



## MANY VOICES, ONE CALL – The Strategic Plan to 2026

### President's Report

June 16, 2025

## THE CULTURE OF CARE AND SUCCESS

### Academic Affairs

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, under the direction of Dr. Allyson Keyser, Professor (trumpet), the Wind Ensemble invited a renowned Indian tabla player to perform one of his classical Indian-inspired compositions with the group. (Gen P1)

Throughout May, LPP hosted several special events. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, they debuted their first ever Family Bingo Night, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, they went on their annual, year-end field trip to the YMCA Camp Chingachgook in Lake George and 95 LPP students and staff participated in teamwork challenges, field games, and a high ropes course. The culmination was the annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet at which over 200 students and family members attended. (1.3)

On Thursday, May 15, LPP hosted the 8th Grade Moving-Up ceremony for 8th grade LPP students at Mont Pleasant Middle School. Five students were accepted into the SMART Transfer Program, six were accepted into the Smart Tech program, and thirteen were accepted into the Smart Scholars program. This is a significant accomplishment as only 32 students are accepted into Smart Transfer and Smart Tech district wide, and the 8th grade LPP cohort consists of only 50 students. (1.3)

### Office of Diversity and Inclusion

The First Amendment Support Team Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended guidelines to accompany the "Application for Use of the Designated Public Forum" to improve transparency regarding the rights and limitations that apply both to event organizers and the College.

Farah Douglas, Reference Librarian, and Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, are collaborating on the development of a Juneteenth Library Reference Guide.

Babette Faehmel, Professor, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Jessica McHugh-Green, Graphic Designer II, collaborated on the development of print marketing materials for the *Many Voices, One Call Podcast*.

On May 21, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, presented "Deadline Models for Student Success" during the teaching and learning showcase at the *Faculty Teaching & Learning Retreat*.

The retreat was held at SUNY Schenectady and hosted by the ROYALs Teaching and Learning Group as part of the SUNY Schenectady's Achieving the Dream efforts.

On May 27, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled "The Engagement Crisis" hosted by HRCI.

On May 29, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended an interactive session titled "Lifting Every Voice: Conversations on Democratic Engagement" offered by Excelsior College.

### *Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center*

Ms. Jaimee King, Executive Director of SCCOC, attended the Schenectady Reentry Task Force quarterly meeting to network with community organizations to best support participants that have been incarcerated.

Ms. Dara Orederu, Associate Executive Director of SCCOC attended a hiring event for seniors at Schenectady High School to connect with students that plan to enter the workforce post high school graduation.

Ms. Dara Orederu attended International Night at MLK Elementary School in Schenectady to promote the Center's services and engage with school families.

SCCOC staff met with Cornell Cooperative to learn about upcoming training opportunities and how to connect interested participants.

### *Strategic Initiatives and Planning*

Rossiluz Caceres, an Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) student, served as the student speaker at the SUNY Chancellor's State of the University Address on May 21, 2025. Rossiluz shared her experience as a student in the ASAP Program at SUNY Schenectady County Community College, sharing all the support the program provides to remove financial barriers for full-time students and the support the College provided to help her achieve academic success. She was selected by the SUNY Chancellor's Office after they read the *Times Union* newspaper article, titled "New SUNY program is improving college success rate" (March 13, 2025), featuring the SUNY Schenectady County Community College's ASAP program (1.4).

ASAP Executive Director, Kevin Dean, worked to support Karen J. Tanski, Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations, as she collaborated with the press to increase exposure for the college surrounding Rossiluz Caceres's speech. As a result, the *Daily Gazette* published an article on May 22, highlighting ASAP student Rossiluz Caceres speaking at SUNY Chancellor John King Jr.'s State of the University Address (1.4).

The Vice Presidents and Directors across Strategic Initiatives & Planning and Academic Affairs hosted the 2025 Schenectady Promise at Schenectady High School on Thursday, May 1 in conjunction with Schenectady City Schools. The entire graduating class of approximately 700 students were formally offered admission to SUNY Schenectady. Students who had already applied (approximately 160 students) and those still unsure of their next steps were invited to join SUNY Schenectady for a Schenectady Promise Fair. Booths were hosted by staff of Admissions, Financial Aid, EOP, LPP,

ECHS, Advising, TRIO, Career Services, and ASAP. The event was a success, resulting in 16 new applicants and many new students scheduling appointments with advisement (1.1; 1.4).

