

SUNY's New Chancellor Will Visit DCC Feb. 9!



DR. JOHN B. KING, JR.

SUNY's 15th Chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr. began his tenure just last month and is already making strides towards realizing he and Governor Kathy Hochul's shared vision to not only make SUNY accessible to everyone, but to make it the best statewide system of public higher education in the nation.

Dr. King's background in the New York City public school system along with his work as a high school social studies teacher both in Boston and Puerto Rico, has made him a strong believer in the power of public education to transform lives, including his own. He built an impressive resume from these foundational experiences, going on to serve as 10th U.S. Secretary of Education under President Obama and earning degrees from three Ivy league institutions (B.A. in Government, Harvard; J.D., Yale Law School; and both an M.A. in the Teaching of Social Studies

and Ph.D. in Education, Teachers College at Columbia University). Dr. King was unanimously elected chancellor by SUNY's Board of Trustees last year.

Dr. King will be at the James and Betty Hall Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 10 a.m. to meet and address faculty and staff. Afterwards, he will be having a conversation with student leaders, including Student Trustee Aminah Augustin-Muhammad.

During his visit, the chancellor will announce a \$1.4 million award, which will be allocated to DCC in New York state's 2022/23 Enacted Budget. The funding is intended to support efforts to improve accessibility, increase retention and boost completion rates, particularly for minority and adult students.

Black History is American History

Watch Chancellor King's "[Celebrating Black History](#)" video in which he shares his own family history – from being enslaved in a cabin three generations ago to serving in the cabinet of the first Black president: "Change is possible. But we have to tell the story of both the progress and struggles to keep moving towards greater equity and justice."

ConvoCon a Breath of Fresh Air

The Greenspan Cafeteria was the place to see and be seen on Jan. 18! Close to 300 people attended ConvoCon, a twist on the traditional Spring Convocation where, instead of listening to presenters on stage, participants were free to explore and engage with colleagues and community partners and vendors at their booths. Campus updates and information fueled interactive discussions sparking connections, ideas and inspiration in real time – no need to hold questions for the end!

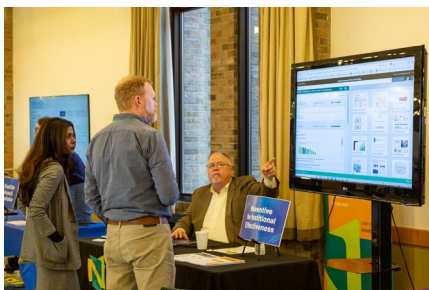
The feedback was resoundingly positive. Colleagues, board members and vendors alike said how much they enjoyed the chance to talk with one another and learn about the exciting work happening at and in collaboration with DCC.

Star of the “Meet the New VP booth” Dr. Raymond Houston of Instruction & Learning says, “I had a wonderful time at ConvoCon meeting lots of folks who were able to stop by and introduce themselves to me. I thought the format of the day was great and hope it is something DCC can continue to use moving forward for convocation.”

Program Chair of Early Education Jennifer Santuosso also gave her perspective from the vantage point of the booth she shared with the Louis Greenspan Daycare Center: “This year’s ConvoCon was an interactive way to kick off the semester! The new format allowed us to showcase the hard work we’ve put into envisioning the future of Early Education at DCC in a hands-on, creative way. It was refreshing to engage in face-to-face conversations with colleagues and share that the June Roush Pierson Laboratory Nursery School is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year!”

Below is a brief sampling of this year’s offerings and you can check out additional photos from the event [here](#).

“ConvoCon was an exciting example of the power of collaboration and the cross-pollination of ideas that is possible when DCC comes together as a college. The passion of each faculty and staff member was evident in their interactions and engagement with the various projects and initiatives happening across the College and in the broader community. I came away from the event feeling inspired and energized, looking forward to the next opportunity to connect!” –Dr. Jordan



Learning Commons

Acting Associate Dean for Instruction and Learning Bonnie Gallagher and Acting Director of the Writing Center Dana Gavin spoke with attendees about the importance of on-campus tutoring and the need for academic support positions. On behalf of the Learning Commons/Learning Support Committee, Gallagher thanks the campus community for its feedback on draft job descriptions for tutoring support and says, “We’re excited to move our recommendations forward and for the Learning Commons to grow!”



Early Childhood

The Early Childhood booth was interactive, stocked with magnetic tiles and art supplies to play with as participants were invited to imagine the future of childcare at DCC. Conversations recently began regarding the unification of the June Roush Pierson Laboratory Nursery School and the Louis Greenspan Daycare Center. Early Education Program Chair Jenn Santosuosso, along with Day Care Center Director Sandra Kraich, are joining forces to make this vision come to life.



