

# SUNY SCHENECTADY

Annual Report | 2021



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo by Stan Horacek

Our students, faculty, and staff often hear me discuss the importance of “grit.” It’s a strength that lies deep within all of us and allows us to persevere in the face of adversity, rise above life’s obstacles, and continue on the paths we have imagined for ourselves, as we help others do the same along the way.

I am humbled by the grit our students have shown despite the challenges of the past nearly two years. As we welcomed the majority of students back to campus this fall, I had the opportunity to speak with many of them about their lives and their hopes for the future. Every day, they continue to inspire me and they renew in me, and in all of us at SUNY Schenectady, a sense of ebullience, enthusiasm, and optimism for the future.

There is Bebi, a Health Studies major who is studying to be a Registered Nurse because she has always dreamed of helping people. Daniel, a Liberal Arts: Communications major, has his own YouTube channel and plans to become a media/production editor. Amira, a Culinary Arts major, is sharing her passion for cooking with those who have food insecurities, and Idris, an Aviation Science major, is on his way to becoming a flight instructor and professional pilot.

Likewise, I am galvanized by the excellent work of our faculty and staff and the myriad ways in which they serve our students, encourage them, and give of themselves so that our students can achieve their goals. Having them back in our classrooms and labs, along with our students, has been profoundly gratifying.

This fall, we were equally as excited to open our new \$10.1 million Learning Commons in the Begley Building and new Confections Lab in the Mill Artisan District in downtown Schenectady, as we unveiled our new Strategic Plan: *Many Voices, One Call*. The College as a whole is growing for the future, just as our students are growing and preparing for their futures.

We thank you for supporting us in everything we do, and for walking alongside us in our commitment to empowering our students and serving our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steady H. Moono', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steady H. Moono  
President



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## College Again Voted Best of the Best!

For the second consecutive year, SUNY Schenectady was named BEST LOCAL COLLEGE in the *Daily Gazette's* Official 2021 People's Choice Awards: Best of the Best based on voting by readers of the *Daily Gazette*. The College took top honors last year as well!

On the cover: Dr. Moono cuts the ribbon on the new Learning Commons. Read more on page 12.

# BACK ON CAMPUS

## Excitement All Around as College Welcomes Students Back for Fall 2021 Semester

A majority of students returned to campus on Aug. 30, 2021, for the first time since the College moved to virtual online instruction in mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. Students are taking in-person courses in the College's 56 transfer degree, career degree and certificate programs on campus, as well as in the new Confections Lab in the Mill Artisan District in downtown Schenectady and a new Gaming Center at Center City. The College continues to offer a robust array of online courses as well.

"This is a profound moment as our students come together with faculty and staff on campus for the first time in 17 months. We are elated to have them here and we will do all that we can to ensure that they are successful. Through our new Learning Commons with expanded services, our Food Pantry, tutoring, the Educational Opportunity Program, scholarships, mentoring, and so much more, we will support them in any way that they need. The perseverance and adaptability they have shown in spite of the challenges presented by the pandemic has been admirable. We are thrilled to again offer in-person courses and for our students to once again interact with faculty and staff." – Dr. Steady Moono, College President.



## Faculty Return to Campus During Faculty Institute Week



exchanged ideas, and participated in meaningful discussions during Faculty Institute Week, held each semester one week prior to the arrival of students on campus.

*Dr. Moono presents his summer reading list, an annual tradition.*

*Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch, Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduces new faculty/staff during Faculty Convocation.*

For the first time since March 2020, the majority of the College's faculty returned to teach courses and labs on campus for the Fall 2021 semester.

Faculty regrouped,



**At the start of Fall 2021, we asked students, "What are you looking forward to about the Fall semester?"**

*"As a student leader, it is great to actually be on campus with students and professors and to hear directly from students about how their semester is going and what they would like to see at the College." – Jennifer Malave, Human Services major and President of the Student Government Association.*



*"I'm looking forward to the college experience the most, something I couldn't experience with online classes." – Aaron Maher, Teacher Education Transfer*

*"Getting through the semester and passing." – Jack Salmon. Math and Science*

*"It's been a tough semester previously so it's good to be back here interacting with everyone. I'm looking forward to finishing off my last semester and then transferring for my bachelor's degree."*

*– Felicia Sara Soolaman, Business Administration*

*"Coming to campus because it's been a while. Interacting with my professors personally and not behind a screen. Seeing all of the changes at the College. Getting where I have to be." – Rafena Rashid, Liberal Arts: Psychology*



*"Getting into my major and the whole college experience here." – Roger Maynard, Liberal Arts*





## PRESIDENTIAL MOMENTS

### Zambian Association Network of the U.S. Names Dr. Moono Educator of the Year

“DR. MOONO’S WORK AS AN EDUCATOR GOES BEYOND HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE AT SUNY SCHENECTADY. HE IS ALSO AN INSPIRATION TO THE ZAMBIAN COMMUNITY THROUGH HIS FAMILY AND PERSONAL PHILANTHROPY WORK IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR.”

- Fred Kazembe, Zanus President

Dr. Steady Moono, College President, was named Educator of the Year by the Zambian Association Network of the United States (ZANUS) during their 2021 Inaugural Biennial Zambia-U.S. Business Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. He was honored for his “mentorship and contribution to the global community, especially to underprivileged communities.”



*Dr. Moono with Robert C. William, Founder and President/CEO of Pennsylvania Center for International Exchange and Partnership (PCIEP).*

*Dr. Moono and his wife Kelly at the 2021 Inaugural Biennial Zambia-U.S. Business Conference Gala.*



### Dr. Moono Appears on *New York Now*



Dr. Moono is shown while being interviewed by reporter Darrell Camp for the PBS program *New York Now*. He discussed how the College pivoted to virtual online instruction during the pandemic, the new Learning Commons, and the myriad ways in which faculty and staff have supported students during the return to campus.



*Dr. Moono during a food distribution program for the College community.*

### Welcoming Dr. Merryl H. Tisch to Campus

Dr. Merryl H. Tisch, Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees, visited campus in October 2021. Dr. Moono updated Dr. Tisch on the College’s Strategic Plan and the ways in which the College is supporting students during the return to in-person classes. Dr. Tisch was impressed with members of the Student Government Association as they each told her about what led them to SUNY Schenectady and their plans for the future including careers in aviation, criminal justice, and science.



# COVID-19

## Keeping Campus Safe



Student Kylee Nicklas completes the screening in Elston Hall.



to complete mandatory testing.

During the Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters, everyone coming to campus completed a health screening when entering through four designated campus entry points. Faculty, staff and students are required

## SUNY Chancellor Visits Campus to Announce Mandatory Testing Update

SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras visited campus in November 2020 to announce that SUNY campuses finished mandatory testing of students on campus, with 152,788 tests conducted. Chancellor Malatras praised SUNY students for their efforts to keep COVID rates low during the fall semester.

“This has been a tremendous team effort. We are one SUNY family, and we are all in this together. We will continue to keep each other safe and finish the fall semester strong.” – SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras

“The safety of our students and College community is our top priority at SUNY Schenectady. We thank Chancellor Malatras for his leadership regarding testing and safety protocols.” – College President Dr. Steady Moono.



SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras with Jessica Trela, Nutrition major, and Dr. Steady Moono, College President.

## SUNY Schenectady Serves as COVID-19 Vaccination Site



Schenectady County began partnering with SUNY Schenectady in January 2021 to serve as a COVID-19 vaccination site, with vaccines first administered to doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, people age 65 and over who are vulnerable, first

responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and public safety workers. In the months that followed, vaccinations were open to the public at large on a walk-in basis.

“I’m proud of the team at the College and the strong partnerships we have within the county. We have exemplified time and again that collaboration is crucial, this pandemic is no different.” – Dr. Steady Moono, College President

## Vaccinating Students

The College and County held vaccination clinics for students beginning in April 2021.



“I got vaccinated because I want to go visit my father in Florida in June.” – Sadaisha Bowden, Business Administration major





Jessica Trela, Nutrition major, working in the Food Pantry.