The Admissions Office hosted a number of schools on campus during May, including Schenectady City School District's middle schools' after school programs and Shenendehowa High School's ADA students and staff. These visits included customized information sessions and tours (1.4).

Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, working with marketing and Slate tools, created an active campaign for the SUNY Reconnect program, which provides free tuition for 25-55 year old students in degree programs in high demand fields (1.4).

## DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

### Academic Affairs

This May, over 50 HCAT students had the experience of a lifetime when Professors Kimberly Otis, Rain O'Donnell, Courtney Withey, and James Larkin chaperoned their trip to our Levy Restaurants internship at Churchill Downs in Louisville for the Kentucky Derby. They had the opportunity to serve a record-setting 147,406 fans who attended the Derby this year.

Faculty chaperones John O'Connell and Courtney Withey, along with 18 students from the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism departed on May 27, for a 17-day trip to Italy. They will be touring Milan, Asti, Parma, Ferrara, Venice, Nettuno, and Rome. Cooking is infused throughout the trip and they will visit various cooking schools, manufacturing facilities for Reggiano Parmigiano and the Barilla Pasta Factory. (2.5)

This May, Dr. Laurie Lacey, Professor and Cayla Gaworecki, Assistant Professor completed a SUNY-sponsored, online, Lumen course about Generative AI for Teaching and Learning. They investigated several AI platforms, learned how to enhance the delivery of their classes using prompts and special features and discussed the implications of AI usage in college education. (Gen P2)

This month, School of Music students enrolled in lesson courses performed at an end-of-semester jury. Many students in certificate programs took that opportunity to audition for an A.A. in Music so they could continue their studies at SUNY Schenectady. (Gen P2)

On May 5, under the direction of Dr. Joseph Han, Choral Director, the School of Music Chorus performed a major work by Brahms with an orchestra that included students, alumni, faculty, and community members at St. Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park, NY. (Gen P2)

This month, Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services and Dr. Babette Faehmel, History Professor both attended the SUNY CIT conference in Oneonta, NY to discuss their activities relating to the IITG AI Literacy and Adaptation grant that just ended. (Gen P2)

In May, David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning attended the SUNY CIT conference in Oneonta, NY to present the results of the *"Teaching with AI: A Cross Campus Community of Practice"* IITG grant which concluded this month. The grant helped the College to achieve a rate of 25% of full-time faculty who now feature AI tools and AI literacy in at least one of their Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning courses. (Gen P2)

David Wolf, Director of Instructional Design and Online Learning has been busy with two separate collaborations with more than 9 other SUNY schools to submit two more IITG grant proposals for AY 2025-26 for funding to increase AI literacy and AI infused learning activities in the curriculum as well as throughout the schools. (Gen P2)

On May 30th, TRIO lead a campus tour of SUNY Albany for interested students, providing them with an opportunity to explore academic programs, campus life, and transfer pathways in a supportive and informative setting. (2.5)

ECHS Success Coaches have been busy this month advising over 55 tenth graders as they chose their college pathway (declared major) and met with academic advisors at Center City to register for college

classes. 90 ninth graders also met with success coaches and SCSD guidance counselors to discuss their progress both for high school and college diplomas, and to select course work for the ECHS program. (2.1, 2.3, 2.4)

EOP had 15 students eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony. They also worked with seven students to complete their four-year college and university applications. They are pleased to announce that all seven were accepted into four-year college and university programs in the SUNY system. (2.5)

On May 20, Matt Farron, Business Professor hosted a Business Plan Competition for 85 Schenectady and Mohonasen High School students. Several staff and volunteers from the local, business community acted as judges and the top three Business plans from each school received awards. The Van Curler room was packed and the event was an excellent (unofficial) recruiting opportunity. (2.4)

On May 29th, TRIO staff participated in a comprehensive training on a specialized data management program designed to increase program effectiveness called *Student Access*. The training focused on improving the accuracy of service provisions, updating documentation processes, and using data to better support student success. By deepening their familiarity and proficiency with the program, staff are now better equipped to monitor student progress, generate meaningful reports, and provide more targeted interventions aligned with TRIO's mission. (3.3)

### Development Office

Foundation staff has proudly coordinated Monday Panera donation pick-ups during the academic year. While this initiative takes a brief summer pause, we look forward to resuming in the fall to continue supporting our campus community.

Vice President and Stewardship Officers Boink and Liuzzi are active Middle States participants.

