



Building the Future

DCC @ Fishkill hosted a manufacturing summit on Nov. 1 in which education professionals from DCC, Arlington High School and Pine Bush High School collaborated with local industry leaders to assess strengths and challenges of existing programs and brainstorm ways to fill the growing demand for technically proficient, innovative workers in the field.

On the horizon, DCC @ Fishkill's 6,000-square-foot Mechatronics Lab is set to open next September. The space will serve as a hub for credit and non-credit students to train in various types of manufacturing, including mechanical, electrical, HVAC, and automation. This variety of offerings is essential as the future workers in this profession are diverse— from high school students to adults retraining or re-upping their skills.

According to Dan Barbuto, Assistant Professor of Electrical Technology, "The Mechatronics Lab is going to produce students who know electricity and mechanical linkages and robotics and automation. It's a combination of things so a technician who is going to get hired is going to be more versatile."



Think Jobs

DCC @ Fishkill hosted the 5th annual Think Jobs Round Table forum on Nov. 2, focused on educating the community on efforts to bridge gaps in Dutchess County's workforce while also expanding work and training opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. More than 40 private sector business and human services agencies attended the roundtable, where they heard presentations on the Neurodiversity Employment Network and the Americans with Disabilities Act, in addition to success stories of employers and individuals of all abilities.

DCC's Office of Workforce Development and Continuing Education also took part in the Forum. Laraine Kautz, Workforce Development Liaison at DCC shares her experience working with Think Jobs over the past six years, "Every year that I participate in this event I learn something new. It is exciting to be a part of a team that is educating and supporting employers to expand their workforce to include individuals of all abilities."

We Asked, You Have Spoken!

As you may have noticed, this month's newsletter is going by a different name – "DCC Connects." With a 40% majority in favor of this name, it was victorious over the other contenders: "Falcon Matters" (26.3%), "The Falcon Eye" (24.2%), and "DCC Trending" (9.5%). The DEI section of our newsletter will be called "DEI Spotlight," which won in a landslide with 75.5% of votes. Thanks for your input!

DCC Welcomes Dr. Houston to the Team

Please welcome our new Vice President for Instruction & Learning, Dr. Raymond Houston. Dr. Houston comes to DCC from Westchester Community College (WCC) where he served as Dean of the School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering. He has been part of WCC since 2010. Prior to transitioning to the role of Dean in 2018, he held a tenure-track position in the Mathematics Department and served as Adjunct Coordinator, Assistant Department Chair and Department Co-Chair.



"I am excited to join the DCC family, and it is a privilege to be the next Vice President of Instruction and Learning. The warm welcome I received throughout the interview process confirmed that I made the right choice in applying for the position. I look forward to meeting everyone, listening to how you contribute to the success of DCC students, and integrating myself into the DCC community."

Dr. Houston earned his B.S. in Applied Mathematics and Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh, his M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from Point Park University and his Ed.D.C.T. in Mathematics Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Houston has over 19 years of experience in higher education. At previous institutions, he has served as a Coordinator of Mathematics & Science Tutoring, Coordinator of Developmental Mathematics and full-time lecturer.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Houston to the DCC family, and we look forward to his collaborative approach and the contributions he will bring to our learning community," Dr. Jordan shared.

Strategic Visioning

The College held three strategic visioning and focus group sessions between Nov. 14 and 28, a crucial next step toward developing DCC's next Strategic Plan. The plan aims to be a true synthesis of ideas between administration, faculty, staff and students and pan outward to gather input from the Dutchess county community – including government, industry and K-12 stakeholders. "It takes all of us, DCC and the surrounding communities, working together to build our strategic vision. This process is an excellent example of DCC building a strategic vision together," noted Dr. Jordan.

Originally crafted by the President's Advisory Council (PAC) over the course of this past summer, four lenses were used to guide the discussions – Students, Learning, Community and Growth. PAC members themselves facilitated the groups in which participants rotated to stations to share feedback on each of these topics. An impartial mediator from Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), Bill Passmore, designed the framework for the process. Asked what he thought our colleagues should know about last month's strategic visioning and focus group sessions, Bill said "the goal is for DCC's Strategic Plan to be a collaboration of diverse perspectives that is responsive to the needs of the College as well as the broader community."



[VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#) from the focus group sessions ▶

Congratulations, Day Care Center Colleagues!

Great news – after a successful site visit on Sept. 3, the Louis Greenspan Day Care Center was recently notified that they received reaccreditation from NAEYC having met their high Early Learning Standards.



The Roosevelt Legacy Lives On

George Washington University Professor, political historian and author of *Defenseless Under the Night: The Roosevelts, LaGuardia and the Origins of Homeland Security*, Dr. Matthew Dallek, came to James and Betty Hall Theatre on Nov. 17. He was selected to share his expertise with faculty, staff, students and the broader Dutchess community by Shalon Hallager, a professor of History at DCC and recipient of this year's Handel Foundation Endowed Faculty Chair to Perpetuate the Legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, administered by the DCC Foundation.