## Supporting Our Students

The College continued to offer all lecture-style courses through virtual online instruction during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, offering significant support to students despite the distance.

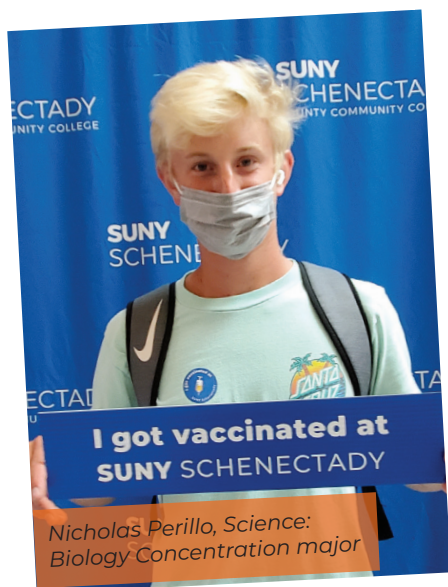
The Food Pantry remained open to alleviate barriers associated with food insecurity, support student success, and to ensure that no student goes hungry because of a lack of income or access to food. Students ordered online and picked up what they needed during day and evening hours.

Other support services included Laptop Loans Program, Student Success Coaching, technological help, tutoring, virtual research assistance with Librarians, and wellness resources.

## SUNY Mandates Vaccinations for Students

Following FDA approval of the Pfizer COVID vaccine in August, a student vaccination mandate became a requirement for all SUNY campuses. All students with at least one in-person class or who came to campus for any purpose needed to provide proof of receiving a full vaccination series by Sept. 27, 2021, with some medical/religious exemptions granted.

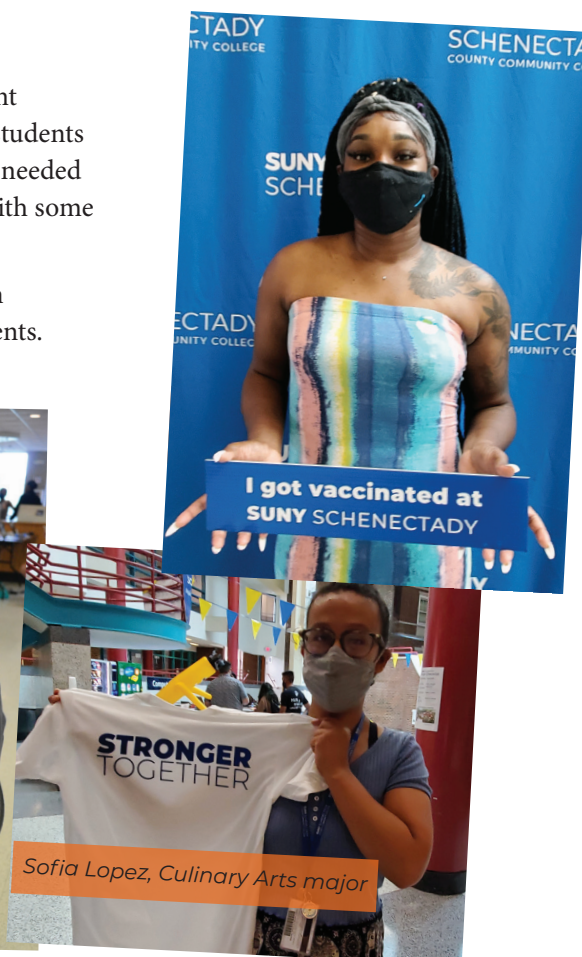
Students stepped up to be vaccinated during a Vaccination Celebration in September 2021 which also included games, prizes, music, and refreshments.



Nicholas Perillo, Science:  
Biology Concentration major



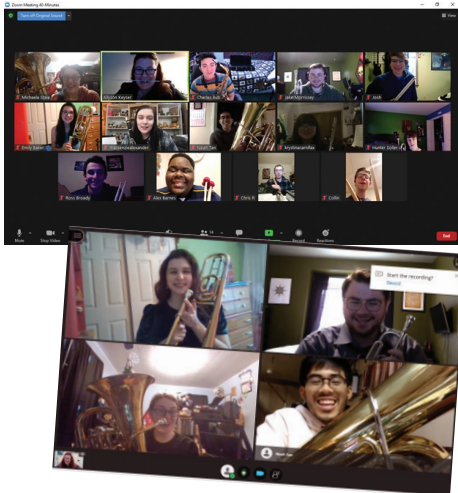
Nicholas Phillips,  
Aviation Science major



Sofia Lopez, Culinary Arts major

## ACADEMICS

### Music Ensembles Featured During NYS Band Directors Association Symposium



Two of the College's Music Ensembles entertained virtual audiences from across the state during the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) 40th Annual Symposium. The NYSBDA is comprised of band directors from elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, as well as community (and military) organizations.

The Wind Ensemble's performance of *March from the Second Suite in F* by Gustav Holst and the Brass Ensemble's performance of *Orinoco Cocoa* by Vince Gassi were both shown as part of the "Concert Hour" during the second evening of the symposium in March 2021. Both ensembles are directed by Dr. Allyson Keyser, Associate Professor in the School of Music.

### Students Examine Science Behind mRNA Vaccines

As mRNA COVID-19 vaccines reached the arms of people across the country, students in the Biotechnology and Biological Technician degree programs learned the research and techniques behind development of the vaccines and how this ties directly into the work they could be doing in their future careers.

*In her General Toxicology course/lab and Biotechnology Techniques Lab, Dr. Maggie McLellan-Zabielski, Instructor in the Division of Math, Science, Technology, and Health, discussed*

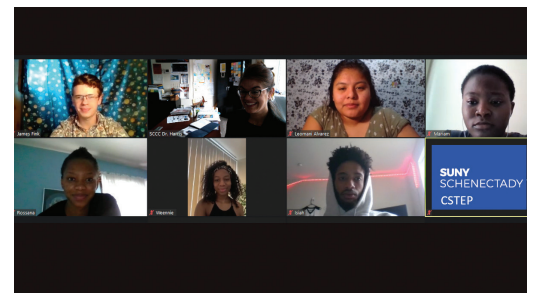
*all of the different pathways that the vaccines have taken, how mRNA vaccines work, how they are designed, and how this is applicable to the Biotechnology programs as well as students' lives now as the pandemic continues.*



*Carmen Nazario, Biological Technician major, in a Biotechnology Techniques Lab in the College's Biotechnology Laboratory and Research Facility.*

### CSTEP Students Present Original Research

Science! Students in the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) presented their original research projects from Biology classes and independent CSTEP projects during the CSTEP Capital Region Virtual Student Conference. They were joined by Dr. Lorena Harris, Director of CSTEP. Nkeiru Ubadike, a SUNY Schenectady alum who transferred to Stony Brook University to study physics, was a panelist.





## Students Advance in Early Childhood Education Field Through New Credential Program

Rajshree Lopez loves what she does, working as an Infant and Toddler



Assistant Teacher with children ages 6 weeks to 2 years old at the YWCA Northeastern New York Early Learning Center in Schenectady. During Spring 2021, she and 15 other students took Early Childhood Education courses online through a new collaboration between the College and the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute at CUNY.

The program, funded through a federal grant known as the PDG Birth to 5 grant, provides individuals already working in childcare settings with the opportunity to take credit-bearing courses leading to the National Council of Professional Recognition's Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential at no cost to the student. The CDA Credential is nationally recognized and positions students to hold lead teacher positions in infant and toddler classrooms. Those in the program could also choose to enroll in the College's Early Childhood Education certificate or degree programs.

## Human Services Students Intern at Local Agencies

Even during the pandemic, Human Services students interned at more than 15 local community agencies as part of their Field Instruction class.

Terell Strickland II interned at Albany High School in Spring 2021. He's a Teaching Assistant there. He graduated in May with his degree in Human Services and transferred to the College of Saint Rose where he is pursuing his bachelor's degree in Social Work. He plans to then earn his master's degree as well. "I Implemented things that I've learned at SUNY Schenectady as it pertains to social work and incorporated them while engaging with the students."

