

## Direct Support Professionals On the Rise



Just over a year ago, Governor Hochul's office announced a \$5 million partnership between SUNY and the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to address the shortage of direct support professionals (DSPs), who provide essential care to people with disabilities. The innovative solution was to expand direct support professional (DSP) microcredential offerings in the SUNY system, covering the cost of tuition and providing wraparound supports, such as childcare, technology and transportation assistance, so that working students could complete the program.

Over the past 13 months, our Human Services department went into overdrive, developing a robust curriculum and working with offices across the College, including Admissions, DCC Cares, the ACT Center, the Registrar and the Office of Marketing and Communications to attract students and ensure that they would be well-supported. As the first cohort of 14 was completing their microcredentials

at the end of the fall semester, another round of funding was announced, allowing the program to accommodate the 173 students currently enrolled.

On March 20, DCC celebrated these monumental successes with the government, education and human services agency leaders whose shared vision paved the way for the creation of the DSP program. The DSP Completion Ceremony was emceed by Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Susan Rogers, whose leadership was instrumental in coordinating the event. President Jordan gave the opening remarks, followed by speeches from OPWDD Commissioner Kerri Neifeld, SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr., Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, Instructor and Chair of DCC's Human Services program Lacie Reilly, and Greystone Programs Assistant Executive Director - Clinical Services and Staff Development Dr. Pattiann LaVeglia.

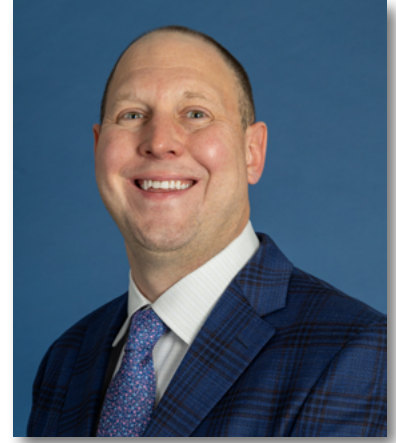
Two DSP students, Ellen Mayer and Florence Oyuko, spoke at the end of the program. Their stories were heartfelt and inspiring, full of pride, passion and wit. It was a moving ceremony that underscored the importance of the work DSPs do and the value of finding collaborative solutions to collective challenges.

To top it all off, OPWDD Commissioner Neifeld and SUNY Chancellor King made an [announcement on behalf of Governor Hochul](#) that the state will be investing an additional \$32 million in support of this initiative, extending the DSP program funding to 2030 and broadening it to include six more SUNY schools. Click to view [photo](#) and [video](#) coverage of the ceremony.



## New AVP for Enrollment and Student Success

Brian Sondey comes to DCC from Rockland Community College (RCC) where he was the executive director of enrollment services. Over his 15-year career in higher education, Sondey has served in both public and private institutions. He's worked on the ground as an admissions advisor, gaining firsthand knowledge of advisement and financial aid, and in leadership, advancing large-scale initiatives to boost student enrollment and retention. Sondey brings this wealth of experience and complementary educational background, a master's in business leadership from Concordia College (2016), and a bachelor's in marketing and public relations from New England College (2005), to the AVP for enrollment and student success role.



Driven by a passion for helping students who may not have otherwise seen college as a viable option – such as adult learners, first-generation and low-income students, and minority populations – Sondey said he's excited to be able to do even more in his new capacity at DCC. "Everyone has a path in education," he shared. "I fully believe in the power and necessity of community colleges to provide the opportunity for all students to thrive." Recognizing that a key part of reaching DCC's WIG (wildly important goal) of a 5,000-student headcount is keeping the students we already have, Sondey says he looks forward to working collaboratively across campus to promote access, persistence and achievement. He's already begun working on a seven-point strategy he calls his "snow day retention plan." (You can ask him how it got its name.)

A few fun facts about Brian: he's a new Disney fan, a retired basketball coach and very family-oriented. A Brewster resident, Brian said DCC is a home campus, and he looks forward to making a difference in a place where his children are growing up. "Fourteen years from now, I hope to be helping my kids and their friends enroll at DCC."



