



## The Four P's of Strategic Growth

President Jordan concluded the “This is Our Future” town hall series on Dec. 6 with an inspiring discussion on Growth, weaving together all four lenses of DCC’s [2023-28 Strategic Plan](#). After reflecting on the themes of the previous town halls, he introduced his Four P’s—People, Programs, Partnerships and Physical Assets—as key drivers of strategic growth at DCC.

**People**—Dr. Jordan highlighted the importance of fostering growth for faculty, staff, students and the broader community. “You are our greatest asset,” he said, reaffirming his commitment to professional development and supporting students socially, academically and professionally.

**Programs**—DCC’s academic and career programs must align with student, community and industry needs. Dr. Jordan encouraged faculty and staff to adopt a “both/and” mindset, balancing liberal arts and technical skills. He highlighted the theatre department as an example of experiential learning, where students apply classroom knowledge to real-world projects.

**Partnerships**—Collaboration with schools, businesses, government and other institutions is critical to creating opportunities and expanding DCC’s impact. Partnerships with financial supporters like the County Legislature are also pivotal for advancing DCC’s mission.

**Physical Assets**—The Centers of Excellence model is central to strengthening DCC’s facilities, technology and capacity. This approach ensures the College remains adaptable to the needs of students and faculty while increasing its visibility in the region.

**Open Discussion**—Dr. Jordan invited input on integrating additional dimensions of growth into the Four P’s. Faculty and staff shared thoughts and ideas, including improving connections with students in Conklin Residence Hall, implementing an accredited ESL program, imagining the Centers of Excellence, and addressing staffing and scheduling needs, among other topics.

He closed the series by expressing his gratitude to faculty and staff for their engagement. “Thank you for everything you do, day in and day out, to make DCC the powerhouse it is,” he said, reinforcing a shared vision for the future.

**Mark Your Calendar for ConvoCon - Jan. 16, 2025!**

A man in a white t-shirt and safety glasses is leaning over a piece of red machinery in a lab. Other people are visible in the background.

# Momentum Builds at the **MECHATRONICS LAB**

When we opened the Mechatronics Lab at the Center of Excellence for Business, Industry and Innovation in Fishkill last fall, the excitement was felt from Poughkeepsie to Washington, DC.

Now in its second year, the Lab has not only met but exceeded expectations, particularly in enrollment growth. The initial goal was to increase credit-bearing students in the Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (ACR) and Electrical Technology (ELT) programs by 12. Through focused efforts, DCC generated 91 inquiries and 16 new enrollments in spring 2024, bringing the total to 48 students. This fall, momentum continued, with 16 additional ACR students and 27 new ELT students enrolling, raising the total to 84—a remarkable 120% growth in just two years.

The Lab has also strengthened partnerships with local businesses like SonoTEK, The Gap, Ammega, and OnSemi, which host credit-free trainings at the facility, furthering its role as a workforce development hub.

For students like Nicholas Burachowski, an adult learner from Staatsburg graduating this May with an ELT associate degree, the lab has been transformative. “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 these connections to secure an internship and prepare for a new full-time career.

High school students are also benefiting through the new Pathways in Technology (P-TECH) program, launched in August in partnership with Dutchess County BOCES. Designed to support at-risk students, P-TECH offers an accelerated STEM pathway, enabling participants to earn both a high school diploma and an ELT associate degree. Starting with 25 students, the program is expected to grow to 200.

“Up next at the Lab are new Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Technology microcredential and degree programs, which may launch as soon as fall 2025,” said Vice President for Instruction & Learning Dr. Raymond Houston. “We’ve secured \$1 million through the SUNY Transformation Fund to purchase training equipment and support this expanded programming. Two Fishkill classrooms are also slated for renovation to house these new assets, which ACR students will use as well.”

“This facility is poised to become the premier advanced manufacturing training hub of the Mid-Hudson Valley,” added Dr. Susan Rogers, chief of staff & vice president for institutional effectiveness.