JED Campus

Director of Academic Housing Kaina Rivera and Acting Director of Mental & Physical Health Diana Kiernan shared information about JED Campus, an initiative DCC joined this past fall. JED is designed to guide colleges through a collaborative process of comprehensive systems, program and policy development with customized support to build on existing student mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention efforts. DCC is in the beginning stages of its four-year partnership with JED, and representatives will be visiting campus later this month to explore implementing enhancements.



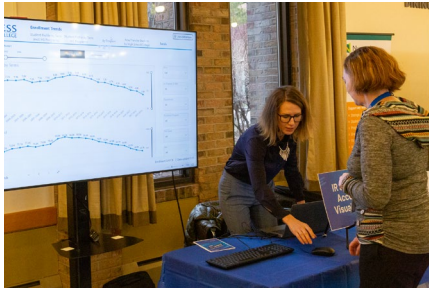
Title 3 / Guided Pathways

The four pillars of Guided Pathways (clarifying the path, getting on the path, staying on the path, and ensuring students are learning) continue to inform the allocation of resources and institutional practices. There is ongoing work on streamlining procedures and support for prior learning assessment, including recent collaborations leading to additional pre-college and workforce articulations. The grant is also supporting the expansion of career advising and training at the ACT Center, with a new career coach, John Alley, joining the College this month.



Nuventive

In place of TracDat, the College will now have access to features of the Nuventive Improvement Platform to track progress of the College's goals, including those coming out of the strategic plan. Dan Venedan tabled at ConvoCon and gave a presentation the next day after the strategic planning group sessions, giving faculty and staff a preview of new features.



Teaching Learning Center

Faculty innovators spoke about creating a new vision of the TLC for DCC. Future plans for the TLC include advertising professional development opportunities; providing individual pedagogy consultations and support; and giving pedagogy, OER and DEI workshops. Find out more about the great work they are doing in [their newsletter](#)!

Cannabis Microcredential

Faculty members Maureen Gittelman (Business Management) and Mark Condon (Biology) shared information about DCC's new, 13-credit Cannabis Retail Management microcredential, which will be available starting in fall 2023. The microcredential provides instruction and support to those hoping to enter the emerging dispensary industry with an emphasis on customer service, retail and marketing in New York state.



Celebrating 1,190 Years of Service

With 1,190 years of service between them, 67 faculty and staff were recognized for their contributions to the health, growth and mission of DCC at the Length of Service Ceremony held during ConvoCon.

Strategic Planning Workshops – Teamwork!

The day after ConvoCon, all DCC offices were closed to the public between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to give everyone the opportunity to provide feedback on Our Next 10 strategic plan. Faculty and staff were dispersed throughout Greenspan Cafeteria, sharing tables with colleagues from different departments which fostered more interaction between diverse perspectives.



President's Advisory Council (PAC) members – who laid the groundwork for discussion with the Strategic Plan they developed during their retreat last summer – facilitated conversations. Groups filled easel pads with their ideas and opinions on the goals and priorities of the College (through four lenses: students, learning, community and growth) and feedback on DCC's proposed mission and vision statements, core values, and slogan. At the end of the planning workshop, attendees heard from the other groups.

Compiling and outcomes of the day's work are in progress – stay tuned!



Black Solidarity Reads



This year's Lyceum speaker is Junauda Petrus-Nasah, traveling to DCC from Minneapolis to read from her award-winning book, "The Stars and the Blackness Between Them," and elucidate on its themes at the upcoming Black Solidarity Conference to be held at DCC on Feb. 16 and 17.

Petrus-Nasah was selected from a shortlist of authors curated by DCC's Chair of Black History Programming/Events and Assistant Professor of English Willie Morris and professors Jacqueline Goffe-McNish (English), Shalon Hallager (History) and Ahmed Ismail (Accounting). The main factor in choosing the Lyceum speaker was finding someone who would resonate with the diverse community we have at DCC.

Categorized in the young adult genre, Petrus-Nasah's book speaks to a much broader audience – parents, teachers, students and really, anyone who was ever a teenager themselves!

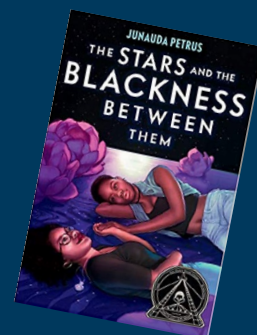
The compelling narrative, predominantly told in the voices of two teenage girls – one from Trinidad and the other living in Minnesota – covers a wide variety of topics such as intimacy, race, family relationships, queerness, gender identity and religion. Though the material is complex and deals with very difficult issues, among other things the Caribbean diaspora and mass incarceration, it is infused with conversational language and experiences that young people can relate to.

It's impossible to capture everything this book does in a short article. I (the writer of this newsletter, Celeste Emmons) would highly recommend that you pick it up as soon as possible and attend Petrus-Nasah's talk.