EMS Rising to the Challenge

On Nov. 10 and 11, DCC hosted its 13th annual and first in-person EMS Connections Conference in two years. Created in collaboration with the Mid-Hudson Regional Medical Center, this year's conference was called Rising to the Challenge and celebrated the strength, versatility and courage shown by the dedicated EMS professionals in our community during the Covid-19 pandemic. As Bernadette Cekuta, Coordinator for EMS Programs, said, "Medicine is always changing. In order to be the best providers possible, we have to stay on top of the most recent research and educational standards." Opportunities such as November's EMS Connections Conference help students, faculty, and local agencies do just that!

Being the Change

Doris Diaz-Kelly, EOP Director and Assistant Dean of Students at DCC, is one of only nine fellows chosen by SUNY's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to participate in the 2023 Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) for emerging leaders of Hispanic/Latinx descent. In its sixth year, HLI is an intensive 6-month program in which the selected faculty and staff from across the SUNY system are provided with training and networking opportunities, in addition to receiving strong support and mentorship.

Doris was recently interviewed by Spectrum News (**watch it here**) in which she shared how she plans to leverage this opportunity to go even further in her mission to help underrepresented students flourish in higher education, by collaborating with other leaders to help shape policies that support their success. Doris has already made a profound impact on her students as director of our EOP program and Dean of Students. Just imagine what she will be able to accomplish with this experience under her belt!

DEI SPOTLIGHT



WATCH THE INTERVIEW

A Lasting Impression



From left to right: Victoria Stoerzinger, Taylor Nevins, Adam Casey, Xandra Zucker, Gabrielle Johnson, Rose Forzano, Monique Reyes, Lauren Grzeczka, Naj Williams, William Hollick, Lauren Hollick, Larisa Sigalas, Laura Polirer, Michael Hollick, Jesse Navarra and Bradley Delmar.

Twenty-two artists were featured in the Juried Alumni Exhibition at the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery. The work was juried by local artist and educator Kate Collyer.

Four alumni in particular were recognized for their work. The Juror's award went to Larisa Sigalas for "RELIC," and Naj Williams received the Presidential Recognition Award for "Raft Captain." Presidential Honorable Mentions went to Jesse Navarra for "Heron in the Woods" and William Hollick for "Mislead."

Forgot Something? 🤔

Don't forget to train and get familiar with Brightspace to prepare for the spring semester!

"I thought about waiting until winter break to create my Brightspace classes, but luckily I started them before the end of the semester. There were a lot of items to figure out, even with the excellent training I had received at the College. Therefore, I recommend that all faculty take a training session and begin creating their classes as soon as possible." –Dr. Scott Willmen

Online/Hybrid/Remote Faculty: You can choose both synchronous and asynchronous options from SUNY for training. Completion of the Brightspace Fundamentals Certificate is required for training compensation. If you have been assigned your Spring classes, you should have access to both Brightspace and the Asynchronous Training Modules. If you have any questions or want to discuss your options, please contact the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC).

Face-to-Face Faculty: We strongly recommend attending either SUNY trainings or the Brightspace Introductory sessions on campus to familiarize yourself with the new system. If you have been assigned your Spring classes, you can start now! If you have any questions, please contact the TLC.

Everyone: We will be again offering the Brightspace Introductory sessions in January – please watch your email! You may also use the SUNY session recordings to help you learn the system. These are located at <https://dle.suny.edu/>, under Trainings > Recordings. Use your myDCC username and password to log in if needed.

The earlier you do the training, the more time you have to prepare for Spring!

Let Us All Be Merry!

Just a reminder that our Holiday Gathering is upon us! It's a great chance to connect with colleagues; have some desserts, hors d'oeuvres and beverages; and if you're lucky, maybe you'll even win a raffle prize or two! DCC CARES will graciously be accepting gift cards in any denomination (Walmart, Target, Kohl's, Price Chopper, Shop Rite and Stop & Shop are suggested) for members of our community who would appreciate your support during this holiday season. See you there!

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1 - 3 p.m. in the Ritz Lounge, Dutchess Hall

Dusting Off Our Glittery Red Boots

DCC's Performing Arts Program and Masquer's guild wowed audiences on the weekend of November 10 with *Kinky Boots*, an impressive resurrection of DCC's live theater productions after three years without a stage.

Kinky Boots, based on Harvey Fierstein's book of the same name, is an especially timely choice for a first performance following the pandemic-imposed hiatus. Dr. Jordan highlighted the story's "DEI themes of acceptance, appreciation, courage, empathy, grit and respect." He then added "The very diverse cast delivered a powerful performance to a packed opening night audience."

And audiences were all for it! In addition to an opening night packed with people eager to watch, more than 1,000 people attended over four performances, said Performing Arts Program Chair Tommy Costello. Faculty and staff who saw the musical described *Kinky Boots* as exuberant, electric, and interactive.

"You could see the three years of pent-up performance energy simply exploding on stage, and it was absolutely exhilarating!," said Holly McCabe, Associate Professor of Visual Arts. "The energy in the room was illuminating and the cast shined even brighter," Kaina Rivera, Director of Student Housing, echoed.



Women's Volleyball Serves Up Victory!

DCC Women's Volleyball Team placed 6th in the country in the NJCAA National Tournament in Rochester, Minnesota in November, posting a 2-2 record in tournament play!