



shaping our future

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

DUTCHESS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DUTCHESS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

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DCC AT A GLANCE

\$283 million

DCC'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT*

1,587

SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDED BY THE DCC
FOUNDATION SINCE 2016

6,650
STUDENTS

INCLUDING **OVER 2,200**
TAKING DCC CLASSES
IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL

2 CONSECUTIVE
YEARS
Significant enrollment growth
adding over 400 students

3,500+ JOBS

ARE SUPPORTED BY DCC*
1 PER 45 JOBS IN THE COUNTY*

**TWO OUT OF
THREE STUDENTS
GRADUATED**

WITH **NO** STUDENT LOAN DEBT

\$5.5 million

DCC FOUNDATION SUPPORT
TO THE COLLEGE SINCE 2016

60+ DEGREE, CERTIFICATE
AND MICROCREDENTIAL
PROGRAMS

846 CONKLIN
SCHOLARS

FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
IN TWENTY-ONE YEARS

52,445

TOTAL ALUMNI AS OF MAY 2024

*Lightcast Economic Impact Study, November 2023

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Poughkeepsie, NY
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(845) 790-3600

DCC @ HVR AIRPORT

237 New Hackensack Road
Wappingers Falls, NY
(845) 790-3660

**DCC @ FAMILY
PARTNERSHIP CENTER**

29 North Hamilton Street
Poughkeepsie, NY
(845) 790-3590

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

There's a clear energy across the College this year. It's something we each emit as we look forward to the future, engage with our students, inspire our community and advance our mission.

We accomplished a great deal together last year, beginning with the launch of our strategic plan and its four lenses: Students, Learning, Community and Growth. Together, they point us to our north star — enrollment — and our Wildly Important Goal (WIG) of increasing our headcount in credit-bearing coursework to more than 5,000 students by 2028. It's even sparked an internal slogan: "Five thousand in five years!"

We've aligned each lens with that goal, complete with objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure our success. We then ensured these goals would be tangible and relevant across the College by establishing them at our unit levels (Enrollment and Student Success; Finance and Administration; Institutional Effectiveness; and Instruction and Learning) as well.

This renewed focus has had an immediate impact, contributing to the increased enrollment we've generated in each of the last two years. In all, more than 4,370 students are now at DCC — 420 more than in the fall of 2022 — a rise of nearly 11%! This includes a 4.3% increase this year, despite the many challenges the FAFSA process changes caused. When College in the High School students are added, total enrollment stands at 6,650 — up 200 from last year.

This fall, we saw notable growth among continuing students — especially part-time learners, who represented the largest increase. Also, more students are choosing to reside on campus, with residence hall occupancy growing by more than 20% for the second straight year.



President Jordan hosted a group of Dutchess County Legislators for a campus tour in October.

To be sure of impact, we're not just setting targets without relevancy, nor are we enrolling students who lack a need. To the contrary, we're working hard across campus and the community to identify new populations we can serve — new lives we can enhance. Thus, we're continuously exploring and assessing new strategies and opportunities, including meetings with local industry leaders to develop and expand various programs. Examples include the new HVAC Technology microcredential and degree programs at our Mechatronics Lab, the new Universal Pre-K program at our Louis Greenspan Day Care Center and the new P-TECH program launched in area high schools — all of which you'll read about in this report.



Dr. Jordan joins a group of donors and scholarship recipients at this year's Honors Convocation.

**DCC partners with individuals,
not-for-profit organizations,
business and industry, and
government agencies to enhance
the quality of life in the
mid-Hudson Valley.**

We're also making strategic investments to bolster existing programs, especially areas of strength where we can stand out. This includes physical assets like learning spaces, equipment and technology that complement pedagogy and create a vibrant, connected environment. This also includes a fresh look at our main campus, with the potential to create a stronger central hub designed to bring DCC to life year-round.

In addition, we're working with the National Institute for Student Success to address students' roadblocks to enrollment and achievement. Examples include translating recruitment documents into Spanish to better support our region's Hispanic community and expanding our denied-students pathway partnerships.

And we're finding ways to introduce students in their teens to DCC through social/educational programs. One such example is the new community garden we opened this summer, working with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Green Teen Workforce Development program, which is also discussed in this report.

Lastly, we're making strategic investments in our people — not only in their numbers, but also in their personal growth, professional development, health and wellness. We're ensuring that everyone on campus can work and learn in a safe, welcoming environment, with resources available to support their physical, emotional and financial well-being.

This all falls under the broader umbrella of direction-setting and culture — in adherence to our strategic plan and goals. From student support to academic excellence to community engagement, we strive to improve our relevance, communication and value. We never want DCC to feel like a transactional experience or a means to an end. Students must feel like this is not only their school, but an important and positive part of their academic and social lives. It should be a place they long to be — where they feel welcome and at home.

Indeed, enrollment and culture are inextricably linked. They show us how to best serve the community. They fuel our fiscal health. They add to the College's dynamism. In other words, they breathe LIFE into DCC!

So, in closing, I thank you. Thank you for supporting DCC. Thank you for entrusting us as good stewards of your time, talents and generosity. Thank you for contributing to our momentum and our region's growth. As I stated, there's an energy on campus and across the community that is distinct and inspiring. I hope you feel it, too — and that you continue to add to it in your own unique way.

Sincerely,

Peter Grant Jordan, Ed.D.
President



TO OUR DONORS:

Thank you.

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Llelanie S. Orcutt
Allyn J.* and Mildred I.* Washington

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NOTE: LIFETIME GIVING TOTALS AS OF 8/31/2024

*deceased

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Every year tells a story — one of determination, growth and the transformative power of education. At DCC, this past year was no exception. Together, we opened doors, overcame challenges and created opportunities that will resonate for generations — all because of your generosity.

We celebrate the vital role you play in bringing DCC's mission to life. This past year's achievements — from innovative programs to strengthened community partnerships — have been made possible by your steadfast commitment. You've helped turn dreams into reality. You've empowered students to excel academically and personally by alleviating tuition costs and providing emergency grants during unexpected challenges.

DCC has expanded degrees in our Mechatronics Lab, established Universal Pre-K at the Louis Greenspan Day Care Center and is examining new HVAC Technology microcredentials — and your ongoing support has been integral to that growth. Similarly, the P-TECH initiative has created new pathways for high school students, while partnerships like the Cornell Cooperative Extension Green Teen Workforce Development program are shaping the next generation of leaders.

Your impact reaches far beyond these milestones. Because of you, students and faculty have the tools they need to thrive. Initiatives like DCC CARES continue to grow, learning spaces are enhanced and essential resources, including the Dr. Mary Louise Van Winkle Teaching Learning Center, are sustained.

Your generosity continues to fuel creativity, innovation and hope in countless ways — from the Aviation Education Center shaping future pilots and technicians, to vibrant performances in the Black Box Theater, to the new community garden.

As we turn to 2025, we aim even higher. Guided by our strategic plan's goals, we look to further fuel academic excellence, innovation and community engagement. With your continued support, we will:

- **Foster Student Success** by funding scholarships, providing wrap-around support services and experiential learning opportunities to empower achievement.
- **Enhance Community Connections** by building regional vitality through alumni engagement, partnerships, events and outreach.
- **Promote Academic Excellence** by supporting relevant and rigorous academic initiatives that meet the evolving needs of students and the college; and
- **Inspire Innovation** by investing in technology, programs and teaching methods that drive growth and establish leadership in educational excellence.

Every gift you make produces a ripple effect of opportunity, reaching far beyond our campus. Your support inspires us daily, driving change — one student, one program and one achievement at a time. Thank you for your trust, generosity and partnership. Together, we are shaping the future for our students, community and beyond.

Warmly,



Lisa A. Morris '85
Board Chair,
DCC Foundation



Diana L. Pollard '97
CFRM, MBA
Executive Director and
Associate Vice President,
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Lasting Legacies

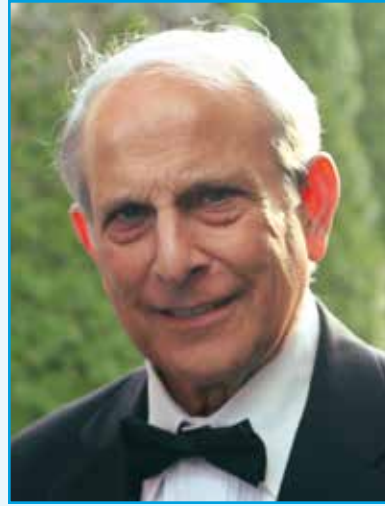


Bernard Handel

It is with deep respect and gratitude that we remember Dr. Bernard Handel, a distinguished benefactor who passed away on September 1 at the age of 97. “Bern’s” influence on the Dutchess Community College Foundation and broader community has been profound and lasting. A longtime Dutchess County resident, he was a retired CPA, attorney and former CEO of the Handel Company. His unwavering commitment to education and service is reflected in the countless lives he enriched and the generations he inspired.

As a past board member and chair of the DCC Foundation Board, Bern played a pivotal role in shaping our institution’s growth. Through the Handel Foundation, he established the Endowed Faculty Chair to Perpetuate the Legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. He later created an Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Both were vital contributions to the DCC Foundation. His generosity also led to the creation of the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award and Scholarship, honoring those who selflessly serve the community and support our students.

As one of the original founders of AARP and a nationally recognized expert in healthcare and pension issues, Bern’s impact extended far beyond our region. His legacy continues to inspire us all, and we are sincerely grateful for the remarkable contributions which he and his wife, Shirley, have made to DCC and the wider community. His influence endures in the hearts of those whose lives he inspired and the positive change he helped create.



Vincent DiMaso

We honor the life and legacy of Vincent J. DiMaso ’66, a cherished member of the Dutchess Community College family, who passed away peacefully on September 18, 2024, at the age of 78. A proud alumnus of DCC and Marist College, he dedicated over 56 years to a successful real estate career. Yet it was his unwavering commitment to his community that defined him. Whether through his professional achievements or volunteerism, his life exemplified purpose and generosity.

Vince served as a DCC trustee for 18 years as well as vice chair of the Foundation Board. His leadership had a lasting effect on our institution. As one of the first inductees into the DCC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, he stood as a shining example of the transformative power of education and profound impact of giving back. His kindness, generous spirit and infectious smile left an indelible impression on all who knew him.

Beyond his DCC service, Vince accepted leadership roles with numerous community organizations, including the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation and the Water and Wastewater Authority. A veteran of the Army Reserves, he served with distinction for six years, earning an honorable discharge in 1974. Together with his wife, Joan (Volino) ’68, he championed many causes, inspiring others through their shared commitment to making a difference.

Vince will be remembered for his boundless generosity, kind heart and steadfast commitment to his community. His legacy will resonate throughout our region, reminding us of the profound contributions he made. Though he will be greatly missed, his spirit lives on in the lives he touched.

HALL LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS



The James F. Hall Legacy Society was established to recognize benefactors who have pledged generous gifts to the Dutchess Community College Foundation through their estate plans.

Society members understand the importance of a successful community college and want to keep the spirit of educational excellence alive for future generations. Those listed here have notified the Foundation that they have made a planned gift; these might include a bequest, charitable trust, personal residence, IRA, insurance policy or appreciated items such as artwork.

Some members are former students who appreciate how DCC's faculty and staff positively impacted their lives. Some are those very faculty and staff who've dedicated their lives to teaching and learning. Still others are community members who recognize the important impact DCC has on their neighbors.

DCC is fortunate to have so many friends and supporters who believe in its mission. The chance to help students enhance their lives through higher education inspires so many wonderful people from varying backgrounds to partner with DCC.

By joining the Hall Legacy Society, you demonstrate your commitment to the College — and your belief in tomorrow's leaders. Visit [sundydutchess.giftlegacy.com](https://www.sunydutchess.edu/giftlegacy) to explore the many ways in which you can leave your own legacy.