# Sajed Naseem

## Chief Information Security Officer



With over 20 years in cybersecurity and information technology across different industries, Sajed Naseem brings a wealth of experience to the role of chief information security officer (CISO) at DCC.

Most recently, he served as CISO of New Jersey Judiciary, working closely with the Supreme Court and IT department to drive enterprise-wide technology initiatives and protect critical data. In addition to his leadership roles, Naseem has been a faculty member at St. John's University for nearly 15 years, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses on topics such as network security, cybercrime and asset protection.

Naseem holds a bachelor's degree in health sciences, along with two master's degrees—one in criminology from St. John's and another in technology management from Columbia University. Since 2017, he has collaborated with a research team at

MIT, focusing on human behavior and cyber awareness in the workplace. He has also moderated Supreme Court events such as "Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity" (2023) and "Technology and Mental Health" (2022). His insights on cybersecurity challenges in government operations during the pandemic were featured in Politico's 2020 article, "The Cyberthreat to U.S. Courts."

As a proud SUNY alumnus, Naseem says he's eager to strengthen cybersecurity at DCC and further its mission of fostering a secure and innovative environment for working and learning.

Fun facts about Sajed: He's working on opening an animal sanctuary in Pennsylvania that will care for goats, alpacas and small horses. A longtime basketball player, he once dreamed of becoming a sports broadcaster. He also considered going to medical school in Poland at age 17.



## Microsoft 365 is Growing Strong

From streamlining coursework with Teams to collaborative innovation on OneDrive, Microsoft 365 is becoming a cornerstone of daily life for DCC students, staff and faculty. Over the last 180 days, statistics reveal a measurable increase in adoption and usage, underscoring the platform's growing importance.

The data offers valuable insights and helps us meet evolving academic needs. Looking ahead to 2025, we'll be exploring integrations with AI and accessibility tools while balancing our technology expansion with robust security measures.

The IT Department would like to thank you for your cooperation and support as we ensure that our campus remains not only connected but secure in our increasingly digital world.

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

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

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

All voicemails are automatically generated into tickets.



## Record-Breaking Attendance at Fall Open House!

Our annual Fall Open House, held on Saturday, Nov. 16, set a new attendance record with 270 prospective students and 688 guests. This significant increase from last year's 205 prospective students reflects the hard work of our Admissions team and collaborative efforts across the College to highlight the opportunities at DCC.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 87% of online survey respondents agreeing that the event made them more likely to consider DCC. Attendees also described the Open House as "welcoming throughout the whole experience" and noted that DCC offers "a great education without the college debt after."

Associate Dean of Enrollment Mike Roe thanked faculty, staff and student volunteers for promoting and participating in the event. "With such engaging faculty and staff, beautiful campus grounds, delicious cookies, wonderful student navigators and perfect November weather, the day was a huge success," he said.

President Jordan also expressed his gratitude, stating, "You are the heart of this institution, and your passion is contagious. Let's keep this energy alive and continue to inspire the next generation of leaders for our county and region!"





## “The Lightning Thief” Superpowers Neurodiversity

Rick Riordan, author of the celebrated “Percy Jackson and the Olympians” series, first imagined his main character when he ran out of Greek myths to share with his son. At the time, his son was being diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia—traits Riordan wove into Percy’s character. The result? A thrilling adventure series that reframes neurodiversity as a source of strength, showcasing the often-overlooked superpowers of those who think differently.

The DCC Performing Arts Program and Masquer’s Guild Theatre Club brought “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical” to life in an energetic, celebratory rendition adapted from the book by playwright Joe Tracz. Held over the weekend of Open House (Nov. 14-17), the production drew over 800 attendees, including prospective students who had the chance to see their future peers in action.

“I loved being able to offer a piece that speaks to students in a different way,” said Director AnnChris Warren, a part-time theatre instructor. “I believe part of what makes the Percy Jackson series so popular is it positively highlights the neurodivergent community. Young people who are on the spectrum in any way see themselves in the heroes of the stories, and that representation has lasting effects on them.”

