



OUR COLLEGE – OUR FUTURE – The Strategic Plan to 2020

*President's Report*  
September 2020

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***Expand Access and Increase Student Success***

Academic Affairs reports that Dr. Lorena Harris oversaw the third successful cohort of the Summer STEAM Academy. This year, the Academy partnered with the Brite Program, part of the National Girls Collaborative Project. Through Brite, the summer STEAM scholars had the opportunity to listen to participate in fifteen virtual keynote presentations in addition to the STEAM Academy mentoring provided by SUNY Schenectady CSTEP and LSAMP students. The STEAM Scholars posted their experiences to a FlipGrid site and have already accumulated 700 views <https://ngcproject.org/BriteGrantees> . Student feedback for the program was very positive.

Professors Alicia Richardson and Babette Faehmel developed a distinct section of First Year Seminar: FYS: BIPOC. They designed the course to provide students who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) a supportive environment to learn, grow, and develop skills that will help them to achieve their educational goals. The class will address discipline-specific topics, college success skills, issues of racial justice, cultural survival, equity, and inclusion. The course, team-taught by Professor Richardson and MSTH Professor Imari Shaw, will be piloted in the late-start session of the fall semester.

Professor Donna Corbisiero started an online support group for English Language Learner (ELL) students. In this group, students will meet to discuss issues, talk about concerns, ask about grammar issues, and make connections with other ELL students. The group will have its first meeting at Noon on September 30.

Professor Carol Maimone of the Medical Coding and Billing Program took part in the SUNY System webinar entitled "Social Reading for Student Success at SUNY." The webinar, run by educators from across SUNY, focused on collaborative annotation to facilitate student engagement and as a method to make reading visible, active, and social for students. Collaborative annotation also assists in enriching students' reading experiences, particularly useful to virtual online instruction.

The Foundation received an additional **\$899** from SUNY Impact Foundation for the Student Emergency Fund.

On August 10, the Foundation received **\$25,000** from the Capital Region Women's Network to start a new annual scholarship.

On August 10, SEFCU confirmed a matching challenge grant of **\$2,500** for the Food Pantry.

On August 25, event consultant Christine Wheat completed a mailing of packages to scholarship recipients, with letters of congratulations and award certificates.

On August 31, the Foundation received a gift of **\$2,000** from a SUNY Schenectady retiree, directed to music scholarships.

On September 3, the Foundation received a gift of stock valued at **\$30,000** to increase an endowed scholarship.

Student Affairs collaborated with the Schenectady College and Career Outreach Center (SCCOC) to present a virtual information session on the process to applying and becoming enrolled at SUNY Schenectady. This event was held on Monday, August 24 and included Admissions, Financial Aid and Advising.

Laptop loan program has provided 119 laptops to students for the fall semester.

Orientation was offered virtually this year and we had 501 students complete the program

The Center for Workforce Development and Community Education reported on August 14, 2020, Christine McLear and Sarah Wilson-Sparrow hosted a meeting with Frog Alley, Albany Distilling Co, the Carey Institute, Center for Economic Growth and Crossroads Brewing Co to move the Craft Beverage Producer apprenticeship process forward.

### ***Ensure a quality, relevant, coherent and innovative curriculum***

Academic Affairs reports Dr. Richard Simons, Biology Coordinator, has collaborated with instructors to develop both online and hybrid laboratory schedules and select labs for all biology courses operating in those formats in fall 2020. Dr. Simons continues to work with full- and part-time instructors to help ensure that all students will receive a full and rewarding laboratory experience that is consistent across sections, regardless of modality.

Dr. Allyson Keyser, Associate Professor in the School of Music, learned a new program called Upbeat Music App, which allows for multiple people to record audio and video and combine the recordings together. She has also been actively engaged with the New York State School Music Association and the National Association for Music Education, utilizing many of those organizations' resources to support her preparation for virtual online instruction this fall. Dr. Keyser has also joined a mentoring program for female/trans/non-binary brass players around the world to support musicians and music education.

