

## New Direct Support Professional Programs Coming This Fall

As part of a statewide effort to improve retention and grow the direct support workforce, DCC has joined other SUNY schools in developing educational pathways that align with industry needs and provide opportunities both for incumbent workers and individuals interested in pursuing a career working with people with disabilities.

Starting this fall, the College will be offering three levels of DSP microcredentials composed of three classes and totaling nine credits each. Students will be placed in level I, II or III depending on their experience, and those new to the profession will be placed in internships to practice their skills. Tuition, books and fees for the DSP microcredentials are fully covered by funding from New York State, which [Governor Hochul announced in February](#), and students who complete one of the levels with a 2.0 or better will receive a one time \$750 bonus.

Additional assistance of up to \$2,300 may also be available to offset costs such as childcare and transportation.

Instructor and Chair of the Human Services Program Lacie Reilly says, "We anticipate up to 30 students will enroll in this program. Given the challenges of the industry, such as high turnover, low pay and demanding schedules, creating opportunities like this is essential. By removing financial barriers to education and incentivizing current DSPs, more people will be able to start and continue doing this important work."

For more information about the program, visit the new [DSP webpage](#).



## A Triumphant Occasion: 108 GED Graduates Grace the Stage!

As you were leaving work on Tuesday, June 20, you may have noticed campus was quite a bit busier than on a typical summer evening. That's because DCC's High School Equivalency (HSE) program was holding its first graduation since 2019, and graduates, along with their friends and family members, filled the seats of James & Betty Hall Theatre to celebrate their hard-won accomplishment. It was standing room only, with students from both the English and Spanish programs at several locations, including Brewster, Fishkill, Poughkeepsie and online, receiving their certificates. Speaking at the ceremony were DCC's Vice President for Instruction and Learning Dr. Raymond Houston, who gave the welcome address, and President Dr. Peter Jordan who presented remarks, followed by the keynote speaker, former New York State Senator Sue Serino, who spoke about her own experience earning a GED diploma and going on to achieve professional success.

HSE students Iyshur Rashad (English) and Nora S. Villeda Guzman (ESL) also shared their reflections on the program, and thanked some of the DCC professionals who helped them earn their diplomas, including instructors Angela Bonanno, Julia Saquicela, Joel Henderson and Sandra McKelvey, ESL Credit Free Program Coordinator Kimberly Bacon, and Transition Coach Emma Slate. Rashad will be continuing at DCC this fall in our Criminal Justice program and Villeda Guzman is in the interview process to attend Vassar College.



## VIPs in Action:

# Board of Trustees Chair Dupree and Husband Receive Family of the Year Award

Michael Dupree has served on DCC’s Board of Trustees for more than eight years and given to the College far longer than that. Both he and his husband, Michael Fleischer, have contributed a great deal to DCC and the broader community since moving to Hyde Park in 1993 and earned a number of honors and distinctions for their philanthropy, including DCC Foundation’s Bridge to the Future Award this past March.



Michael Dupree pictured (standing) with husband Michael Fleischer (sitting).

On July 13, the couple was presented with the Quality of Life Award at Family Services’ annual *Family of the Year Awards* celebration for making a memorable and positive impact on their Hudson Valley neighbors.

Asked about their devotion to the community, Dupree shared, “Both sets of parents taught us that you should be charitable if you can afford it, and for us, it’s not just about giving money. We also like to do the work.”

The family has been actively involved in a number of causes and initiatives throughout the

region for decades – from serving on the boards of local hospitals to spearheading beautification projects and, of course, investing in the future at DCC. Especially notable is their advocacy for year-round housing in the residence hall, which provides students with a safe place to live and get an education.

“It all boils down to helping young people,” Fleischer stated. “Higher education is at the very top of our list. The more educated people are, and the greater access they have to the arts and intellectual pursuits, the better society we will have for generations to come.”

Dr. Jordan said of the Dupree-Fleischer family, “They consistently demonstrate the core values DCC holds dear – collaboration, engagement, equity, innovation and excellence. Their immense support for DCC over the years has made a tangible difference in the lives of our students. We are incredibly proud and grateful that they are part of the DCC family.”

## Accommodative Services

July is Disability Pride Month, honoring the anniversary of the day the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. At DCC, July is a critical time for students to connect with college resources – and the perfect opportunity for a refresher on our Office of Accommodative Services (OAS), a key support for students with disabilities, whether they’re matriculated or taking credit free classes.

The range of conditions protected under ADA is broader than many realize. Director of Accommodative Services Linda Bertolozzi explains, “A disability is defined as ‘a condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities.’ Students may not know that Lyme disease, long Covid, pregnancy complications and mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety can qualify them for our services.”

The OAS values the opportunity to promote positive representation of disability and celebrate student achievement. They work to ensure equitable access to learning and college activities through developing strengths-based accommodation plans, which can include extra time on tests, the use of assistive technology, adjustments to the learning environment, etc. Some students may also be eligible for housing accommodations.