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Carole J. Wolf

*deceased



Class of '24 Ready to Soar



On May 17, DCC held its annual graduation ceremony, where associate degrees and career certificates in 46 programs of study were conferred upon 835 graduates ranging in age from 18 to 68. The event was held at the Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center in Poughkeepsie with over 2,000 in attendance and hundreds more joining online.

Associate in Science degrees were awarded to 65 percent of the students; 9 percent received Associate in Arts degrees; 18 percent received Associate in Applied Science degrees; and 8 percent earned certificates.

DCC also celebrated its sixth cohort of graduates from the Think Ahead program, a partnership between the College, Dutchess County, Abilities First, Maplebrook School, the Arc Greater Hudson Valley, and Taconic Resources. Adults who graduate from Think Ahead spend two years on the main DCC campus as college students, learning life and job skills.

Speakers included DCC President Peter Grant Jordan, Ed.D., DCC Board of Trustees Chair Michael Francis Dupree and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino. Welcome remarks were shared by Professor of Art Margaret Craig '99 in English, while Diversity Council Co-Chair Steven Posada welcomed guests in Spanish. The keynote address was given by Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health Commissioner Livia Santiago-Rosada, M.D., FACEP.

In addition, for the first time at DCC, there were two student commencement speakers. Human Services graduates Amani Deloatch '24 and Amanda Faustini-Wiersum '24 shared their inspiring story of finding friendship and camaraderie in an online class, then connecting in-person and supporting each other as they became campus leaders. Their accomplishments included establishing Active Minds, a club to advocate for their classmates' mental health — and a legacy which they hope will benefit generations of future students.

“Tomorrow, you’ll pursue career paths which previously had been out of reach,” Dr. Jordan said. “Whether your next steps are into the job market or on to a baccalaureate degree, you’re unquestionably more skilled and marketable than when you began at DCC, and your professional trajectories are pointed higher.”

Enrollment Continues Steady Climb

In the fall of 2023, DCC produced its first increases in applications and enrollment in over a dozen years. Its 4,192 students and 47,300 credit hours each represented a year-over-year rise of nearly 7%. This included 1,607 new students, a nearly 18% rise. DCC also surpassed the median increase of 3.9% generated by all SUNY System community colleges. When College in the High School students were added, roughly 6,450 students were enrolled at the census date.

That momentum continued into spring 2024, with both headcount and credits finishing 8% above the prior year benchmarks. The combined growth improved the College's fiscal health, reduced its deficit, and provided greater operating flexibility. Fall 2024's enrollment trend was also positive, despite challenges caused by the new FAFSA process. More than 4,370 students enrolled — up 4.3% from fall 2023.

DCC's commitment to an inclusive and supportive environment has been crucial in attracting and retaining students. This fall, DCC saw notable growth among continuing students — particularly with part-time learners, who accounted for the largest increase. Also, more students are choosing to reside on campus, with residence hall occupancy growing by more than 20% for the second straight year.

Initiatives which are helping to fuel this growth include:

- Transfer agreements with SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Oneonta, Marist University and others
- New Cannabis Retail Management and Direct Support Professional microcredentials
- Outreach to former students who stopped out two to five years ago
- An AdWords campaign which generated over 1,400 inquiries and 500 applications, nearly a third of which came from prospects aged 25 or older
- Investments in existing programs, especially areas of strength such as career and technical education (CTE) where DCC can stand out
- Working with the National Institute for Student Success to identify and address roadblocks to student enrollment and achievement
- Creating Spanish recruitment documents to better reach the regional Hispanic population; and
- Strategic investments in DCC's staff — not just their numbers, but their professional development, growth and overall health.

“DCC saw notable growth among continuing students — particularly with part-time learners, who comprised the largest increase.”

\$8,000/year

The average DCC associate degree graduate will see an increase in earnings of \$8,000/year compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent working in New York.

Source: Lightcast employment data.





New Mechatronics Lab Exceeds Early Expectations, Eyes Further Growth

When DCC opened its new Mechatronics Lab in Fishkill last fall, the excitement was felt from Poughkeepsie to Albany and Washington, D.C.

Yet, after all that fanfare came the hard work of operating the facility and delivering the programs — which meant ensuring the projected demand that gave rise to the Center of Excellence for Business, Industry & Innovation became a reality.

Now in year two, not only are things running smoothly, but enrollment has exceeded initial targets in virtually every aspect.

One goal was to increase credit-bearing students in DCC's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) and Electrical Technology (ELT) programs in year one by 12. Through various tactics, DCC generated 91 inquiries and 16 net new enrollees in spring 2024, for 48 students in all.

Momentum continued this fall with 16 new ACR students and 27 new ELT students. When added to continuing students, a total of 84 had enrolled in credit-bearing degree and certificate programs, marking a net rise of 46 students in just two years — a 120% jump!

“Beyond marketing, interest was fostered by strategic partnerships and personal outreach to teachers, guidance counselors, business executives, elected officials and community leaders,” said ELT Program Chair Daniel Barbuto. “We’ve provided countless tours, attended career fairs and made sure the lab is open four nights a week, in addition to daytime classes.”

That’s the blend of resources and convenience students like Nicholas Burachowski need. An adult learner from Staatsburg, N.Y., he will graduate with an ELT degree this May.

“As a returning, older student, I never imagined I could change my career path.”

NICHOLAS BURACHOWSKI

“The Mechatronics Lab gave me the opportunity to learn new technologies, demonstrate equipment to visiting companies, and make new industry connections,” said Burachowski, who used his new contacts to secure an internship and prepare for a full-time position after graduation. “As a returning, older student,

I never imagined I could change my career path. Through this program, I’ve discovered what I’m capable of — and others have taken notice. It’s exceeded my expectations, and I’m grateful for the opportunity and support of such encouraging, helpful teachers.”

The Lab is also being used by area businesses like Sono-Tek, The Gap, Ammega and OnSemi for skills training, as industry leaders recognize the valuable resources now available for employee credential and skill development.

High school students are another exciting population. In August, DCC joined Dutchess County BOCES in launching our new Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program. This public-private partnership supports at-risk students with an accelerated STEM pathway. It began with 25 students but will eventually serve 200, each of whom will earn a high school diploma and ELT associate degree.

“It’s important that middle and high school students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors become more aware of what ELT and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technicians do,” added Barbuto, emphasizing the work of DCC’s Laraine Kautz, who has been instrumental in fueling workforce development opportunities associated within mechatronics disciplines. “We must educate them about the work and options available in these growing fields, and this facility is a tremendous resource to accomplish that.”

“Up next at the Lab are new HVAC Technology microcredential and degree programs, which may launch as soon as Fall 2025,” said Vice President for Instruction and Learning Raymond Houston, Ed.D.C.T. “We’ve secured \$1 million from the SUNY Transformation Fund to purchase equipment and support this expansion. Two Fishkill classrooms are also slated for renovation to house these new assets, which ACR students will use too.”

“This facility is poised to become the premier advanced manufacturing training hub of the Mid-Hudson Valley,” added Dr. Susan Rogers, DCC’s chief of staff & vice president for institutional effectiveness. “We’re evaluating several other disciplines and having many conversations with other businesses and industries which we believe we can positively impact as we grow this facility and support our region’s economic development.”

DCC's Successful DSP Program Provides Backdrop for Governor's Initiative

In Fall 2023, DCC was thrilled to welcome 28 students who comprised its new Direct Support Professional (DSP) microcredential's initial cohort. A few months later, campus officials found themselves hosting Commissioner Kerri Neifeld of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Chancellor John B. King Jr. for a major related announcement.

A partnership between the OPWDD and SUNY, the DSP program aims to build out the workforce needed to care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. DCC's early success — with 173 students enrolled as of Spring 2024 — quickly positioned it as a leader in the field, so much so that it was chosen to host a press conference trumpeting a statewide expansion.

On March 20, the team announced a \$32 million investment to expand the microcredential on campuses where it already exists and add a half-dozen more to support up to 6,000 students across the state by 2030.

"Every day, direct support professionals help New Yorkers with developmental disabilities thrive in their day-to-day lives," Governor Hochul said. "Through this...expansion, we are helping to grow this crucial field and ensure students have the training they need to pursue this vital career path and care for their fellow New Yorkers."

A three-tiered program that aligns with National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) certification standards, it enables workers to secure national certification and college credit toward a certificate, associate or bachelor's degree in human services, psychology, sociology, addiction studies or other disciplines, and up to four national certifications: DSP I, II, III and Front-Line Supervisor.

"Microcredentials provide a path for New Yorkers to boost their skills and increase upward mobility," Chancellor King added. "The demand for (this) program was vast, far exceeding expectations,

which shows there are many people willing to learn to provide compassionate care for the most vulnerable New Yorkers."

The microcredential also aligns well with DCC's Think Ahead program, now in its sixth year in collaboration with various Dutchess County government and human services partners. It provides a host of job options for adults with intellectual disabilities — only 19% of whom are employed nationwide, according to a 2018 report by the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, compared to 62% for nondisabled adults. Moreover, it gives them a chance for jobs which require a postsecondary education, while developing critical life skills and access to a robust network of wraparound supports provided through DCC's Accommodative Resources for neurodiverse learners.

"This partnership has been instrumental for us in building a truly innovative and successful program, which epitomizes the purpose of a community college," said DCC President Peter Grant Jordan. "It has allowed students to prioritize their education, while continuing to care for some of our most vulnerable citizens. We're proud to serve our community this way and look forward to its continued growth and impact across The Hudson Valley."

Earlier in 2024, the state invested another \$20 million in the program, following up on its initial \$5 million investment in early 2023. In addition, grant funding is available to pay for tuition, books, course materials, credentialing and educational supports. Participants who complete a microcredential are eligible for a one-time \$750 incentive.

"This is an exciting opportunity to offer people pursuing or considering a career in this field," DCC's Human Services Program Chair Lacie Reilly said. "By removing financial barriers to education and incentivizing current DSPs, more people will have the support they need to start and continue this important work."

Commissioner Kerri Neifeld of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr., joined DCC's inaugural Direct Support Professional cohort along with numerous faculty, staff and administrators on campus to announce the expansion of this important program statewide.



Sullivan-Bisceglia Brings Aviation History, Passion to Students

Highly Accomplished Alumna Joins DCC in New Faculty Role

To say flying runs in the family of Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia '84 would be an understatement.

She practically grew up at Dutchess County Airport (now Hudson Valley Regional (HVR) Airport), where her father, Noah Sullivan '64, was a commercial pilot who gave many their first flight — including Susan.

She also had four uncles who were U.S. Airforce pilots in the Korean Conflict and World War II. One was Colonel John W. Lafko, a highly decorated ace fighter pilot who flew an astounding 135 successful combat aerial missions — a U.S. record likely never to be broken. With contemporaries such as Eddie Rickenbacker and Chuck Yeager, “The Gypsy from Po’keepsie,” as Lafko was dubbed, was held in the highest regard. In fact, his wingmen went on to become one of the first squadrons of the U.S. Airforce Thunderbirds.

“I think it’s in my blood,” she said shortly into her first semester of teaching Aviation Law at DCC this fall.

If it’s not in Susan’s veins, it’s certainly all over her résumé.

She obtained her commercial pilot’s license and instrument and multi-engine ratings at HVR, long before DCC began its aviation program in 2005. She founded New York Law School’s Air & Space Law Society and organized its first Air & Space Law Symposium, during which the infamous TWA Flight 800 tragedy was discussed by members of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and litigators from the case’s plaintiff (including famed aviation attorney Lee Kriendler, Esq.) and defense legal teams. She worked as an aviation attorney with Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells in NYC — one of the largest law firms in the world at the time. Governor George Pataki appointed her to be a member of the state’s Industrial Board of Appeals. She’s also served as chair of the International Organization of Women Pilots and secretary to the Aeronautics Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

It’s a list of achievements that leaves one questioning how one person could accomplish so much. Yet, it’s those family roots that fuel her fire daily.