Rebecca Conover completed her internship at Schenectady ARC. She has been working there as a Program Manager at one of the residential facilities in Schenectady and graduated in May with her Certificate in Direct Support Professional.

"Internships really give you a feel for the field you're going into. Through my communication classes and social work classes, I learned how to communicate with different people. It made me a much better listener and bettered me as a person."



## Researching Nutritional Value of Sweet Potatoes

Maria Diotte, Nutrition major, was in the Biotechnology Laboratory and Research Facility over the summer researching the nutritional value of sweet potatoes. Dr. Lorena Harris is Maria's faculty mentor through the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). After she graduates with her degree in Nutrition, Maria plans to transfer on for her bachelor's degree and then advocate for elderly patients/improve the lives of patients with tube feeding.



## COLLEGE NEWS

### Sweet Addition to Culinary Arts Program

This fall, students in the Culinary Arts and Culinary Arts – Baking Concentration programs learned how to make “bean-to-bar” chocolate for the first time in the College’s new Confections Lab in the Mill Artisan District in downtown Schenectady. Starting with raw cocoa beans and using state-of-the-art equipment, they created delicious chocolate bars and desserts. The lab features a roaster, winnower, nib grinder, melanger, sifter, and enrobing, tempering, and conching machines. Shown is Vanessa Traver ’20, Assistant Professor, teaching in the lab.



### \$1.6 Million Grant Program Aims To Increase College Access for High School Students



Anibal Soler Jr.,  
Superintendent of the  
Schenectady City School  
District, with Dr. Moono.

SUNY Schenectady is one of only two New York state institutions and the only SUNY campus selected to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunity (IREPO) program, designed to help institutions of higher education emerge from the Coronavirus pandemic more resilient and expand educational opportunities for students. The College will utilize the two-year, \$1.6 million grant funding to partner with the Schenectady City School District on providing support services to create pathways for students to become “college ready” while they are still in high school.

### College Forms New Partnership with Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences



Dr. Moono with Dr. Paul  
Dhinakaran, Chancellor,  
Karunya Institute of Technology  
and Sciences

Students at SUNY Schenectady and Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS), an affiliate of the Karunya Education and Research Foundation, located in India, will benefit from a new partnership between the two institutions, the first of its kind for both.

Key elements of the MOU include developing pathways for KITS students to complete courses on the SUNY Schenectady campus; planning for offering SUNY Schenectady programs

in partnership on the KITS campus; and working to link SUNY Schenectady’s exceptional College in the High School (CHS) program with schools in India.

### College Unveils New Strategic Plan: *Many Voices, One Call*

A new Strategic Plan - *Many Voices, One Call 2021-2026* - will guide the College’s collective work for the next five years. With an emphasis on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, the new plan articulates SUNY Schenectady’s hopes, dreams, and aspirations to fully build upon the best of the College’s history while positioning the institution as open, flexible, and dynamic in responding to new opportunities.

#### A New Mission Statement

“Driven to empower every student in their pursuit of lifelong success.”

#### A New Vision Statement

“To inspire every student’s success through equitable practices, innovative education, and community engagement.”

#### Four Pillars of Success

- Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Delivering a Meaningful Student Experience
- Building Organizational Effectiveness
- Ensuring Financial Stability and Self-Sufficiency

#### A Student Experience Statement

“SUNY Schenectady strives to provide a relevant and fulfilling education exemplified by an inspiring and fulfilling student experience.”



## New Podcast is Big Hit



**MANY VOICES,  
ONE CALL**  
THE SUNY SCHENECTADY PODCAST

More than 200 listeners tuned into the first episode of the new podcast, *Many Voices, One Call @ SUNY Schenectady*, launched on Buzzsprout.com. The podcast, hosted by Jennifer Malave Human Services major/President of the Student Government Association, and Dr. Babette Faehmel, Associate Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts/Coordinator of the Student Mentoring Program, promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion programs happening at the College.

Episodes: One Year of Pandemic Learning; Black Professionals In Higher Education; The School of Music, the COVID Crisis, and Quarry Songs by Brett Wery; Vaccine Hesitancy.

## What Does the Senior Class at Duanesburg Jr./Sr. High School Have in Common? *SUNY Schenectady!*



For the first time, SUNY Schenectady held an Instant Admit program for an entire senior class. 54 seniors from Duanesburg Jr./Sr. High School were admitted to the College.

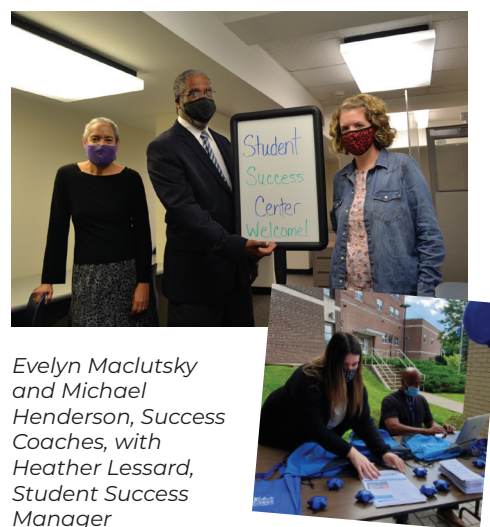
## College Recognized as Military Friendly School for Ninth Consecutive Year

SUNY Schenectady was again named a Military Friendly School® by GI Jobs magazine for 2021-2022, marking the ninth consecutive year recognizing the College's firm commitment to serving those who have served.



## Student Success Center Joins Centralized Location

Student Services areas were consolidated on the second floor of Elston Hall and the Student Success Center moved there as well. Student Success Coaches continue to meet with students and help them navigate their courses and College experience.



Evelyn Maclutsky and Michael Henderson, Success Coaches, with Heather Lessard, Student Success Manager

Leanna Liuzzi, Success Coach and Foundation Scholarship Coordinator, and Harry Rolle, Success Coach

# COLLEGE NEWS

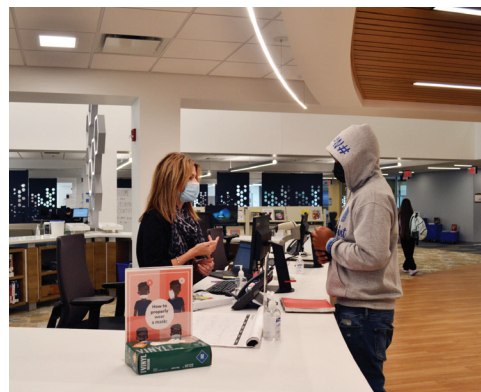
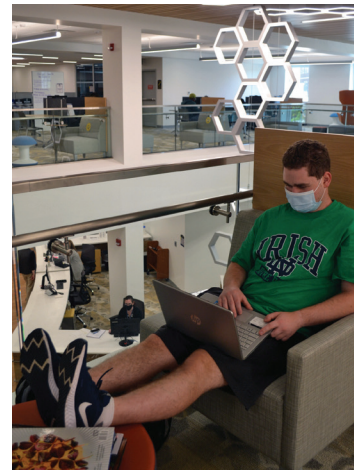
## New \$10.1 Million Learning Commons Becomes “Heart of Campus”

When students returned to campus in August 2021 for in-person classes, they were greeted not only by professors and staff, but also by the College’s new \$10 million Learning Commons, an impressive, open space for collaborative learning, camaraderie, exchange of ideas, student support services, and professional development for faculty.

Funding for the Learning Commons was provided by Schenectady County, the State of New York, and the SUNY Schenectady Foundation through *The Promise of Our Common Future* Campaign.

