

DUTCHESS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DUTCHESS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

BOWNE HALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DCC AT-A-GLANCE

40+
DEGREE &
CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS

4,855
STUDENTS

68%
GRADUATED WITH
NO STUDENT
LOAN DEBT

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DCC FISHKILL

Opening soon at the intersection
of I-84 and Route 9!

www.sunydutchess.edu

DEAR FRIENDS,

To define the 2019-20 academic year as challenging would be accurate, but insufficient. While quickly pivoting all teaching and learning to remote delivery in the wake of Covid-19 in March was a heavy lift for all of us at Dutchess Community College (see page 6), the experience also can be described as affirming.

Our students and employees clearly have grit. Coming together to ensure a successful completion of the spring 2020 semester, our campus community demonstrated flexibility, creativity and perseverance. Faculty re-engineered more than 1,300 on-campus course sections for remote delivery. Staff developed procedures for providing services virtually. Students, many of whom had never taken a course online, displayed resilience as they adapted to different modes of instruction. Between fall 2020 and the spring 2021 semester just underway, the “new normal” has taken hold.

Still, we cannot lose sight of the greater context. This was – and is – an extraordinarily difficult time. Covid-19 has impacted all of us – from those who have lost loved ones to the disease or themselves been ill, to those whose livelihoods have disappeared or who are struggling with the loneliness of isolation. We will be forever changed by this experience, and I am hopeful that the kindness and compassion I have witnessed on our own campus and within the greater community are among the permanent vestiges of the pandemic.

As you will see in this Annual Report, with the support of our board of trustees and our county sponsor, DCC's recent accomplishments include much more than a successful response to Covid-19. Students, faculty and staff continue to be engaged in meaningful work that opens doors to remarkable opportunities. The DCC Foundation is more important than ever to supporting our students and critical teaching and learning initiatives. Two important facility projects – a hangar at Hudson Valley Airport and the relocation of Dutchess South to Fishkill – are right on track.

Of course, our alumni, some of whom are featured in this Report, continue to reflect the quality and value of a DCC education. As a DCC graduate myself, I could not be more proud to have been named acting president of this impressive institution in August, following the retirement of Dr. Pamela Edington (see page 14).

On behalf of our current and future students, faculty, staff and 48,000 alumni, thank you for your interest in, and support of, Dutchess Community College.

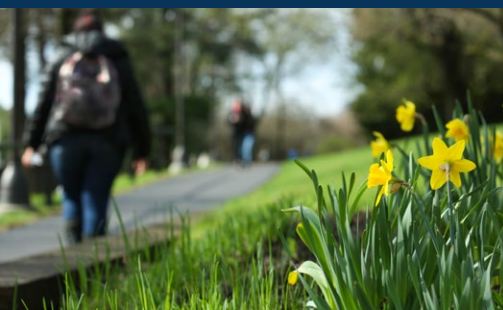
Stay safe and be well.



Ellen M. Gambino, Ed.D.
Acting President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen M. Gambino". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ellen M. Gambino, Ed.D.



DCC FOUNDATION AT-A-GLANCE

\$14M
IN ASSETS

48,274
ALUMNI

\$3M
IN SUPPORT OF
THE COLLEGE
SINCE 2015

672
CONKLIN
SCHOLARS

\$1.4M
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
SINCE 2015

1,405
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
SINCE 2010

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DUTCHESS
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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As we welcome 2021 with much anticipation for an improved year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in 2020. As you are well aware, this year has been like no other, filled with a multitude of both challenges and victories. The challenges that we have all faced have been monumental. But in spite of it all the DCC Foundation has had much success. The achievements of the DCC Foundation are based on the relationships we have built over the years, and we really wouldn't be where we are without you.

This past year we were able to help our students meet unprecedented need. Due to COVID, many of our students lost their jobs, which caused a cascade effect creating food and housing insecurity. Other areas of hardship included academic and personal needs such as assistance with tuition, fees, books, day care, rent, car repairs and medical care. The sudden remote learning environment created challenges around access to technology and the internet. The Pantry provided much-needed nutritious food to students and other DCC community members. Both programs offer our students the extra support to help them get over the hurdles they are facing. When we think about what our students have had to endure this past year it is just heart wrenching.

But again, because of your support we were able to help so many, which allowed them to stay in school and continue their education. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you to make this happen.

Together we are changing lives!

The DCC Foundation has made DCC CARES and The Pantry its key fundraising initiatives this year because we truly believe these programs are making a difference in the lives of our students. If you have read the success stories we have shared this year you too have seen the positive impact these programs have helped foster.

We are pleased that many of our donors are supporting these very important initiatives. Whether you have supported the Foundation with a gift to one of the previously mentioned programs, the Fund for Dutchess, the scholarship program, a lecture series, faculty/staff development or facility and campus improvements, every gift makes a difference. Thank you!

As we start 2021, we look forward to a brighter future and continuing our work together to change lives!

Warm wishes,



Ellen L. Baker

Ellen Baker
Board Chair



Diana L. Pollard

Diana L. Pollard
Executive Director
Class of 1997

Pulling Together

TO SPREAD APART

To the casual passerby, the Dutchess Community College campus was predictably quiet the first week of March as students studied for midterms and activities wound down leading into spring break, set to begin on March 6 and end on March 15.

Appearances can be deceiving. In actuality that week, the energy was palpable as campus leaders were immersed in preparing the College for what would become one of the worst global public health crises in history. Daily Covid-19 briefings from the county, state and SUNY underscored both the severity and the uncertainty of the situation and the need to quickly prepare for various scenarios.

By the time the governor declared a state of emergency on Saturday, March 7, the planning at DCC was well underway. Subsequent conversations with Dutchess County authorities and SUNY confirmed the inevitable: In-person classes and services could not resume following spring break. In consultation with faculty and staff, the decision was made to suspend all instruction through March 27 to allow for a transition to remote-only instruction.

Though separated physically, faculty, staff and administrators mobilized over these two weeks to develop alternative modalities that would enable students to successfully complete



BUSINESS INSTRUCTOR MAUREEN GITTELMAN HOLDS A CLASS VIA ZOOM DURING THE SPRING 2020 SEMESTER.

the semester. It was a formidable task: More than 1,300 on-campus course sections needed to be transitioned to remote delivery. Faculty already teaching online courses volunteered to assist those who typically teach on site, and the College's Mary Louise VanWinkle Teaching Learning Center ramped up to provide educators with tutorials and other resources necessary to support the imperative.

Understanding that some students and their families may have been severely impacted by coronavirus, and that suddenly transitioning to remote learning could present challenges, DCC faculty reached out to their students the week before classes resumed to provide reassurance and some details of the plan. Those facing financial barriers were able to apply to receive emergency grants, laptops and calculators through DCC CARES, supported by the Heckscher Foundation for Children, the Gerstner Family Foundation, the Dyson Foundation and the DCC Foundation. The College also disbursed nearly \$1.6 million in federal Cares Act funds to students in the spring and fall semesters.

As faculty worked to transform their teaching in the wake of Covid, the student services operations also were transitioning to remote delivery. Employees who staffed offices including Admissions, Registrar, Financial Services, Advising and Counseling were provided with the technology necessary to perform their work at home. For the remainder of the semester, services were provided primarily via email or phone.

In the interest of health and safety, and because classes would be delivered remotely, the decision also was made to close the on-campus residence hall. The few hundred affected students were notified and given appointments to pick up their belongings in accordance with social distancing protocols. Dutchess County and Nuvance Health arranged in April to utilize the building for patient overflow, should hospitalizations exceed local capacity. Fortunately, Dutchess County's Covid-19 numbers remained manageable and the additional beds were not needed. Marist College rented the facility in fall 2020 to increase their capacity to house students within Covid-19 guidelines.

Summer and fall '20 and spring '21 classes also were transitioned to remote delivery, except for a limited number of lab and studio courses that require on-campus facilities and hands-on learning. Many students who had planned to go away to a four-year school in the fall decided against doing so in the pandemic environment, choosing instead to stay home

I HAVE BECOME VERY RESPONSIBLE IN MY TIME MANAGEMENT AND STAYING AHEAD OF MY WORK. – JACK

I'm truly enjoying online learning. I've surprised myself with how motivated I have been.

– ELISE

I have learned that I can do anything when I set my mind to it!

– HOSANNA

I FOUND OUT HOW COMMITTED I AM AND HOW MUCH EFFORT I AM WILLING TO PUT IN TOWARD SOMETHING. – MATTHEW

“

Student Voices ON REMOTE LEARNING

”

Online learning is going well. I'm able to get more accomplished during the week because I can bounce between all the sections of a class and what is due.