“I wake up every morning asking myself, what can I do to top yesterday?” she says.

Susan also credits DCC with being a critical first step in her journey, giving her the flexibility, convenience and affordability she needed at that point in life, while maintaining her sense of her hometown community.

“I commuted, and I loved that aspect,” she says. “It allowed me to work while I went to school and continued to be part of my community, which was something I needed to do.”

After earning her Associate in Science degree from DCC (and later, a real estate license as well), Susan went on to Marist College, where she obtained a bachelor’s in business and finance as well as a paralegal certificate. She was soon recruited by a local law firm and began working as a clerk for New York State Supreme Court and Dutchess County Surrogate Court Judge Hon. James D. Benson.

“He had such high integrity and ethics, and I wanted to be like him someday,” she recalls.

Susan’s career has taken her from New York to Japan and dozens of places in between — but nowadays, she’s happy to have returned to her hometown of LaGrange. She serves her community as a judge — the first woman in the town’s history — and president-elect of the NYS Magistrates Association, for which she travels across the state teaching judges.

“I’ve become the judge who teaches the judges,” she laughs.

She also maintains a private aviation law practice as well as the aircraft sales and brokerage firm that she and her father operated at HVR Airport for years.

Whether it’s her career, serving her community or supporting her family, Susan stays motivated and focused by the memories of those in her family who served.

She shares a story of Colonel Lafko, who famously parachuted out of his plane into enemy territory during the Korean Conflict — in the wilderness in snowshoes after a battle — to retrieve the remains of one of his wingmen.

"I think of their bravery and all the things they had to overcome," she says. "I figure, if they could do that...I can do this."

In fact, the only thing that exceeds her love of aviation is her love of family — whose DCC roots run as deep as their aerial



Noah Sullivan '64, was a commercial pilot who taught Susan — and many others — how to fly at HVR Airport.

ancestry's. In addition to her father, her mother, Shirley, completed numerous DCC classes over a 25-year career at IBM; her sister, Sharlene '86, earned an art degree at DCC before continuing to New York University and becoming a filmmaker; and her husband, Paul, played baseball for the Falcons — receiving some professional offers as an eventual Dutchess County Baseball Hall of Fame inductee — before continuing to the New York Institute of Technology and a career in design/building and construction management.

"Even our kids, Brianna and Brendan, took DCC classes in high school!" she says.

Susan credits DCC for helping her to consider opportunities all over the world. She fondly remembers a six-week program where she earned 12 credits while studying and traveling across Italy — an experience so profound that her sister and parents joined her on a similar trip the following year.

"DCC really changed my life," she insists. "It gave me perspective and expanded my horizons. I am so glad I went to 'Dutchess First,'" a phrase she's coined to encourage others to do the same.

And this year, after watching so many students soar along Hudson Valley's horizons over the years, Susan was tapped to add her knowledge by DCC Aviation Science Program Chair John Trosie — whom she credits with spearheading this exciting program, along with Department Chair Joan McFadden. She's teaching two Aviation Law sections to 38 students in all — 30% of whom are women — a small but growing industry segment she's thrilled to foster.

"We have a highly technical, leading-edge program that attracts interest far and wide," she says. "I'm honored to be part of it and to give back to my alma mater."

She's also a huge proponent of safety, having led seminars with Flight Safety International and the FAA as a safety counselor during her career. She also had an aviation safety report published in the Journal of Air Law and Commerce. It's her top priority and the focus of most guest lecturers she invites.

"Ultimately, I hope to inspire and instill a confidence in students to follow their dreams to become complete pilot and aviation industry experts," she says. "Confidence is everything in this business. It's what you need to succeed."

And Susan's got that in spades. Just ask her family.

"DCC really changed my life. It gave me perspective and expanded my horizons. I am so glad I went to 'Dutchess First.'"

SUSAN SULLIVAN-BISCEGLIA '84

Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia '84 (back row, from left), with her husband, Paul; sister, Sharlene '86; daughter, Brianna; mother, Shirley; and son, Brendan.



FALCONS HIGHLIGHTS

Men's Basketball Enjoys Region XV Success

The DCC Falcons men's basketball team had an outstanding 2023-24 season, finishing with a record of 23-6 and a trip to the Region XV Championship game. The Falcons, who earned the top seed in the tournament, took down Nassau Community College 84-69 in the semifinals before their 92-84 finals defeat to Hostos Community College. Sophomore Joselito Rosario led the charge with 26 points and six three-pointers. Freshman Prince Kamate, who scored 37 points in the finals, joined Rosario in being named to the All-Tournament Team. Freshman Quincey Platt was named First Team All-Region for this season, anchoring one of the best defensive teams in the country. He finished the season with the most blocks and rebounds in a season since at least 2001 at DCC. Kamate was named to the Second Team All-Region as the Falcon's leading scorer, averaging 15.4 points per game while shooting over 50% from the field. Sophomore Point Guard Raesean Greer finished his career as one of the best point guards in Falcon history. After winning the Region XV Championship in his freshman year, he was named Third Team All-Region this season while leading DCC in assists and steals. He generated the most assists and played in the most games by a Falcon since at least 2000.



The 2023-24 men's basketball team finished with a 23-6 record, going all the way to the Region XV Championship Final.

Women's Volleyball

DCC's women's volleyball team advanced to the NJCAA tournament for the second straight year with a 24-7 record, including its 13-1 mark in the Mid-Hudson Conference.

Women's Volleyball earned a spot in the national tournament and won the Mid-Hudson Conference for the second straight year. DCC's final week of games showcased the team's strength, with five matches played en route to the title. The team advanced to the Regional Final, coming up just short, before traveling to Iowa for the National Tournament. There, they lost to top-seeded Dallas College Eastfield and Harper College. Lauren Siegel was named to the All-Region first team and All-Tournament team, Region XV. Grace Ferretti was named to the All-Region second team and All-Tournament team. Maya-k Johnson received an All-Region honorable mention, and Franchelis Guzman was named Region XV defensive player of the year. Siegel was selected as the Mid-Hudson Conference MVP, while Ferretti and Johnson were selected to the Conference's First Team.

DCC relaunched its women's basketball team for the first time since the pandemic. The Falcons completed their first season back with a strong 12-7 showing.

Other Falcon Highlights

Other accomplishments included the successful relaunch of the women's basketball team, which had gone dormant during the pandemic. The team finished its first season back with a record of 12-7. In addition, DCC's Esports team — after unveiling its new Esports arena and being recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) in Spring 2023 — completed its first season of competition. The team had 24 members at the end of Fall 2024, demonstrating this new sport's support and popularity.

Stellar Students

Three Falcons Earn SUNY Chancellor's Awards

On April 11 in Albany, three DCC students received the 2024 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE), the highest honor bestowed upon a student by SUNY.

From left, Susanna Gilgert (Poughkeepsie), Kaitlin Robin (Hopewell Junction) and Emily Mahoney (Poughkeepsie) were among just 193 students across 62 campuses presented with the award, which recognizes the integration of excellence with many aspects of a student's life, including academics, leadership, campus involvement, community service and the arts.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr. said, "It is with deep admiration that I commend you all for your work to elevate your communities, inspire your peers, and shape a better tomorrow. Witnessing your growth and impact as not just SUNY students, but as good citizens, fills me with immense pride."



Sheridan Awards

The History, Government and Economics (HGE) Department recognized five students at its annual Eugene Sheridan Awards Ceremony held April 25:

EUGENE SHERIDAN AWARD

Nicole Ciardullo

XAVIER H. VERBECK AWARD

Ryan J. Scott

HGE DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Yasmine Chanaoui

Michael A. Gattine-Suarez

ANN AND DAN ZODIKOFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley K. Carson

The Denton Writing Awards

Eight students were selected for this year's Denton Writing Awards, named in honor of Tom Denton, who founded DCC's Writing Center. His successor, Brenda Squires, congratulated the students at the April 25 ceremony.



ACADEMIC WRITING

Sofia Turovtseva

Amarice Wells

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Marriana Maloney

Kyannah Scafe

FICTION

Emily Mahoney

Raleigh Diaz-Lambos

POETRY

Katelyn Oles

Enmanuel Zambrano

From left, Amarice Wells and Raleigh Diaz-Lambos



DCC's 2024 Sheridan Award honorees stand with their respective History, Government and Economics faculty members at the spring award ceremony.

DCC Supports Out of the Darkness Walk

On Sept. 28, a team of DCC students, staff, faculty, friends and family crossed the Walkway Over the Hudson during the Out of the Darkness Walk, an annual awareness event held by the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. The DCC team raised \$700 in donations, nearly tripling their original fundraising goal, with most contributions coming from students. The College's Counseling Center, Active Minds Club and Human Services and Behavioral Sciences departments played key roles in organizing and participating in the event. "The suicide epidemic is such a hard, devastating and emotional topic," said Hanna Perrault, a part-time DCC counselor who organized the event. "Seeing so many people who are willing to engage in that uncomfortable conversation in an attempt to save a life was really powerful."



Part-time Counselor Hanna Perrault and Faculty Advisor for the Active Minds Club Tomasine Oliphant led DCC students, faculty and staff participants in the 2024 Out of the Darkness Walk.



This year's Chancellor's Award Winners proudly display their medals. From left: Marcia Butland, Kevin Cavanaugh, Holly McCabe, Andrea Townsend, Dr. Suzanne Riela Turturro and Gary Nagelhout.

Six Faculty & Staff Honored with Chancellor's Award for Excellence

We congratulate and celebrate our 2023-24 Chancellor's Award recipients!

FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Marcia Butland, Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Student Success
Dr. Suzanne Riela Turturro, Institutional Research Associate Director

FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Kevin Cavanaugh, Professor
Holly McCabe, Associate Professor
Gary Nagelhout, Adjunct Instructor

FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLASSIFIED SERVICE

Andrea Townsend, Senior Office Assistant, History, Government & Economics

Dutchess United Educators (DUE)

recognized 34 students for academic achievement at the 38th Annual Awards for Academic Excellence ceremony on May 1. Twenty-one students were nominated by faculty and staff for individual awards, while 13 others received special awards given by entire academic departments or in honor of past faculty and staff. DUE Awards Committee Chair Margeaux Lippman, Vice President for Instruction and Learning Raymond Houston, Ed.D.C.T. and DUE President Laura Murphy gave the greetings and welcome, while Jody Sterling, professor emeritus of English, served as keynote speaker.

The Honors Program, coordinated by Professor of History Dr. Werner Steger, Ph.D., celebrated its 15th annual awards ceremony on May 2 to recognize eight students who fulfilled the requirements to graduate with a minor in Honors Studies. Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers, Ph.D., welcomed this group of high achievers and their families, encouraging them to leverage the critical thinking skills they've learned at DCC as they navigate their future education and careers.

DCC's Impact on Region's Youngest Learners Takes a Big Step Forward

New UPK program, Summit presentations, highlight DCC's leadership in childhood education

DCC is committed to a cradle-to-career approach to community education, but its impact on the youngest members of that spectrum increased substantially this past year.

In September, DCC's Louis Greenspan Day Care Center became an official location for the Poughkeepsie City School District Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program.

The UPK curriculum, grounded in early literacy and numeracy research, prepares eligible four-year-olds for kindergarten. Students learn through inquiry and play, receiving high-quality instruction in language, math and literacy. The free, full-day program follows the DCC calendar and is open to families residing in the district whose children turn four on or before Dec. 1. Per state law, enrollment is based on a lottery.

"We are thrilled to serve as a site for this program," said Greenspan Day Care Center Director Sandra Kraich. "Its aims align perfectly with the framework and learning environment we've cultivated at DCC, especially in terms of equity. UPK is such a wonderful resource for our families, providing much-needed access to early childhood education."