Vice President and Stewardship Officers Boink and Liuzzi took part in Commencement exercises.

### Information Technology Services

#### **In Progress – Improve campus wide Wi-Fi coverage**

- Based on the detailed assessment of the existing campus WiFi infrastructure provided by a third-party vendor, an initial review was conducted by the same vendor remotely and minor changes were made to some of our WiFi hardware/software. An additional on-campus/in-person review has been scheduled for later this week.

There are still a few outstanding items that need to be addressed, including network labeling, installation of the security camera, and creating wire routing holes in the security desk.

### Strategic Initiatives and Planning

At the end of May, 82% of the ASAP students have registered for the Fall 2025 semester (2.1).

Since encouraging ASAP students to enroll in Summer 2025 semester, we have had 85 ASAP students register for a grand total of 162 Summer 2025 course registrations (2.1).

Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with Dr. Eric Savage, Director of Aviation Programs, to promote an Aviation/Air Traffic Control Open House. Over 50 prospective students and family members attended (2.2).

Mary Silvestri, Interim Director of Admissions and Matriculated Enrollment, partnered with faculty from several divisions to promote “Degrees and Dreams.” An information session on several programs, including Medical Billing and Coding, Business Administration, Hospitality and Tourism and Hotel and Restaurant Management. The event was held in the College’s high flex classroom and utilized technology so it could be held both in person and online (2.2)

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 SUNY Schenectady Commencement ceremony (2.3, 2.4)

### Student Affairs

The College welcomed 1,000 guests, friends, and family members to the School of Music parking lot to witness 189 students take part in the 55<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 22, 2025. The Commencement Committee worked diligently since November of 2024 to make sure the event ran smoothly.

#### Wellness and Student Support Services

During the month of May, Robyn King engaged in a series of strategic collaborations, programmatic initiatives, and student support activities designed to advance institutional priorities and enhance student well-being.

In support of student engagement and success, Robyn King facilitated five graduation cap decorating sessions, helping students celebrate their accomplishments in a creative and meaningful way. She also assisted students with robing prior to the Commencement ceremony.

Operationally, Robyn met with a representative from Lake Michigan College to share insights and best practices regarding the implementation of PantrySoft for campus pantries. She also managed the "Snack Shack" during Late Night Against Procrastination (LNAP), providing students with pizza, snacks, beverages, and ice cream as part of a broader student wellness and engagement initiative.

Furthermore, Robyn collaborated with architectural teams to support the planning and renovation of the Student Affairs/Royals Care Center suite, ensuring the space will better serve the evolving needs of our student population. She continued her professional engagement through participation in the monthly SUNY Homeless Liaison Learning Network meeting and conducted an interview with a potential student pantry employee for the 2024–2025 academic year.

### Workforce Development and Community Education

Seven students completed the Direct Support Specialist I program and two students completed the Direct Support Specialist II program.

## BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

### Academic Affairs

This month Dawn Jones, Director of Career & Transfer Services, was designated as the official SUNY Transfer Liaison for SUNY Schenectady. She also attended the NYS Transfer and Articulation Association annual Conference to learn best practices for supporting transfer initiatives at the College. (Gen P3)

This month, Michelle Ragucci, Director of Academic Services, attended SUNY's online webinar: *Navigating New Title II Changes in Higher Education: Implications for Campus Administrators*, in preparation for the implementation of upcoming requirements for ADA digital compliance. She met 1:1 with Susanna Adams, Coordinator for ADA Transition Services, to ensure clear understanding of the requirements and discussed how to educate the staff within Academic Services in preparation for this transition. (3.3)

### Administration

Scaffolding in the cafeteria area was erected in late May for the Skylight/President's Terrace project. Upon completion of the scaffolding, our contractors will open up the large cross beam under the skylight to determine any water damage. A walkway from the Welcome Center to the Elston Hall restrooms will remain in place during the construction phase.

Work continued on the Center for Science and Technology lobby and restroom project. During May, existing restrooms and walls in the lobby area were demolished. Our contractor installed a negative airflow system to minimize dust while the project is underway. Completion is scheduled for mid-August 2025.

The second round of bids to replace lighting and sound in the Taylor Auditorium came in over budget. Representatives from the college and the architect will meet in early June to discuss alternative scope of work.

Work on the college's new fire alarm system began in late May. New wires for the system were pulled in the CST building. During this phase of the project, wires are being pulled in the Gateway and CST buildings; with the main fire panel location in Elston Hall.