– LOGAN

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GIVE UP AND DROP EVERYTHING ABOUT COLLEGE DUE TO STRESS. I LEARNED THAT I'M SMARTER THAN THAT AND CAN HANDLE MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD.

– RYAN

I have learned that the ability to persevere during hard times is essential if I want to be successful, in not only my career, but life as well.

– JAMES



DCC PRIDE

on the

Covid Front Lines

These health care professionals are among the DCC alumni working on the front lines of Covid-19.

DCC's Nursing, EMT, Paramedic, Phlebotomy and Lab Technician programs have graduated more medical professionals than any other local college. It's no wonder that patients at area hospitals, doctors' offices and other health care facilities are more than likely to be cared for by a DCC alum.

To recognize our health care heroes, DCC put out a call on social media in the spring for alumni working on the front lines of Covid-19 to send in a photo and tell us where they're working. The response was inspiring, both in terms of submissions and in the encouraging words posted by our social media followers.

We heard from doctors, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, paramedics, researchers, lab technicians and others from as close as Poughkeepsie and as far as Los Angeles. We're proud of our alumni working in health care and salute their compassion, courage and commitment.



and save money by taking freshman and sophomore classes at DCC.

The majority of College employees worked a blended schedule of on-site and work-at-home in the fall semester, to limit the number of people in offices at the same time. Appointments with students were conducted on the phone or through Zoom; those who needed to visit campus could do so by making an appointment. Everyone who is on campus must wear a mask, practice social distancing, complete a coronavirus health assessment and undergo regular virus surveillance testing. Facilities staff are following Covid-19 cleaning protocols.

The College's food pantry has barely skipped a beat since Covid-19 hit. Faculty and staff volunteers have been processing requests by phone and email and providing curbside delivery of nutritious foods and supermarket gift cards to help students and their families get by during this extraordinarily difficult time. So many in our community have lost loved ones, lost jobs or are otherwise experiencing personal challenges as a result of coronavirus.

Dutchess Community College's ability to quickly pivot to remote instruction and service delivery is a testament to the tenacity, creativity and commitment of faculty and staff, and the institution's framework of excellence. While no one "signed up for this" or anything the pandemic brought, students have been resilient, adaptable and – with the support of their professors and support teams – successful in meeting their educational goals. By working together, we have mastered being apart. ●

RIGHT: ALTHOUGH MOST FALL 2020 CLASSES WERE TAUGHT VIA REMOTE MODALITIES, A LIMITED NUMBER OF LABS AND CLASSES WERE HELD ON CAMPUS FOLLOWING COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS.





Long-Time Professor Adds Chief Diversity Officer Role

WITH A CAPTIVATING SMILE, INFECTIOUS LAUGH, gentle lilt and a reputation for having high expectations of herself and her students, English Professor Jacqueline Goffe-McNish is unforgettable. In her 29 years at Dutchess Community College she has transformed thousands of lives as a teacher and mentor who inspires her students to be their best selves.



Many of her former students keep in touch decades after sitting in her classroom. “I’ve been invited to weddings, introduced to babies, contacted by those in graduate programs and told by one young man that failing my class was the wake-up call he needed to turn things around,” she said.

As one committed to making a difference, Goffe-McNish’s involvement spans beyond the classroom. She also supervises the faculty who teach DCC courses in 20 local high schools, serves on the College’s Diversity Council and is a member of the DCC Foundation board. In September she embraced an additional opportunity, when she was named Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) for the College.

In her role as CDO, Goffe-McNish will advance diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at the College, which the

campus community identified as values and goals in revising its Mission Statement in 2015. Her theme for the year, “Beyond Borders,” is designed to provide a framework for meaningful dialog and positive change.

Among Goffe-McNish’s goals as CDO are: incorporating diverse voices in departments and governing bodies of the College; increasing the number of speakers on diversity issues brought to campus; establishing a mentoring program for students of color; and creating a physical space on campus for diverse populations. Her plans also include: enhancing the Applewood Scholarship experience for eligible City of Poughkeepsie high school graduates; smoothing the transition to college for high school equivalency students; offering an introductory seminar with a strong diversity component; and ensuring that all students complete at least

one diversity course before graduation. She is collaborating with the DCC Foundation on the establishment of an equity and social justice scholarship in memory of Maurice Gordon, a DCC student who was killed by police during a traffic stop in May.

An English and reading teacher in Jamaica before coming to the U.S. in the 1980s, Goffe-McNish continued her education in Management Science and English Education at St. John Fisher College and at SUNY Brockport, earning a master’s degree in English Education.

Goffe-McNish became aware of an opportunity to teach English at DCC in 1991, and was hired under a program designed to diversify faculty in the SUNY system. “This area reminded me of where I was raised,” she said. “I felt comfortable here.” She is married to Lynford McNish, a mechanical engineer now retired from IBM.



“Even after all these years, I remember with gratitude the teachers who poured wisdom and goodness into my life. I want to do the same and be a mentor who helps others succeed in school and beyond.”

— JACQUELINE GOFFE-McNISH

Throughout her tenure at DCC, Goffe-McNish has remained active on campus, in the community and beyond. She has been innovative in developing new English courses that celebrate diversity, including two focusing on Caribbean literature, and for several years has led students on memorable travel-abroad trips to her homeland of Jamaica. She wrote two books which she now uses to teach ENG 101 and ENG 102. ENG 101 is “Composition in Fifteen Weeks: A Primer for Community Colleges” and ENG 102 is “Analysis, Approaches and Appeals in Introductory Literature.”

Goffe-McNish is a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence recipient, past president of the American Association for University Women Poughkeepsie chapter and a Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce Athena honoree. She has twice chaired the College’s Professional Staff Organization shared governance body, served in leadership roles for the faculty/professional staff union (Dutchess United Educators), and was involved in multicultural affairs, women’s issues and teacher education matters at the national and state levels. A parishioner of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Wappingers Falls, Goffe-McNish is the superintendent of the Sunday school.

Despite her full plate, Goffe-McNish can still be found in the classroom. “Even after all these years, I remember with gratitude the teachers who poured wisdom and goodness into my life,” she said. “I want to do the same and be a mentor who helps others succeed in school and beyond.” •



CLASS *of* 2020

Virtual Graduation Celebrates
Very Real Accomplishments





AS THE SPRING SEMESTER DREW TO A CLOSE it became apparent that no matter how much students, faculty and staff wished for it to be otherwise, a traditional commencement ceremony would not be possible in light of rapidly developing Covid-19 social distancing requirements. In what turned out to be the right decision, a virtual event featuring speakers and photos submitted by graduates was produced and posted online May 12.

A total of 1,006 students representing 46 associate degree and certificate programs – and ranging in age from 18 to 71 – graduated. Associate in Science and Associate in Arts degrees, generally pursued by those planning to transfer to a four-year school, were earned by 77% of students; 20% earned Associate in Applied Science degrees and the remainder were awarded certificates. Four out of 10 of the graduates graduated with a

cumulative average of at least 3.2, and 16 graduated with a perfect 4.0.

While students may choose to attend full or part time, the percentage of DCC students who graduate within three years is currently at an all-time high. The College also continues to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion and has been successful in increasing one-year retention and three-year graduation rates, particularly for Latinx and African-American students.

Also in May, the DCC Foundation awarded scholarships totaling \$156,000 to 165 students either continuing their studies at DCC or graduating and transferring to earn a bachelor's degree at a four-year school. The scholarships are funded – often in honor or memory of someone – by individuals and organizations committed to supporting academic excellence.



CAMPUS *news*

President Pamela Edington Retires

Dutchess Community College's first female president, Dr. Pamela R. Edington, retired in July following six years of distinguished service.



PAMELA R. EDINGTON, ED.D.

During her tenure, Edington was instrumental in connecting the college to the community, establishing a site at the Family Partnership Center in the City of Poughkeepsie, increasing student success and developing programs of study to meet emerging workforce needs in the mid-Hudson Valley. She also introduced service learning to the College, providing opportunities for students to augment classroom learning with real-world experiences helping local nonprofits meet community needs.

Two major initiatives advanced under Dr. Edington's leadership – the relocation of DCC South from Wappinger to Fishkill and the development of a highly competitive and in-demand airframe maintenance technician program in a new facility nearing completion at Hudson Valley Regional Airport in the Town of Wappinger – are nearly completed. (See related stories in this issue.)