Then, in June, DCC participated in the Hudson Valley Childcare Coalition's first annual summit. Founded by Louise McLoughlin, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), the coalition is dedicated to promoting affordable childcare and high-quality early education, two longtime passions at the College.

Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers, Early Education Chair Jennifer Santosuosso and Kraich each presented during the two-day event, which was led by the WIB and focused on addressing challenges related to affordable childcare and enhancing early childhood education in our community. Senators Michelle Hinchey and Rob Rolison, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and others also spoke at the event, emphasizing community commitment to improving early education.

DCC has been actively engaged in these efforts. Over the past six months, a team of DCC faculty, staff and administrators led by Dr. Rogers met monthly with coalition members. They focused on addressing challenges related to affordable childcare and enhancing early childhood education in our community.

Summit participants were urged to "dream big" and push innovation. They were also given tours of childcare locations in the region, including DCC's Greenspan Day Care Center and Lab Nursery School, underscoring the College's commitment to early childhood education.

"I'm excited about the conversation happening around early childhood education and childcare in our region," Dr. Rogers said. "I'm so proud to be working with a team of smart, dedicated colleagues who bring a powerhouse of energy and ideas when DCC enters a partnership in the community."

Learn more about UPK at DCC
www.sunydutchess.edu/upk

For all of DCC's childcare options
www.sunydutchess.edu/childcare

Guests explored DCC's Day Care Center and Lab Nursery School during a walking conversation led by Day Care Center Director Sandra Kraich and Early Education Chair Jennifer Santosuosso. Pictured here, Santosuosso gives an overview of the Lab Nursery School.





Youth Conference Empowers Future Leaders

DCC proudly hosted the inaugural PK Youth Leaders' Summit this summer. The free, three-day event, organized by the Poughkeepsie City School District, drew over 70 middle and high school students for an engaging experience focused on leadership development, career exploration and college preparation.

The summit introduced students to the many opportunities available to them at DCC while underscoring the College's commitment to community engagement and developing future leaders. Students heard from leaders in education, business and government who imparted advice and talked about their own journeys. Dr. Jordan shared his Keys to Success, known familiarly as Dr. J's three P's — Be Present, Be Prepared, and Participate! Students left campus inspired and equipped with new skills and knowledge to encourage their success.

Collaborating with local school districts, leaders and elected officials to host events like these highlights DCC's crucial role in creating pathways to higher education and fulfilling careers for community members. The event would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of faculty and staff across the College, from the scheduling team to facilities and housekeeping to food services, along with student service professionals and subject matter experts. Director of Scheduling Danielle Williams-Bell played an instrumental role in facilitating the event, coordinating with internal and external stakeholders to support its success.

Art Effect Partnership is a Win-Win for Students and The Arts

DCC and The Art Effect have created a savvy, strategic partnership which has helped both organizations in multiple ways in recent years.

Working with our Visual Arts Transfer (VAT) program, The Art Effect's David Wong served as a concurrent enrollment instructor for a section of our Visual Arts Intro Seminar in fall 2023, attended by eight Poughkeepsie High School/Art Effect students in on- and off-campus sessions. These students developed their portfolio skills and earned college credit while learning about DCC's programs, campus facilities and student services.

The Art Effect has also held its Summer Art Institutes on DCC's main campus for two straight years, utilizing classroom spaces to build student skills in drawing, painting, animation and digital arts. The result has been a fruitful learning environment for students and instructors, while highlighting all that DCC has to offer.

Most recently, The Art Effect's Poughkeepsie Board of Artistic Youth has worked with local artist Layla Montoya to commission and co-create a large-scale, public art sculpture. Installed in Pulaski Park to promote a hopeful, visionary future for Poughkeepsie, DCC will help kiln fire these ceramics at its facilities.

DCC also attended The Art Effect's Hudson Valley Regional Portfolio Day this fall, which introduced our VAT program offerings to hundreds of aspiring art students.

To show its appreciation, The Art Effect recently honored DCC at its Art After Dark Gala as this year's Business Honoree. DCC was recognized for its dedication and support of initiatives that foster youth development and drive positive social change. Associate Professor of Art Margaret Craig accepted the award on behalf of the College.

Visionary Leaders Celebrated

2024 Bridge to the Future Gala

On April 6, the DCC Foundation hosted its annual Bridge to the Future Gala at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie, welcoming over 300 guests including benefactors, Foundation Board members, DCC Trustees, alumni, faculty, staff and community leaders. The evening was a celebration of generosity, dedication and the profound impact of the honorees and sponsors on students and the broader Dutchess County community.

DCC President Peter Grant Jordan and the Foundation had the honor of recognizing four outstanding individuals whose remarkable commitment has paved the way for countless others to pursue their dreams through education. They included:

JOHN GENOVESE '74, a 2024 Hall of Fame inductee, has lived a life of service and dedication. After graduating from DCC with honors in Retail Business Management, John went on to serve in the Vietnam conflict. Upon his return, he continued his education, ultimately earning his juris doctorate from Ohio Northern University. John's distinguished legal career has earned him many accolades, but his unwavering support for veterans and children in need has left a lasting impact on the community. Through his philanthropy and advocacy, John exemplifies how education transforms lives, and in turn, how those who are empowered by education can lift others.

EDWARD PITTMAN '80, another 2024 Hall of Fame inductee, has made his mark through a lifetime of leadership in higher education and community service. A DCC graduate with honors, Edward went on to complete a doctorate in higher education management at the University of Pennsylvania. For over 30 years, he served as a dean at Vassar College, where he played a pivotal role in shaping student life services. Edward's work has long been rooted in ensuring access to quality education and support for all students, beginning with his career in admissions and student retention at DCC. Beyond academia, Edward's contributions to the Poughkeepsie community are immense, including his service as president of the Poughkeepsie High School Board and his involvement with numerous local organizations. His commitment to fostering educational opportunities and civic engagement speaks to the heart of DCC's mission.

GERALDINE LAYBOURNE and **DAY ONE** were honored with the Bridge to the Future Award for their lifetime of advocacy for women and children. A visionary leader in media, Geraldine built her career at Nickelodeon, Disney, ABC Cable Networks, Oxygen Media and NBC Universal, before being inducted into the Television Hall of Fame. But it is her dedication to early childhood education that

has made an indelible mark on our community. Co-founding DAY ONE Early Learning Community alongside Drs. Julie Riess and Rebecca Edwards, Geraldine has championed an apprenticeship program and early learning model that provides exceptional care and education to children, while ensuring the highest standards of training for staff. Her work ensures that every child in the Dutchess County community has the opportunity to thrive from the very beginning, embodying the spirit of generosity that drives DCC's mission.

BRIAN DOYLE, recipient of the Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award, was celebrated for his five decades of supporting human services organizations across the region. As CEO of Family Services, Brian spent 11 years leading the organization toward fiscal health and expanded services, directly improving the well-being of countless families. His leadership didn't stop at Family Services; Brian's hands-on involvement has extended to many local organizations, including The Poughkeepsie Alliance, City of Poughkeepsie Democratic Committee, Vassar Warner Home, and Community and Family Services Association of NYS. Through tireless dedication, Brian has helped build a stronger, more compassionate community, making a lasting difference in the lives of the people he has served.

At the heart of each honoree's story is the belief in the power of giving back. Their efforts are not only a reflection of their individual success, but also of their deep commitment to helping others achieve their potential. They have made their mark by investing in education, community service and advocacy, ensuring that future generations will have the support and resources to make their own impact.

The evening also featured a silent auction, where over 30 items were bid on to raise additional funds for student, faculty and staff initiatives. Guests danced the night away to music provided by DJ Bill Beale '99, a former Hall of Fame inductee.

The DCC community extends our deepest gratitude to the honorees, sponsors and all who contributed to making the 2024 Bridge to the Future Gala a success. Their generosity lies at the heart of our mission to bring the benefits and opportunities of education to all who seek it. Together, we continue to fuel life-changing opportunities for thousands of students each year, and the impact of their support resonates far beyond our campus and into the community at-large.



This year's visionary Leaders, Edward Pittman '80, John Genovese '74, Geraldine Laybourne and Brian Doyle, were celebrated at the Gala and are pictured alongside Gala Co-Chair Susan Scivolette-McCormack '87, DCC President Peter Grant Jordan and Gala Co-Chair Michelle Barone Lepore '04.



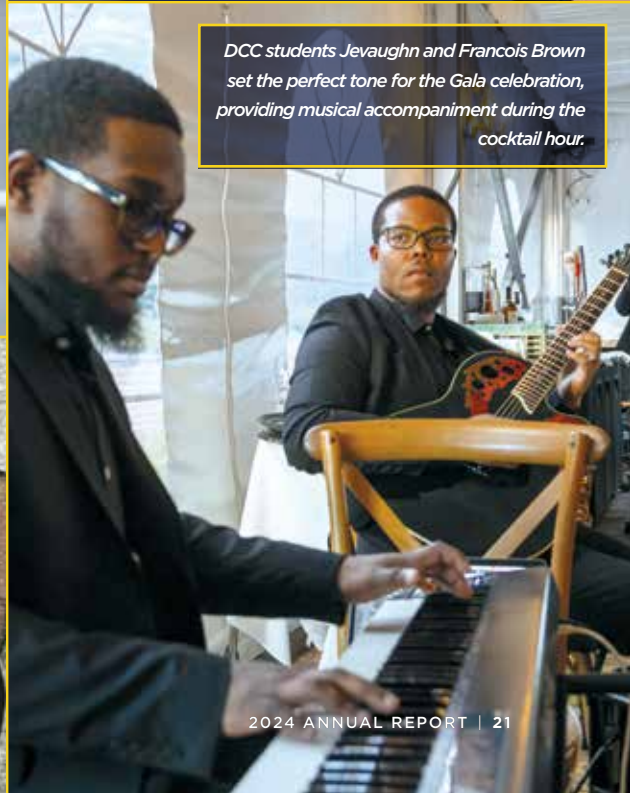
Andrea L. Reynolds, Bryan G. Henry and G. Angela Henry enjoy the lively company and cocktail hour at the Gala.



Stephen M. Handel introduces Brian Doyle, the recipient of this year's Bernard Handel Community Leadership Award, established in honor of his father.



Judith Stoddard and Student Government Association President Lisbeth Castellanos share a cheerful moment during the Gala celebration, pausing to pose together for the camera.



DCC students Jevaughn and Francois Brown set the perfect tone for the Gala celebration, providing musical accompaniment during the cocktail hour.



The DCC Foundation staff gathers for a group photo amidst the excitement of the gala. Pictured from left: Noemi Labrador, Stefani Timpano, Diana Pollard, Christina Ausiello, Anna Parra, Burnelle Roser and Lara Simmons.

Insight and Impact

DCC Foundation's Fall Lecture Series

This fall, the DCC Foundation Fall Lecture Series has offered a timely and thought-provoking lineup, diving into historic and current issues that inspire intellectual exploration and fresh perspectives.

The series began in early October with Dr. Heather Ann Thompson's compelling lecture based on her book, "Blood In The Water," exploring the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971, which highlighted the enduring relevance of this pivotal moment in U.S. history. Following this, on Oct. 24, a panel of policy experts delved into the impact of the impending U.S. presidential election on foreign affairs, exploring what the results could mean for America's role on the world stage in 2025 and beyond.

The series continued in November with the Handel Family Endowed Faculty Chair to Perpetuate the Legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Lecture. This event brought together civil rights scholars and educators to delve into the FDR Library exhibit, "Black Americans, Civil Rights, and the Roosevelts, 1932-1962." Through an engaging exploration of letters, images and recordings, the panel illuminated the Roosevelts' pivotal contributions to the fight for Black equality during the Jim Crow era and reflected on how their efforts continue to shape the ongoing struggle for racial justice.