## HVAC & Building Technologies Advisory Committee

The Mechatronics Lab was only the beginning! DCC is now working on a significant expansion in Fishkill to include a training facility in HVAC and Building Technologies. To get this going, on February 15 we convened an advisory committee of local businesses, P-12 partners, labor unions, the Council of Industry, and members of the county's Economic Development Advisory Council. This newly formed council provided input and direction on curriculum, training equipment, and space needed for the expanded programming. They plan to meet every 4-6 weeks through the duration of the project. Approximately \$1M has already been secured through SUNY for this project, and local industry partners are interested in contributing additional funds and equipment. We are excited to embark on this next phase in the full development of the Center of Excellence for Industry & Innovation!





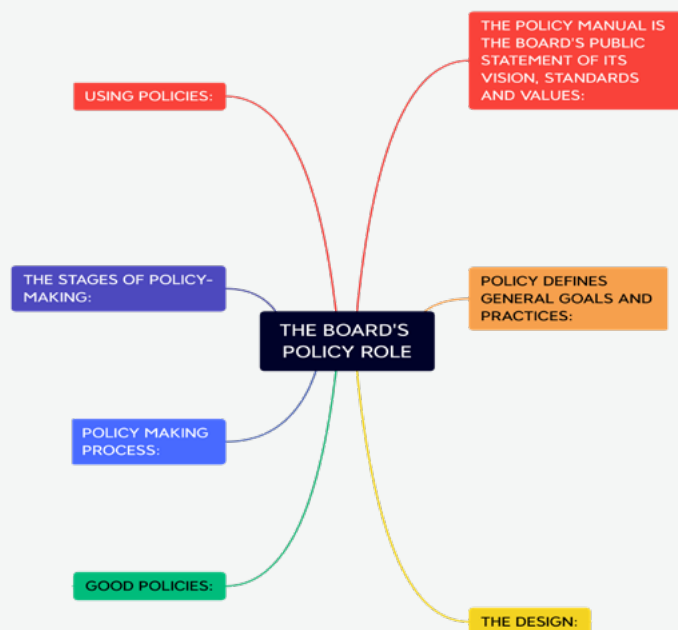
## VIPs in Action:

### Creating Possibility Through Policy

One of the key topics of last month's Board of Trustees (BOT) Retreat was how to align Board policies with our strategic plan to drive the achievement of DCC's strategic goals. On the second day of the retreat, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) facilitator Dr. Bruce Leslie gave a presentation titled, "Strategic Planning as the Foundation to Board Policy," in which he reviewed the principles of trustee policy responsibility and discussed the process for policy development. Dr. Leslie emphasized the importance of Board policy development in establishing a strong governance framework within community colleges, underscoring that, when aligned with the College's strategic plan, it can be a force for institutional effectiveness and mobility.

Later that afternoon, Chair of the BOT Policy Committee Trustee Guzmán co-facilitated a board development exercise with Dr. Jordan to begin looking at ways for DCC to apply these concepts to our institution.

"Changing the role of the Board in policy development from reactive to proactive is the goal of the Board Policy Committee moving forward," explained Trustee Guzmán. "Our aim is to create policies that not only reflect and support the strategic plan, but they themselves become measures of Board effectiveness." The chart below was used at the retreat to help trustees visualize the board's policy role and processes for policy development.



# Women's History Month



This year's theme for Women's History Month is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion," so it's especially apt that it should be the subject of our March DEI Spotlight. DCC's Women's Activity Committee (WAC) collaborated with several departments on campus – including the DCC Foundation, the Office of Marketing and Communications, Admissions, Workforce Education and Development, the Writing Center, and facilities – to develop, promote and execute an exciting lineup.

Along with weekly restorative yoga classes taught by Assistant Librarian Tina Kiernan, they brought us the annual favorites, Reading Women, held on March 12 in the Handel Dining Room, and the [Women in STEAM Panel](#) on March 28. On March 14, former DCC professor and award-winning author, Gail Upchurch-Mills, led a lively discussion on Zoom centered on the creative process and writing fiction. The talk was part of the Writing Center's "Process to Text" series supported by the DCC Foundation.

In addition to these organized events, DCC's history and English departments offer women's studies classes throughout the year. WAC Chair and Assistant Professor of History Sharon Hallager is teaching HIS 214 - The History of Women in the U.S. "The students all seem really invested in the course," said Hallager. "They can see how the issues we discuss relate to their personal lives as well as the larger global context. Through learning about women's history, we analyze and connect our past struggles to our present and our future, helping us understand ourselves and the challenges we face, but also how we can advance women's rights." DCC offers two related classes for students interested in the subject; they are listed below.