In late May, the college received approval for five capital projects funded by the County and DASNY. Total project funding includes: Aquatic Center - \$52M – with \$18,450,000 from DASNY; Façade and Window Restoration - \$2.5M – with \$1,250,000 from DASNY; Begley Basement Renovation - \$1.5M total – with \$750,000 from DASNY; Gathering Area & Kitchen Renovations - \$1.25M – with \$625,000 from DASNY; and Culinary Vents/Dining Room Renovation - \$600K – with \$300,000 from DASNY.

SUNY Board of Trustees decision on the college's request to acquire lower State Street properties for the Aquatic Center is expected in early June.

### Development Office

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

- As the Rising Together Campaign winds down, the Foundation amicably ended the contract with Convergent Non-Profit Solutions.
- For the 2024-2025 academic year, 217 scholarships have been awarded valued at more than \$300,000.

### Office of Diversity and Inclusion

Susanna Adams, Coordinator of ADA Transition Services and EITA Officer, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Dave Wolf, Director of Instructional Design & Online Learning began collaborating on the development of Electronic Information Technology Accessibility learning opportunities for the campus community.

Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, and Mark Bessette, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, collaborated on a review of financial aid communications and began to update them for enhanced student access and support.

On May 15, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a workshop titled “Leadership Training on AI” offered by SUNY Schenectady and led by Todd McLees.

On May 15, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled “Navigating New Title II Changes in Higher Education: Implications for Campus Administrators” offered by SUNY CPD.

On May 29, 2025, Catia Laird de Polanco, Chief Diversity Officer, attended a webinar titled “SUNY Transfer Equivalency Platform Overview” offered by SUNY CPD.

### Human Resources

Wednesday Wellbeing messages included:

- 5/7 – Mother’s Day message
- 5/14 – The value of learning new things and play
- 5/21 – Mental Health Awareness Month message and resources
- 5/28 – Spreading positivity/The Butterfly Effect

The Workplace Wellbeing committee has been meeting regularly to share thoughts on employee engagement, wellbeing topics and messages, as well as communication effectiveness and newsletter content.

The committee is currently planning for the summer Friday theme days, and will be assisting with rounding for photo opportunities. This year’s themes will be:

- 6/13 Start the season in full bloom! Plant seeds of kindness and let gratitude bloom! Write a note of gratitude to be shared with someone on campus. Floral attire is encouraged!
- 6/20 Tropical Day – Let’s kick off the summer solstice Island style! Share with us the tradition of the Lei. Tropical attire is encouraged!
- 6/27 Country Western Day – Let’s kick up some fun before the weekend! Western wear and boots encouraged.



- (Thursday 7/3) Patriotic Day – Put a sparkle in this holiday weekend! Celebrate with your red-white-and-blue!
- 7/11 Sports Team Day - It's a great time of the year for outdoor activities! Show your support for your favorite sport or team and wear your favorite team apparel.
- 7/18 Character Day – Cartoon, Disney, Movie, Book, Rock Star - Step into the shoes of your favorite character and bring some fun into the office. Workplace appropriate costumes, props and personality welcome!
- 7/25 Hat Day - Tip your hat to another summer Friday and get ready to kick off the weekend in style! Whether it's a floppy sunhat, a sparkly headband, a vintage bow, or a whimsical fascinator, it's the perfect time to show off your flair and “top” off the week.
- 8/1 Decade Day/Throwback Day - Turn back time this Friday, embrace your favorite era and celebrate the decades in style! Whether you're grooving in '70s disco, rocking '80s neon, channeling '90s grunge, or throwing it way back to the roaring 1920s—this Friday is all about vintage threads, retro vibes, and timeless fun.
- 8/8 School Spirit Day - Waddle you waiting for? It's time to get excited for the new school year and show your school spirit! Rock your Blue and Yellow attire, SUNY Schenectady swag, or dress in honor of our proud Duck mascot! Let's flock together and make this Friday Funday Ducky as we proudly celebrate the amazing staff of SUNY Schenectady! Be sure to join the flock and find a duck.  
A committee for Unrepresented Sick Bank time was assembled and reviewed a current case for an employee who has been out of accrued time. The committee put forth their findings for the President's final review and approval.

A full reconciliation was performed on the retiree health and dental plans.

HR also assisted other departments with commencement and with the inventory project in the food pantry.