DCC Office of Accommodative Services Outreach and Retention Specialist Jacqueline Ahl

Celebrating Neurodiversity

Jacqueline Ahl, an outreach and retention specialist in DCC's Office of Accommodative Services (OAS), has dedicated her 29-year career to creating and implementing innovative study tools and teaching methods that support neurodiverse learners. She has shared her expertise at conferences at colleges and universities throughout the country, including presentations this summer at the University of Connecticut's Postsecondary Training Institute (PTI) and Landmark College's Summer Institute for Educators.

In addition to managing a caseload of 150-200 Career and Technical (CTE) students, Ahl continually seeks new ways to support neurodiverse students at DCC. She recently collaborated with an OAS student aide to develop a spaced repetition tool for learning and memorization. In 2021, Ahl also established a peer mentoring program to connect neurodiverse students with trained mentors. She is currently looking for students registered with OAS who are interested in becoming mentors and helping to create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment at DCC.

Ahl welcomes collaboration with faculty to integrate strategies that support neurodiverse learners, ensuring every student has a chance to thrive in an environment tailored to their unique strengths.



From left, Dr. Peter Grant Jordan, Dr. Heather Ann Thompson, Dr. Werner Steger, Dr. D. David Conklin, Anna E. Parra



From left, Scott Schnackenberg, James Ketterer, Richard Reitano, Dr. Karin Riedl, Richard Levitt, Malia DuMont

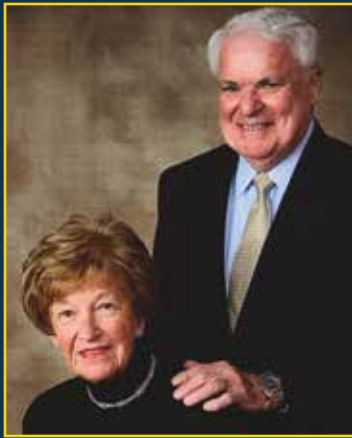


From left, Dr. Peter Grant Jordan, Dr. Andrew Rieser, Shirley Handel, Jeffrey Urbin, Dr. Taneisha N. Means, William Harris, Herman Eberhart

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 Dutchess County high school students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class.

This extraordinary scholarship offers outstanding students the opportunity to earn their two-year degree tuition-free. This fall, a total of 22 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 41.



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

Charlie and Betty have created a legacy that will last many lifetimes with their \$2M gift. Their endowment will continue to grow to support more and more students through the generations.

Thank you for supporting us, Conklin Scholars, and allowing us to pursue our education further. You helped us get one step closer to our future success. Forever grateful!

PIERRE SIMON MIRANDA



Thank you so much for investing in my future! The scholarship has been a huge motivation for me to continue to do well this school year and I cannot overstate how much I appreciate the support.

GIANNA LEONARDI



FIRST-YEAR CONKLIN SCHOLARS

- Alex Bass
- Justin Carman
- Margaret Chau
- Nicole Ciardullo
- Andrew Dorfschmidt
- Maria Fabrizio
- Rachel Fenwick
- Stefanie Healy
- Amelia Jensen
- Emma Kiesbye
- Gianna Leonardi
- Sophia Lopez
- Lillian Mackin
- Angelina Merendino
- Benjamin Nikolai Miranda
- Jeremy Newman
- Taegan Nicholson
- Julianna Powers
- Ammar Qureshi
- Emily Rector
- Waheed Saroyia
- Emily Thompson

SECOND-YEAR CONKLIN SCHOLARS

- Andrew Check
- Cassandra Crum
- Kimberly Garcia
- Aida Hernandez
- Alec Malles
- Marissa Mendez Vazquez
- Melissa Mendez Vazquez
- Pierre Simon Miranda
- Joshua Montero
- Rosemary Notaro
- Chanel Reed
- Chastity Robinson
- Nicholas Scaffidi
- Raegan Smith
- Memphis Self
- Jack Sozzi
- Jordyn Thorne
- Emilee Villano
- Maria Volino

2024 Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the DCC Foundation awards over 200 scholarships collectively valued close to \$300,000. We thank our donors for their generous support of our students and congratulate the 2024 scholarship recipients.

Continuing Student Scholarships

ALLIED HEALTH and BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Ariel E. Ingoglia Memorial Scholarship: **Calie Herman**
Dennis Kipp Memorial Scholarship: **Alicia Smith**
Dr. Alfredo Fonts Memorial Scholarship: **Rishti Rampersaud**
Dr. Lloyd D. Harris Memorial Scholarship: **Rebecca Amyotte**
Dutchess County Home Bureau Scholarship: **Ayman Elhalafawy, Christopher Senkbeil**
Jeffrey Pells Memorial Scholarship: **Matilda Rooney**
Margaret Fondren Koniz Memorial Scholarship: **Emma Zielinski**
Mazzetti Family Scholarship: **Olga Mironenko**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Shao Mai**
Michael J. Cassetta Memorial Scholarship: **Layla Tresca**
Millbrook Tribute Garden Scholarship: **Ethan Rastadt**
Pat Zerbe Scholarship: **Tashakay Bowen**
Richard L. Skimin Memorial Scholarship: **John Zhizhpon**
William E. Holland Scholarship: **Mahdi Elsayedsaleh**

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Cathie Tarpey Rodriquez Memorial Scholarship: **Anastasiia Bondarenko**
CAYSA Region IV Criminal Justice Scholarship: **Mario Romero Chuqui**
Diversity and Social Justice Scholarship: **Eric Santiago**
Drs. Eugene and Eileen Lambden Best Scholarship: **Betsi Montenegro**
Dutchess County and NYS South Eastern Zone Retired Teachers Associations Scholarship: **Anastasiia Bondarenko**
Dutchess County Correctional Officers Benevolent Association Scholarship: **Ian Berkowitz**
Dutchess County Deputy Sheriffs PBA Scholarship: **Nickolas Deacon**

Jane M. Shulkin-MARC Foundation Scholarship: **Angela Costa**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Juliette Bushee**
Melanie Chianese Memorial Scholarship: **Arianna Session**
Patricia Krause Memorial Scholarship: **Karissa Lee Thompson**
Sally D. Klein Memorial Scholarship: **Shao Mai**
Sheriff Butch Anderson Scholarship: **Pedro Miranda-Hernandez**
Sheriff Fred Scoralick Family Scholarship: **Joseph Arcure**
Vernell Charles 'Fuzzy' McClinton Jr. Memorial Scholarship: **Erica Lopez**
Zaida Swan Memorial Scholarship: **Hudson Slocum**

BUSINESS, AVIATION and CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONS

Betty J. Canfield Memorial Scholarship: **Lilly Saucier**
Business Administration Career Scholarship: **YuanYuan Lu**
Business Community College Partnership Scholarship: **Bahaa Aljamal**
Donald W. Haak Memorial: **Raymond Lee**
Dutchess County Association of Realtors Scholarship: **Sara Boccassini**
George N. Freedman Memorial Scholarship: **Solomon Oke**
Ginger Mancuso Memorial Scholarship: **Katherine Pena Gomez**
Hudson Valley Credit Union Scholarship: **Myles Valines**
Liscum McCormack VanVoorhis, Architects Scholarship in Architecture: **Jared Argueta**
Louis Greenspan Memorial Scholarship: **Sharukh Khan**
Marjorie H. Clark Paralegal Scholarship: **Ethan Hull, Danitta Thomas**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Amaya Trinidad Bautista**

“Winning this scholarship means more to me than words can express. Your belief in my potential and investment in my future inspire me to continue striving for success and making the most of this opportunity.”

SOLOMON OKE

George N. Freedman Memorial Scholarship



SOLOMON

Meyer Family Scholarship: **Eric Boggs**
Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Scholarship: **Klara Ramos**
Millbrook Tribute Garden Scholarship: **Jennifer Criollo**
TEG Federal Credit Union Scholarship: **Cory Silvernail**
Thomas Cawley Memorial Aviation Scholarship: **Ayden Rose**
Tim McCormack Memorial Scholarship: **Roman Mazzone**
Tony & Faith Krzywicki Business Scholarship: **Hayley Kacmarczyk**
UHY LLP Certified Public Accountants Scholarship: **Shyanne Baez**
Ulster Savings Bank Scholarship: **Rilee Nugent**
Westage Companies Scholarship: **Akeem Alexander**
Zimmer Brothers Jewelers Women in Business Scholarship: **Sophia Lipinski**

ENGLISH and HUMANITIES

Edmund Webb Memorial Scholarship: **Darian Figueroa**
Edward & Charlotte Emery Memorial Scholarship: **Sofia Tecchio**
Jerry A. Lee Memorial Scholarship: **Arely Soria**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Rebecca Finning**
McNish-Goffe Scholarship: **Yasmine Chanaoui**
Michael O'Dell Scholarship: **Valerie Vanburen**
Russell S. Cleverley Memorial Scholarship: **Richard Exantus**
Seth W. Lessinger Scholarship in Philosophy: **Jaelyn O'Connor**
Sylvia L. Jones Scholarship: **Tasha Bayon**

HISTORY, GOVERNMENT and ECONOMICS

Eric W. Deyo Scholarship: **Walker Thompson-Tinsley**
Joseph H. and Miriam B. Gellert Memorial Scholarship: **Rubi Ocampo**

Louis Greenspan Memorial Scholarship: **Shanice Ballentine, Thomas Macpherson, Kristina Piatek**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Alazia Mckinley**
Vincent J. Tedone Memorial Scholarship: **Gianna Tancredi**

MATHEMATICS and COMPUTER SCIENCE

McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Giuseppe Lombardi**
Daniel P. White Memorial Scholarship: **Dane Andrade**

NURSING

Ann D. Whalen Memorial Scholarship: **Geena Charles**
Blanche Knapp Hart Memorial Scholarship: **Lauren Milton**
Cathy Tice Memorial Scholarship: **Krysta Beneway**
Dutchess County 40/8 Voiture #502 Nursing Scholarship: **Kimberly Simpenderfer**
Dutchess County Home Bureau Nurses Alumni Scholarship: **Benjamin Nikolai Miranda**
Hudson Valley Hospice Nursing Scholarship: **Christine Abbruzzi**
Jackie Warner Memorial Nursing Scholarship: **Dawne DeMillo**
Jean D. Rock Memorial Scholarship: **Felicity Muniz**
John J. Brinckloe Memorial Scholarship: **Hayden Joyce**
Leslie D. Maserjian Memorial Nursing Scholarship: **Erica Doering**
Martha Reifler Myers Memorial Nursing Scholarship: **Karissa Bennett**
McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Gretchen Guglietta**
Millbrook Tribute Garden Scholarship: **Dawne DeMillo**
Sonny Frasier Memorial Scholarship: **Krysta Beneway**

“I am incredibly grateful. This scholarship will be immensely helpful in supporting my journey towards becoming a registered nurse. Thank you for investing in my nursing journey; it means a great deal to me.”