Warren also praised the inclusive casting opportunities made possible by the script’s author’s note, which emphasized that heroes come in all forms. “We also encourage you to look beyond traditional casting ‘types,’” the note reads. “Above all, the characters in THE LIGHTNING THIEF are gods and heroes – and gods and heroes can look like any of us.”

With its combination of dynamic performances, a meaningful message, and a spotlight on student talent, “The Lightning Thief” was more than a performance—it was a celebration of individuality, inclusivity and community.



### Poughkeepsie High School Students Get Backstage Pass

On the morning before opening night, the inaugural [Smart Scholars Early College High School Performing Arts Academy](#) cohort visited DCC for a tour and an up-close look behind the scenes. The program, the first of its kind in New York State, is a collaboration between Poughkeepsie City School District, DCC and The Bardavon 1869 Opera House. It is designed to support students interested in pursuing a career in the performing arts after high school graduation.

The campus visit began with a group advisement session with Career Coach John Alley, who emphasized the wide range of career options for students in the arts. Professor of Theatre Dr. Thomas Costello then led the group

through a variety of opportunities and spaces DCC offers to students interested in music, dance, theatre and media production. The students were able to experience firsthand the resources and expertise available to help them succeed in their creative pursuits. Associate Dean of Instruction & Learning/Pre-Collegiate Programs Fred Herbst said, “It was great to see our future students on campus picturing themselves joining the DCC spotlight.”

## VIPs in Action

# The Art Effect Honors DCC

Dutchess Community College earned the distinction of Business Honoree at the Art Effect's annual Art After Dark event, held on Nov. 15 at the Trolley Barn Gallery in Poughkeepsie. This recognition underscores the College's ongoing commitment to fostering arts education and its impactful partnerships within the Hudson Valley community.

Associate Professor of Art Margaret Craig, an alumna and longtime faculty member, accepted the award on behalf of the College. "This award is a representation of the dedication that DCC has to the community," she shared. "It is just one of the many reasons I am so very proud to have gone to school here, had my children come here and have my tenure at this college. DCC is dCc first and foremost!" She also expressed gratitude for the contributions of Art Effect instructors who have brought their talents to DCC as a result of the partnership, including David Wong, Mary Ellen Itroupolus and now, Jaime Ransome.

Associate Professor of Visual Arts and Art Program Chair Holly McCabe, who was also in attendance that evening, said: "This award is a testament to the invaluable community partnerships we always strive to foster and grow at DCC, which in turn strengthen all who are involved. The Art Effect shares the values of the DCC Visual Arts program, ensuring the arts are accessible to all, and teaching the skills that will elevate our students and give them the creative tools to achieve their future goals, whatever they may be."

Also there to celebrate this achievement were President Jordan; Associate Professor of Art Lindsey Guile; Professor of Communications, Media Arts and Film Dana Weidman; Associate Dean of Instruction & Learning/Pre-Collegiate Programs Fred Herbst; and Student Trustee Bobby Biersack, who was ecstatic to win the evening's big raffle prize—a Yankees basket.



## Another Artistic Achievement!

Associate Professor and Art Department Chair Holly McCabe has been named Art Educator of the Year for Region 7 by the New York State Art Teacher Association (NYSTA). McCabe received the honor during NYSTA's 76th annual conference, held Nov. 24 in Binghamton.

Congratulations to Professor McCabe on this well-deserved recognition!

# DCC Out and About: Fall Roundup

Falcons are making an impact—both within the College and in the greater community. As we wrap up another fantastic fall semester, we're excited to showcase some standout moments and achievements from our faculty, staff and students.



## Budding Student/Lobbyist Represents DCC at Model UN

Jose Martinez-Cruz, a first-generation college student majoring in liberal arts and social sciences with a focus on political science, joined President Jordan at the GlobalMindED Summit at the United Nations in New York City on Oct. 10. The full-day event drew more than 300 students from over 60 community colleges and universities, providing an opportunity to learn from and network with 400 speakers, attendees and peers.