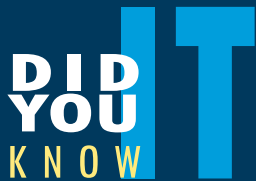
**ENG 223: Women in American Literature**

**ENG 234: Introduction to Women's Studies**

# A Grand Entry to Poughkeepsie's Northside

Seven years ago, The Poughkeepsie Alliance created a video outlining three art projects that would benefit our region. One of those projects was to transform the roundabout at the intersection of Creek Road and Smith Street, to help signify the northern entrance to Poughkeepsie. Depending on your commute and tenure at DCC, you may have witnessed some or all of this transformation.

On February 29, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Boys and Girls Club to celebrate the completion of The Corey Ingram Circle and Walk of Champions. The event honored the circle's namesake, a fallen U.S. Navy Officer and former DCC student, along with the first five City of Poughkeepsie champions, among them Wesley Lee, an adjunct professor at DCC. Attendees heard remarks from key community leaders – City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, NYS Senator Rob Rolison, NYS Assemblymember Johnathan Jacobson, Poughkeepsie City School District Superintendent Dr. Eric Jay Rosser and DCC VP of Institutional Effectiveness and Chief of Staff Dr. Susan Rogers. A reception was held afterward in DCC's Dutchess Hall. If you don't normally pass the roundabout, now's the time to check it out!



## Don't Geofence Me In



**You're traveling outside the US and need access to DCC's system. But you can't get in! What are you supposed to do? First, the reason you can't get in is because of geofencing. A geofence is a virtual perimeter around a specific location. Our geofencing perimeter is the United States.**

**But you can request geofence access from IT if you'll be traveling. Here's how.**

### **Step 1: Notify IT via ticket or stop by in person:**

We need your reasons for access, proposed security measures, and other considerations. Let us know how long you'll be traveling and what kind of access you'll need.

### **Step 2: Making sure your devices are capable and compliant**

In line with February's Microsoft Authenticator App update, we'll be asking users to leverage the app's strong security features for access outside of the geofence (USA). Our IT helpdesk staff can assist you with these settings.

### **Step 3: Follow Up and Implementation**

Once the App is configured, we'll apply the necessary settings to grant you access to Microsoft 365 resources while traveling outside the USA. Please notify us if your return will be delayed, otherwise access will be revoked at the previously stated time of return.

Remember, the Help Desk can be reached at [helpdesk@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:helpdesk@sunydutchess.edu).

Can't email? Call x4357 or (845) 431-8005.

If you get voicemail, please leave your contact information and a description of your troubles.

All voicemails are automatically generated into tickets.

# Campus Notes

## Assemblymember Barrett Kicks Off Women's History Month

Each March, Assemblymember Didi Barrett holds a Women's History Month Celebration highlighting one woman from her office's annual publication, "Women's History in the Hudson Valley." This year's event, held at DCC on March 3, was very well attended. It was standing-room-only in Bowne 122, with members of the internal and external community gathering to honor the life and contributions of Susan Peltz Hochhauser, a former assistant dean in the Office of Community Services at DCC. Read her story, along with those of 9 other exceptional women who helped shape our region, in the 2024 edition of [Women's History in the Hudson Valley](#).



*From left are Susan Peltz Hochhauser's daughter Karen Hocchauser, Assemblymember Didi Barrett and Poughkeepsie Mayor Yvonne Flowers*

## It's Gala Time!

The DCC Foundation is holding its annual Our Community's Bridge to the Future gala on Saturday, April 6 at The Grandview. This year's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductees are John Genovese '74 and Edward Pittman '80, who will be recognized for their outstanding contributions and commitment to the community. The Bridge to the Future Award will be presented to DAY ONE Early Learning Community co-founder Geraldine Laybourne, and Brian Doyle, who served as CEO of Family Services for 11 years, will receive the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award.

The College community is invited to attend the event, which includes a cocktail reception, silent auction, lively dinner and more. Gala proceeds will support the more than \$800,000 of annual funding that the DCC Foundation provides to faculty and staff, for educational initiatives and campus enhancements. You can purchase your tickets on the DCC Foundation [webpage](#). For questions, contact Burnelle Roser at (845) 431-8402 or [burnelle.roser@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:burnelle.roser@sunydutchess.edu).