LAUREN MILTON

Blanche Knapp Hart Memorial Scholarship

LAUREN

PERFORMING, VISUAL ARTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Agostino, Lidia and Mary V. Imperatori Memorial Scholarship: **Jevaughn Brown**

Clarence J. "Woody" Ferrier Theatre Scholarship: **Grace Passaro**

Dr. Holly Molella Dance Scholarship: **Meghan Rodriguez**

Dutchess Heritage Quilt Show Scholarship: **Francois Brown, Damaris Ford**

George Bernstein Memorial Scholarship: **Braeden Hall**

Harold and Dorothy Hayward Memorial Scholarship: **Gabrielle Gregory**

Jacques Cohen '89 Memorial Scholarship: **Emanuel Faitakes**

JTN Scholarship: **Frank Dominguez**

Karen Lee Knapp Memorial Scholarship: **Natalie Cucuta**

Laura Lucille Staats Memorial Scholarship: **Leilani Johnson**

Lynette McKinney Memorial Scholarship: **Alex Crego**

McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Laylah Azzam**

Peter Klose Memorial Scholarship: **Stephanie Paulo**

Stuart Griffin Photography Scholarship: **Isabella Vargas**

PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING and TECHNOLOGY

Charles E. Conklin Entrepreneurial Scholarship in Technology: **Jasmine Taylor**

Daniel P. White Memorial Scholarship: **Eric Boggs**

Gary J. Lindstrom Scholarship: **Joy Esther Mbudi**

McCann Foundation Scholarship: **Nicholas Rizzo, Yasmin McMahon**

Melanie A. Kotes Memorial Chemistry and Science Scholarship: **Grace Passaro**

Michael J. Morris Scholarship: **Carter Belon**

Seth B. Lyon Memorial Scholarship: **Tiffani Jack**

Tompkins Community Bank Scholarship: **Nicholas Puccio**

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Achievement Scholarship: **Athalia Brito-Mesa**

Alexander Cutonilli Memorial Scholarship: **Ryan Fells**

Allan E. Rappleyea and Julia M. Rappleyea Scholarship: **Ne'Vaeh Allen, Riley Gemmel**

Association of Women at DCC Scholarship: **Brenda Kleinsasser, Brooke Rennhack**

Bernard Handel Community Leadership Scholarship: **Brendan Murphy**

Bridge to the Future Scholarship: **Athena Stebe Glorius**

Carmine Curcio Scholarship: **Darrin Dyle**

Catherine Reeck Shanks Scholarship: **Amanda Murphy**

Dr. D. David Conklin Scholarship for Student Leadership: **Rahim Sow**

Dr. Michael J. and Lois Hall Memorial Scholarship for Education: **Nicholas Lopez**

Dutchess County Youth Board and Coordinating Council Scholarship: **Bahaa Aljamal**

Falcon Award for Business Excellence: **Sara Boccassini**

Helen and Henry Katula Memorial Scholarship: **Katelyn Oles**

Jean and Dr. Carl Needy Scholarship: **Tenequa Fitzgiles-Gilliard**

Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union Community Service Scholarship: **Chriss-Ann Pryce**

Moody Family Scholarship: **Coral Whitmore**

Nan Ginger Memorial Scholarship: **Jake Poskitt**

Nine Partners Lions Club Scholarship: **Jaylyn Craven**

Peter J. Clark and Timmian C. Massie LGBTQ Scholarship: **Ashawna Reid**

Phyllis L. Cady Memorial Scholarship: **Karissa Lee Thompson**

Rhinebeck Bank Scholarship: **Lilyanna Brenner, Bibi Inayet**

Sadie and William Efron Scholarship: **Christopher Lyons**

Senator Stephen M. Saland Legacy Scholarship: **Samantha Sleight**

Sgt. Mark C. Palmateer Memorial Scholarship: **Robert Biersack**

Susan Scivolette-McCormack Scholarship: **Corina Scott**

Tiger Family Scholarship to Support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: **Alexandra Scimeca, Haley Winters**

Trudy Hankinson Briggs AAUW Scholarship: **Renad Eljamal**

Usman Zia and Moez-UL Hassan Memorial Scholarship: **Christopher Spescha**

William Jeff Edwards Memorial Scholarship: **Clarisse Michelle Teves Bennett**

"Your generosity inspires me to strive for excellence and motivates me to give back to the community in the future. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and sharing my achievements with you."

MATILDA ROONEY

Jeffrey Pells Memorial Scholarship



MATILDA

"I am immensely grateful. This award not only lightens my financial burden but also reinforces my commitment to my academic pursuits in Computer Information Systems. Thank you for empowering me and countless other students to achieve our dreams."

DANE ANDRADE

Daniel P. White Jr. Memorial Scholarship - MCS



DANE

Graduating Student Scholarships

Allan J. Washington Memorial Scholarship: **Caitlyn Doyle, Jordyn Thorne**

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship: **Emma Schmults, Janoi Stewart**

American Association of University Women Scholarship: **Amani Deloatch, Mackenzie Ean**

Cynthia R. Feldman Scholarship: **Alexander Alvarez**

Drs. Florence H. and Elvin E. Gottdiener Memorial Graduate Scholarship: **Charlotte Bartush**

DUE Scholarship in Honor of Allan E. Rappleyea: **Julia Osterhoudt**

Henry McDermott Scholarship: **Koby Brown**

James and Betty Hall Founding President's Scholarship: **Ryan Scott**

Jim Curley Graduate Scholarship: **Michael Suarezhy**

Maximilian Schneider Memorial Scholarship: **Nickole Papastavrou**

Mildred I. Washington Memorial Graduate Scholarship: **Kaitlin Robin**

Milton Chazen Scholarship: **Kalegnon Dogba-Gobei**

Richard Reitano Scholarship: **Tara Fitch**

Richard Steffen Engineering Alumni Scholarship: **Robert Bohl**

Robert B. Sayegh Memorial Scholarship: **Andrew Richards**

Rochel Stein and Richard O'Connor Memorial Scholarship: **Dean Fejes, Maya Moffitt**

Transfer 101 Scholarship: **Gabriela Bermudez Anciani, Amarice Wells**

William J. and Pauline Egan Memorial Scholarship: **Tara Fitch**

Young Engineers Scholarship: **Lucas Eckhard**

"As someone at risk of dropping out due to financial struggle, this scholarship gives me hope and motivation to never give up. It is beautiful to know there are people who...make the world a better place for others. Words cannot express the genuine happiness I felt after receiving this award."



DANITTA THOMAS

Marjorie H. Clark Paralegal Scholarship

DANITTA

Incoming Scholarships

Andre Valencia Taylor Bond Memorial Scholarship: **Dylan Soria**

Arlington American Legion Post Scholarship: **Saifullah Imdad**

Chevron-Texaco-Beacon-Dutchess Scholarship: **Brianna Moleano, Madison DeLeo**

Dutchess County Youth Board and Coordinating Council Scholarship-Incoming: **Tiffany Lopez**

Evelyn Partridge Memorial Scholarship: **Rahtisha Pittman**

Hyde Park Lions Club Scholarship: **Joanna Ruiz**

JDJ "Mulligan" Scholarship: **Rahtisha Pittman**

Junior League of Poughkeepsie Scholarship: **Klara Ramos**

KeyBank Community Scholarship: **Ashawna Reid, Lauryn Menz, Hayley Kacmarczyk, Joanna Ruiz**

Kirchhoff Family Scholarship: **Kyle Schmitt**

Kirchhoff Family Scholarship for Home-Schooled Students: **Lukas Bell**

The Jordan E. Bell STEM Scholarship for Women: **Sydney Greenhill**

New County Executive Selects DCC Aviation Center for Inauguration Backdrop



In early January 2023, despite the region's first major snowfall, more than 350 guests braved the elements to celebrate the inauguration of Dutchess County's ninth county executive, Sue Serino, at DCC's Center of Excellence for Aviation Education at Hudson Valley Regional Airport.

In choosing DCC as a platform for such a pivotal moment, County Executive Serino demonstrated the importance she places on the College's work, and how intricately it connects with the region's economic development.

"As our State Senator, you were a true ally for education and bringing [DCC's Center of Excellence for Aviation Education] to Dutchess County," President Peter Grant Jordan said in welcoming her. "I speak on behalf of our trustees, faculty, staff and students when I say we are truly grateful for your service to Dutchess County, and we're excited to continue working with you as you strive to make good on your aspirations and goals for our county."

"I'm especially excited to be at [DCC's] Aviation Education Center to help kickstart the next four years," Serino said in her address. "I am so grateful for the work DCC is doing under the leadership of Dr. Jordan — not only for creating opportunities for our residents but for creating innovative programs that draw people from outside our community."

It took a great deal of cross-departmental cooperation to pull off such a success. The President's Office, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Susan Rogers, and the Office of Marketing and Communications worked together to organize and provide media coverage; Associate Vice President of Administration Bridgette Anderson and the facilities team cleared snow and provided shuttle service from the parking lot; and Serino's team, especially Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement Carly Bulgia, went above and beyond to ensure the program ran smoothly.



Fresh Produce, Teen Opportunities Grow through New Community Garden

In July, DCC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new community garden developed with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), the support of Assemblymember Jonathan G. Jacobson, and the DCC Foundation. The garden increases The Pantry at DCC's capacity to provide fresh produce to students and community members in need, while also serving as a space for CCEDC's Green Teen Workforce Development program.

Recognizing the positive impact of the Green Teen program, which "empowers urban youth to be effective community change-agents by immersing them in the local food system," Assemblymember Jacobson secured funding to launch and support the program through 2024-25.

The partnership also exposes teens to DCC's campus, culture and staff, which gives them added information, insights and mentors as they consider their post-high school options.

"I joined Green Teen because I wanted to start making my own income and have better access to opportunities," said Elizabeth Soriano, who began at DCC this fall. "Working on campus has allowed me to network with staff and faculty as well as get to know the campus and resources."

"Green Teen gave me a firsthand look at what college is really like, and I'm very grateful for that," added David Benz, a 10th-grade Poughkeepsie High School student.

"This project started with a simple idea — a vision to do more for our community," DCC President Peter Grant Jordan said.

"I appreciate the multiple levels on which [it] operates — addressing food insecurity and healthy lifestyles, sustainability through agriculture, active learning, and the opportunity to connect the garden to so much of what we teach students, from science to sociology, writing and research, and much, much more."



DCC Human Services Chair and Pantry Director Lacie Reilly shares the story of how the community garden came to be.



Helping Students Get from Here to There

U.S. Secretary of Education Cardona, Congressman Ryan, held Career Pathways roundtable at DCC

In June, DCC welcomed U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Ed.D., and Congressman Pat Ryan for a Career Pathways discussion featuring P-12, higher education and industry leaders along with students with direct experience in career-focused education programs.

Representative Ryan and Secretary Cardona met with local leaders and students from across NY-18 to discuss the importance of career and technical education pathways.

They were joined at the roundtable by DCC President Peter Grant Jordan, Newburgh CSD Superintendent Jackielyn Manning Campbell, Ulster BOCES Superintendent Jonah Schenker, Arlington CSD Assistant Superintendent Daisy Rodriguez, The Council of Industry Vice President of Workforce Development and Operations Johnnieanne Hansen, IBM Workforce Policy Executive Yelena Vaynberg and various students.

“The goal for the Department of Education is to help not only to unlock dollars [and] technical assistance, but also to help lift up examples,” Cardona said. “That’s what I’m doing here today: lifting up an example of what we want to see across the country.”

“We have such an awesome team in the Hudson Valley,” Representative Ryan added. “We have everybody working together in a truly bipartisan way. We’ve got elected officials, school superintendents. We’ve got principals, we’ve got educators, and most importantly, we’ve got the students!”

Students included in the discussion shared their perspectives on the importance of making these career pathways known and accessible, advocating for apprenticeships, work-based learning opportunities and education about the different choices available to students.

“It’s important to make sure that students are aware of how viable these career paths really are,” said DCC student Mathew Canfield.

Industry professionals and educators in the room agreed, sharing the benefits of paid apprenticeships and college-in-the-high school programs that create clear pathways for students, like the P-TECH program in Newburgh or the one which began in Poughkeepsie with DCC this past fall.

“As a community college, we are perfectly positioned to serve as a hub between industry, government and education,” Dr. Jordan said. “Community colleges provide the necessary career and technical education required to support a thriving workforce, be it through direct training programs in allied health or construction, manufacturing or early childhood education. They ensure that we are supporting the workforce needs of our community.”



Connecting College and Career

More than 70 employers and nearly 250 job seekers attended DCC's Career Fair 2024 in Falcon Hall last April to share and receive information about internship, summer job and full-time professional opportunities. The event, co-sponsored by DCC's Workforce Education and Development office and Academic, Career & Transfer (ACT) Center together with DCWorks, facilitated valuable connections between students, alumni, community members and local organizations.