Born and raised in the City of Poughkeepsie, Martinez-Cruz was eager to connect with like-minded students from prestigious schools like Brown and Harvard, as well as government and educational leaders. "The event exceeded my expectations," he shared. "I met inspiring people, and it solidified my passion for advocating for my community."

Martinez-Cruz's interest in government and advocacy stems from his desire to make meaningful change. "If you want to start somewhere, start where you came from," he said. He plans to pursue a career as a lobbyist and is already active on campus, representing global politics in student government and participating in Model UN.



## Dr. Boden Presents Civil War Findings

On Oct. 24, Associate Professor of History Dr. Michael Boden delivered a virtual presentation to the Dutchess County Historical Society, sharing insights from his sabbatical research. His talk, titled [A Long and Fatiguing Campaign: The 150th New York Regiment in the Atlanta Campaign, May-September 1864](#), is a continuation of his successful series of talks on [the role of Dutchess County in the Civil War](#).

Dr. Boden's latest findings reveal "an interesting link between a soldier killed in the campaign and 19th-century industrial and agricultural developments in the eastern half of the county."



## Human Services Intern Responds to Community Needs

Camelle Mack, a human services student enrolled in Tomasine Oliphant's CMH 103: Community Mental Health Practicum I, gained valuable experience this semester as an intern at People's Place. The course provides hands-on experience at a mental health or social services agency, preparing students for work in the field. At People's Place, Camelle learned how the organization responds to the needs of the community and contributed to these efforts through her work in the Food Pantry, Thrift Store, Wellness Empowerment Center and Community Café.



## Holly McCabe Highlights Careers in the Arts

Associate Professor and Art Program Chair Holly McCabe served as a panelist at Arts Mid-Hudson's annual **THRIVE: Making a Career in the Arts** event held at Dutchess BOCES on Oct. 24. The event brought together local professionals to share insights into careers in the arts and related industries. High school students heard firsthand advice from experts in fields ranging from music and video production to marketing.

"It was such a great opportunity to connect with other arts-based professionals in the area, and, in turn, share our knowledge and experiences with high school students and their families looking to pursue a career in the arts themselves!" said McCabe.



## Debate Team Talks Up a Storm!

The DCC Speech and Debate Coalition had an action-packed October, as reported by Assistant Professor Margeaux Lippman. First, they traveled to Lafayette College in Easton, PA to compete in the OchoIE Speech and Debate Tournament on Oct. 12 and 13. As the only two-year school at the competition, DCC stood out with impressive results. Dadoen Tenzin was a quarterfinalist in IPDA Debate and finished as third speaker overall. Shayna Kaiser was a semi-finalist in IPDA debate and was the top-ranked speaker at the tournament. The team also finished third in sweepstakes.



Later in the month, the Coalition hosted the DCC Invitational/SNAFU #1 Speech and Debate Swing from Oct. 26-27, attracting competitors from colleges across the East Coast. Dadoen Tenzin earned second place in IPDA Debate, and the team claimed first place in Limited Entry Sweepstakes.



## Conference Empowers RAs to Lead with Confidence

The Office of Academic Housing participated in the annual Resident Assistant Conference at Stony Brook University for the first time on Nov. 2. Eight resident assistants (RAs) represented DCC at the event, which featured workshops, networking sessions and leadership training focused on enhancing the residential experience. The RAs explored new strategies for community engagement and gained valuable skills to better support their peers. The experience not only boosted the RAs' confidence and leadership abilities but also reinforced their commitment to creating an inclusive and vibrant living environment at DCC.