“I take tremendous pride in the reputation DCC has earned over the past six years as a community ally, collaborator and leader, working with local agencies to leverage resources and achieve shared goals,” said Dr. Edington. “It has been a privilege to work with DCC's exceptional faculty and staff, and our county, to provide Dutchess residents with an outstanding higher education that is affordable and accessible, and that values diversity, equity and inclusion.”

Michael Francis Dupree, chair of the DCC Board of Trustees, said, “Our county and our college benefitted greatly from Dr. Edington's leadership. Her dedication to our students and to the community that embraced her will be hallmarks of her six years as president and her commitment to inclusion and diversity will be a lasting legacy.”

In 2018 Edington was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal and named Woman of the Year by the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. She was recognized as a Community Champion by the United Way of Dutchess and Orange Counties in 2019. In 2017 she earned the Peggy Martinko Trailblazer Award from the Arc of Dutchess and an Athena Award from the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. She served on several local nonprofit boards.

Edington and her husband have relocated to the West Coast to be closer to family.

LONGTIME DCC LEADER, ALUMNA, NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT

Following the retirement of President Pamela Edington, the DCC Board of Trustees, with the endorsement of the State University of New York, appointed **Dr. Ellen Gambino** acting president. Gambino has served the College in various academic leadership roles since 2006, becoming Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services in 2015. Prior to joining DCC, the Hudson Valley native held academic leadership positions at private colleges in downstate New York.

Gambino brings to the role extensive experience in curriculum design, student success and retention, strategic planning, budget management, academic assessment and workforce development. She led the development of the College's new associate degree program in Public Health, and two offerings awaiting state approval – Hospitality and Tourism and Aviation Maintenance Technician.

Gambino earned an associate degree from DCC, bachelor's from SUNY New Paltz, master's from

Pace University and doctorate from Saint John Fisher College. She was a 2017 Aspen Presidential Fellow and in 2013, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. In recognition of her leadership in establishing the Think Ahead program – a multi-agency collaboration for developmentally disabled young adults – she was awarded the 2019 Arc of Dutchess Peggy Martinko Trailblazer Award.

"I am extremely proud and honored to lead Dutchess Community College during this transition," said Gambino. "I am confident that the College will emerge from these challenging times

stronger and better positioned to continue to fulfill our mission to provide a high-quality education that is affordable, accessible, equitable and inclusive."

She added that the College's tag line, "You Don't Have to Go Far to Get Far," is reflected in the accomplishments of the College's 48,000 alumni, and noted that as a DCC graduate herself, she is especially aware of the value of a DCC education.

A national search to fill the position permanently is underway.



ELLEN M. GAMBINO, ED.D.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COLLEGE WILL EMERGE FROM THESE CHALLENGING TIMES STRONGER AND BETTER POSITIONED TO CONTINUE TO FULFILL OUR MISSION TO PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION THAT IS AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE.

– ELLEN GAMBINO

Fishkill Site Ready to Welcome Students

Dutchess Community College's relocation of its southern Dutchess extension site from Wappinger to Fishkill was completed in the fall after some delays due to construction supply shortages caused by Covid-19 closures. The 47,000 sq. ft. facility is conveniently located at the intersection of Route 9 and Interstate 84 in Fishkill, on the second floor of the former Mays department store in what once was the Dutchess Mall.

The space will be unrecognizable to those familiar with the building. The renovation includes the addition of a welcoming lobby, the installation of large windows and the creation of 18 classrooms, science and computer labs, library, study areas, lounge and student services offices. The transformation of the space is being partially supported by the DCC Foundation, which has contributed \$165,000 to the initiative.



The new site will provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for both traditional students and those starting or returning to college after a gap in their education. While the College will offer courses formerly available at the Wappinger location, the academic areas of business, criminal justice and information technology will be special focuses.

It is expected that DCC @ Fishkill will follow the main campus in terms of Covid-19 compliance and which classes will be offered on-site for the spring 2021 semester. When fully operational the extension site will be a vibrant and transformative learning environment expected to attract dining, retail and other businesses as co-tenants in the refurbished building.



Mock Ambulance Enhances EMT/Paramedic Training

In preparation for the relocation of DCC's southern Dutchess extension site from Wappinger to Fishkill, new facilities for Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic instruction were created on the main campus, in the Center for Business and Industry. The twin labs, one for Basic Life Support and another equipped for Advanced Life Support, provide more space for demonstrations and for students to practice their skills as pre-hospital medical providers.

Through the generosity of Mobilemedic EMS in Sullivan County, the College acquired two used ambulances that were disassembled and used to outfit mock ambulances constructed and installed in the labs. Working within the simulated confines of the back of an ambulance – with the bench seat, cot and working medical apparatus – enables students to practice a range of skills, from loading the patient into the vehicle properly, to providing care while transporting the patient to the hospital. Two electric stretchers also were obtained to expand students' experiences with equipment they will encounter on the job.

The College's EMT/Paramedic offerings include associate degree and certificate tracks.

CULTURAL EVENTS CELEBRATE *Diversity*

AIRPORT PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The newest addition to Hudson Valley Regional Airport in Wappinger – a 32,000-sq-ft. classroom hangar and experiential lab that will provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for students in DCC’s aviation programs – is near completion. The Dutchess Community College Aviation Education Center, a partnership between the College and Dutchess County Government, will house DCC’s current pilot and aviation management associate degree programs and a 12-month Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance certification program expected to be approved for delivery in 2021.

The College has acquired several used aircraft to provide hands-on training to students in the proposed program. Among them is a Grumman G3-C20 jet previously owned by the U.S. government and used by presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, and General Norman Schwarzkopf during the Gulf War. Now known as “Falcon One” – a nod to the DCC mascot and in deference to its previous service as Air Force One – the airplane was acquired at nominal cost through government surplus and was decommissioned after being flown to Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

Despite the impact of Covid-19 on the airline industry, recent reports indicate that almost 800,000 new maintenance technicians will be needed worldwide in the next 20 years, as the current workforce ages and retires. Almost one-third of aircraft mechanics are at least 64 years old.



THE DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AVIATION EDUCATION CENTER IS ALMOST FINISHED.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Black History Month event in February, just weeks before coronavirus forced closures, turned out to be one of the last on-campus public events of the spring 2020 semester.

Dr. Nafissa Thompson-Spires, author of 2018’s award-winning collection of short stories “Heads of the Colored People,” spoke about how the issue of race plays out in the contemporary lives of Black people – a theme prevalent in her book.



NAFISSA THOMPSON-SPIRES

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In September and October, Hispanic heritage was celebrated via livestreamed discussions and concerts. Father Juan Carlos Ruiz explored the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on New York City’s undocumented communities; Juan Aguirre discussed Day of the Dead traditions; the Jorge Glem Trio performed Latin American rhythms; and Alea delivered a high-energy program of original music with an Afro-Latin sound.

The Black history and Hispanic heritage events were arranged by faculty and staff serving on committees dedicated to implementing programming that fosters multicultural education and respect and appreciation for diversity.

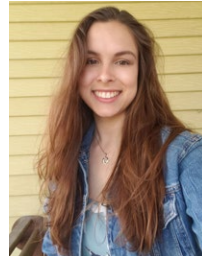


FATHER JUAN CARLOS RUIZ

Seven Earn SUNY Chancellor's Awards

Four Dutchess Community College students and three employees have earned one of the highest honors bestowed annually by the State University of New York – the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE



GABRIELLE DELPIZZO



IRIDIAN LUCAS-GARCIA



MEGHAN MYLER



ALYSSA POTEET

Gabrielle Delpizzo, Iridian Lucas-Garcia, Meghan Myler (see related story, page 30) and **Alyssa Poteet** were among just 213 students from the 64 SUNY campuses selected to receive Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence. The award recognizes the integration of academic achievement with accomplishments in leadership, athletics, community service, performing arts, campus involvement and career achievement.

The four represent a variety of academic pursuits. Delpizzo majored in science, Lucas-Garcia in humanities, Myler in mathematics and adolescent education and Poteet in elementary education.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



BARBARA MCARDLE, J.D.