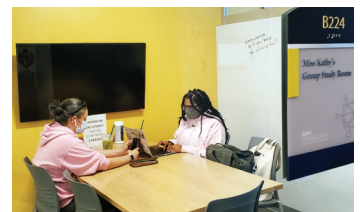
### The new 30,000-square-foot facility features:

- Begley Library with:
  - Physical items, e-books, e-articles, online librarian assistance 24/7
- Swanker Learning Center with:
  - Walk-in Tutoring & support materials
  - Study areas & presentation practice room
  - Reading strategies for articles and textbooks
  - Research paper assistance
  - Support for test-prep and study skills
- Quiet study spaces
- Group study rooms
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Student collaborative spaces;
- Center for Excellence in Teaching
- Joshua Schwartz Café and Lobby
- IT support
- Reading area



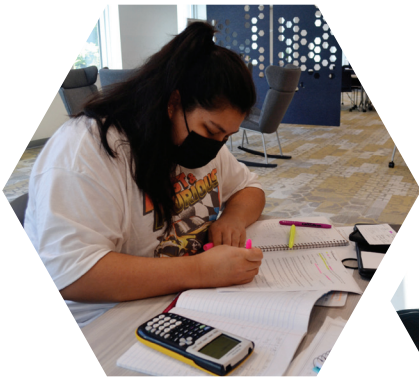
“Our students deserve this. Every decision we make, every course we offer, every new academic program we design – we do it all with the success of students as our number one priority. Our new Learning Commons is an extraordinary representation of this commitment to our students. It will serve as the new heart of campus — the nucleus of our College community — a dynamic hub of learning and growth for students, faculty, staff, and our local community.”

– Dr. Steady Moono, College President





## Students Love the New Learning Commons in the Begley Building!



"I use the computers and printer, free tutoring, and it's a good space to do homework. I like using the computers better than the laptop and I can print the things I need for school."

Mercedes Laura,  
Health Studies



"I come to the Learning Commons mostly early in the morning for an online class. If I have any questions, I can join the video and talk here in a quiet place."

Lorenzo Cruz,  
Aviation Science



"I'm in the Learning Commons every day. It's a comfortable place to work. I eat lunch downstairs. I haven't used Tutoring Services yet, but I'm sure I will at some point."

Tony Verdichizzi,  
Hotel and Restaurant  
Management



"I come in the morning before I go to class. I like to sit down. It's quiet. After class I can go over what the professors just went through in my classes. I see what homework I have to do, and bring my laptop and do it."

Kaitlyn Bliss, Culinary Arts

## New Joshua Schwartz Café and Lobby Opens

Students grab a bite to eat and hang out in the new Joshua Schwartz Café and Lobby, named for Dr. Joshua Schwartz, generous supporter and friend of the College. The new Café is operated by the Faculty Student Association and has earned rave reviews from students!



## COLLEGE NEWS

### New Vice Presidents and Academic Deans Bring Diverse Expertise

Dr. Cheryl Renée Gooch is Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Gooch has spent more than 20 years in higher education as a professor, department chairperson, campus director, and academic dean. Most recently, she served as Dean of Arts and Humanities at Cumberland County College (now Rowan College of South Jersey) and as Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Hinsonville's Heroes: Black Civil War Soldiers of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (The History Press) and *On Africa's Lands: The Forgotten Stories of Two Lincoln Educated Missionaries in Liberia* (Lincoln University Press). Dr. Gooch holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from Florida State University; M.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University; and a B.A. in Political Science from Howard University.

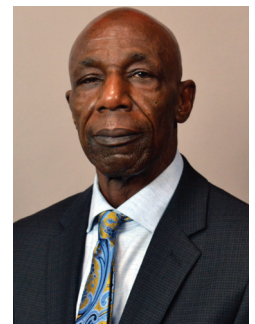
Dr. David Clickner has transitioned to a new role as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Planning. Dr. Clickner has been an educator for more than 20 years, most recently as the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Schenectady. Under his leadership, Academic Affairs continued to develop and made advances in continuing to move toward implementation of a Guided Pathways model, and the College's Achieving the Dream initiative has continued to evolve as a critical part of the campus community. Dr. Clickner holds both an M.S. and Ph.D. in Literacy from the University at Albany, and a B.A. in English, Secondary Education, from Siena College.

Dr. Christopher Brellochs is Dean of the School of Music. For more than 25 years, Dr. Brellochs has helped create artistic and professional pathways for students to successfully achieve careers in music. He previously held the positions of Chair of the SUNY Dutchess Community College Academy of Music, Adjunct Artist in Music teaching saxophone at Vassar College, and Director of the Performing Arts Preparatory



School at Hillside High School. As both a classical and jazz saxophonist, Dr. Brellochs has performed extensively in New York City and internationally. He is involved in a new series by *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes called *The Gilded Age*, which is scheduled to be released on HBO in 2022. Dr. Brellochs holds his D.M.A. from Rutgers University; M.A., from New York University; and B.M. from Ithaca College.

Dr. Hamin Shabazz is Dean of Business, Criminal Justice and Law. Over the span of his career, he has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Ill.; Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas; Department Chair for Criminal Justice at Stevenson University in Stevenson, Md., as well as a faculty member. He has also provided expert commentary on syndicated radio and television programs addressing issues dealing with law enforcement. Dr. Shabazz is a 2019 Fulbright Scholar. He holds his D.P.A. (Administration of Justice) from the University of Baltimore; M.P.A. (Administration of Justice) from the University of Michigan; and B.A. and A.A.S. degrees in Criminal Justice from Widener University.



### Faculty Artist's Work Selected for Mohawk Hudson Regional

"Off Beat", by SUNY Schenectady Adjunct Faculty Member/Artist Stephen Tyson, was selected for the Mohawk Hudson Regional and was on display at the Albany Center Gallery.

Mr. Tyson has taught art courses at the College for several years. His work has been featured at the New York State Museum, the Schenectady Museum (MiSci), The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Albany Center Gallery, Saratoga Arts, and the National Black Fine Art Show (NBFAS) in New York City.





## FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS/DEVELOPMENT

### Professor Ingrid O'Connell Named Outstanding Tourism Educator of the Year



*Professor Ingrid O'Connell with George Ntim, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association.*

Ingrid O'Connell, Professor in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, was named the 2021 Outstanding Tourism Educator of the Year by the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association (NYSH&TA). She was recognized at the Association's 2021 Stars of the Industry Awards Luncheon/Day at the Races Fundraiser at The Rail at the Saratoga Race Course.

The award recognizes an educator who has demonstrated outstanding contributions of leadership and service to his/her community, as well as the tourism industry.

A 1987 alumna, Professor O'Connell has taught courses in the Hospitality and Tourism Management A.A.S. and Hospitality and Tourism Certificate programs since 1994, and currently teaches seven core courses across all programs in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism. She is one of the founding faculty members to develop and teach online courses since 1998. She was the 2019 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Outside of teaching, for the last 15 years, she has worked part-time for Sodexo to keep current with industry practices, and to share real-world experiences with her students.

### Library Staff Member Recognized



The Capital Area Library Assistants (CALA) presented the 2020 CALA Outstanding Service Award to Shari Cuomo, Senior Library Clerk. The award acknowledges outstanding service by local library assistants in their own libraries and in the library profession as a whole.

Shari was instrumental in the temporary relocation of the library to Elston Hall during construction of the Learning Commons. She helped maintain the highest level of service for library patrons. In addition, Shari has volunteered in the Food Pantry, the campus COVID testing site, and as an operator for the college-wide chat feature.



### Dr. David Brough Inducted into American Academy of Chefs

Dr. David Brough CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC, Dean of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism, was inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Chefs (AAC), the Honor Society for the American Culinary Federation (ACF) during the 2021 American Academy of Chefs 49th Annual Induction Dinner at the World Marriott Resort in Orlando, Fla.

In order to achieve Fellow status, chefs are required to earn two nominations and pass an application review that includes verification of seven mandatory requirements, as well as verification of at least 10 of 22 elective attainable goals, among other stipulations. Dr. Brough was sponsored by: Dale M. Miller, CMC, AAC, President of Master Chef Consulting Group, LLC, and James G. Rhoads, CEC, AAC, Chef at Panza's on the Lake (Saratoga).

# FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS/DEVELOPMENT

## SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

**Mark Evans,**  
Assistant Professor, School of Music

During his 30 years at SUNY Schenectady, Mark Evans has demonstrated a superb commitment to teaching, to the success of his students, and to serving the College as a whole. He is the Director of the Chamber Music Series, which brings nationally-recognized artists to campus. In 2020, he created the Summer Music Series, which featured outstanding students and alumni in concerts recorded for YouTube broadcasts so that students could continue to present "live" music during the pandemic.