HR is currently working with IT on their Banner Provisioning System to fix and streamline current banner issues with regard to the activation and deactivation of email accounts, particularly with part-time temporary employees such as adjuncts and WFDCE. This includes identifying “roles” for all employees in Banner to allow for better identification of Banner accounts and to properly assign the right email licensing as well as identifying licenses that may still be assigned to individuals no longer working at the college. This will help with the current licensing shortage the college has. We will also be working with them to incorporate additional required information for employee profiles in banner such as adding their supervisor, department, building/office location, phone extension, etc. because Microsoft Outlook can pull this information and include it in the active directory (Outlook). This will provide the college with an internal employee directory that everyone can access.

This past month, HR worked with IT to streamline our offboarding process by creating an online form for supervisors to complete when an employee is leaving. This form will remove their Microsoft accounts, banner accounts, phone lines, etc. for departing employees. It also offers the supervisor an opportunity to indicate how they want IT to handle the departing employee's email account (forwarding, providing a message, etc.)

We currently have 10 searches which consist of two faculty, one Civil Service, and seven Professional positions.

### Information Technology Services

#### **In Progress – Cyber Security**

- **Enhanced VPN Security:** MFA/VPN testing has been successfully completed. All systems are working as expected with secondary MFA now in place. We are ready to begin directing users to configure their devices to use the new VPN endpoint: vpn.mfa.sunysccc.edu
- **Cyber Security Alert:** A detailed recommendation has been submitted to the Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance regarding the adoption of Microsoft's SaaS security solution. This solution provides:
  - User Identity Validation
  - 24/7 Monitoring & Detection of suspicious activity
  - Automated Remediation of threats
  - Implementation of Microsoft Security Best Practices
  - Ongoing Secure Score & Vulnerability Assessments
- **Restrict Shared drive (NFS) access:** We worked with users to confirm they have access to the NFS drive and have removed unnecessary access.  
The NFS drive is now secured:
  - Security groups were created and applied based on job function.
  - Users can now only access folders relevant to their roles.
  - 54 unused folders have been archived in preparation for future removal.

#### **In Progress – New Help Desk Ticketing System**

- **Moved to the new TDX ticketing system**
  - Training for all 12 modules is completed. ITS has a meeting with TDX Customer success Team to ensure that the implementation/training was to our expectations.

#### **In Progress – Internet Infrastructure Upgrade**

- **Working with LogicalNet and our network providers to ensure redundancy and load balancing**
  - One of the two ISPs for our main connection (78 Washington Avenue) has been decided and contract from that ISP (60 months) has been shared with Patrick. His signature is awaited. Due to a major price difference (twice the cost of the selected ISP), we are looking to find another ISP who will be able to provide us with a reliable Fiber Internet connection to 78 Washington Avenue with a crucial security feature (Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) allowing legitimate users to access services without interruption by filtering malicious traffic and maintaining system availability during attacks.

#### **In Progress – Upgrading existing Windows computers**

- Due to official end of support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025, we are working on upgrading as many Windows 10 machines to Windows 11 prior to Oct 14 as practically possible. We are working with Logical net to implement Microsoft Intune which will allow us to remotely manage applications (deploying, securing, and managing apps across different platforms and devices), device settings (profiles for different devices and platforms or allow/deny WiFi/Bluetooth/VPN access), and security policies (account protection, antivirus, disk encryption, etc.).
- In cases where we are not able to upgrade existing Windows 10 machines due to not meeting Windows 11 systems requirements, we will implement Extended Support for Windows 10 offered by Microsoft. We have already purchased almost 700 Extended Support license for almost \$700 of these machines (\$1/machine/year).

- Device Replacement Strategy: Over the next two years, we will systematically replace aging devices that cannot support Windows 11 with new, compliant hardware. We are working with Patrick to formulate a Capital Funding project to accomplish this goal.

#### **In Progress – Replacement of provisioning/deprovisioning system with cloud-based system**

- As of now, we have agreed on the consulting engagement with the vendor and schedule for engagement has been finalized. Work will start during first week of June and should be completed within 6 weeks. We met with campus end users (Admissions, Registrar's office, Financial Aid, Human Resources, Institutional Research, Academic Affairs, etc.) to discuss the implementation logistics and possible affect due to discontinuation of the existing provisioning system when the new provisioning system is implemented.