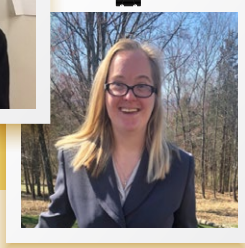
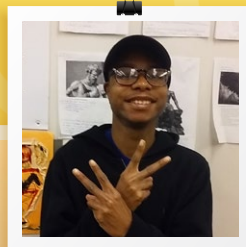
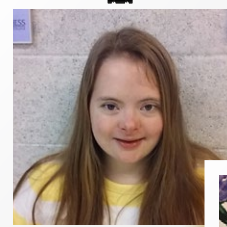
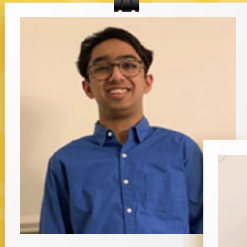
KELLY KOHLER



CHERYL CROFT

A SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Full-time Teaching was given to Associate Professor of Criminal Justice **Barbara McArdle, J.D.**, who joined the College in 2008. **Kelly Kohler**, who has taught advanced life support at DCC for 25 years, earned a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. **Cheryl Croft**, principal library clerk and 29-year DCC employee, earned a Chancellor's Award for Classified Service.





A Look Back on the Think Ahead Class of 2020

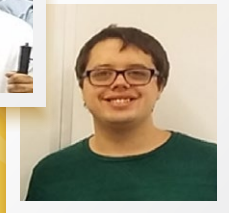
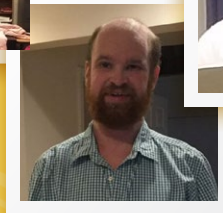
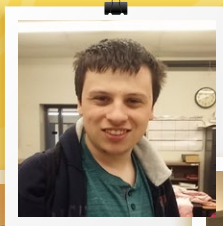
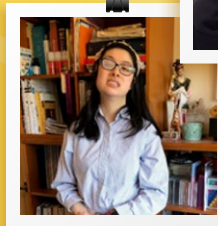
ELEVEN STUDENTS IN Think Ahead – a program for young adults with intellectual disabilities – graduated in May. This unique partnership was established in 2017 between Dutchess Community College, Dutchess County, Abilities First, the Arc of Dutchess, the Maplebrook School and Taconic Resources for Independence, and partially funded by the DCC Foundation. The two-year program teaches life

and job skills to students through on-campus experiences that include specialized instruction, participation in activities, part-time work opportunities and the ability to audit DCC credit classes.

The program is designed to help these individuals become more independent, develop new talents and feel confident in contributing to our community. For the virtual graduation ceremony last spring,

the students were asked to provide a photo and share what made their Think Ahead experience meaningful. The program is transformative for the participants as well as the campus at large. It gives DCC students majoring in Human Services valuable first-hand experience in working with individuals with a variety of abilities, and makes the campus more inclusive, more diverse and more equity-minded.

Think Ahead



A LIFETIME OF...

Generosity

So many times in life, we feel we must choose between two alternatives. When it comes to philanthropy there are many personal choices to make regarding one's finances; how do you provide for family and your favorite philanthropic organization, and do you give now or through an estate gift? Many choices will allow you to do both, for today and tomorrow.

Blended giving provides you the joy of giving today and watching the impact your gift makes in your lifetime, along with the peace of mind that your estate gift will continue to support the organization that you held so dear and that had such a significant impact on your life.

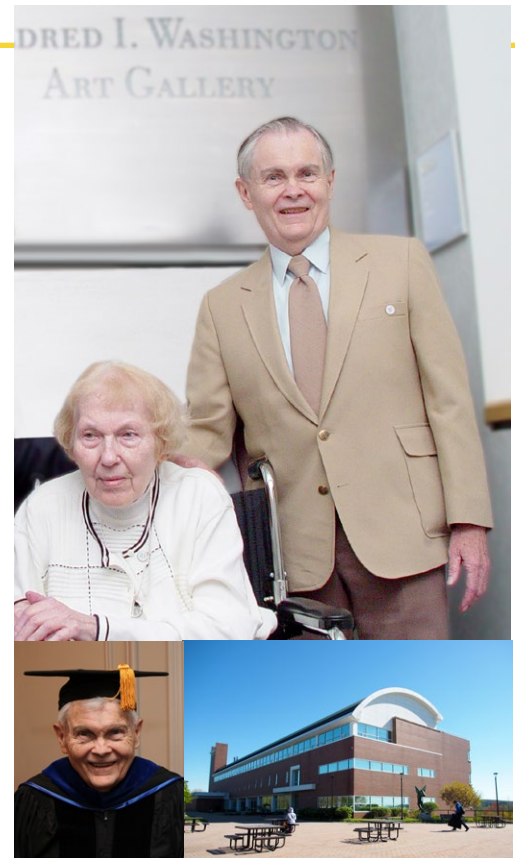
Allyn Washington and his wife Mildred (Millie) viewed their philanthropic support to the Dutchess Community College Foundation in exactly that way.

Allyn was one of College's founding faculty members, starting his career at DCC in 1958. He was the mathematics department head for his entire 20-year tenure at DCC and acting executive dean from 1974-75. While at DCC he authored several technical mathematic textbooks, which continued to present day. Both of his and Millie's daughters attended DCC, Margy taking only a few classes before attending another institution but Joanne, his youngest daughter, graduated in 1979. Joanne seemed destined to attend DCC as she was born just two days prior to the dedication of Dutchess Community College and at the time was referred to as the "dedication baby."

Allyn adored DCC and was proud to be a part of its early development, setting the stage for the reputable institution it is today. He wanted to see DCC continue to grow and support students, as was evident by his and Millie's philanthropic support. In 2000 they made a transformational gift and helped create the Allyn J. Washington Center for Science and Art, which today houses many art classes and state-of-the-art science classrooms. In 2005 they helped establish the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery, which allows budding young artists the opportunity to display their work. They endowed several scholarships that are awarded annually to support students in mathematics and low-income students in the music program. Allyn and Millie also supported the College with an annual gift that was directed toward many different College initiatives.

Their daughter Margy stated, "Our parents always had gifting on their minds locally and nationally. Education was in the forefront and that was evident in their passionate giving to DCC. They loved how Dutchess lifted the community in so many ways."

Allyn and Millie had the pleasure to meet several of the recipients of their scholarships



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MILLIE AND ALLYN WASHINGTON OUTSIDE THE MILDRED I. WASHINGTON ART GALLERY, THE ALLYN J. WASHINGTON CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND ART, ALLYN WASHINGTON AT THE 2018 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.

and received many letters of gratitude, which was a great joy to them both. Recognizing how important DCC is to our students, they also included DCC in their estate plans so they could continue to support DCC students long after their time here.

Sadly, that time has come and we will miss them greatly. Mildred passed in 2008 and Allyn in 2020. Although they are gone they certainly will never be forgotten. The stamp they have made on DCC will live on in the hearts and minds of all of the students that benefit and are recipients of their generosity. •

Working Together

DCC CARES Provides Holistic Support

Many DCC students – like students throughout the country – struggle with challenges that jeopardize their ability to stay in school. It can be impossible to attend classes and complete assignments for someone who is hungry, homeless, without reliable transportation or child care, or facing other personal issues that negatively impact academic success.

To meet these needs, DCC established DCC CARES in 2018 with the support of the Heckscher Foundation for Children, the Gerstner Family Foundation, the Dyson Foundation and the DCC Foundation. The office provides emergency grants to students and connects them with campus and community resources. Since its inception DCC CARES has provided \$235,000 in support to 263 students, 84% of whom were able to return the semester after receiving assistance.

The DCC Foundation recently attracted almost \$67,000 in donations from 175 community members committed to supporting students facing extraordinary challenges. These donations were maximized through a matching grant from the SUNY Impact Foundation, resulting in an additional award of \$120,000 to DCC CARES.

Among the on-campus resources students may access is the DCC food pantry, which stocks groceries, fresh produce and personal hygiene items. Since its inception in 2017, the pantry has helped 500 students and their families and distributed more than 10,000 items. •

“

WE ALL RISE OR FALL TOGETHER. AS LONG AS SOME OF US ARE HUNGRY, SICK, HOMELESS OR CAN'T EDUCATE THEMSELVES, WE WILL ALL BE MISERABLE. THE DCC FOUNDATION WORKS DILIGENTLY SO THAT WE ALL RISE TOGETHER.”

– DONOR, DCC CARES

DCC CARES helped me get out of a domestic violence situation by connecting me to legal services and helping me with car and food expenses.

– STUDENT

When I lost my second job, it became difficult to manage transportation costs. DCC CARES provided me with gas cards and also worked with my loan provider to defer my car payment.