Professor Ingrid O'Connell of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism attended multiple professional development programs throughout the month of August, including: the following professional development webinars during the month of August: *Are Planners Liable if Attendee Catches Covid-19?* Sponsored by Successful Meetings; Bizbash's *The Future of in Person Events: Safer Live Experiences*, the U.S. Travel Association's *Travel Bubbles - Success Stories* program; and *Don't Get Skinned: Critical Clauses & Other Meeting Contract Tips*.

Dr. Eric McCurdy, Assistant Professor of Psychology, developed two new courses, PSY 201 and SOC 201: *Research Methods in the Social Sciences*. The new courses will facilitate additional transfer agreements for students, bring the college in line with other local colleges in the Northeast, and fully develop the sequence of Statistics and Methods to provide improved educational outcomes for students.

During late July and August, Interim Dean of Liberal Arts Eileen Abrahams attended "The Ovid Seminar," a 6-week webinar on Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. The course was sponsored by Rand McNally Bookstore in Brooklyn, NY and taught by Billy Hough. It was attended by authors and academics from across the United States.

Dr. Babette Faehmel, Professor of History, is a participant in Cohort 6: *Online Instruction and Course Development* with the College's Teaching and Learning Specialist, David Wolf. She has completed part one and is beginning part two of the program at this time.

Associate Professor Jay Larkin of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism conducted three virtual information sessions for the College's Craft Beer Brewing, Craft Spirit Distillation, and Beverage Management programs in both July and August. Program participants were comprised of individuals who had expressed interest in any of the programs, such as members of the public, and industry professionals who have been in contact with Mr. Larkin via email or social media. During the session, Mr. Larkin was joined by current students and alumni who answered and shared their student and professional experiences with attendees. In total, there were twenty-five unique registrants and seventeen attendees including five accepted students who have now registered for fall 2020 courses.

### ***Invest in Campus Renewal***

Construction on the Begley Learning Commons continued during August of 2020. Our contractors installed the backordered 1<sup>st</sup> floor carpet and finished assembling furniture. Individual room glass partitions were received and installed. The interior signage audit was completed and representatives from GDS were on-site installing emergency exit and regular room signage. Half of the customized light fixtures were installed and we are waiting on two remaining custom fixtures. Last week, our contractors completed brick repairs to the exterior of the building's two-story window that faces the Elston Hall Quad. During August and September, fire alarm testing and HVAC balancing will be performed. We anticipate receipt of

delayed lighting items, the circulation and IT help desks by mid-September, which will delay re-opening of the Learning Commons until late September or early October.

In early September, the New York State Division of Budget approved the College's additional requests to release partial Capital funding for four projects. The Four projects included the campus wide Generator, Elston Hall Admissions/Welcome Center, Elston Hall Façade and the Sky-Bridge Engineering Study.

During late August, our contractor replaced the VCT flooring in the Stockade Building. In addition to replacement of classroom flooring, the stairwell risers were replaced with new rubberized non-slip material. The So. Church Street parking lot project remains on hold until the city shares its renovation plans for the streetscapes and drainage surrounding this area. Computer equipment and WiFi hot spots in the main parking lot that are associated with the campus wide IT Infrastructure Project arrived on-campus in time for the Fall 2020 semester.

Due to the pandemic, the County asked the College to revise its 2021 Capital Project request. As part of the new request, we are working with the County and the State to use existing appropriation for certain projects and adjust the 2021 request down to essential projects. A revised 2021 Capital Project request will be considered at the September 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

The Mill Lane project continues. In late August, BBL awarded an agreement for HVAC work on the exclusive space at Mill Lane and agreements were finalized with Kittredge Equipment supply for equipping the Mill Lane confectionary kitchen. RFP's were released by BBL for electrical and plumbing services needed to build-out the project. An every two week standing construction meeting was established with the contractors and the College to ensure continued progress on this project.