In 2014, Mr. Evans restarted the College's a cappella club 'Totally Pitchin'' (now called Electric Harmony). The club led to the formation of Out of Time which won the VSA International Young Soloists Competition and was invited to perform in May 2018 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Evans works with colleagues in the School of Music and throughout the College through performances, involvement in recruitment activities, and academic partnerships that reflect his support of the College's Mission to be an inclusive, collaborative community. He holds an M.M. from the College of Saint Rose and a B.M. from Mannes College of Music.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

**Lynn Harkness,**  
Executive Secretary I,  
Office of Marketing and  
Public Relations

Since joining the College in 2007, Lynn Harkness has been an exemplary member of the College's staff, dedicated to serving students and her colleagues alike.

Ms. Harkness's bookkeeping and organizational skills are superb as she manages a large budget and balances it to the penny every year. She is detailed and precise, and when projects arise, she will call numerous vendors to negotiate the best price possible for the College. She has built and maintains professional and positive relationships with a wide variety of vendors. She is described by others as someone who "goes above, and beyond, and will be the first person to volunteer." She has volunteered at College Open Houses, Instant Admit programs, Honors Convocation, and SUNY Schenectady Foundation special events.

Ms. Harkness was chosen to receive a Recognize Everyday Leadership Award by the Division of Student Affairs and has served on various committees including the Human Resources Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is a team player and her strong work ethic and positive attitude contribute greatly to the betterment of the College.

### SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

**Jay Larkin,**  
Associate Professor,  
School of Hotel, Culinary Arts  
and Tourism

During his 13 years at the College, Jay Larkin has shown exceptional service to the campus and community. He has authored and guided the Beverage Management, Craft Beer Brewing, and Craft Spirit Distillation programs. Not only does he serve as a mentor to current students, he is also responsible for working with prospective students through his role with the New York State Restaurant Association ProStart High School Competition, as well as the SkillsUSA State competition. Since March 2011, he has been the Regional SkillsUSA – Restaurant Management Competition Chairperson.

Mr. Larkin was instrumental in creating the Sips for Scholarships program. He has served on the Reimagining Fall 2020 Task Force, Reimagining Fall 2020 Implementation Task Force, and Reimagining Spring 2021 Task Force and as Vice Chair of the Academic Senate.

Mr. Larkin is also a member of The Brewers Association and New York State Brewers Association. He is a Health Communications, Inc. (HCI) Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) Certified instructor. He holds a B.S. in Restaurant, Hotel, Institutional, and Tourism Management from Purdue University, and an A.A.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Management from SUNY Schenectady.



## SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

**Kathy Liska,**  
Adjunct Faculty Member,  
Division of Business, Criminal  
Justice and Law

Since she began teaching at SUNY Schenectady in 2009, Kathy Liska has taught an impressive array of math courses including Statistics, Contemporary Math, Quantway/Mathematical Reasoning, Precalculus, Math Skills, and College Algebra. She is student-centered and works mainly with students who have struggled in math to help them obtain positive outcomes.

Ms. Liska was instrumental in the development of the course curriculum for Quantway, a developmental non-credit quantitative reasoning course. In addition, she is a member of the Math Committee and she has worked with the Director of College and High School Partnerships and Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) to align the math taken in high school with that for a Computer Science degree. She also teaches Programming Fundamentals to high school students in the Early College Program and P-TECH.

Ms. Liska holds an M.A. in Liberal Studies from SUNY Empire State College; B.S. in Business Management from SUNY Empire State College; and an A.A.S. in Computer Information Systems from SUNY Schenectady. She has completed all coursework for her Ph.D. in Education from Northcentral University and is working on her dissertation.



## SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service

**Dr. Tiziana Rota,**  
Project Director for the Health  
Profession Opportunity Grant  
(HPOG), Workforce Development  
and Community Education

Dr. Tiziana Rota began overseeing the HPOG program in 2012. Since that time, hundreds of students have completed the program and started successful careers in the healthcare field.

Dr. Rota was instrumental in developing the curriculum for the Community Health Worker course, launching the first training class in the Capital Region in 2015. She spearheaded the development of the Behavioral Health Technician course in conjunction with two experts in the field. Course offerings expanded under Dr. Rota's leadership to include Phlebotomy and EKG, and I-BEST was added to the Certified Nurse Aide class and combined with Personal Care Aide. Also, Dr. Rota administered the Health Career Opportunity Program grant (HCOP), and under her leadership, Upstate Partnership for Healthcare Pathways (UPHP) was formed in 2015.

Dr. Rota holds a Ph.D. in U.S. Women History from the University of

Massachusetts Amherst; a doctorate in Anglo-American Literature from the University of Venice; an M.A. in U.S. Colonial History from Mount Holyoke College; an A.S. in Accounting from Scaruffi Institute, Italy; and an A.S. in Science from SUNY Schenectady.

# FACULTY, STAFF AWARDS/DEVELOPMENT

## Music Faculty Perform at SPAC

Sten Isachsen, Assistant Professor, and Joel Brown, Adjunct Faculty Member in the School of Music, were on the main stage at SPAC this summer, the featured guitarists performing *Man of La Mancha* with Opera Saratoga. BRAVO!



## ReaCH Champions for Student Success

ReaCH is SUNY Schenectady's Student Success Initiative, aimed at supporting students from enrollment to graduation by fostering student outcomes, closing achievement gaps, building momentum, and therefore changing lives and our community. It's part of the College's participation in the Achieving the Dream network. Faculty and staff who go above and beyond for our students are named ReaCH Champions for Student Success.



Robyn King, Counselor IV, oversees the College's Food Pantry. She was instrumental in organizing the food pantry on campus several years ago. She is tireless in her commitment to serving students through the Food Pantry.

Ben DeAngelis, Student Activities Advisor/Title IX Coordinator, joined the College in September 2020, and even with virtual online

instruction, was able to engage students, build a strong Student Government Association, and organize a full calendar of terrific online events.



The Division of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism served those in need in Schenectady by preparing and packaging 120-150 meals per week through a collaboration with Feed Albany/Feed The City.



## Expert on Online/Hybrid Courses Honored by SUNY Group

David Wolf, Teaching and Learning Faculty Specialist, was recognized with the

SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology (FACT2) Award for Excellence in Instructional Support at a



Community College during the virtual Annual Conference on Instruction and Technology (CIT). Since he joined the College in 2016, David has been a wealth of knowledge for faculty regarding the design and development of online and hybrid courses and programs. His commitment to ensuring successful learning environments was vital during the transition to virtual online instruction during the pandemic.



## STUDENT AWARDS/NEWS

### Students Earn Prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence



Joe Clark

Joe Clark, a Liberal Arts: History degree major, was the recipient of the newly established 2021 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence - Military Service. A U.S. Army veteran, Joe was deployed as a member of the Military Police to Iraq during the early 90s as part of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He worked in the Student Veterans Resource Office and was President of the Student Veterans Organization.



Amber Dorvee

Amber Dorvee, a Nutrition Degree major, is a U.S. Army veteran who is currently in the U.S. Army Reserve. During the Spring 2020 semester, Amber was deployed out of state as part of Army Reserve COVID-19 Medic Response Teams, but she continued taking classes virtually while participating in medical-based training to treat COVID patients. In addition to her military service, Amber has been involved with community veterans food drives and blood drives. She was a member of the College's Student Affairs Committee and has been named to the Dean's List.



Melissa Deal

Melissa Deal, an Assistant Chef Certificate major, works part-time in the kitchen at the Schuyler Inn, a shelter for displaced families in Menands, N.Y. She also packs food for clients, distributes food, stocks pantry shelves, and runs food drives for the Mt. Ida Food Pantry in Troy. She has volunteered with The Welcome Table, Peter Young Housing, Industries, and Treatment (PYHIT), and TrailPraisers worship service for people with disabilities. She was named to the President's List, is in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Christian Fellowship Club, and the Student Mentoring Program. She was also a notetaker for ADA Transition Services.