– STUDENT

”



A Practical Decision Becomes a LIFETIME PASSION

Not all high school students know what they want to do with their lives. But Edward Pittman '80 did. He's now Dr. Edward Pittman, senior associate dean of Vassar College, but in the late 1970s, as a Poughkeepsie High School student, a star on the basketball team and president of the student government, Pittman got an inkling of that calling when he joined some other young people working to help establish Malcolm X Park in Poughkeepsie. He knew then that when he was finished with school, he wanted to help his community.

Though he'd dreamed of going away to college and maybe playing basketball, there were other plans. His older brother had attended DCC, and Pittman had visited the campus for a variety of activities. He'd always seen Dutchess as "an opportunity waiting to turn into something big." His final decision became a matter of practicality. Pittman and his future wife, Antionette, were expecting their first child – further reinforcing his choice of DCC as the best route for his challenging situation, his undergraduate degree, his transfer possibilities, as well as his family's future.

Pittman was a liberal arts honors major with the intent of going into sociology or social work. He was particularly intrigued with BHS 103, taught by Toni Emery '66, one of several favorite professors. He spent long days in classes then studied at the library well into the evening, eventually becoming the first person in his family to graduate college. He'd originally

thought he'd complete his bachelor's degree at Marist or SUNY New Paltz – location and affordability being his deciding factors – but was encouraged by his English literature and history professor, Judy Kohl, to consider Vassar as a possibility.

"In high school I had not seen myself as the type of student who could go to Vassar – academically or financially. At DCC, after taking writing and history courses, I realized I had the skills and critical thinking to do the work at Vassar." When he began his studies there, he found that his time at DCC had served him well. "At DCC I always felt like I was at a full-level college; I just didn't

live on campus." He called the programs he participated in, particularly the Public Speaking Forum and Model United Nations, "top-notch experiences that prepared me for work I'd do at Vassar and for work in my higher education and career."

In the 1980s, when so many graduating students were leaving the Hudson Valley to find work and a life elsewhere, Pittman stayed in Poughkeepsie. But the post-graduation job he'd taken didn't feel like a good fit, and he was hoping to find something better, either in human services or teaching. That was when,

with one phone call in the summer of 1984, Dr. Anthony Adamo (then DCC's Dean of Student Services) made a pivotal appearance in Pittman's life.

"He asked if I'd ever thought about being an admissions counselor and then invited me to meet with him the next day. The thought of working in higher education had never crossed my mind and I went into the meeting unaware of the

possibilities. By the end of the meeting, however, Dean Adamo led me to visualize how I could help underrepresented students from

“IN HIGH SCHOOL I HAD NOT SEEN MYSELF AS THE TYPE OF STUDENT WHO COULD GO TO VASSAR – ACADEMICALLY OR FINANCIALLY. AT DCC, AFTER TAKING WRITING AND HISTORY COURSES, I REALIZED I HAD THE SKILLS AND CRITICAL THINKING TO DO THE WORK AT VASSAR.”

– EDWARD PITTMAN

“IF YOU CAN FIND THAT PASSION THAT DRIVES YOU AND GET PAID FOR IT TOO, THEN YOU’VE ACHIEVED THE BEST OF MANY WORLDS.”

— EDWARD PITTMAN



local high schools fulfill their dreams at an open admissions college. Not surprisingly, he convinced me to apply for the position; and the next six years of admissions and retention work to build a more diverse and inclusive campus became the foundation of my career in higher education.”

During the first year of the job, Dean Adamo, who Pittman described as a compassionate advocate, encouraging him to get his master’s degree (SUNY New Paltz) because it would be necessary to advance in higher education. Years later he would also complete his doctorate in education at University of Pennsylvania, traveling by train on Amtrak to Philadelphia on weekends while maintaining his full-time job at Vassar. “I don’t think I’d be working in higher ed if not for that call from Dean Adamo,” Pittman said.

At Vassar, where he started working in 1990, he developed student diversity initiatives and served as dean of a student life division that included International Student Services, ALANA Student Services, LGBTQ and Gender Resources, Religious and Spiritual Life, and First Year Programs. He was the founding director of the ALANA Cultural Center, a support center for students of color, and developed Vassar’s Bias Response Team, which has become a model for colleges across the country. As an educator, he has taught courses in race relations and sociology. In collaboration with students, faculty, administrators and staff, Pittman chaired a campus-wide resource group responsible for planning Vassar’s annual All College Day for 18 years, an all-campus initiative to promote campus dialogue and accountability. He has

chaired and served on numerous campus and national diversity projects and is now an evaluator for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. In the past two years his dean’s responsibilities have shifted to directing a professional development initiative for administrators, faculty and staff.

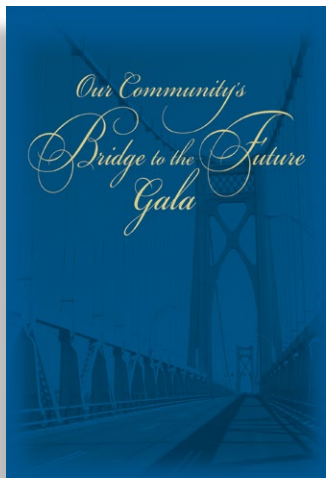
He often tells his students about answering that pivotal call from Dean Adamo. “It was such a transformative moment for me. It is also a lesson in how none of us really succeeds on our own and without the support of others.”

With that as a guiding principle, he continues to give back to the community and his profession while encouraging students to discover what motivates them. “If you can find that passion that drives you and get paid for it too,” he said, “then you’ve achieved the best of many worlds.” ●

Foundation Gala Set to Return

As of this writing, the DCC Foundation Gala is scheduled for March 20, 2021 at the Grandview, after having been canceled last March due to Covid-19.

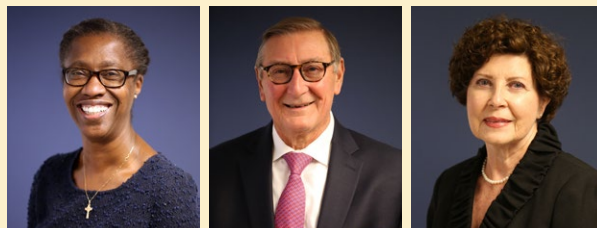
Hall of Fame inductees will be Shirley Roberts Brereton '88, Anthony DiMaso '65 and Joan DiMaso '68. The Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award recipient will be Martin Charwat and the Bridge to the Future Award will be shared by five organizations – Dutchess County Government, Abilities First, Inc., The Arc of Dutchess, Maplebrook School and Taconic Resources for Independence – that partner with DCC in providing the Think Ahead program. (See page 19 for more about Think Ahead.)



FOR UPDATES ON THE 2021 GALA, VISIT
www.sunydutchess.edu/gala

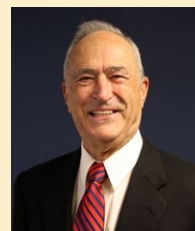
2021 GALA HONOREES

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



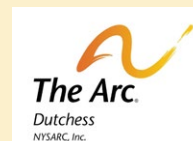
SHIRLEY ROBERTS BRERETON '88
ANTHONY DIMASO '65, JOAN DIMASO '68

BERNARD HANDEL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD



MARTIN CHARWAT

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE AWARD



DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT, ABILITIES FIRST, INC.,
THE ARC OF DUTCHESS, MAPLEBROOK SCHOOL,
TACONIC RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENCE

6 WAYS *to* GIVE

Make an impact with a gift to DCC

Whether you want to inspire a DCC student, honor or remember a loved one or support an academic or extracurricular program, the DCC Foundation is here to help make your giving experience enjoyable and rewarding. There are many ways you can support our students!

GET STARTED

To make a gift or pledge, contact Diana Pollard, executive director, at (845) 431-8403 or pollard@sunydutchess.edu.

To use a credit card, visit <https://1406.thankyou4caring.org/DCCF>. Checks should be made payable to the DCC Foundation and mailed to 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

1

Establish an Endowed Scholarship

Donated funds are invested in perpetuity. Principal-generated earnings fund a scholarship based on your wishes. If you are eager to have your gift impact lives now and in the future, establishing an endowment is a wise choice.

2

Sponsor an Annual Event

The annual Community's Bridge to the Future Gala, Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner in Memory of Jack Orcutt and other alumni events offer a wide range of giving opportunities to highlight you, your business or your organization in fun, exciting ways.

3

Consider Planned Giving

Integrate philanthropy into your overall personal estate planning. We will work with you to achieve your goals through a bequest from an IRA or 401k, life insurance benefit, charitable gift annuity or personal property. Our goal is to ensure that your desires are met.