## Help us Build DCC's Digital Presence!

**Need to update something on the website?** Submit a web request at [sunydutchess.edu/web-request](https://sunydutchess.edu/web-request).

**Have a story or event to share?** Past, present and future DCC stories and events -- this is the material we need to engage our audience. Submit your ideas here: [sunydutchess.edu/social](https://sunydutchess.edu/social).





# Campus Notes



## Upcoming Talk Centered on Holocaust Survivors in Germany

Vanderbilt University Professor of History and 2023/24 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Scholar **Helmut Walser Smith** will be at DCC next month to give a lecture titled "Last Gathering in Haigerloch: German-Jewish Survivors in their Hometowns, 1945-1949." The event, made possible by the DCC Foundation, is free and open to the public. It will take place on April 18 at 7 p.m. in the James and Betty Hall Theatre.

"I am particularly pleased with this year's choice to present the annual Greenspan Trust-Handel Foundation Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies to Dr. Helmut Walser Smith," said Professor of History Dr. Werner Steger. "He will

introduce a new aspect of the Holocaust to the lecture series – emphasizing what survivors of the Shoah did after World War II. While historians have investigated survivors' post-war migration to the U.S., Palestine and, later, Israel, few have explored why German Jews would return to their hometowns after the War."



## Angela Romano Named VP of SUNYRA

DCC Registrar Angela Romano was recently appointed as the executive vice president of the SUNY Registrars' Association (SUNYRA), marking the beginning of a two-year commitment and paving the way for her future presidency. This is a position that is rarely held by a registrar at a community college, so it's an especially proud moment for DCC. On her appointment and the path ahead, Romano said, "I am honored to be given this opportunity by my SUNY Registrar colleagues to serve in this leadership role for a group of registrar professionals who pride themselves on professionalism and collaboration. SUNYRA has promoted the exchange of information and ideas on various initiatives and programs in the SUNY system as

well as the broader academic and professional community for SUNY institutions for 50 years, and being able to lead this group in the coming years will be my absolute pleasure." Congratulations, Angela!



## Supporting Hudson Valley Veterans

On February 9, Veterans Resource Coordinator Stewart Dawes participated in Congressman Pat Ryan's Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board visit to the Veterans' Residence in Putnam County, which provides housing and transportation to veterans. The goal of the visit was to gain an understanding of veteran housing concerns in the Hudson Valley and determine what efforts are needed to address these concerns. "Putnam County has dedicated this building

to their veterans," said Dawes. "The facility is really interactive, which makes it feel like a community. It's a beautiful building, and the veterans who currently live there love it." Dawes will meet with Pat Ryan later this month to discuss homelessness and other issues facing the Hudson Valley.

# Campus Notes

## Debate News

The DCC Speech and Debate Coalition competed in Bowling Green State University's That 90s Reboot Virtual Tournament on February 25. The team had an impressive showing in their most crowded and diverse field this season. First-year debater Shayna Kaiser advanced to the quarterfinals in the Novice International Public Debate Association (IPDA) debate, and early-admit student Dadoen Tenzin finished the tournament in second place in the Novice IPDA debate and as the top-ranked speaker overall.



DCC Speech and Debate Coalition coach and Assistant Professor of Speech Margeaux Lippman stated "Our students showed once again that they can outsmart and out-argue students from four-year schools that are better funded with more robust travel schedules. Their commitment to practicing and putting in the work brought them these wins. I'm happy to be along for the ride and excited to see what PKD brings us."

The team will end its season at Pi Kappa Delta Nationals in Glendale, Arizona from March 7 through 12.

## Strengthening the DCC to Marist Pathway

In early February, 19 DCC Student Services staff members attended a DCC/Marist Professional Development Day as part of the College's ongoing efforts to broaden and strengthen local institutional partnerships that benefit our students. Staff attended workshops on topics such as transfer admissions, benefitted from a student-focused panel on effective transfer experiences and participated in a Marist campus tour. Through collaborating closely with Marist, the College is strengthening our [DCC to Marist Pathway](#), which offers a streamlined admission process and shared resources to support the smooth transition as students transfer from community college to the 4-year institution.