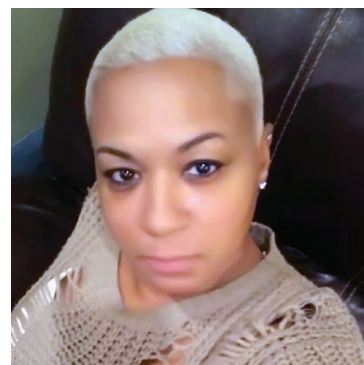


### Music Student's Interpretation of *We Shall Overcome* Airs on PBS stations Across State

Leah Magee's performance of the civil rights anthem *We Shall Overcome* began *New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Civil Rights Then and Now*, a statewide broadcast event for Dr. Martin Luther King Day. A graduate of the Hoosac School in Hoosick, N.Y., Leah has been playing violin for 10 years and majors in Performing Arts: Music.

### Student Chosen for SUNY Educational Opportunity Program Honor

Amira Singletary, Culinary Arts major, was one of 45 SUNY students chosen for the Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence, which recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic excellence and strength in overcoming significant personal obstacles throughout their lives.



**"Amira has met personal challenges with strength and determination, and has never wavered from excelling in her academic work. As a single mother of three, this is no small feat. Her desire for academic excellence while overcoming personal challenges is the embodiment of the Norman McConney Jr. spirit."**

- Jeff Aranda, Director of EOP

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Increasing Higher Education Pipeline for High School Students Through Early College Programs

#### Duanesburg Central School District Early College Program

Students at Duanesburg Jr./Sr. High School can get a jumpstart on their college education through a new partnership with SUNY Schenectady. The College has expanded its offerings so that students can earn associate degrees while still in high school or within a year of graduating.

The DCS+1 program builds upon the College in the High School program where SUNY Schenectady offers College in the High School courses including English, history, math, and sociology, among others. Courses are intended for all students, regardless of their GPA or academic goals.

Students in this program qualify for financial assistance in the form of full-tuition waivers or full scholarships, from the SUNY Schenectady Foundation. Current students enrolled in the College in the High School program pay a reduced-rate tuition to earn college credits.



*Duanesburg Jr./Sr. High School teacher Rebecca Pless discusses a novel with her students during a College in the High School (CHS) English 123 College Composition class. Clockwise from the left are Pless, Frankie Milos, Nicholas Perillo, and Matthew Coons.*



*Dr. Steady Moono, President, SUNY Schenectady, and Patti Vitale, Head of School, Brown School*

#### Brown School Early College Program

Students at Brown School can earn college credits and an associate degree while still in high school through a new Early College partnership with SUNY Schenectady. This is the first college partnership for Brown School, a K-12 private school located in Schenectady.

Students in 10th and 11th grades began taking SUNY Schenectady courses online last spring. Students who began ninth grade this fall were able to start on their path toward earning an associate degree. They will take advanced high school and college course work at Brown School in 9th and 10th grades and then take courses on the SUNY Schenectady campus during their junior and senior years. The new partnership enables these students to earn between 48 and 60 credits toward an associate degree while they are still in high school. SUNY Schenectady tuition, books and supplies will be covered by the cost of attendance at Brown School.



## HELPING OUR COMMUNITY



### Schenectady County Dedicates New Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park

The Schenectady County Legislature recently dedicated the newly finished Schenectady County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park at SUNY Schenectady. The park is located between the back parking lot and State Street, and includes a memorial plaque, a concrete viewing area with granite benches, lighting and a flag pole. A new crosswalk was added, from the parking lot to the walkway, for easy pedestrian access to the park.

The memorial park is the first County park to honor Schenectady County residents who served in the military during the Vietnam War. According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau estimate, more than 8,500 veterans call Schenectady County home, 2,700 of whom are Vietnam Veterans.

### Culinary Arts, Hospitality Students and Faculty Collaborate with Feed Albany, Help Tackle Food Insecurity

Aspiring student chefs in their crisp, white uniforms, enthusiastic hospitality students, and faculty chefs joined a group of restaurant owners/employees, businesses, non-profit organizations, and caring neighbors who are helping those in need through a collaboration with Feed Albany.

Every Wednesday, officers from the Schenectady Police Department picked up meal boxes prepared by students and faculty and delivered them to food insecure individuals who live in Schenectady. Meals are also provided to Bethesda House in Schenectady and to the College's Food Pantry. Through its classes, students and faculty prepared 120 to 150 meals each week. Menus were developed by Chef Michael Stamets, Associate Professor, with meals are prepared by students in his Quantitative Foods courses. Meals were then packaged by students in Banquet Management courses, taught by Assistant Professors Kim Otis and John O'Connell.

The College and Feed Albany expanded the partnership to the "Feed The City Initiative" with the Schenectady Police Department setting up pop-up meal distribution sites for neighborhoods with food insecure residents.



### College Works with Feed The Children on Food Distribution



The College welcomed Feed The Children to campus, sponsored by Marshall & Sterling. Food, children's books, and personal care items were given out to 400 families, and members of the College community were among the volunteers.

### Hosting Local Seniors for Lunch, Wonderful Jazz



Schenectady County's Department of Senior & Longterm Care Services held a free picnic and drive-thru parade on campus for Schenectady County residents 60 years of age and older. Dr. Christopher Brellocks, Dean of the School of Music, joined the Jazz Combo - Jonah Keparutis, guitar, Chris Roux, drums, Charlie Bub, saxophone, and Sam Michel, bass - as they entertained attendees.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Celebrating Healthcare Students During Special Graduation Ceremony

The vital role played by healthcare workers in all areas of the field became even more evident as the Coronavirus pandemic dramatically spotlighted their work. SUNY Schenectady applauded students who are entering the field, all of whom completed healthcare training programs through the College's Office of Workforce Development and Community Education.

273 students who completed the following training programs were invited to participate in the ceremony: Certified Nursing Aide, Home Health Aide, Personal Care Assistant, EKG Technician, EMT, Phlebotomy Technician, Behavioral Health Technician, Community Health Worker, Emergency Medical Technician and Medical Administrative Assistant. Students completed the training programs mainly through the Health Care Opportunity Grant (HPOG) program and other funding sources either in 2020 or 2021.



## New Apprenticeship Title for Craft Beer Brewers

The Workforce Development & Community Education Division created a new Brewer/Distiller Apprenticeship title aimed at bringing new employees to the brewing industry. Apprenticeships provide a no-cost/low-cost way for those in the industry to expand their skills through hands-on training at their place of work and related instruction at the College. Under SUNY Apprenticeship funds, apprentices have \$5,000 to support tuition and other related expenses (fees, books, equipment).



The new apprenticeship title, approved by the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL), was developed in partnership with the NYSDOL, industry experts, instructors, and students in the non-credit brewing courses.

Breweries across the state can register directly with the Department of Labor to become a sponsor for an apprentice or can register with the Center for Economic Growth (CEG) who can act as a group sponsor and assist with the development and implementation of the apprenticeship title.

## “SUNY Schenectady 2U” Will Bring Classes Directly to Students

Students won't need to travel far to take SUNY Schenectady courses in advanced manufacturing and healthcare, thanks to a \$1 million grant the College received through the SUNY 2020 Workforce

Development Initiative Consolidated Funding program. The College will bring two mobile classrooms to students and regional employers, delivering workforce development courses through “SUNY Schenectady 2U.” The College will offer training courses in: quality control, technical skills, business management, lean manufacturing, phlebotomy, EKG, medical administrative assistant, behavioral health, and community health workers.





# COMMENCEMENT

"IT HAS BEEN A LONG JOURNEY THAT WASN'T EASY, BUT I KNOW IT WAS WORTH IT. I FEEL SO PREPARED AND ELATED TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY AND BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO MAKING A BIGGER IMPACT IN THE WORLD OF CHILDCARE."

- Bovanna Phillips, Human Services, now pursuing her bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services at SUNY Empire State College.



## Celebrating the Class of 2021 During 51st Commencement

It was a day filled with joy, excitement, gratitude, applause, and congratulations as the Class of 2021 returned to campus on May 20, 2021, for the College's 51st Commencement. For some of the graduates, it was the first time they saw their professors and many of their fellow graduates in person since March 2020, when the College moved to virtual online instruction. For others who have been taking limited labs on campus as part of Culinary Arts, Music, and Science programs, it was a time to greet more of their fellow students, as well as professors and College staff.