At the college level, the onus is on students to self identify and submit documentation, a very different process from the one recent high school graduates are used to. The OAS facilitates this transition, helping students feel comfortable, supported and informed. Additionally, since disability can affect students at any point in their college career, there’s no deadline to apply, though sooner is better!

### ACCOMMODATIVE SERVICES STAFF:

Back row left to right are Douglas Pafumi, Lori Polhill and Yunice Heath. Front row left to right are Jacqueline Ahl and Pete Gumbinger. Linda Bertolozzi couldn’t make the photo!



As faculty and staff, knowing about and normalizing accommodative services can have a major impact on student outcomes. For more information about the OAS, visit [their webpage](#) or talk to Linda or any of the friendly folks pictured in the photo!

# Where Community Meets Opportunity: *DCC Alumna and Longtime Staff Member to Run for Mayor of Poughkeepsie*

Born and raised in Poughkeepsie, Yvonne Flowers has been an active member of the Dutchess County community for decades – both at DCC, where she worked in the Business Office for 33.5 years, and as Fifth Ward Councilwoman, first elected in 2009. On June 27, just months after retiring, she won a competitive three-way race to become the city’s Democratic mayoral candidate.

You may know her as a dedicated colleague, but did you also know that she started at DCC as a student? Flowers first heard about the College in 1989 through a TV commercial about our Bookkeeping Certificate program. A mother of two small children, she jumped on the opportunity to enroll – seeing it as a pathway to a well-paying job in accounting. Her experience here grew into so much more.



Photo by Julie Maserjian.

Throughout her time at DCC, Flowers says she was supported in reaching and exceeding her goals. From the beginning, Financial Services connected her with a work study position where she could apply the skills she was learning in her classes. After completing her Bookkeeping Certificate in 1990, she decided to continue on for her associate degree and was

encouraged by her supervisor to take a civil service test and apply for an accounting position in the Business Office, which helped launch her DCC career. She earned her Accounting A.A.S. degree in 1995.

Flowers credits the teaching she received as a student and mentorship in her professional life with keeping her focused and fostering her success. “I always looked at DCC as a second home,” she shared. “The community environment here on campus – in my office and in the classroom – got me through some very challenging

times and allowed me to step into leadership roles that helped boost my self-confidence, making me into the woman I am today.”

Flowers first entered local government to solve problems in her own neighborhood. Seeing the difference she could make on city council, she set

out on a mission to improve safety, quality of life and access to opportunities for the broader community. As someone who transformed her life through taking full advantage of all that DCC has to offer and devoted herself to helping others, Flowers is an inspiration and a testament to the power of a community college education.

## Help us Build DCC’s Digital Presence!

**Have a website change?** Submit a web request to ensure our site is up to date:

[sunydutchess.edu/web-request](https://sunydutchess.edu/web-request).

**Social Media:** Share your events, photos and stories using our social media request form at

[sunydutchess.edu/social](https://sunydutchess.edu/social).





## The Community

Each year DCC publishes "The Community," an anthology of literary and visual work by students, faculty and staff. If you haven't already, you can pick up your free copy at the Writing Center or view a PDF of the publication [here](#).

## Summertime, and the Readin' is Easy

We asked folks on campus to recommend some of their favorite books and heard a lot of great suggestions. Whether you're looking for a book of essays, a graphic novel, classic or contemporary fiction, or a scholarly text, we've got you covered!

View [this video](#), which includes commentary from Writing Center Professional Tutor Alix Ciferri-Torres, Assistant Librarian Thomas Trinchera, student and Lab Aide Naomi Flinchum-Marquez, Assistant Librarian Tina Kiernan and Acting Director of the Writing Center Dana Gavin about why they chose their respective books.

Selections are listed below and linked to the Ritz Library catalog for ease of access!

[The Song of Achilles](#), by Madeline Miller

[March: Book One](#), by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

[A Room of One's Own](#), by Virginia Woolf

[101 Essays That Will Change the Way You Think](#), by Brianna Wiest

[Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza](#), by Gloria Anzaldúa

## A Hub for Learning, Business and Industry

College may be out for the summer, but President Jordan has been busy! Last month, he gave presentations to board members at the Dyson Foundation, the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and Council of Industry (COI). In these meetings, he provided an overview of the College's Strategic Plan, the changing demographics of college students and areas of economic growth in the region – sharing DCC's vision for future programs and partnerships.

COI President Harold King shared, "We're excited to be able to build on DCC's strengths as an educational institution and the central location of the new Mechatronics lab to create a real hub for the community – a place where Dutchess County government, BOCES, industry and the College can come together to connect the dots and really help people, both in terms of growing the talent pool to fill open positions and providing training on the latest technologies for incumbent workers."



