

SUNY
SCHENECTADY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OUR COLLEGE – OUR FUTURE – The Strategic Plan to 2020

President's Report
August 2020

Expand Access and Increase Student Success

The College celebrated its 50th Commencement via a Drive-thru event on Monday, June 29, with 183 students participating in graduation. Throughout the parking lot, there were members of the Campus Community cheering the graduates. Students and their families were most proud and ready to celebrate their achievements. It was a special ceremony never to be forgotten and a true celebration to recognize the grit and resilience of the SUNY Schenectady Class of 2020. I am proud of how the College community came together to show their appreciation for these graduates. Photos of the special event are viewable in the link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/schenectadycountycc/50059712046/in/album-72157714909616501/>



Student Affairs continued our laptop loan program for summer session and provided 43 students with laptops over the summer. We loaned out 163 laptops in the Spring Semester. We will be loaning laptops to students for fall beginning August 10th.

Our new on-line Orientation has been implemented for new fall students. This Orientation is a self-paced Orientation that includes quizzes embedded in the system and allows us to track all students' progress through this system.

The Admissions Department has been collaborating with members of Academic Affairs to offer virtual information sessions for specific programs. These information sessions have included Craft Beer Brewing, Craft Spirit Distillation, and Music. We will be adding sessions on Biotechnology and Business and Entrepreneurship over the next month.

Academic Affairs reports that this June, the CSTEP director, Dr. Lorena Harris, along with two high school students and one SUNY Schenectady CSTEP student made a submission to the Genes in Space science contest that challenges students to design a DNA experiment that could be conducted in space. The winning experiment will actually be conducted on the International Space Station. The award letter to Dr. Harris stated, "Thank you for inspiring the next generation of Space DNA Scientists with their contributions to Genes in Space. "

Dr. Harris and CSTEP were also granted access to the BRiTE Program to support the Summer Virtual-STEAM Academy 2020. BRiTE (Brain Training and Exercise) is a wellness program designed to promote the overall health and wellness of older adults. The Summer STEAM Academy powered by BRiTE has been supporting a group of 18 scholars over the last three weeks. Every day, the group met a Scientist and learned about their career path. The students learned about various jobs in the STEAM fields and the Academy helped to increased access to scientific innovations and interesting subject matter. These middle and high school scholars shared each day with three SUNY CSTEP students that will be continuing their education toward a bachelor's degree. The SUNY Schenectady students are mentoring the STEAM Academy students and working to inspire and motivate them. Meeting amazing scientists also keeps the group inspired to continue learning. For more information on BRiTE, visit britewellness.org.

On July 23, pianists Rebecca Schmid '17 and Niamh Schmid '20 performed the Four Chopin Ballades on YouTube. Graduates of SUNY Schenectady's School of Music in Piano Performance, Rebecca and Niamh, will be continuing their studies at the prestigious Conservatory of Music at SUNY Purchase this fall.

The SUNY Schenectady Summer Music Series features performances by School of Music students and alumni every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Professor Mark Evans has been supervising, recording, and scheduling this series along with engineering help of Professor Sten Isachsen.

- Watch the concert on YouTube: https://youtu.be/tQtXV_PoqqE

Dean of Academic Affairs, Ms. Jessica Gilbert, led the implementation of the college's new chat feature and staff across the college are giving their time to support the effort.

The Center of Workforce Development and Community Education reports that they entered into a new partnership with Black Rocket in June 2020. Black Rocket is a national leader in tech-education for

children ages 6-14 years. They offer both in classroom and online cutting-edge courses in areas such as coding, game design, eSports, virtual reality and more. Through our partnership, WFDCE has registered 20 additional students and counting.

On June 30, 2020, SUNY Schenectady earned another highly competitive Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG 2.0) through the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The \$3 million grant, an extension of the current HPOG 2.0 grant, will allow the College's Office of Workforce Development and Community Education to continue to train hundreds of eligible students for a variety of healthcare careers.

The Foundation was able to secure \$12,500 in Student Emergency Fund donations by June 30, resulting in a 1:1 match from the SUNY Impact Foundation, for a total of \$25,000 raised for the Student Emergency Fund.

On July 7, Trustco Bank confirmed two additional Judkins Trust scholarships totaling **\$6,700** for Aviation Science students.

On July 17, the Scholarship Selection Committee met to select the second round of recipients. A total of 231 scholarships are available, amounting to more than \$259,000.

On July 21, the Foundation received a stock gift valued at approximately **\$10,000** to increase the Robert F. Case Memorial Scholarship endowment.

The Office of Marketing and Public Relations worked on various initiatives that will expand access and increase student success. Based off the work of the Reimagine Fall Task Force and working with Upside Collective, 15, 30, and 60-second new commercials were created that are airing on tv and radio. Additionally, Informational videos were developed: one focused on how education is being offered and the other focused on the College's attention to safety.