## Criminal Justice Student Earns Sheriff's Award

Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati visited DCC on Nov. 19 to personally present the New York State Sheriffs' Institute 2024 Criminal Justice Scholarship to Criminal Justice student Teresa Dushaj, with President Jordan joining him in bestowing the honor. Criminal Justice Program Chair Matthew Greenstein said, "This scholarship is a testament to Teresa's unlimited potential and bright future in law enforcement."





## Service Learning Project Engages Young Minds

On Nov. 5, Assistant Professor Pat Phillips's ENG 003 students presented their service learning project "Let's Read a Story!" at the Louis Greenspan Day Care Center. Prior to the visit, each student completed writing logs, noting materials needed, questions for the day care center, wardrobe, costumes, food preparation, and who would play which parts. They practiced reading and acting skills ahead of time, with each team giving helpful and fun suggestions for their peers.



Day care center director Sandra Kraich and assistant director Jason Goldsbary always look forward to the students' performances, and the 3- and 4-year-old audience members were thoroughly entertained. Afterward, the students guided the preschoolers through a fun, hands-on activity connected to the stories. President Jordan even took time out of his busy day to stop by and say hello.



## DCC Students Represent El Salvador at Model UN

Students from the Political Science and International Relations Club proudly represented El Salvador at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in Washington, DC, from Nov. 8-10. Participating in five committees—General Assembly First Committee (GA1), General Assembly Second Committee (GA2), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)—the students engaged in discussions and debates on critical global issues ranging from international security to environmental sustainability. Although Dr. Matthew Murray, club advisor and associate professor of government, was unable to chaperone the students on the trip, he said the students "were excellent self-starters and prepared diligently prior to their departure."



## Marcia Butland Secures Grant to Support Student Parents

Marcia Butland, assistant dean for enrollment and student success, has secured a \$5,000 grant and programming from The Jed Foundation to support student parents. This initiative aims to "empower parenting students through innovative programs and services," aligning with DCC's strategic enrollment management (SEM) plan. With nearly 1,000 students aged 25 and older enrolled for fall 2024, the grant strengthens our commitment to the recruitment and retention of adult learners. "We view being selected as one of 10 campuses nationwide to participate in the Jed Foundation Campus Community College Collaborative for Student Parents as a unique opportunity to inform our development of priorities and strategies for cultivating a campus culture where student parents feel seen, supported and thrive," said Butland.

## Got a Story to Share?

Whether it's a student success story, new instructional equipment, a class trip, an exciting event, an award, a conference presentation or something else, we want to hear about it and share your story with our audience! Send your stories to [www.sunydutchess.edu/media](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/media).



*The fall 2024 semester has been an exciting one for DCC athletics, with student-athletes making their mark across various sports and competitions. Here are some highlights:*



### **Men's Soccer**

Congratulations to head coach Julien Austin and assistant coach Zach Reid on a successful first season leading the men's soccer program. Standout student-athletes Matthew Petty and Brandon Naranjo earned first team All Mid-Hudson Conference honors, while Luan Boyd was selected for the second team. Petty also received honorable mention for the Region XV All-Region Team and was named DCC's Sportsmanship Award winner.



### **Women's Volleyball**

The women's volleyball team, led by head coach Frank Sanfilippo and assistant coaches Didi Spero and Tim Millholm, had an impressive season, finishing as Mid-Hudson Conference runners-up. The Falcons entered the Region XV Tournament as the No. 5 seed, advancing to the semifinals before falling to top-seeded Nassau Community College.

Individual honors went to Cali Delvecchio, Riley Gemmel and Jasmin Gomez, who were named to the first team All Mid-Hudson Conference. Gemmel also earned first team All-Region honors, while Gomez received honorable mention for Region XV. DCC's Sportsmanship Award was presented to Jane Trowbridge.



## Women's Softball

The women's softball program, led by head coach Chip Watt and assistant coaches Cassidy Watt and Liz McCarthy, hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness fall scrimmage against the Community College of Rhode Island on Oct. 20. The event raised awareness for breast cancer and highlighted the DCC softball program's commitment to community engagement.



## Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team, coached by Robert Piano, is off to an outstanding start with an 11-0 record heading into the holiday break. The team leads Region XV and is ranked No. 5 nationally in NJCAA DIII. Key players include top scorers Alijah England, averaging 16.6 points per game, and Prince Kamate, averaging 12.8 points per game. Good luck to Coach Piano and his staff as they continue their fourth season of men's basketball!



## Women's Basketball

Led by newly appointed head coach Ty Moultrie, the women's basketball team is building momentum with a 2-5 record heading into holiday break. Student-athlete Eva Bertiz leads the team with 12.4 points and 9.4 rebounds per game. Bertiz was named Mid-Hudson Conference Play of the Week on Nov. 23. Good luck to Coach Moultrie and his staff in their first season for Women's Basketball at Dutchess.



## Esports

DCC Esports continues to compete in the NJCAA Tier 3 and Tier 2 leagues against colleges across the country. With a roster of 30 student-athletes participating in various games, coach Navarra and the teams are closing out the semester strong.



## Multi-Sport Student-Athletes

Special recognition goes to our two-season athletes this fall:

Women's volleyball: Riley Gemmel and Cali Delvecchio

Men's soccer: Tristan Evans, Mamadou Fall, Ezequias Hoffman, Andrew Morocho Lopez and Matthew Petty

**Congratulations to all student-athletes, coaches and staff for an exciting and successful fall semester!**

## Upcoming Events

Each month, we'll highlight a few key upcoming events in DCC Connects. To view a full list, visit [www.sunydutchess.edu/events](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/events).

### DCC Holiday Gathering

*Dec. 18. 2-4p.m. • Ritz Lounge, Dutchess Hall*

Celebrate the season with colleagues and friends at our annual holiday gathering! Organized by the Office of Human Resources, this festive event features music, raffle prizes and delicious refreshments.



Have an on-campus event to add to the Events Calendar?  
Submit a web request at  
[www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request)

## From the Foundation

### Reminder: Scholarship Application Opens Jan. 1!



It's that time of year again! Encourage your students to take advantage of their winter break and get a head start on their scholarship applications.

**Deadline:** Feb. 18

Let's work together to ensure our students don't miss this opportunity!

## Save the Date

### Giving Day

*March 4, 2025*

Mark your calendars for March Forth on March 4th! This special day celebrates the power of giving to transform lives and uplift our community. By coming together, we can create opportunities, inspire success and strengthen the bonds that make us who we are. Join the DCCF in marching forth toward a brighter future!

### Our Community's Bridge to the Future Gala

*March 29, 2025*

The DCC Foundation will host its annual gala at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie on Saturday, March 29. This event will celebrate the transformative power of education and raise funds to support over \$800,000 in scholarships, grants and programming the Foundation provides each year. Stay tuned for more details!



# Campus Notes

## ENROLLMENT Updates

As of Dec. 11, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg reported that spring enrollment is up from this time last year. There are 2,286 students enrolled in 26,570 credits for the spring 2025 term—182 more students (+8.7%) and 1,563 more credits (+6.3%) than we had last year. There are 148 new students enrolled compared to 135 last year. New student applications for spring are up 9% (768 vs. 706). Continuing student enrollment is up by 169 students (8.6%).

Winter enrollment is at 299 students in 881 credits, 24 fewer students and 80 fewer credits than last year. However, this year we have already done the bulk of cancellations, while last year's under-enrolled classes had yet to be canceled.

Looking forward, there are 1,413 applications for next fall, an increase of 6% over where we were last year. Applicants using the DCC application are up 12%, while those using the SUNY application are down 5%, so we are up significantly on our higher-yield applications.

### Students Enjoy Pizza With the Prez

On Dec. 5, with finals just around the corner, students gathered for a casual lunch with President Jordan. The event offered the opportunity for students to share their experiences, ask questions and connect with the president over slices of pizza.