4

Purchase a Commemorative Piece

Mark exceptional events or remember that special person by making a gift to the DCC Foundation on behalf of a loved one. Bricks can be purchased for placement in the Petrovits Pine Grove Patio, and engraved leaves are available for the "Remembering Community Tree."

5

Make an Annual Pledge or Gift

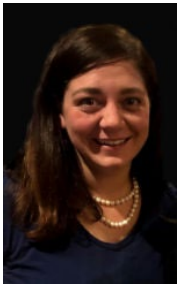
Your gift to the Annual Fund supports DCC's highest priorities. These include merit-, need-based and daycare scholarships, student technology and programming, faculty development, campus facility improvements and esteemed lectures.

6

Come Back to Campus

Your time is a gift as well. Maybe you have professional experiences worth sharing with our students in class. We also are looking for volunteers to help with events, serve on committees and be a part of the DCC Foundation Board of Directors.

CLASS Notes

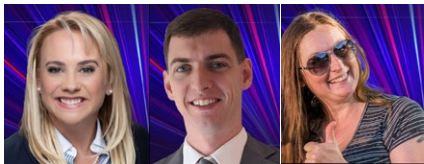


Amy Bombardieri '01 has joined the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Abilities First NY, the fundraising arm for Abilities First, Inc. Bombardieri is a project engineer at Day & Stokosa Engineering in Wappingers Falls, where she specializes in commercial and residential land development design. After graduating from DCC, Bombardieri went on to complete Marist College Project Management Program.



Sara Casillas '16 uses the skills she developed at DCC in a different kind of art form! A stylist at Bella Capelli Salon in Poughkeepsie,

Casillas regularly uses concepts from her Color Theory class when dying hair.

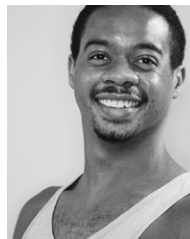


Karen Gates '01, Europa McGovern '09 and Dylan Murphy '10 received the 40 Under 40 Mover & Shaker Awards from the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce at a recognition event held at the Hyde Park Drive-In Theatre on August 20.



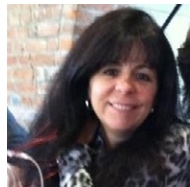
Harrison Tesorio Gacer '20, who plans to continue his music education at Purchase College, was interviewed by radio station

celebrity, Andy Bale, for WHUD's Hudson Valley Artist Spotlight. In the interview, Gacer discussed his educational journey and the creative process behind writing the song, "Waiting For Your Love."



Cedric James '16 was interviewed by student blogger, **Benjamin Simonetty '20**, for Broadway-world.com about why he chose to attend DCC. One of James'

recent performances included a role in the 2019 production of "A Chorus Line," which was staged at The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck.



Kathy Hickman '87 was honored with the 2020 EMS Educator of the Excellence award by the Pleasant Valley Fire Department – Rescue Squad.



Gabrielle Johnson '20, a graduate of the visual arts transfer program, was awarded an honorable mention at the Best of SUNY Exhibition held in Albany.

NEW ALUMNI



A father-daughter duo, **Patrick Myler '20 and Meghan Myler '20**, both graduated from the Construction

Management Program this year. Read their story on page 30.



Sidney Rule III '20 is continuing his studies in architecture at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He credits the architecture faculty, including David Freeman, Paul Pilon and Catherine McGuire, for his success as he furthers his education.

CALLING ALL
DCC ALUMNI



Where did DCC take you?

Let us know! Contact Burnelle Roser at burnelle.roser@sunydutchess.edu.

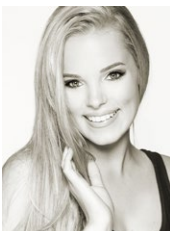


The 2020 nursing graduates took part in a first for DCC – a virtual pinning event. On May 11, the graduates received their nursing pins from family members, spouses or children in a celebration held on Zoom.



Anjni Amil, who attended DCC from 2011-2013, was spotlighted by the Graduate School at

Northwestern University for her efforts as a Ph.D. candidate in the Music Theory and Cognition program.



Lauren Molella '12 and '14, the reigning Miss New York, competed for the title of Miss America 2020, placing 13th. She was also honored as the

2nd runner-up in the Miss America STEM Scholarship award. Molella, who has earned five college degrees, teaches science at DCC.

WOMEN *in* CONSTRUCTION



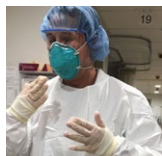
During Women in Construction Week's annual luncheon, the College brought together students in the Construction Management and Architecture programs to network. Joining them were Associate Professor Catherine McGuire, a licensed architect and faculty member in the Architecture program. Also in attendance were **Cindy Ortiz '11**, a graduate of the Architecture program, who transferred to Fashion Institute of Technology and currently serves as an interior designer with Hendley and Company, and local business leader, Amanda Repp, a licensed architect who owns her own firm in Poughkeepsie.



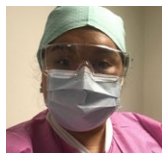
John Howell, show choir director, led a rousing rendition of "Proud Mary" by an ensemble of DCC show choir alumni during the Walkway Over the Hudson's "Starry Starry Night 2020" virtual gala, held October 2. In addition to the **vocal talents of DCC alumni**, attendees were also entertained by internationally known musicians with ties to the Hudson River, including Mary Stuart Masterson and Herb Alpert.

On the COVID-19 Frontline

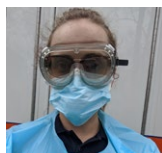
Kudos and gratitude to the many DCC alumni who have served on the healthcare frontline during the pandemic.



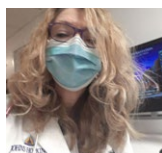
Marvin Amaya '17, phlebotomist at Columbia Memorial Hospital.



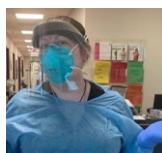
Ariana Castellanos '17, a nationally certified phlebotomist at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.



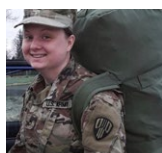
Caterina DeGaetano-Morris '11, an EMT on the front lines of the pandemic response in New City and New Windsor.



Janet Dickel '09, board certified registered nurse at the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Allison Kidney '12, nurse practitioner at a family practice on the Eastern Shore.

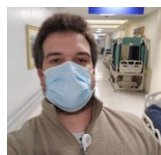


Katielyn Lauridsen '18, who serves in the National Guard, was deployed to New York City to aid in response activities and to support medical staff.

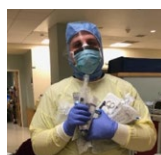
support medical staff.



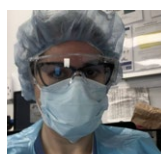
Angela Flesland '06 and **Dr. Daniel Peneyra '06** worked together in the ICU at Westchester Medical Center, where Angela is a registered nurse and Daniel is in the first year of his internal medicine residency. Angela also is a member of the DCC Board of Trustees.



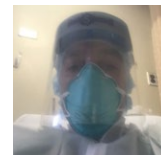
Mitchel McGarry '18, psychiatric technician at the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, CT.



Andre Thor McHugh '17, trauma intensive care unit nurse at Westchester Medical Center.



Danielle Van Ostrand '16, emergency room registered nurse at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

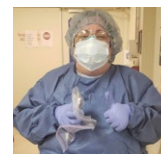


Eric Ortiz '16 certified nursing assistant at Stony Brook University Hospital. He is also a recipient of the 2016 SUNY Chancellor's

Award for Student Excellence. Ortiz is in a graduate program as an anesthesia technician and training to be a physician's assistant.



Cynthia Piekarski '14, medical-surgical nurse at Danbury Hospital.



JoAnna Romano Yozzo '96, intensive care unit nurse at Vassar Brothers Medical Center.

SUPPORTING THE FRONTLINE



Erik Fred '98, an architecture alum, who furthered his education at the New York Institute of Technology's School of Architecture & Design, has been contributing to pandemic relief efforts by designing innovative mobile medical units for COVID-19 first responders.

Gayle Metzger-Hauser '83, who founded Hudson Valley-based Mobile Life Support Services, led her team of EMT, medic, dispatcher and support staff as they responded to countless calls for help throughout the region during this unprecedented crisis.

Under normal circumstances, **Victoria Kane '94** creates eco-friendly collars and leashes for pets. But during the early stages of the pandemic when masks were in short supply, Kane found a way to address the shortage and give back to those on the pandemic frontline. She added a selection of colorful patterned masks to her offerings, and for every one sold, she donated one to healthcare workers or groups serving the needy. Kane also created a pattern and a how-to video so that those with the ability to sew can contribute to the effort.