Additionally, student, faculty, and staff resource pages were created on the College's website, under the Return to Campus Plan from the main webpage. Critical information relating to the return to campus along with the approved reopen plan can be found on these pages.

Students will also benefit from the fall 2020-overview videos, which included Dr. Clickner, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Deans. Each of the videos has been placed on each of the division webpages.

Ensure a quality, relevant, coherent and innovative curriculum

On Thursday, June 11, each of the five students enrolled in the Business Plan Development course facilitated by Professor Matthew Farron presented their Business Plans to a panel of business professionals and Chamber of Commerce members as the culmination of their work with the Chamber of Commerce throughout the semester.

The business plans for each student were as follows: Sherene Hemraj (Bakery and Cafe), Chandler McCray (Gaming Lounge), Justin Camelo (Dunkin Franchise), Brooke Ross (Hair Salon), and David Sanders (Subaru Car Dealership).

On Monday, June 22 – Professor Matthew Farron along with two students from the Business Plan Development course attended the virtual graduation and awards ceremony conducted by the Chamber of Commerce. Mark Eagan, President and CEO of the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the graduates along with a number of other individuals/sponsors involved with the program.

Ingrid O'Connell attended the Expert in the Room Albany Capital Center webinar on July 7, 2020. The webinar featured Michael Hoffman, owner of Turf Hotels, along with ACC General Manager Doug McClaine. Mr. Hoffman discussed what reopening means for many hotels throughout the country, the safety protocols that will be in place, and what his hotels are doing to prepare to welcome guests again. This and efforts such as these help faculty stay connected to professionals in the field.

On Tuesday July 28, 2020, as part of planning and preparations for the fall semester, Dr. David Brough and Michael Hazard viewed a webinar entitled Safeguard Employees & Guests against COVID-19/Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Foodservice Operations.

Faculty continue to work to build courses for the fall in virtual formats, a large number participating in the online training cohorts with David Wolf.

Jacquie Keleher, Director of Library Services, and Giovannine Matheron, Collection Development and E-Resources Librarian attended the SUNY Libraries Consortium (SLC) virtual meeting held June 8 – 10, 2020 and attended the State University of New York Library Association (SUNYLA) annual meeting held virtually June 17 – 19, 2020.

CSTEP and LSAMP students continue their use of Flipgrid as a Virtual Learning Community platform and as a window to share learning and continue to build community interactively and virtually. They have been developing questions and assignments that are linked to specific questions to which students respond.

Dr. Harris and CSTEP students continue to develop interactive and virtual packages to help support the cryptography curriculum (CC) being taught to 7th, 8th, and 9th Graders in the fall. Students will get a guide of how to teach the materials via a CC handbook and will conduct Zoom sessions with students.

Dr. Richard Simons participated in the International Human Anatomy and Physiology Society Town Hall meeting on June 23 to make plans for returning to the laboratory in the fall 2020 semester.

All faculty continue to design and implement new innovative models for teaching music courses online. Their generous spirit and commitment to student success cannot be overlooked this summer.

The Center for Workforce Development and Community Education reports that on June 15, 2020 Allied Healthcare held the first hybrid Personal Care Assistant (PCA) class with on-line didactic instructions and in person testing. The course was offered at three different times of the day to accommodate students' working schedules. The testing was done following CDC guidelines and new safety protocols. All 12

students completed and passed the course, and either have received a promotion, or are now employed.

On July 23, 2020, Sarah Wilson Sparrow, Christine McLearn and Dr. Rota attended a virtual meeting with New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) to discuss the expansion of the “Credential Engine” aimed at providing students recognized credentials leading to a degree.

Invest in Campus Renewal

Construction on the Begley Learning Commons continued during the summer of 2020. Our contractors installed the new drop ceiling on both floors of the Commons and started installation of the new carpets. An interior signage audit was completed by the selected vendor in late July which is being coordinated with the Foundations’ donor recognition signage. While we received most of the lighting, a few custom lighting fixtures are delayed due to manufacturing scheduling. We anticipate receipt of delayed items by mid-September, which will delay re-opening of the Learning Commons until late September or early October.

In July, the New York State Division of Budget (DOB) approved the College’s emergency requests to release Capital funding for four capital projects that were in various stages. The four projects included the replacement of flooring in the Stockade Building, an engineering study on the Elston Hall façade work, the Campus wide IT Infrastructure project and three contracts necessary for completion of the Begley Learning Commons. In late July, the College submitted another request to release additional capital funds for the emergency generator, Elston Hall admissions and welcome center, the SKY Bridge renovation engineering study, and Phase II of the Elston Hall façade project. The South Church Street parking lot project is on hold until the City shares its plans for the area surrounding these areas slated for renovation.