Workforce Pathways Coordinator Linda Haas Manley, Ph.D., organized the event, collaborating with several DCC departments and community agencies. Among those in attendance were hospitals and clinics, manufacturing and engineering companies, banks and credit unions, police departments, school districts, nonprofit and human services organizations, retail and hospitality businesses, summer camps and more.

"We were fortunate to host companies from a variety of industries," Dr. Haas Manley shared following the event. "Some have already set up interviews or made employment offers to students. Advance Testing Company shared the exciting news that two students they met at the fair will be working with them this summer! What's more, this employer and others have asked to visit campus because they want to hire more DCC students. What a wonderful outcome for our students!"



A student connects with one of the more than 70 employers at the Career Fair in Falcon Hall.



As DCC invests in people, programs and physical assets, we've had the opportunity to acquire some amazing new educational tools. This Anatomage Table, a state-of-the-art interactive 3D anatomy visualization and virtual dissection tool, provides an exciting supplement to our students' learning experience within our Allied Health & Biological Sciences programs. This cutting-edge technology allows for detailed exploration of human anatomy in an engaging, interactive way.



President Jordan Wins Business Excellence Award

Think Dutchess Alliance for Business recognized DCC at its annual Business Excellence Awards ceremony on Oct. 24. President Jordan received the Special Recognition award for his outstanding leadership and commitment to collaboration, both at DCC and throughout the Hudson Valley community.

"As president of Dutchess Community College, I take immense pride in the transformative opportunities we create for our students and the broader community," Dr. Jordan said in his acceptance speech. "At DCC, we firmly believe that education is a powerful catalyst for advancement, fostering the upward mobility of individuals and their families while driving economic growth."

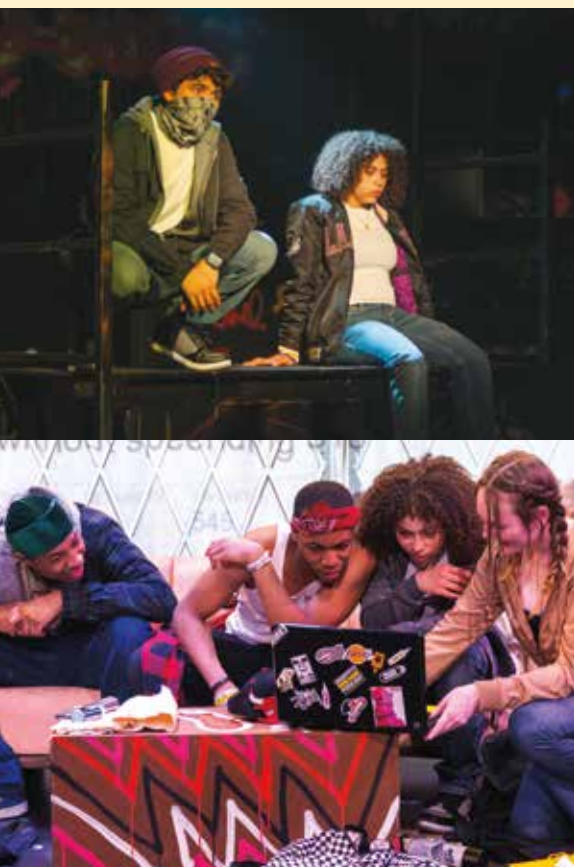
To hear Dr. Jordan's leadership philosophy and learn more about the initiatives and partnerships DCC has cultivated to support the educational and career development

of our students, scan the QR code.



Immersive Play Questions the Nature of Art and Its Place in Society

Members of DCC's Performing Arts program and Masquers' Guild Theatre Club presented *This is Modern Art* from April 11-13. The play, directed by Derek Roland, is based on real events that unfolded in 2010 when a graffiti art crew painted a 50-foot piece on the wall of the Modern Wing at the Art Institute of Chicago. It asked the audience to reconsider what art is, who it's for and where it belongs. These young artists risked everything to make their voices heard. This play shares their story, inviting audiences into the discussion.



DCC Academy of Music Fundraiser Hits All the Right Notes

The first-ever *Fall Music Fundraiser, Harmony and Horizons — Transforming Lives Through Music and the Arts*, was a night to remember, filled with melody, inspiration and the promise of an exciting new tradition. On this crisp autumn evening, musicians of all ages captivated the audience with their talent and passion. From our youngest performers delighting the crowd with a charming rendition of “Jolly Old Saint Nick” and a graceful performance of Johannes Brahms’ “Waltz,” to a lively trumpet duet featuring a gifted teen student and his instructor, the evening showcased the full spectrum of musical artistry.

The November 6 event also featured a powerful, soulful performance of Nina Simone’s “Feeling Good” by some of our exceptionally talented alumni, followed by the smooth sounds of our jazz musicians, who rounded out the night with timeless tunes like “This Masquerade” and the heartfelt “Guess Who I Saw Today.” Each performance was a testament to the transformative power of music, filling the room with harmony and a deep sense of appreciation.

With exceptional food, fine wine and the generosity of our sponsors, the atmosphere was set for an unforgettable celebration of the arts. A fabulous silent auction further contributed to the evening’s success, ensuring that the music will continue to play at DCC and building anticipation for next year’s encore.

“Harmony and Horizons was more than a performance; it was a celebration of our shared passion for the arts and a testament to music’s power to uplift lives and strengthen communities,” said DCC Academy of Music Director Jenny Park. “We’re proud to nurture talent, spark joy and create traditions that will resonate for generations. With the DCC Foundation’s support, this memorable evening was made possible, and we eagerly look forward to more inspiring gatherings in the years to come.”

Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this inaugural event a true celebration of music, the arts and community. We look forward to continuing this tradition and transforming lives through the power of music.

Change Lives 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 meaningful and rewarding.

Establish an Endowment

Donated funds are invested in perpetuity. Principal-generated earnings fund a scholarship, academic program or campus needs 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.

Make an Annual Gift or Attend an Event

Your gift to the Fund for Dutchess supports DCC's highest priorities and areas of most urgent need. These include merit-, need-based and daycare scholarships, student emergency support, student technology and programming, faculty development, campus facility improvements and esteemed lectures. Additionally, an event sponsorship offers a wide range of giving opportunities to highlight you, your business or your organization in fun, exciting ways, all while supporting the Fund for Dutchess.

Legacy Planning

Integrate philanthropy into your overall personal estate planning. We will work with you to achieve your personal philanthropic goals through a bequest from a will, retirement assets such as an IRA or 401k, life insurance benefit, charitable gift annuity or personal property. Our goal is to ensure that your legacy is preserved.

Naming Opportunities

Leave your mark on DCC. The Foundation offers many opportunities for you to name a building, room or other space. The naming of campus space will recognize your generosity publicly. Your name will be displayed in a place of honor for all to appreciate for generations to come.

Honor or Memorial Commemoration

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."

Gift of Time

Come back to campus — your time is a gift as well. Maybe you have professional experiences worth sharing with our students in class or a career expo. If you are an alum, your story could inspire potential or current students. We also are looking for volunteers to help the DCC Foundation by joining its Board of Directors or a committee, and/or volunteering at an event.

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 **www.sunydutchess.edu/giving**.

Checks should be made payable to the DCC Foundation and mailed to **53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**.

Fore the Win

34th Annual Golf Tourney Drives Scholarships, Vital Initiatives

Swinging into action for an unforgettable day of camaraderie and giving back, the Dutchess Community College Foundation's 34th Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner took place on May 20, 2024 at McCann Memorial Golf Course. This event wasn't just about golf—it was a heartfelt celebration of legacy, honoring **Jack Orcutt**, one of DCC's founding faculty members who played a pivotal role in shaping the College's vibrant community. Whether seasoned pros or newcomers to the game, participants united for a cause driving toward a brighter future for DCC students and programs.

With perfect weather and 84 golfers on the course, the day was filled with swings, putts, friendly competition and the spirit of giving. Local organizations contributed fantastic gift bags, adding to the excitement and camaraderie.

The tournament raised an impressive **\$68,000**, with proceeds supporting scholarships and other important student initiatives. The Orcutt family proudly supported the event, keeping Jack's legacy of generosity alive for future generations of students.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, the event was truly a hole-in-one success! Mark your calendars for the **35th Annual Tournament** next year on **May 19, 2025**—we can't wait to see you there!

We'd like to thank our sponsors who contributed to this event's success:

EVENT SPONSOR Llelanie Orcutt and Family

ACE SPONSOR iHeartMEDIA of the Hudson Valley

GIVEAWAY SPONSORS Andersen, and McCann Foundation

DOUBLE EAGLE SPONSORS Baroni Recycling & Scrap Metal, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley

EAGLE SPONSORS Real Property Abstract & Title Services, Royal Carting Service Company, Shirley Brereton '88, Ronald Brereton, Neomi Bereton '19



Use this QR code to view more photos from the 2024 tournament.



FIRST PLACE

AERO Enterprises: John Trosie, Ken Hutter and James Patterson



SECOND PLACE

Marshall & Sterling: Dillon Fontain, Joe Grosee, Andrew Taffe and Dawn Juliano



THIRD PLACE

MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.: Bill O'Neil, Jenny Lippman, Joel Bianchi and Mike DeBrino

CONTEST WINNERS

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

Suzi Freda (women) and James Patterson (men)

LONGEST DRIVE

Liz Fedoris (women) and James Patterson (men)

DCC Celebrates New International Flag Display



On Nov. 15, DCC proudly unveiled its new International Flag Display at its Poughkeepsie campus, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of its faculty, staff and students. This vibrant addition highlights DCC's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) by offering a visible, lasting symbol of the global perspectives that enrich its community.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in the lobby of the James and Betty Hall Theatre, drawing more than 150 attendees, including members of the Dutchess County Legislature and campus administrators, faculty, staff and students. A Certificate of Recognition was presented by the Office of Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino for DCC's commitment to fostering a diverse campus culture that benefits students, staff and other members of the community.

Dr. Melissa Carlo, DCC's interim chief diversity officer, led the ceremony and shared the story behind the project, which began in early 2023 as a collaborative cross-College effort spearheaded by the President's Diversity Council.

"These United Nations-recognized flags reflect our diverse campus community," she remarked. "This display will continue to grow."

There are currently 100 flags exhibited, representing the countries of origin of DCC's students, faculty and staff. Plans include expanding the collection each summer as new members join the College community.

Two original student photographs complement the display — "Three Arches," by Bridget Donnelly, depicting a view from the Poughkeepsie Train Station, and "Little Italy," a scene from downtown Poughkeepsie, by Brianna DiLoreto. The pieces, selected and arranged by Associate Professor of Art Margaret Craig '99, capture a sense of place and rootedness, emphasizing the College's location in Poughkeepsie and its connection to the global community.

"These colorful emblems offer a warm welcome to everyone who comes to our campus — community members attending events, faculty and staff, current and prospective students and their families, all who worked and studied at DCC," said President Peter Grant Jordan. "The flags symbolize unity, resilience and the shared dreams of individuals and entire families who see America as the land of opportunity and aspire to achieve the American Dream through the pursuit of higher education."

Jamaal Duarte, a DCC Diversity Council student representative, also spoke at the event, voicing what the display means to students.

"Instead of honing in on the differences that define our identities, this space allows us to celebrate what makes us unique, elevating all of our campus community, regardless of cultural background," he shared.

Embodying Our Core Values

DCC Board Wins Prestigious National Equity Award

DCC continues to make significant progress toward our institutional goals, guided by its core values: collaboration, engagement, excellence, innovation and equity. That the College was honored by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) with their prestigious Equity Award is especially exciting, as one of these values is reflected in the award's name.

The ACCT Equity Award is presented annually to one college in each of five regions for exceptional achievements in promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. DCC's strong leadership, innovative strategies and commitment to closing equity gaps were key factors in receiving this honor.