Approximately 498 graduates were invited to participate in the Commencement ceremony which was a drive-through event again this year.



## Graduating with College Degrees AND High School Diplomas at the Same Time

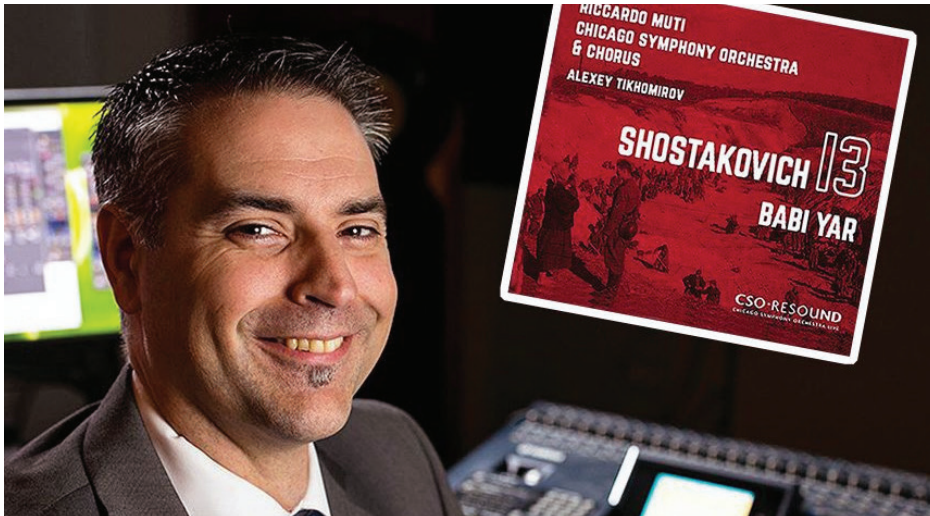
Six Schenectady High School students crossed the stage as members of the College's Class of 2021 a month before they graduated from high school. They didn't officially receive their college degrees until August, but the students in the Schenectady Smart Transfer Early College High School program were College alumni and high school graduates during the same summer. They are the first group of students to graduate from the College through the Smart Transfer program. They began taking courses at the College during Summer 2018 when they were going into ninth and 10th grade.





## ALUMNI

### Music Alumnus Wins GRAMMY Award

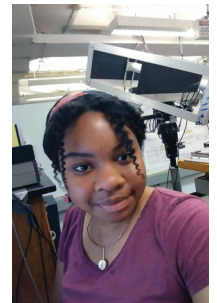


Music faculty and students were cheering for Charlie Post '93 during this year's virtual GRAMMY Awards Premiere Ceremony when he won a GRAMMY for Best Engineered Album – Classical for his work as the recording engineer on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's (CSO) *Shostakovich: Symphony No. 13, Babi Yar*. It was his first GRAMMY nomination.

Charlie graduated with a degree in Music/Business and went on to earn dual bachelor's degrees in Music/Applied (B.A.) and Sound Recording Technology (B.S.) in 1998 from SUNY Fredonia. He has been working as an Audio Engineer with the prestigious CSO since 2014 and also owns PostProductions Audio.

### Alumna Featured in SUNY Campaign

Nkeiru Ubadike '19, Mathematics and Science, was among the alumni featured in SUNY's *Stay Near, Go Far* social media/advertising campaign focusing on the affordability and transfer options



at SUNY community colleges. Nkeiru is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Physics at Stony Brook University, conducting research in the renowned Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. She is specializing in research using one of the country's best particle accelerators, working with a professor on developing a new approach to particle computer simulation. She plans to attend graduate school for Physics.

### Alumna Helps Lead Effort to Chronicle History of the Pandemic



Michelle Isopo '09 and a team of other local librarians realized early on during the pandemic that they needed to create a virtual space for people to connect and share their stories. The site they created, *Leaving Our Fingerprints on History*, has grown into a global virtual exhibit, with people from around the world sharing their images and thoughts about life during COVID 19. The exhibit is coordinated by the Southern Adirondack Library System and will become part of the New York State Library Archives.



Michelle graduated with her degree in Business Administration and went on to earn her B.B.A. in 2016 from SUNY Delhi (magna cum laude) and M.S. in Information Science with a concentration in Archives and Records Administration in 2018 from the University at Albany. She is the Adult Services Librarian and Local History Archivist at Schuylerville Public Library.

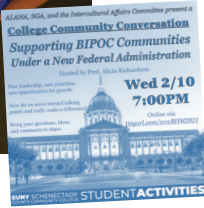


# EVENTS



## Black History Month: College Community Conversation - Supporting BIPOC Communities Under a New Federal Administration – February 2021

Associate Professor Alicia Richardson, of the Division of Liberal Arts, hosted an online discussion to shine a light on how to support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities under the new federal administration.



## Black History Month – February 2021

Theme - The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity with a poetry contest, virtual roundtables, trivia.

## PTSD Virtual Discussion – February 2021

Joe Clark, Liberal Arts: History major and combat veteran, spoke about his experiences with PTSD, joined by Dr. Maggie Guglielmi, Ph.D., Psychologist, PTSD Program Manager, and Director of Clinical Training for Psychology for Stratton VA Medical Center.



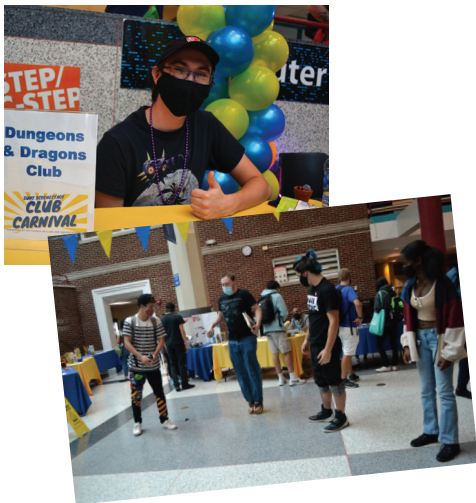
## “Climate Change, Biodiversity Justice, and Communities of Color” – April 2021

National-level speakers Tamara Toles-O’Laughlin, Environmental and Climate Policy Strategist, and Leda Huta, Executive Director, Endangered Species Coalition, participated in a virtual discussion hosted by the Student Government Association and moderated by Patricia Doyle, Adjunct Faculty Member in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health.



## Dr. Cia Verschelden: Bandwidth Tax of Uncertainty: Helping Students Reclaim Cognitive Capacity Post-COVID and Beyond – Faculty Convocation, August 2021.

Dr. Verschelden is the Special Projects Advisor for the Integration of Academic and Student Affairs at the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the author of Bandwidth Recovery: Helping Students Reclaim Cognitive Resources Lost to Poverty, Racism, and Social Marginalization.



## Club Carnival - September 2021

A fun time for students to join clubs and organizations on campus (and play hacky sack too).

## Quarry Songs: A Cycle for Change by Brett L. Wery and Liebeslieder Waltzes by Johannes Brahms – September 2021.

This marked the first in-person performance with an audience on campus since March 2020. Featuring alumni and faculty: Areli Mendoza-Pannone, soprano; Nicole Rizzo, mezzo-soprano; Jacob James, tenor; Robert Frazier, baritone; Mark Evans, and Phuc (Brian) Vo, piano.



## The Place Beyond the Pines Film and Discussion With Co-Writer Ben Coccio – October 2021

The Place Beyond the Pines, a 2012 American crime drama that was filmed in and around Schenectady, was shown followed by a discussion with Ben Coccio, one of the writers of the film.



# FOUNDATION

## New Foundation Board Members

The Foundation welcomes the following new Board Members:



Kara Haraden

Kara Haraden has been Board President of the Capital Region Aquatic Center since its inception in 2013. She was a Board Member for Schenectady-Saratoga Swim Club for 12 years, serving as President for six years. While President, Kara started an outreach program through Mohawk Honda for kids who otherwise would not have been able to afford to swim on the team.

