son, Jason Gibson are shown on their graduation at St. Rose College. They both wish to convey the message that you are never too old to get your degree and follow your dreams. Jason earned a Bachelor of Science in cyber security and a certificate in cyber forensics. Davetta earned a certificate in healthcare information. Both had already graduated in the Spring of 2022 and they both decided to continue their education. Davetta and Jason serve as a true inspiration to all students.



During the ceremony, New York State Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, who grew up in Schenectady and graduated from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School, delivered an inspiring keynote address in which he spoke about the “power of love.” He described how after graduating from Colgate University, becoming a Rhodes Scholar, and earning his law degree from Harvard University, rather than joining a law firm, he decided to become a hip hop artist, and how his parents supported his dreams. He then shared how he left the music industry to become a corporate lawyer and then run for Congress. He encouraged the graduates to remain rooted in love throughout their journeys.