Our recent designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), with students of Hispanic heritage comprising more than 25% of full-time enrollment, highlights DCC's commitment to fostering an inclusive learning environment for our diverse student body. Additionally, the success of our opportunity programs (TRIO, EOP and CSTEP) played a significant role. They provide vital support to students facing socioeconomic and academic challenges, particularly those from low-income backgrounds and historically underrepresented groups.

"We are incredibly proud of this recognition, which affirms the tireless efforts of our faculty, staff and students in making DCC a place where everyone belongs," said DCC President Peter Grant Jordan. "This award is a powerful acknowledgment of our shared commitment to equity, and it inspires us to continue our work with even greater passion and purpose."

"I am proud of the efforts which my fellow trustees and our dedicated colleagues at DCC undertook to advance equity and inclusion at the college," Board of Trustees Vice Chair Michael Dupree added. "This recognition represents how much we have accomplished, but it's also a reminder that there is always more work to do."



2023-24 Board of Trustees Recognized by ACCT

Top row: Chair Michael Dupree, Vice Chair Angela Flesland, Secretary Darrah Cloud, Maya Chinkan, Evelyn Panichi; Bottom row: Frank Castella Jr., Linda Pratt, Linda Ghartey-Ogundimu, Stephen Caswell, Ibis Guzmán



Showing Our Pride in Poughkeepsie

June 8 was a beautiful day for Poughkeepsie Pride! After marching in the parade and holding a banner featuring a design by Visual Arts graduate Alicia Smith '24, members of the LGBTQIA+ of DCC Committee made their way to Wayras Park. There they tabled alongside staff from the Counseling Center, Health Services and Academic Housing, sharing information about services and support for DCC's queer community. On behalf of the LGBTQIA+ of DCC Committee (Michael Hall, Mary Ramaglia, Dana Gavin, John Howell, Tom Trinchera and Jay Brown), Chair and Associate Professor Lindsey Guile thanked Associate Professor of Art Holly McCabe and her spring 2024 graphic design class for collaborating on designs for their banner and stickers, along with Instruction & Learning and the DCC Foundation for their generous sponsorship.

Class Notes

CLASS NOTES



Michael Aiello '80 shares that attending DCC was more than a stepping stone; it's where he discovered his love for logic and mathematics. Under the guidance of faculty like Gail Brittain and Ron Kupin, he found a passion for problem-solving and creativity in computer science, inspiring him to think beyond the technical aspects. After completing his associate degree,

Michael earned his bachelor's in management information systems from Pace University and enjoyed an illustrious, 22-year career with PepsiCo as a solutions architect. There, he became known for his expertise in data management and for advancing PepsiCo's LGBTQ+ employee resource group, EQUAL. As co-chair, Michael helped guide this team for eight years, shaping the direction of global chapters and ensuring that LGBTQ+ associates' needs were met, a role he considers one of his most rewarding. Today, Michael is enjoying a new chapter in life as Innkeeper of The Inn at Kettleboro in New Paltz, N.Y., where he and husband Robert Witkowski have built a welcoming retreat. Nestled on 12 acres of apple and peach orchards with views of the Shawangunk Mountains, the inn combines historic charm with modern amenities. His advice to today's students emphasizes balance, resilience and awareness. "Take care of your well-being — mental and physical. Spend time in nature, cherish your friendships and stay engaged with what's happening in the world. These are things that matter long after you've left college," he advises.

Class Notes Submissions

To make a submission to DCC's Class Notes, please email the Foundation Team at dccf@sunydutchess.edu or mail us your news at 53 Pendell Road, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 12601. You can also phone us at (845) 431-8403 with questions.

Please be advised the deadline for next year's annual report is **Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.**

Denise Boldo '00 holds a master's in social work (MSW) degree and is currently a doctoral student at St. John Fisher University in Rochester, N.Y. She is experienced in case managing high-risk pregnancies for managed care organizations. She was one of the first MSW social workers hired in New York state for Medical Management in Health Management Organizations. She is a DONA International-Certified Birth Doula with over 300 birth experiences since 2014. She is the owner and developer of "Black Women Do VBAC" and a noted public speaker, workshop presenter and podcast producer. She recently spoke at the 26th annual



Making Healthful Decisions Conference, hosted at DCC in November. Her presentation, "Black/BIPOC Maternal Health in the Hudson Valley: Building a Community Begins at Birth," addressed critical issues related to isolation, loneliness and disconnection in the context of helpful decision-making, maternal health and doula support in the Hudson Valley.

Patsy N. Ahearn '18 lives in Greenville, S.C., and works as a senior paralegal and office manager with Childs Law Firm, which she joined after earning her associate degree in Paralegal Studies. She works in the areas of automobile accident injuries, workers compensation and general litigation. She also serves on the board of the South Carolina Upstate Paralegal Association and is a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem for Greenville County. In 2021, she was named Paralegal of the Year and recognized as one of Greenville Business Magazine's 2021 Best and Brightest 35 and Under. Andrea Balga '82 teaches Business Law (BUS 216) at DCC and recently invited Patsy to speak to her students virtually.



Patsy shared her DCC experiences and gave examples of the day in the life of a paralegal. She shared resources to help students become certified, how to use case notes and draft documents and how she has applied what she learned at DCC in her career.

Jasmin Vazquez '10 reports that DCC laid the foundation for her success as the Hudson Valley Regional Director for the Office of the State Comptroller's Intergovernmental and Community Affairs Division. "Dutchess prepared me for what awaited me beyond the classroom," she shares. "Your résumé doesn't carry you through life; it's the lessons learned through hard work and application that truly matter." One of her most cherished memories is her summer trip to China. Exploring three cities with classmates, Jasmin discovered new perspectives and lifelong friendships. She also grew tremendously while on campus. From an introvert, she grew into a confident leader through her involvement in student government, eventually being elected SGA president. Jasmin also developed a passion for journalism, playing a key role in reviving the student newspaper, *The Dutchess Chronicle*. Jasmin was profoundly influenced by professors who broadened her perspective and sharpened her critical thinking. For today's students, she offers simple yet profound advice: embrace discomfort and seek out challenges. Whether



it's joining a club, running for student government or enrolling in a public speaking course, she believes moments of discomfort are where the most meaningful growth occurs. Her journey is a testament to the transformative power of a DCC education, where critical thinking, personal growth and lasting connections shape the tomorrow's leaders.



Isabella Paquette '20 is an account executive at Impact PR & Communications, an award-winning firm led by another DCC alumna, **Filomena Fanelli '96**.

She crafts and implements strategic public relations campaigns for a variety of clients and projects, including a former New York Yankee-turned-jazz musician and a statewide app for individuals

with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. In addition, Isabella serves as press secretary for a Washington D.C.-based watchdog organization, where she advocates for accountability and transparency in Congress. When reminiscing about DCC, Isabella highlights the camaraderie among students and friendships she formed. Her involvement in DCC's Model UN program also stands out. Collaborating with students from other schools and attending simulations in New York City taught her valuable lessons in diplomacy and teamwork, skills that serve her well today. Even more impressively, Isabella became a U.S. Figure Skating Gold Medalist while attending DCC, thanks to the flexibility which DCC faculty afforded her. She continues to inspire others by coaching the next generation of skaters, blending her passions for excellence and mentorship. Lastly, Isabella recently returned to DCC as a member of the Foundation's Gala, and Alumni Relations and Special Events Committees. We are honored to have her back, helping us raise funds that directly support students, faculty and staff, as she generously gives back to the place that helped shape her path.



Engineering Science and Electrical Technology alumni came together for a memorable reunion on May 11 at the scenic Black Snake Brewing Company at Old Adriance Farm. This cherished tradition, spanning over four decades, offers a unique opportunity for faculty to reconnect with former students while fostering connections for the next generation. The picturesque outdoor setting welcomed alumni, their families and even future alumni to share in the celebration and camaraderie.

Joseph Wernet-Harnden '02 recently honored his transformative DCC experience with a generous DCCF Scholarship Fund gift, in tribute to his late father, Charles B. Harnden, Jr., who worked tirelessly to support his children's education. Joseph fondly recalls his time at DCC as a pivotal chapter, shaped by inspiring professors, supportive staff, and enriching campus activities like editing the literary magazine, *Exposed*, and founding the Future Educators Club. His seamless transfer to SUNY New Paltz and subsequent

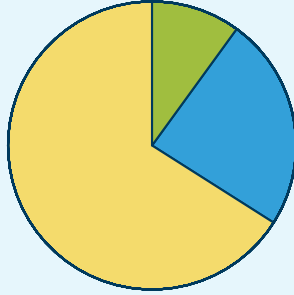


academic achievements, including a master's and educational specialist degree in Educational Leadership, are a testament to the foundation DCC provided. Now an educator and aspiring principal, Joseph continues to champion the value of community colleges to his students. His thoughtful gift will help future generations pursue their dreams at DCC.

2024 FINANCIALS

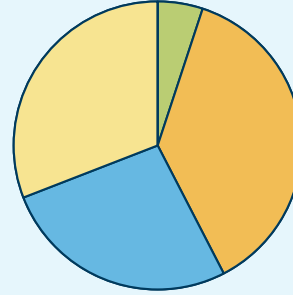
DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Budget Allocation*



Instruction, Academic Support, Student Services and Library	\$40,368,464
General Administration	\$14,589,564
Facilities	\$6,078,771
Total	\$61,036,799

Funding Sources



County	\$23,733,953
State	\$16,749,655
Student Tuition	\$19,520,825
Other	\$3,200,014
Total	\$63,204,447

DCC FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Condition

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$92,031
Investments	\$17,683,770
Other Assets	\$382,192
TOTAL ASSETS	\$18,157,993

Liabilities

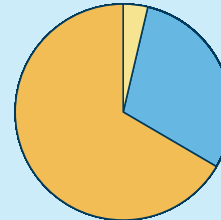
Accounts Payable	\$205,674
Other Liabilities	—
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$205,674

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,297,419
Temporarily Restricted	\$4,467,654
Permanently Restricted	\$12,187,246
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$17,952,319

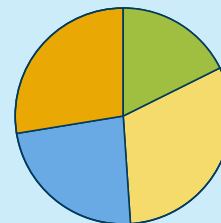
Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$18,157,993**

Investment



Equity Mutual Funds	\$11,773,387
Fixed Income Mutual Funds	\$5,261,344
Cash	\$649,039
Total	\$17,683,770

Support



Scholarships	\$656,456
Program Support	\$559,670
Development and Stewardship	\$744,484
Fundraising	\$419,924
Total	\$2,380,534

*Fiscal year ended 8/31/24

We thank our 2024 major sponsors.

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Karen and Nevill Smythe | TD Bank | Th!nk Dutchess | T. Webber | Ulster Savings Bank | Vassar College
Wallace & Wallace LLP | Williams Lumber & Home Centers | Youngwirth Law

Thank you, volunteers.

The Foundation extends a warm thank you to all who helped plan our events.

Karen & Doug Abramson | Bridgette Anderson | AnneMarie Andrews | Michelle Barone-Lepore '04
Pat Bordonaro | Marcia Butland '74 | Paul Conrad '12 | Samantha Consorti | Tim Decker | Carla DelTreste-Jutt '01
Pam Dembicki '89 | Raymond Freda '88 | Adrianna Greco | Michael Hall | Matt Hanlon | Renee Lathrop
Sarah Lee | Donna May | Susan McClelland-Boyce | Rita McPeck '88 | Eddie Monroy '11 | Vincent Nunziato
Matthew Palmatier '99 | Matthew Paquet | Isabella Paquette '20 | Art Phillips | Adam Podpora '11
Virginia Poznack '77 | Shirley Roberts-Brereton '88 | Susan Scivolette-McCormack '87 | Steven Scivolette
Yvonne Sewell '69 | Alicia Smith | Eric Tomik '15 | Sally Weglinski '77 | Sarah Wheeler



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