#### **In Progress – Phone system replacement**

- Quotes from three different existing vendors have been provided to the higher management for review. As of now, the project has been put on hold so that it can be started when the new CIO is hired. The goal of this project is to consolidate all systems into a single platform integrated with MS Teams Apps, providing enhanced productivity features. This project will take several months to complete.

#### Marketing and Public Relations

In anticipation of the FAA-approval of the new Enhanced AT-CTI program and Air Traffic Control Simulator technology, Marketing collaborated with college leadership, Business and Professional Program dean Mykha'el Wilson, Director of Aviation Dr. Eric Savage, and others to prepare to launch the new ATC program. Graphic Designer II Jessica McHugh Green prepared the new web site landing page, home page banner, exterior LED signage, and digital ad creatives. Public Relations Specialist II Heather Meaney prepared the press release from the college, the news story for the college website, paid and organic social media posts, and worked with the college's Executive Director of Marketing and Public Relations Karen Tanski, Baker Public Relations, FAA Publications Specialist Christopher Mullooly, and Senator Schumer's office for coordination of release content and distribution timing of the FAA, Senator's, and college's respective releases. The FAA was able to obtain support from U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's office to include his quote for the release, which dictated the timing of the communications. The releases were sent on Friday, May 30. Baker Public Relations managed the local and state distribution of the college's press release, and Marketing paid for a *Newswire* nationwide-distribution. *Newswire* has agreements with major publishers throughout the country and the paid distribution resulted in the **SUNY Schenectady press release being distributed to, and published on, 500 news outlets and TV stations sites throughout the U.S.** In addition to the placement on these outlets' sites, Google's SEO crawlers can see the story and will further promote SUNY Schenectady in their search engines. The college and Baker PR will be working with *EIN Presswire*, a competitor of *Newswire*, for another release distribution featuring new content later in the month. Baker/Marketing are fielding requests from reporters and will be scheduling further engagements.

#### Strategic Initiatives and Planning

Dale Miller, Director of Institutional Research, provided data for the following projects: enrollment data to the Administration for budgeting, enrollment data to Admissions, enrollment data to EOP, enrollment data to the Registrar, College in the High School data to the ECHS director, program review data to faculty, graduate data for graduation, and Middle States data to the Middle States committee (3.3).

The ASAP program is working to expand to serve 250 students for the Fall 2025 semester. This is an increase of 100 students. Pending availability of New York State and SUNY grant funding, the ASAP program will add an ASAP academic advisor (3.1).

### Student Affairs

#### Wellness and Support Services/Food Pantry

As a member of the Middle States Standard II Working Group, Robyn actively contributed to discussions focused on institutional planning and effectiveness. Additionally, she served on the search committee for the Associate Vice President of Campus Safety/Peace Officer position, participating in interviews with four prospective candidates.

#### **Food Pantry Narrative Report – May 2025**

During the month of May 2025, the Food Pantry remained active and productive in serving the campus and surrounding community. Significant progress was made in inventory management, visitor engagement, program development, and outreach efforts.

##### **Inventory Management & Processing**

The pantry processed and recorded a substantial amount of inventory this month. Contributions from the Regional Food Bank amounted to 1,600 items, valued at approximately \$5,600. Additionally, anonymous donors contributed assorted food and supplies worth \$209. SUNY Transformation efforts continued, particularly in processing personal care and household items—91 items were recorded with a value of \$278.

In total, the pantry processed 2,300 items during May, with a cumulative value of \$7,115.

##### **Pantry Visits and Community Impact**

There were 186 pantry visits recorded, with 99 individual visitors served. Through these visits, a total of 307 people were fed, demonstrating the pantry's continued importance as a resource for food security in the community.

##### **Engagement and Programs**

- **End-of-Semester Surveys:** 27 visitors completed feedback surveys, helping guide future improvements to pantry operations.
- **Prize Winners:** 8 visitors were selected as winners in a pantry giveaway.
- **Empire Service Corps Summer Program:** Preparations were completed for the summer program, and Deevashly, a student worker, was re-hired to assist with pantry operations.
- **Clynk Bottles & Cans Recycling:** Seven bags were collected and processed for pickup across campus, including coordination for delivery during graduation. Ten additional full bags were prepared for transport to Hannaford.
- **Fundraiser - Fight Hunger Bag Program:** This ongoing fundraising initiative continues to support pantry efforts.
- **Mothers Start Here Diaper Program:** Initial groundwork began to set up a diaper distribution program on campus, aiming to support families with young children.
- **Volunteer Support:** Ten staff members volunteered their time to help with inventory management and restocking efforts.
- **SNAP Outreach:** Pantry staff continued engaging with visitors to distribute informational flyers about the “2-for-1 fruits and veggies” program available at participating stores.