### A Warm Escape from Finals Stress

To help students manage the pressures of finals and the winter season, the Counseling Center hosted two events on Dec. 3 focused on mental wellness and stress relief. In the afternoon, from 12–2 p.m. on the fourth floor of Hudson Hall, they co-hosted an event with Human Services interns aimed at relaxation and self-care. Students enjoyed activities like arts and crafts, Jenga to aid with focus, bubble wrap for “popping” out stressors, and an aromatherapy station, along with DIY face mask samples and easy overnight oats recipes for healthy Finals Week meals. Later in the evening, from 7–8:30 p.m. in Conklin Hall, Human Services interns and the Active Minds Club co-hosted a student-led event to raise awareness about seasonal depression, offering gift bags with mental health resources and self-care products.



### Foundation Open House Strengthens Community Connections

The DCC Foundation hosted a successful Open House and Breakfast on National Philanthropy Day (Nov. 15), welcoming nearly 60 faculty and staff from across campus. This special morning highlighted the Foundation's impact on the campus and community, from scholarships that help students pursue their dreams to initiatives to support faculty and staff development, such as the Mary Louise Van Winkle Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). The event was filled with laughter, shared goals and a strong sense of camaraderie. Guests left with parting gifts as a token of appreciation for the Foundation's commitment to making a difference. The event also set the stage for the Foundation's new strategic plan and fostered valuable connections that continued into the following day's Board Retreat, focused on collaboration and growth.





## Holiday Spirit Shines at Foundation Craft Fair

The DCC Foundation's Annual Holiday Craft Fair, held the weekend after Thanksgiving, was a festive and successful celebration of local talent and community spirit. Featuring over 100 vendors and attracting close to 3,000 shoppers, the event brought together students, faculty, staff and local residents in support of the Foundation's mission. The fair not only featured unique handcrafted goods but also provided a chance to contribute to scholarships and programs that impact the lives of DCC students. In its second year partnering with Quail Hollow Events, the DCCF once again highlighted the creativity and generosity that define our community.



## Making Music Together at the Galleria Mall

Every fall and spring, DCC's Academy of Music connects with our community through a concert at the Galleria Mall. On Sunday, Nov. 17, Camila, one of the Academy's talented scholarship students, joined the DCC Community Orchestra, led by Rich Simon. The concert featured a diverse selection of music and was met with a warm reception from a large and appreciative audience. Said Academy of Music Director Jenny Park, "It's always inspiring to experience the power of community music-making and to reflect on the role that music plays in our lives." There are more concerts coming up in December—be sure to check our [events calendar](#)!



## Dance Students Show Off Their Moves

The Performing, Visual & Communications (PVAC) department hosted its annual Fall Dance Preview on Nov. 21 in Falcon Hall. Students from all four levels of Part-Time Instructor Andrew Karl's Performance and Applied Dance course showcased their skills in an energetic display of movement and choreography. The event celebrated the dedication and creativity of DCC's dance students, offering a glimpse into their passion for the art.



## GSA Helps Broadway Fight AIDS

On Nov. 23, the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) hosted a benefit concert supporting Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, raising over \$500. The event featured performances from several talented bands and brought the campus community together for a meaningful cause.

## Help Us Build the DCC Website!

Have an update or additional information to highlight what's unique about your program or office? Send it our way! [www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request](http://www.sunydutchess.edu/web-request).

# Personnel Updates

## New Hires

### *Welcome to DCC!*

**Caroline Belofski**, lab nursery school educator,  
June Pierson Lab Nursery School

**Michael Edwards**, housekeeper, Custodial Services

**Daniel Matteo**, high stakes test proctor,  
Testing Center

**Stefanie Healy**, program assistant,  
Student Financial Services

**Kristen Jones**, program assistant,  
Student Financial Services

## Title Changes, Promotions & Appointments

### *Congratulations, Colleagues!*

**Emma Slate**, diversity admissions counselor,  
Admissions

**Thomas Townsend-Pitt**, onboarding career  
coach, Academic Advising