With recent approval from DOB on certain capital projects, in late July, our contractor began work on replacement of tile flooring in the Stockade Building. Together with the County, the College released a mini-bid procurement of computer and technology equipment as part of the campus wide IT Infrastructure Project. It is anticipated equipment critical for the fall 2020 resumption of instruction that will be on-site.

In June 2020, the College submitted its 2021 Capital Project request to the County for consideration during the fall of 2020. This request included \$1.7 million for a variety of construction and equipment related projects.

During July, the College forwarded an agreement to Kittredge Foodservice Equipment & Supplies for purchase of Culinary equipment for the Mill Lane confectionary project. The College also developed a request for bids with BBL Construction for the plumbing and HVAC work at Mill Lane. The RFB documents are anticipated to be released to potential vendors during the first week of August.

The Office of Academic Affairs reports Adjunct Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz (violin) along with Professor Sten Isachsen (guitar) and Norman Thibodeau (flute) continue to lead the music community in innovative performances in the new post COVID reality.

School of Music Chamber Ensemble in Residence, Musicians of Ma'alwyck, livestreams every Sunday at First Reformed Church. Musicians of Ma'alwyck will be making a CD, two mini-documentaries and filming a concert in period attire at Hyde Hall July 27th- August 2nd. The group will be recording 1830s repertory discovered in the Hall's archives, as well as works of Bellini, Rossini and Meyerbeer. This is a joint collaboration between Musicians of Ma'alwyck and Hyde Hall. The CD will be engineered by Sten Isachsen and edited in the School of Music recording studio. Hyde Hall is the historic estate of George Hyde Clarke and dates to the 1820s.

The Office of Development reports that on June 27, the installation of the bricks by the quad fountain was completed, finalizing the *Paving the Way for Future Royals* project.

On July 14, the Alumni Hall of Fame was installed in the Begley Lobby, bringing the project to completion.

Learning Commons donor recognition templates were finalized and a vendor has been selected to fabricate signs for donors with named spaces through Capital Campaign support.

A case statement for the new chocolate and confections lab was finalized and Foundation staff are researching prospective donors.

Strengthen and Expand Community and Strategic Partnerships

Dr. DeShawn McGarrity served on the statewide planning committee for the statewide SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers and Outreach Centers first ever Commencement ceremony which launched on Social Media and on You Tube on July 29, 2020. Thousands of EOC and OC students and participants from all 12 Centers (including Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC)), graduated and were also recognized for their academic and employment achievements. SUNY Schenectady President Dr. Steady Moono was recognized at the Virtual Ceremony as SCCOC's 2019-2020 Champion Award Recipient and SUNY Schenectady's Marketing and Public Relations Department was also recognized as the 2019-2020 friends of the SCCOC for their support of SCCOC's mission.

Office of Academic Affairs reports On Tuesday, June 2, Kelly Majuri, Interim Dean of BCJL met virtually with thirteen employees of the Schenectady City School District who are interested in furthering their education to become certified teachers or Teaching Assistants. Through a partnership with the District, Clarkson University, Cazenovia College, and SUNY Schenectady, we initiated a Grow Your Own program spearheaded by Patrick Jean-Pierre, Assistant District Director of Diversity, Recruitment, and Retention at Schenectady City Schools aimed at developing local talent to support our P-12 schools in Schenectady. This program will provide support to employees of the school district seeking to increase their credentials. The meeting on June 2 has resulted in additional conversations and several of the attendees subsequently enrolling at the college.

On Wednesday, July 22, 2020, Dr. David Brough was inducted into the American Culinary Federation's (ACF) honor society, the American Academy of Chefs. The American Academy of Chefs represents the highest standards of professionalism in the organization, society and industry. The Academy's primary mission is to promote the education of all culinarians by mentoring, awarding scholarships to students

seeking a future in the culinary industry, and by providing grants to professional working chefs looking to further their careers.

Dr. Harris reports that a Regeneron scientist, a PhD toxicologist/pharmacologist presented "A day in the life of a toxicologist at Regeneron" to students at the summer STEAM Academy program.

July 9, Adjunct Brian Patneau (saxophone) performed the first Jazz on Jay performance of the 2020 season with alumnus, Keith Pray's Ortet. Alumnus Bobby Halek played drums. Keith posted a couple songs from the performance to YouTube:

- o "Blues for the Blues" - <https://youtu.be/yTHAI003QU0>
- o "The Pace" - <https://youtu.be/Cuv6zErtCW8>

July 15, Adjunct Brian Patneau (saxophone) was interviewed by Michael Benedict for his weekly series "The Altered Scale, Conversations with Michael Benedict" on the Facebook Live platform. Among other things, Brian discusses how he led the SUNY Schenectady Jazz combo to win the Down Beat Award for two-year colleges.