On August 26, the Foundation gave final approval of design proofs to GDS for production to begin on Learning Commons donor recognition signage.

The Office of Information Technology continues to improve the helpdesk response tickets and times. The staff has done an OUTSTANDING job.

- Wed- Fri before start of classes they resolved 263 tickets

In the first week of classes as of Thursday, September 3 the IT department resolved over 400 tickets. The normal weekly average is 127.

Information Systems is pleased to report that the parking lot is Wi-Fi operational.

### ***Strengthen and Expand Community and Strategic Partnerships***

Dr. Lorena Harris, CSTEP Director, continues to work with Dr. Omayra Padilla De Jesus on the Rise High Program which empowers young Schenectady students to explore the STEM fields and learn that they are stronger together as a learning community. In recent correspondence to Dr. Harris, program founder Mark Little of the Little Foundation shared that, "We are grateful for the opportunity that was extended to our students. Rise High Inc. values our standing partnership with SUNY Schenectady, sharing the common goal of providing meaningful and unique learning experiences to youth in our community while sparking their interests and curiosity in the exciting world of science. In the midst of what has been a challenging year, we have proven that we are a resilient community and are stronger together. On behalf of Rise High Inc. and our students. Thank you, Dr. Harris."

SUNY Schenectady graduates of the Medical Coding & Billing program, led by Professor Carol Maimone, were featured in the Daily Gazette as all being hired by Mohawk Ambulance. This was shared on SUNY Schenectady social media. Another program graduate is in the process of being hired at Hometown Health in Schenectady.

Karen Hosmer, Associate Professor of the School of Music, had her work featured in the latest quarterly journal of the *International Double Reed Society*. *IDRS* (vol.43, #2, 2020) includes a reprint of the May 5, *Times Union* article by James Dalton titled *Classical Notes: ASO's principal oboe keeps her own time: Karen Hosmer reflects on long tenure, musical adventures*. The interview/article discusses the Albany Symphony Orchestra and Dr. Hosmer's work as a professor at the College, particularly her Open Educational Resource (OER) for Music Fundamentals and work with certificate students.

During August 2020 multiple School of Music (SoM) faculty members and graduates gave concerts.

- Mark Evans, Assistant Professor, piano, created and performed in the SUNY Schenectady /Summer music series with alumna Bobby Frazier, baritone '18 (August 6) and Areli Mendoza-Pannone, soprano '19 (August 13). SoM students Areli Mendoza-Pannone and Henry Zelenak were the video and audio engineer, respectively. The Daily Gazette feature the series in an article, <https://dailygazette.com/article/2020/07/23/suny-schenectady-summer-concert-series-goes-virtual>
- Sten Isachsen, Assistant Professor, guitar, gave performances with the Musicians of Ma'alwyck (MoM) at the First Reformed (August 9), Caffè Lena (August 14), and with Maria Z at the Cock and Bull (August 19). He will be mixing and editing video from MoM's Hyde Hall performance/recording session.

- Musicians of Ma'alwyck, with Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Adjunct Instructor, violin, continues to give weekly concerts that are streamed at First Reformed Church, Sundays, 3:00 p.m. MoM live streamed from Caffè Lena in Saratoga (August 14), will play a free concert for Cherry Valley Artworks on August 22 at 6:00 p.m., and, as part of the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment, Musicians of Ma'alwyck will live stream a concert from the Albany Institute of History and Art on August 26 at 3:00 p.m. On the evening of August 26, MoM will play the same concert for Coburg Village Retirement Center, and again the next day, for the community of the Avila Retirement Center.
- Karlinda Caldicott, Adjunct Instructor, harp, plays on Sundays at the State Street Presbyterian Church in Schenectady at 10:15 a.m. On Sunday, August 23, 7:00 p.m., she will perform at Presbyterian New England Congregational Church on Circular St. in Saratoga Springs, weather permitting.

Maura Hall, Adjunct Instructor, piano, has been an active adjudicator for Music Teachers National Association's new e-festival evaluation this summer.