# Campus Notes



## Enrollment Updates

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg reported on July 17 that fall enrollment is up, for both new and returning students, compared to this time last year. There are 403 more students (+19.7%) registered in 5,451 more credits (+23.2%). Given that this August's Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) cohort is larger and is fully registered earlier than last year, the adjusted increase in enrollment is approximately 390 students and 5,100 credits. Returning student enrollment (1,589) is also up 52 students from last year. Additionally, there are 3,753 applications for fall, 579 (+18%) more than last year.



## New CSTEP Students Prepare for Success

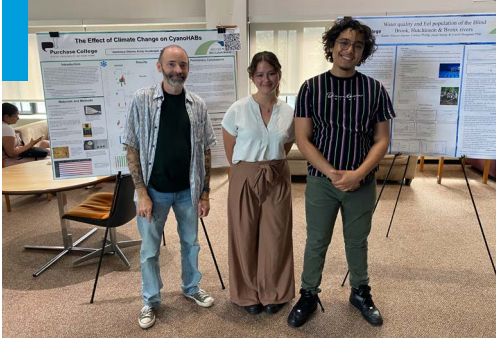
Incoming freshmen enrolled in DCC's Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) began a six-week summer program on July 6 designed to help them acclimate to college life and build their skill sets. The students are in class Monday through Thursday mornings participating in two free introductory classes – math at 9 a.m. followed by biology at 10 a.m. Between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., they receive a workshop on topics such as college skills, financial aid, stress management and more. Over the course of the program, they also work on research projects, which they present on the penultimate day of class, August 9.



The Dutchess County Emergency Medical Services Council recognized EMS providers, agencies and local hospital staff on Wednesday, June 14 at its annual awards event held in Red Hook. Among those honored was **Alexandra Williams**, BLS Paramedic instructor. Congratulations, Alexandra on receiving the EMS Educator of Excellence award!

Congratulations to Associate Professor of Business Technology **Michael Araujo Moreno** who has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center in Kingston. He was among the founding members of DCC's LGBTQ+ Committee and held its banner in Poughkeepsie's first PRIDE Parade in June 2019.

# Campus Notes



## Biology Grads Engage in Summer Research Projects

Kristy Houskeeper ('23) and Randy Alarcon Aquino ('23) were selected to participate in the Bridges to the Baccalaureate summer research experience at Purchase College. The program, recognized by President Obama for its excellence, is designed to support community college students as they transition to and complete a baccalaureate program in the research sciences. Kristy's project was entitled "The Effect of Climate Change on CyanoHABs," and Randy's was "Water Quality and Eel Population of the Blind Brook, Hutchinson, and Bronx Rivers." Kristy was one of three students to be recognized with an Outstanding Presentation award. Professor of Biology Mark Condon has been the DCC coordinator for this program since its inception. DCC has been collaborating with Purchase and sending students to the summer program since 2000.



## Thinking Outside the Box

DCC is partnering with Th!nk Dutchess to jointly market applied learning opportunities in mechatronics and aviation to middle and high school aged students. Members of Th!nk Dutchess visited DCC @ HVR Airport on July 11 to tour the Aviation Education Center and learn more about the College's aviation offerings. DCC's Michael Roe, Genna Suraci and John Trosie, along with Assistant County Executive Ron Hicks, led conversations on the importance of educating K-12 students about the career paths and demand for skilled, hands-on careers, as well as the need to break the stigma traditionally associated with such professions.



AVIATION MAINTENANCE RECRUITMENT COACH MICHAEL TRAVIS PICTURED (MIDDLE) WITH STUDENTS JAKE STAGMAN (LEFT) AND DENVER KRONK (RIGHT).

## Soaring High at the NYS Airshow

The DCC admissions team, along with our flight partner US Aviation Academy, attended the NYS Airshow June 24.

According to Associate Dean of Student Services Mike Roe, "This event is a great way for DCC to promote our amazing pilot and aviation maintenance programs to aviation enthusiasts throughout the Northeast. I have met with people from as far away as Connecticut and Pennsylvania at previous air shows."

# Campus Notes

## New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

**Bouazza Abidi**, housekeeper, Facilities

**Yvonne Battista**, senior program assistant,  
DCC Fishkill

**Donna Collins**, program assistant, ACT Center

**Brooke DiPaola**, part-time instructor, EMT

**Judith Lopez**, HSE coordinator, Family  
Partnership Center

**Anastasia Palmigiano**, teaching lab  
assistant, AHBS-Biology

**Tori Prine**, part-time instructor, EMT

**Julia Taylor**, housekeeper, Facilities

**Alex Valentin**, director of information  
systems, IT

## Promotions – Congratulations, Colleagues!

**Cheryl Barnhill**, part-time assistant professor, Biology

**Nicole Beveridge**, part-time assistant professor, English

**Kathleen Gavin**, part-time associate professor, Psychology