- o Interview: <https://www.facebook.com/1583485877/videos/10220134309059651/>

July 19, Adjuncts Brian Patneau (saxophone) and Dylan Canterbury (trumpet) took part in a virtual recording session with pianist and School of Music alumnus, Rob Lindquist. They performed Rob's arrangement of the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby":

- o YouTube recording: <https://youtu.be/gwWvX8or4X4>

July 29, Professor Karen Hosmer (oboe) and Dean Brett Wery (flute) recorded a Telemann Canonic Sonata No. 1 for First Reformed Church of Scotia to be broadcast as part of a virtual service.

The Center for Workforce Development and Community Education reports that in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Workforce Development and Community Education staff participated in the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Contact Tracing training offered through Coursera. So far Alyson Bingham, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow, Lynn Rozell, Jamie Hungerschafer, Diane Ginsburg, Tiziana Rota, Maria Kotary, Lauren Lankau and Michael Henderson completed this valuable and timely training.

Dr. Rota worked with staff at Home Instead, a home care agency, to include four of their employees who had occupied the position of Companion in the Hybrid PCA class. The work continues to bring more entry level employees to take higher level courses funded by HPOG or by the local SJTA.

On 6/10, 6/18, and 6/25/20, Hudson Mohawk AHEC Co-sponsored with the SUNY Schenectady Office of Workforce Development and Community Education the following online courses on "Trauma Informed Care", "Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)" and "What is Trending in Drugs?" All three webinars were well attended.

On 6/18/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the WFDCE Campus Call with SUNY Admin and NYS community colleges to discuss workforce needs and strategies.

6/23/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in an Industry Roundtable to highlight Direct Support Professional and Community Health Worker apprenticeship titles.

6/23/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the SUNY Apprenticeship Program monthly call.

Sarah Wilson-Sparrow is a board member for the Workforce Development Board (WDB) and is now part of the Executive Team.

6/26/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the Capital Region WDB Board meeting.

7/2/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the WFDCE Campus Call with SUNY Administration and NYS community colleges to discuss workforce needs and strategies.

7/9/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the Capital Region Employer Resource Network Advisory Group meeting.

7/15/20, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the NYCAN partners' monthly call regarding apprenticeship initiatives across the state and participated on the USDOL Strengthening Community Colleges Grant Discussion meeting to discuss a grant opportunity.

7/20/2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in the Expanded Regional Meeting for SUNY Apprenticeship programs.

The Office of Development reports that on June 23, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs convened a Special Events "Think Tank" to discuss fundraising strategies for 2020-2021.

On July 7, Foundation staff met via video conference with SEFCU Foundation to review a grant request for the SUNY Schenectady Food Pantry.

Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability

The College's 2020-21 operating budget was submitted to the County Legislature in June of 2020 and is being considered at their July and August meetings. The fiscal outlook for the College's State support remains unchanged at this time. During the summer, the College received a partial 4th quarter payment from the State which is 80% of the anticipated amount. Overall, the College has received 95% of anticipated State support for fiscal year 2019-20.

Various contracts with external vendors were reviewed and negotiated during July. The College's agreement with CDTA for student bus service was negotiated for a three-year period. Energy resource contracts with Constellation and Direct Energy were negotiated. The College together with the County negotiated an agreement with Originations, a GE Renewable Energy Venture, to purchase Solar Energy credits that will reduce overall energy costs.

The Office of Development reports that on June 24, the "Within Reach" micro-campaign solicitation mailed, resulting in a \$5,000 gift for the Food Pantry and other support.

Prompted by the "Within Reach" mailing, a major donor and her family are in contact with the Foundation to explore the possibility of another significant contribution.

The Vice President of Development and External Affairs is working with an alumna on setting up an endowed scholarship bequest, making her a new addition to the Keystone Bequest Society

President's Outreach

Dr. Moono is a Steering Committee member for the New York Capital Region Higher Education Council (NYCRHEC). On July 30th, he facilitated a discussion with President Jackson of RPI, President Terenzio of SUNY Cobleskill, and President Harris of Union College for a proposed conjoined convocation among NYCRHEC institutions related to social issues, e.g., race relations, wealth disparity, systemic injustice, and basic human rights.

On August 5, 2020, Dr. Moono was invited to a social function hosted by a strong college supporter and funder. The function was a networking opportunity building strong ties to the college

On August 6, Dr. Moono met with Mr. Jason Parker, CEO of Hill & Markes, Inc. This was a cultivation meeting, which introduced Mr. Parker to SUNY Schenectady.