After earning her bachelor's degree in Health Science from SUNY Cortland, Kara returned to school in 2009 to earn her associate degree in Veterinary Science and her Veterinary Technician License from SUNY Delhi.

She has assisted with low-cost spaying and neutering and care of animals at the Animal Protective Foundation in Scotia and the HOPE Spay/Neuter Clinic in Wilton. Kara has also fostered for animal rescue groups and animal shelters and was a Board Member for Friends of Saratoga County Animal Shelter and Homes for Orphaned Pets Exist. She currently works part time at North Shore Animal League's Adirondack Adoption Center.



Daria Mallin

Daria Mallin is Managing Principal at Envision Architects and serves as President. She contributes a dynamic set of skills to the leadership of the firm as a vision-driven designer and passionate collaborator who believes communication and coordination are essential to the success of project teams.

Daria's experience in the profession is complemented by her education in Architecture (Rensselaer) and Human-Environment Relations, and Facilities Planning and Management (Cornell), bringing a well-rounded sensibility to her work and design philosophies.

In addition to professional responsibilities at Envision Architects, Daria is committed to mentoring young architects, and focuses on building strong female designers in a profession that has been historically unbalanced in its inclusiveness for gender equality.

Daria was raised in Troy, N.Y., and now resides in Albany with her husband Gregory, and their three rescued pets.



Sandra Miller

Sandra Miller's career began as a Management Trainee with First American Bank where she became a Branch Manager in both the Glenmont and Elsmere offices. She moved to the Marketing Department after the merger with KeyBank. In 1994, Sandra was promoted to Regional Marketing Manager for Commercial and Private Banking, responsible for initiatives in New York, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

In 2005, Sandra started her business as a Certified Financial Planner, specializing in in-home financial services for senior citizens. She has served on the board for Child's Nursing Home and spearheaded a fundraising drive for the American Cancer Society.

She holds her MBA and B.S. in Business with a concentration in Finance from the University at Albany.



## New Scholarships

### Coccio Family Scholarship



Dr. Christopher Coccio and his wife, Laurie Coccio, established the Coccio Family Scholarship in 2021 to celebrate the joy of baking that Dr. Coccio developed during his time attending the College. For generations to come, this endowed scholarship will support students enrolled in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism who are seeking an A.O.S. in Culinary Arts.

### Christopher Del Vecchio-Dzikowski Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was endowed by family, friends, and colleagues in memory of Christopher Del Vecchio-Dzikowski, member of the Class of 2011, former SUNY Schenectady staff member, generous donor, and active alumnus who was fondly described as an ambassador for the College. It gives preference to those who have been accepted into the Disney College Program in either Business, Culinary Arts, or Hospitality and Tourism.



### Dr. Noel Espina Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Noel Espina, a beloved Adjunct Faculty Member in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health, passed away on Feb. 10, 2021 at the age of 65. The Dr. Noel Espina Memorial Scholarship was established with donations from family, friends, and colleagues to celebrate his life and support a student enrolled in the Division of Math, Science, Technology and Health.

### Fenimore Asset Management, Inc. Scholarship



Fenimore Asset Management, Inc., manager of the FAM Funds, a loyal corporate champion for SUNY Schenectady, recently established this generous annual scholarship with first preference for women in business or accounting, and second preference for students with need representing diversity.

### Kathy Gordon Memorial Scholarship

Ms. Dyonne Lindsay established this scholarship in 2021 in memory of her mother, Kathy Gordon, who passed away. Dyonne graduated from SUNY Schenectady in 2020 with an A.S. in Business Administration and is enrolled at the University at Albany, pursuing a B.S. degree in Cyber Security.

# FOUNDATION

## Thank you!

The SUNY Schenectady Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, businesses, civic and professional organizations, and local foundations for their generous gifts, as well as their participation in our special events and the *Promise of Our Common Future* capital campaign during the time period Sept. 1, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2021.

### President's Circle

Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mutryn  
Anne and Terry Phillips

### Legacy Society

Mr. Stanley Blanchard and  
Ms. Johanna Petersen  
Mr. David Buicko and Ms. Christine Mallozzi  
Chris and Laurie Coccio  
Ms. Joan R. Dembinski, CC '10  
Mr. Michael J. Dzikowski '01  
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Daily Gazette  
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Ken '93 and Kate '93 Countermine  
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Lauren Carr

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Christopher '11\* and Michael '01 Dzikowski

**In Honor of Ms. Charlene M. Cornell**  
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**In Honor of Ms. Carol Delulio**  
Christopher '11\* and Michael '01 Dzikowski

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Dr. and Mrs.\* Gabriel J. Basil  
Vladia Boniewski '71 and Daniel Vallely '76  
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Ms. Margaret A. Williams  
Ms. Sarah Wilson-Sparrow  
Mr. and Mrs. Albin Zielaskowski '91  
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**In Memory of Noel Espina\*, Ph.D.**  
Anonymous  
Krishnan Appan  
Ms. Heidi L. Borofsky '06  
Sudha Chaturvedi



Ms. Bernadette Espina  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Celentano, Jr.  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Gioia  
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**In Honor of Ms. Sara A. Halstead\* '11**  
 John and Lucy Halstead

**In Memory of Caroline Isachsen\***  
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Gioia

**In Memory of Ms. Petia Kassarova\***  
 Passion, Purpose & Legacy

**In Memory of Dr. Moira J. Maguire\***  
 Christopher\* '11 and Michael '01 Dzikowski

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 Ms. Debbie A. Nervik

**In Honor of Mr. Robert L. Payne\* '85**  
 Mr. Richard David Recheizer

**In Memory of Mr. Dick Phillippe\***  
 Vladia Boniewski '71 and Daniel Vallely '76

**In Memory of Mr. Christian J. Rohr\***  
 AYCO Company  
 Mrs. Joyce S. Barrett '78  
 Nancy Baird Brown  
 Reverend Laurie Garramone  
 Ms. Helen Huang  
 Mr. and Mrs. Chester L. Matthews Jr.  
 Mr. E. Norman McGrattan

**In Honor of Dr. Tiziana Rota '03**  
 Ms. Diane Ginsberg

**In Honor of Ms. Diane M. Ruberti**  
 Dawn M. Parisi '73  
 Mr. Paul F. Rulison

**In Memory of Mr. Anthony Sano\***  
 Ms. Sara Jones  
 Mr. David S. Moore

**In Memory of Mr. Toby Strianese\***  
 Mr. David S. Moore

**In Honor of Ms. Sandra M. Troiano**  
 Christopher\* '11 and Michael '01 Dzikowski

**In Memory of Mr. Rocco Verrigni\***  
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 Ms. Anne M. Bronchetti '19  
 Mr. Robert C. Massey '71  
 Ms. Paula Ohlhous '87  
 Ms. Kimberly Otis  
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**In Memory of Susan Watson\* '78**  
 Mr. Chester A. Watson\*

**In Memory of Mr. Chester A. Watson\***  
 Vladia Boniewski '71 and Daniel Vallely '76  
 Gordon and Judy Lipsky  
 Dr. and Mrs. Steady H. Moono

\*In Memoriam

Great care was taken in the preparation of this listing. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions and notify the Foundation Office at 518-381-1324 so that we may correct our records.

## Casola Dining Room and Pane e Dolci Open for Fall 2021 Semester

September 2021 marked the return of Pane e Dolci, the College's fabulous bakery, and the Casola Dining Room, a Capital Region favorite for gourmet cuisine, both located in the Culinary Arts Wing in Elston Hall.

Bakery patrons were thrilled to indulge in delicious breads, quiche, tarts, croissants, cakes, pastries, and brownies prepared by students and faculty in our Baking and Pastry Labs.

Guests in the Casola Dining Room savored appetizers, entrees, and desserts including Squash Blossom Toast, Pan Roasted Hudson Valley Duck Breast with Charred Scallions, and Éclairs.

Student chefs prepared and served mouth-watering dishes, under the guidance of faculty chefs in the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism.



# SUNY SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

78 Washington Avenue  
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Students were excited to return to campus during the Fall Semester. See more on page 4.