May was a productive month for the Food Pantry, marked by steady service, successful engagement, and growing support programs. As we transition into the summer season, efforts will continue to expand our reach and impact.

## ENSURING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

### Academic Affairs

This month, the Music School was in overdrive hosting multiple events that prospective students and visitors the opportunity to really experience the vitality of our music programs and facilities. On May 3, they hosted the NYSMTA Evaluation and Recital which brought private piano teachers, their students and families to campus and that same day, they also hosted the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO). On May 18, they partnered with area piano instructor Brian Halliday who presented a recital for prospective students and their families. (Gen P4)

On May 28, Mark Evans, Professor (piano), Dr. Allyson Keyser, Professor (trumpet) and Dr. Joseph Han, Choral Director were invited to give a presentation on how to audition for a music college at Mohonasen High School to approximately 40 music students. (Gen P4)

ECHS staff hosted multiple meetings with Schenectady Central School District ECHS grant partners to discuss the ECHS Summer Program hosted at the College. This six-week, intensive program provides opportunities to earn college-level credit and attend workshops focused on academic and personal success. (4.3)

### Administration

In mid-May, the NYS Budget passed. For 2025-26, the budget provides flat unrestricted State support which is the “floor” discussed for the past two fiscal years, plus \$334,000 for Rental Aid and \$78,000 for enrollment support. Overall, unrestricted State Aid will decrease \$18,497. State restricted amounts increased for 2025-26 with an additional \$100K to administrate SUNY Reconnect and \$140K in support of program expansion in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, green jobs and sustainability and/or cybersecurity.

During May, senior leadership conducted multiple planning sessions on the 2025-26 operating budget with a proposed budget being prepared for consideration at the June 2025 BOT meeting.

Patrick Ryan, Executive Vice President of Administration & Finance participated in an interview with the Albany Times Union on the college’s recently granted FAA approval status of the new Air Traffic Control simulator and program.

### Development Office

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

- Vice President met with potential candidate, Barb Casey, to ask if she was willing to join the Foundation Board.
- Foundation Board members were invited to participate in Commencement exercises.

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

- The spring *Impact Newsletter* was shared with 556 individuals to illustrate the impact of their generosity to our funds such as the Food Pantry, Emergency Funding, and general scholarship.

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

**Engaging our alumni:**

- LinkedIn engagement this month yielded 324-page views and 139 new followers
- 25.2% email performance open rate
- Alumni ID Requests: Nadia Dabul '83; Ash Moore '23

***Pending Major Grant Applications:***

\$150,000 from the Gladys Brooks Foundation to increase the Food Pantry endowment  
\$500,000 from Mother Cabrini in partnership with Workforce Development and two additional agencies for the Community Healthcare Worker program  
\$25,000 from KeyBank for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund  
\$50,000 from the Broughton Foundation for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund  
\$500,000 from the Wright Family Foundation for the President's Workforce Innovation Fund

***Recent Notable Gifts:***

Notification on an additional unrestricted bequest distribution from Benita Allaire for \$120,000  
\$8,000 for the Ernest L. and Florence L. Judkins Scholarship  
\$2,500 for the KeyBank annual Community Scholarship  
\$2,500 for the Price Chopper Scholarship  
\$2,000 from Schenectady County for the Arts & Culture Grant

**Student Affairs**

Wellness and Support Services

Robyn conferred with representatives from the Regional Food Bank to discuss Hudson Valley Community College's interest in securing refrigerated food lockers, exploring potential partnerships to expand food security infrastructure. She also participated in the Schenectady County Food Providers Meeting hosted at St. Luke's Pantry, as well as the Schenectady County Food Council's Advocacy and Empowerment Working Group meetings, contributing to regional efforts aimed at addressing food insecurity and community advocacy.

## PRESIDENT'S OUTREACH

**On May 13th, the Schenectady County Legislature honored our students who are recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Student Award.**



*President Dr. Steady Moono with SUNY Chancellor's Student Awardees, Jasmatie Lutawan and Latasha Rivera.*



*SUNY Chancellor's Student Awardees, (L-R) Latasha Rivera, Jasmatie Lutawan and Chair of the Legislature Gary Hughes.*