DCC ALUMNI

We'd love to hear from you!

The Dutchess Community College Foundation would love to hear from as many of DCC's 48,000 graduates as possible. We also are looking for notable alumni to highlight, so if you would like to share your story or know a distinguished alum that we should recognize, please give us a call at (845) 431-8400. You can connect with the over 17,000 DCC alumni on DCC's LinkedIn page and share your story via our other social media:

#DCCFAlumni



[linkedin.com/school/40448](https://www.linkedin.com/school/40448)



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twitter.com/DCCFAlumni



[dccfalumni/](https://www.instagram.com/dccfalumni/)



www.flickr.com/photos/dccfalumni/albums

Alumni Benefits

Did you know that alumni of DCC are entitled to many services and programs that can help with employment, personal and professional enrichment, and savings on travel and events?

Visit www.sunydutchess.edu/alumni for more information.

Support DCC While Shopping on Amazon

A percentage of money spent on eligible purchases at Amazon.com will go to support the DCC Foundation through the AmazonSmile program. Log in to Amazon through smile.amazon.com and choose Dutchess Community College Foundation as your charitable organization.

SHOW YOUR DCC PRIDE!

Visit www.bkstr.com/dutchessccstore to order apparel and gifts, including our new plush mini-mascot!



Most Dutchess Community College students wouldn't expect to run across one of their parents in the campus cafeteria, but there's nothing conventional about Patrick and Meghan Myler. They're a father-daughter duo from Poughkeepsie who completed associate degrees and graduated together in May.



RELATIVELY SPEAKING

This convergence of accomplishments traces back to a conversation at the family's dinner table a few years ago. Eldest daughter, Melissa, had attended DCC and her sister, Meghan, was preparing to start. The two suggested to their dad that he jump in and go back to school to finish his degree.

"At first I told Meghan that it was her time to shine," said Patrick. But then she said to me, "Do you know what would be a great gift? Graduating together. How many people can say they did that with a parent?" She made a good point.

For the elder Myler, the third time really was the charm. He initially enrolled at DCC as a criminal justice major after graduating from high school in 1987, but says he spent more time socializing than studying, and decided

there was some growing up he had to do before tackling higher education. After six years of service in the Army and Navy, Patrick earned an Emergency Medical Technician certificate through DCC and worked as an EMT and emergency room technician at a local hospital. But when the double shifts began to take their toll, Patrick decided to make a change before he became someone in need of saving.

Patrick's second try at an associate degree came in the late 1990s when he enrolled in the Electrical Technology program, but he and his wife welcomed their first child soon after, and matters at home left little time for college. Patrick entered the construction industry and eventually started his own business, giving him the flexibility to spend more time with his family.

Fast forward to that pivotal family dinner

when he decided to finish his degree; the nearly two decades he had spent in construction by that time made choosing a major a piece of cake. He continued to work during the day, so a schedule of mostly evening classes at DCC suited him just right.

While Patrick's professional journey included a few twists and turns, Meghan appears to be laser-focused on the career she wants. The Arlington High School graduate's desire to become a math teacher is the sum total of a few early influences, including her ninth-grade math teacher, and her mom, also a math teacher.

"In ninth grade my teacher showed me what math really could do," said Meghan. "It's not just formulas, it's things like geometry, so I thought that was kind of awesome, and from there I thought to myself, I'm definitely going

to be doing that as a career.”

Meghan majored in adolescent education when she first started at DCC. Having taken both advanced placement classes and some concurrent enrollment DCC courses in high school, she signed up for a Calculus 3 class. She was academically prepared, but at least initially, felt like the odd ball out in the classroom.

“It seemed like everyone in the class already was friends with each other,” she said. “I didn’t know anybody, so I definitely felt like I had to prove myself. But everybody was so welcoming and it turned into a lot of fun!”

During that first semester Meghan’s math instructor noticed her aptitude and suggested that with the simple addition of just a few more credits, she also could major in math. He also recommended that she become a tutor in the Math and Science Center on campus.

“I didn’t know anybody, so I definitely felt like I had to prove myself. But everybody was so welcoming and it turned into a lot of fun!”

– PATRICK MYLER

Patrick also connected with his instructors very quickly.

“All my professors were great,” he said. “I had Dave Freeman, who is program chair for Architecture and Construction Management Technologies, and also Paul Pilon and Catherine McGuire.”

One day while Meghan was helping other students in the Math and Science Center, she inadvertently pulled her father into the world of tutoring. The tutors on duty were having

difficulty figuring out a piece of an assignment one student was struggling with, so Meghan decided she also would take a look. When she realized the student’s assignment was from an engineering surveying class, she got an idea. Father may know best. It was time to use the phone-a-friend lifeline.

“She called me up and said, ‘Hey, I’ve got a question, when you took survey ...’ and after hearing the problem I worked them through the concept. I came to find out the student she’s trying to help is one of my classmates,” said Patrick. “And that one experience started the ball rolling as far as other classmates asking me to have review sessions with them.”

Patrick often would arrive on campus before class to meet other students and help further break down ideas until his classmates had a better grasp on the material. His past experience in construction was a big help.

“The courses are designed to get you to understand all of the theory, all of the concepts,” said Patrick. “Some of them can be kind of hard to understand right out of the box if you don’t have a background in it. I would give them methodologies I honed in the field, and that helped a little bit more.”

Father and daughter not only offered their tutoring and study services to other students on campus, but to each other at home as well. Patrick lent a hand to Meghan with her history course, while Meghan’s math skills sometimes came in handy when Patrick wasn’t connecting with a formula for an engineering class assignment.

Family dinners gave the pair another chance to share their educational experiences, with Meghan on occasion using the opportunity to elicit a little empathy when it came to homework.

“It was kind of cool to see what his classes were like compared to mine and who his teachers were,” said Meghan. “I also feel like my dad got a better understanding of past situations where I came home and said, ‘I’ve

“Do you know what would be a great gift? Graduating together. How many people can say they did that with a parent?”

– MEGHAN MYLER

got a ton of homework.’ Now he has a better sense of things.”

Meghan’s associate in science degree from DCC, coupled with her impressive academic performance – she was a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence (see page 18) – enabled her to transfer last fall to Quinnipiac University to pursue a bachelor’s degree in math. She said a master’s degree also may be on the horizon.

Patrick aims to put his degree and talents to use for a construction firm, and quickly scored interviews with a few local companies for a role in construction and project management.

Careers in math and construction management, respectively, will entail working with plenty of numbers in the years ahead, but both Patrick and Meghan no doubt will always remember one number they have in common: 2020. In what turned out to be a challenging year due to the pandemic, the two have something good to remember.

“I always said the family that walks together stays together,” said Meghan. “Sure, it threw us off a little not actually being able to walk across the stage for graduation because of social distancing, but still being able to say we got our degrees at the same time is awesome.” The graduation ceremony may have been virtual, but the accomplishments are very real. •



WATCH A VIDEO OF THE MYLERS AT
www.sunydutchess.edu/mydccstory

Scholarships

SETTING UP A SCHOLARSHIP FUND IS A MEANINGFUL WAY TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY OR TO HONOR A LOVED ONE, FRIEND OR GROUP.

For information about how to create a scholarship, contact Foundation Executive Director Diana Pollard at (845) 431-8403 or pollard@sunydutchess.edu.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The DCC Foundation awards over 225 scholarships each year, collectively valued at over \$300,000.