## Friendly Competition to Fight Cancer

DCC hosted the 10th annual Officials vs. Cancer Tournament on February 3, drawing over 100 attendees. The event showcased the talents of 10 high school boys' basketball teams from Section I and Section IX. "It's great opening our doors to the Section I and Section IX high school student-athletes and giving them the opportunity to come together and raise awareness for a great cause, cancer awareness," said Director of Athletics Matt Paquet. "All proceeds for the tournament go directly to the American Cancer Society to support cancer research and awareness initiatives." The tournament raised over \$13,000, the highest total ever, surpassing the previous record set back in 2016.



### Fore!

Look out, the DCC Foundation's annual golf tournament and dinner is heading your way this May 20. If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please contact DCC Foundation Coordinator of Special Events Stefania Timpano at [stefania.timpano@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:stefania.timpano@sunydutchess.edu). For more info, or if you'd like to play, go to [www.sunydutchess.edu/golf](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/golf).

# Campus Notes

## On the Table: Resources for Student Mental Health



In February, the Counseling Center collaborated with two organizations to raise awareness about important mental health challenges our students face – teen dating violence and eating disorders. Together with Family Services, they tabled three times throughout February, which is also **Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month**. On Wear Orange Day, February 6, they provided students, faculty and staff with information and resources about TVAM, in addition to sharing prevention resources and details about upcoming events. On February 20 and 29, they focused on the topics, “Healthy Relationship Screener/

Red Flags” and “What Makes a Healthy Relationship?” The Counseling Center also tabled with The Renfrew Center for Eating Disorders on February 14, inviting students to join in the conversation about body image concerns and learn more about eating disorders as well as the supports available to them.

On March 11, in recognition of Self-Injury/Self-Harm Awareness Month, DCC Part-time Counselor Alexa Akselband held a table event to help break the silence, dispel myths, and offer support to those who experience self-harm. It was also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of understanding and compassion in approaching this sensitive topic, fostering environments where affected individuals can seek help without judgment.

## Intel on Artificial Intelligence



*From left to right are: Ibis Guzmán, Stephen Caswell, Linda Pratt, Darrah Cloud, Michael Dupree, Dana Gavin, Dr. Jordan, Evelyn Panichi, Frank Castella Jr., and Maya Chinkan*

Director of the Writing Center Dana Gavin was recognized by the Board of Trustees on February 27 for her scholarship on artificial intelligence. She co-authored a forthcoming paper titled **Cross-Campus Approaches to Building a Generative AI Policy**, which was published by EDUCASE Review in December. She also co-authored a chapter in the “Handbook of Curriculum Theory and Research” titled **A-Flat (Packed) Affect: Theorizing Pedagogies of Seriality in Unboxing and Assembly**. A Ph.D. candidate at Old Dominion University, Gavin successfully defended her dissertation on the effects of technology on writing and publishing in the nineteenth century on March 22.

“Though the handbook chapter was in process long before I became the director of the Writing Center, I can say that my research on generative AI and the impacts that technology is having on higher education is directly influenced by my work with the DCC community,” said Gavin. “As an educator in the twenty-first century, surrounded by amazing students who deserve to read, write and think at a highly critical level, I am bound and determined to learn everything I can about the development and deployment of generative AI. I am so grateful for the support of Dr. Jordan, the Board of Trustees, and colleagues like Melanie Klein and Chrisie Mitchell, who give me the opportunity to develop my work for the benefit of DCC.” Congratulations, Dr. Gavin!



# Personnel Updates

## New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

**Karen Escolas**, temporary FT for instructor of clinical lab sciences, Medical Laboratory

**Juliana Freiberg**, grants & institutional research analyst, Institutional Research and Planning

**Ryan Haecker**, part-time technology specialist, Office of Accommodative Services

**Markanthony Nicholas**, housekeeper I, Custodial Services

**Arturo Pacheco**, housekeeper I, Custodial Services

**Brian Sondey**, AVP for enrollment and student success, Office of Enrollment Management

## Title Changes and Appointments

**Benjamin Claudio**, academic coach - full-time, ACT Center

**Michelle Diano**, assistant director of admissions, Office of Admissions

**Barbaba Warren**, director of campus safety and project management, Risk Management

**James T. Williams**, academic coach - full-time, ACT Center

## Recently Retired – Don't Forget to Visit!

**Anthony Pane**, auto & equipment mechanic, Physical Plant/Facilities