On August 3, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Schenectady and Rensselaer County One Stop Representatives to discuss CARES package strategies.

On August 3, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with Denise Zieske Re: Apprenticeship opportunities at North Country Community College

On August 5, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with scholarship donor David Harris to give a College update.

On August 7, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended a meeting of the Workforce Development Board's Executive Committee

On August 10, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow participated in a Virtual Apprentice Roundtable.

On August 13, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with scholarship donor Joan Dembinski to give a College update.

On August 13, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended the Employer Resource Network (ERN) Advisory Group Meeting.

On August 13, WFD Staff attended the WFDCE Campus call with community college workforce development colleagues across the state.

On August 17, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with Board member Ryan Watroba to give a College update.

On August 17, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with Board Chair Elect Lynn Manning and Dr. Babette Faehmel to discuss Foundation Board involvement in the Student Mentoring Program.

On August 20, Dawn Jones from Career Services presented information to the students enrolled in the Google IT Support Professional Certificate program. Information included services offered by her office, job search and networking skills, and resume building information.

On August 25, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow attended a Workforce Development meeting with the City Mission, Schenectady County One Stop, Schenectady ARC, Success Coaches and the Employer Resource Network.

On August 25 and September 1, 2020, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow presented at the NYCCAP Apprenticeship Presentation for Workforce and College Presidents.

On August 27, the Vice President of Development and External Affairs met with scholarship donors Stan Blanchard and Johanna Petersen to give a College update.

On August 31, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow presented virtually at the Open Chair meeting with the University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD)--Education Opportunity Center (EOC) statewide group. Sarah highlighted apprenticeship opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare and other titles that align with courses available at the EOCs across the state.

In August, the Office of Workforce Development and Community Education was approved on the Credential Engine platform to begin listing courses, credentials, certificates, and training.

On September 1, the Foundation team met to finalize plans for the fall (digital) edition of alumNEWS, scheduled for completion in October.

### ***Ensure the College's Financial Sustainability***

The College's 2020-21 operating budget was approved by the County Legislature in August of 2020. Upon approval, it was forwarded to SUNY for consideration by the SUNY Board of Trustees. The fiscal outlook for the College's State support remains unchanged at this time.

Various agreements with outside vendors are currently under review and consideration. During August and September, a review committee interviewed four legal firms who responded to our Legal Services RFP. The College also proposed revised agreements with the Capital District YMCA and LAZ parking.

On August 4, Sarah Wilson-Sparrow met with the DOL Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant (SCC) team to discuss the group application.

On August 19, the Foundation received a verbal major gift commitment to start a fund that will underwrite student support programs and initiatives.

On September 3, a Keystone Society member verbally confirmed that the Foundation is the beneficiary of an additional **\$10,000** insurance policy.

### ***President's Outreach***

I continue to meet with Presidents of the "C5 group" (five local community colleges: SUNY Adirondack, Hudson Valley, Fulton-Montgomery, and Columbia-Green) to further discuss the pandemic and how it has affected operations at their institution and their plans for Fall re-opening.

In addition to the C5 Cohort – there have been constant conference calls, via ZOOM, with all of the Community College Presidents to discuss the challenges faced during the pandemic and obstacles that have been overcome.

On August 25, Stacy McIllduff, Vice President of Development and External Affairs and I met with Foundation Board member emeritus Chef Yono Purnomo.

On August 27, I participated in the final LPC Meeting and after the meeting; the respective members were going to submit a ballot. The agenda was as follows:

1. Provide a brief overview of the DRI planning process
2. Review any changes or updates that have occurred since our previous meeting
3. Confirm LPC member support for a final list of DRI projects
4. Discuss LPC member voting process
5. Review next steps

My thanks to Trustee Gillen and the two chairs (Mayor McCarthy and Mr. Buicko) for assembling a diverse group and the transparency they provided to the entire process.