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Dr. Alfredo Fonts Memorial Scholarship: Amani-Dasia Augustin

Dr. Lloyd D. Harris Memorial Scholarship: Amelia Stewart

William E. Holland Scholarship: Carlos Lewis

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Dennis Kipp Memorial Scholarship: Caitlin Martin

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Tara Sweet-Flagler Scholarship: Eman Khalifa

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Zaida Swan Memorial Scholarship: Brittany Stasiak

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Business Administration Career Scholarship: Tyler Cross

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Dutchess County Association of Realtors Scholarship: Angiolina Goldsmith

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Louis Greenspan Memorial Scholarship: Rebeca Duarte

Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Scholarship: Joshniel Monegro Mateo

Tony and Faith Krzywicki Business Scholarship: Ndeye Madjiguene Cisse

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Ginger Mancuso Memorial Scholarship: Thomas Ahmed

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Meyer Family Scholarship: Preston Balassone, Cameron Burnette

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Joe Roberto Alpha Beta Gamma Memorial Scholarship: Chizel Anderson

TEG Federal Credit Union Scholarship: Abby Knauss

UHY LLP Certified Public Accountants Scholarship: Alyssa Poteet

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Westage Companies Scholarship: Jannate Sekatawa

English and Humanities

Russell S. Cleverley Memorial Scholarship: Marcello Isidoro

Sylvia L. Jones Scholarship: Michael Spero

Jerry A. Lee Memorial Scholarship: Dylan Stanet

Seth W. Lessinger Scholarship in Philosophy: Kyle Krinsky

McCann Foundation Scholarship: Melissa Finnigan

Michael O'Dell Scholarship: Nicholas Scott

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society of Wappingers Falls Scholarship: Elizabeth Beigert

Edmund Webb Memorial Scholarship: Moyinoluwa Daramola

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Joseph H. and Miriam B. Gellert Memorial Scholarship: John Pawelczyk

Louis Greenspan Memorial Scholarship: Jessica Custodio, Anthony Lozano, Renee Niles

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Mathematics and Computer Sciences

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Rhinebeck Bank Scholarship: Glenda Giordani

Senator Stephen M. Saland Legacy Scholarship: Stefani Ramirez-Ossa

Catherine Reeck Shanks Scholarship: Shakiel Blair

Tiger Family Scholarship to Support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing : Saliman Bachilly-Redd, Jillian Lobo

Captain Trevor Yurista Semper Fi Parents of the Hudson Valley Scholarship: Sheila Stukes

Usman Zia and Moez-UL Hassan Memorial Scholarship: Carline Brown

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Alumni Association Graduate Scholarship: Nicholas Roth, Sydney Roth

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Milton Chazen Scholarship: Jayson Graham

Jim Curley Graduate Scholarship: Natalia Sofokles

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William J. and Pauline Egan Memorial Scholarship: Brian VanBenschoten

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Richard Steffen Engineering Alumni Scholarship: Vera Ruiz

Rochel Stein and Richard O'Connor Memorial Scholarship: Gabrielle Delpizzo

Transfer 101 Scholarship: Macarous Ansah, DeMia Billups

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Mildred I. Washington Memorial Graduate Scholarship: Matthew Denatale

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The Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence

The Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence was created to provide a full-tuition scholarship for any Dutchess County high school student who graduates in the top 10 percent of his or her class.

This extraordinary scholarship offers outstanding students the opportunity to earn their two-year degree tuition-free. This fall, a total of 43 first-year students from high schools throughout the county have been awarded the prestigious scholarship, bringing the number of Conklin Scholars at Dutchess Community College to 64.

This scholarship is made possible through a generous gift from the late Mr. & Mrs. Charles Conklin and the Dutchess Community College Foundation.



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Conor D. Mervyn

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Isabella R. Nocerino
Meghan E. Odell
Dylan S. Parks
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William R. Rizzo
Timothy J. Roach, II
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The Hall Legacy Society

MEMBERS MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

The James F. Hall Legacy Society was established to recognize donors who have pledged generous gifts to the Dutchess Community College Foundation through wills, trusts and other life-income channels.

Some members are former students who connected in a meaningful way with faculty and staff and, as alumni, appreciate how the support and dedication of their teachers positively impacted their lives. The College is fortunate to have so many friends and supporters who believe in its mission. The chance to help a student enhance his or her life through higher education inspires so many wonderful people from varying backgrounds to partner with DCC.

Members of the James F. Hall Legacy Society understand the importance of a successful community college and seek to keep the spirit of educational excellence alive for future generations.

The individuals listed to the right have notified the Foundation that they have made a planned gift to Dutchess Community College. Planned gifts may include a bequest, charitable trust, personal residence, life insurance policy, IRA or any appreciated items such as artwork.

By becoming a member of the Hall Legacy Society, you are showing your commitment to the College and demonstrating a belief in future students.

Visit sunydutchess.giftlegacy.com to explore ways you can leave a lasting legacy. ●

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See page 25 to learn
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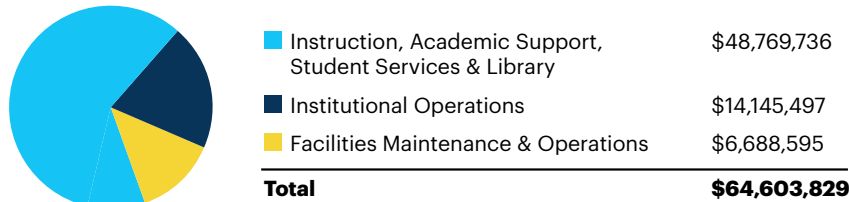
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 The William Brown Foundation
 Nancy J. Tricomi '78
 UHY Advisors
 Vassar College
 Brenda B. Verbeck '69
 Village Park Apartments
 Bob and Ann Marie Vitale
 VIVO Creative
 Sally A. Weglinski '77 and
 Paul F. Weglinski '77
 Werner H. Schmidt Trust of
 June 23, 2014
 Westage Development Group
 John H. Westermann, Jr. '74 and
 Jennifer S. Westermann '76
 George T. Whalen, Jr.
 Jessica White and Brian T. White '94
 Vincent Miller, William G. Miller and
 Son Funeral Home
 Kimberley S. Williams, Sandy
 Williams, Williams Lumber
 Betty E. Wise '83
 York-Hunter, Inc.

*deceased

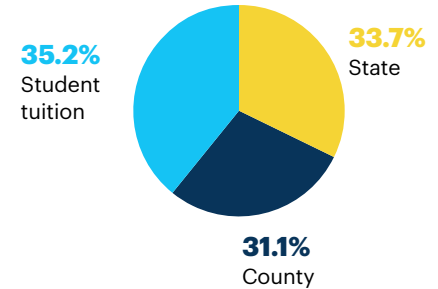
FINANCIALS

Dutchess Community College

Budget Allocation*



Funding Sources



DCC Foundation

Statement of Financial Condition*

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$111,830
Investments	\$13,950,362
Other Assets	\$213,733
Total Assets	\$14,275,925

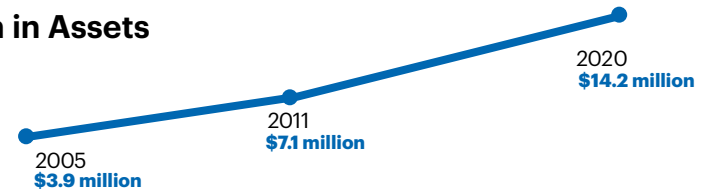
LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$55,999
Other Liabilities	\$227,798
Total Liabilities	\$283,797

NET ASSETS

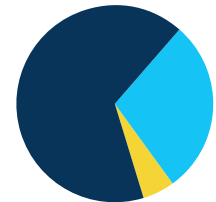
Unrestricted	\$1,005,409
Temporarily Restricted	\$3,353,086
Permanently Restricted	\$9,633,633
Total Net Assets	\$13,992,128

Growth in Assets



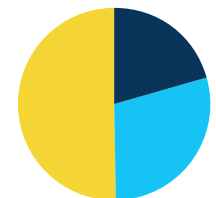
Investment

Equity Mutual Funds	\$9,288,135
Fixed Income	\$3,992,249
Cash	\$729,978
Total	\$13,950,362



Support

Program Support	\$510,730
Scholarships	\$294,783
Development & Stewardship	\$210,787
Total	\$1,016,300



*Fiscal year ended 8/31/20

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Think Dutchess • Tompkins Mahopac Bank • Ulster Savings Bank • Dr. Mary Louise VanWinkle* • Williams Lumber & Home Centers

Thank You, Volunteers!

The Foundation would like to extend a warm
thank you to all who have helped plan our events.

Karen Abramson • AnneMarie Andrews • Shirley Brereton '88 • Betsy Brown '64 • Scott & Tammy Chenevert
Toni Ciarfella • Paul Conrad '12 • Tim Decker • Joan DiMaso '68 • Ryan Fohl • Raymond Freda '88 • Maureen Gittelman
Jacqueline Goffe-McNish • Michael Hall • Stacey Langenthal • Sarah Lee • Karen Lynch • Peter Mahoney
Melissa McCoy • Susan McGlynn • Rita McPeck '88 • Susan Moore '66 • Lisa Morris '85 • Vincent Nunziato • Harro Penk
Virginia Poznack '77 • Jennifer Scully • Yvonne Sewell '69 • Marilyn Vetrano • Sally Weglinski '77 • Sarah Weikel



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