Petrus-Nasah will be in the James & Betty Hall Theatre on Feb. 16, starting at 12 p.m. with an opening tea reception and followed by her Lyceum reading from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. There is still time to start reading the book!

As of this writing, "The Stars and the Blackness Between Them" is already checked out of the Ritz Library, but it can also be found in the [Mid-Hudson Library System](#) and of course on [Amazon](#).

Come enjoy this event and others as part of DCC's Black History Month celebration! The full schedule and information about this and other events can be found at www.sunydutchess.edu/bhm.



Closing the Equity Gap

Enrollment and Student Success reports that, based on data from the fall 2021 student cohort, they have met their strategic plan goal of cutting the retention equity gap between both Latinx and Black/African American versus white students in half.

This is the first time DCC has met this objective for the Black/African student demographic, with 56.6% enrolled one year later compared to 61.4% of whites. The 4.8% gap is far lower than it has ever been, the next smallest gap being 8.5% with the fall 2018 cohort. Before 2018, that number has always been higher than 10%, with 2016 and 2017's cohort in the vicinity of 20% – this is a marked change.

Let's keep this going!

A Students' President

The way to a student's heart is through their stomach. Well maybe not, but feeding them delicious food while striking up a conversation can't hurt – add to that, a cozy fire and some comfy chairs, and you've got the perfect setting to chat!

A diverse group including returning adult and residence hall students (and even those studying completely online!) came to hear Dr. Jordan share his "3 Keys to Success" in the Ritz Lounge on the evening of Jan. 26: be present, be prepared and participate.

The event was part of Dr. Jordan's ongoing effort to connect directly with students, including last fall's "Pizza with the Prez."

Dr. Jordan remarks, "These events help our leadership team and me establish an open and direct dialogue with our students. I learn so much from them at each event. Their questions and comments show how committed they are to their goal of earning a postsecondary credential that will set them up for a brighter future."

Next up – Taco Tuesday on Feb. 21! Tell your students!



Student Art Exhibition

The Fall 2022 Student Art Show held its opening reception on Jan. 25 where artwork by Katie Swartvagher, Emily Woolever, Katelyn Oles, Alexis Harry and Marita Valencia was recognized by VP for Instruction & Learning Dr. Raymond Houston on behalf of Dr. Jordan.

Dr. Houston shares, "The student art show was great. I was happy to be able to hand out the awards to the students selected by the president. Congratulations to all of the students whose work was part of the show."

The exhibition will be up through Feb. 17 in the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery and includes a variety of media – drawings, paintings, photos, ceramics, fabric arts, computer renderings and more. Stop by and check it out!

Campus Notes

Advancing Information Literacy Instruction

Assistant Librarian **Tina Kiernan** was accepted into the 2023 Communities of Practice for the Advancement of Library Instruction (COPALI) institute sponsored by the Rochester Regional Library Council and the University of Rochester, with the support of SUNY Brockport. Between March and November, Kiernan will work alongside a select group of librarians to develop new evidence-based information literacy instruction methods, curriculum, workshops, etc. Her involvement in the institute will contribute to the continual advancement of information literacy instruction at DCC.

Flying High

If you watched or read News 12 on Jan. 11, you would've seen a familiar face – Chair and Assistant Professor of Aviation Science **John Trosie** gave expert commentary on a “strange, strange situation” that happened that day. [Access the full story](#) about the FAA computer outage that delayed flights across the country and Trosie's explanation of its significance.

New Hires – Welcome to the DCC Family!

Michael Aharoni, part-time instructor, vocational credit-free

Richard Kovarovic, assistant librarian, Library

John Alley, career coach, Academic Advising

Samuel Rebelein, professional tutor, Writing Center

Ana Maria Farina, part-time faculty, Art

Allan Wheeler, program assistant, Student Financial Services

Recent Retirees – We Will Miss You!

Yvonne Flowers, Business Office

Hot Off the Press!

DCC's 2022 Annual Report was just released. Special thanks to DCC Foundation Executive Director Diana Pollard and Assistant Director Burnelle Roser.



Pollard says, “I am pleased to share this year's Annual Report, which focuses on thanking donors for investing in tomorrow, introduces the strategic planning process which has brought our community together and all of the great things happening here at DCC!”

You can [view the full document here](#) or stop by the Foundation for a copy.

Scholarship Application Opens Feb. 10!

DCC's scholarship application will be going live on Friday, Feb. 10, with the deadline on Mar. 12. Don't forget to encourage your students to apply on the new website: sundyutchess.awardspring.com. They will use their myDCC account to sign in.



On the Ball

As of this writing, men's basketball is 10-7 overall and 8-3 in region play, placing them in 2nd place. The Falcons' team leaders are each averaging more than 15 points per game.

There are eight games remaining in the regular season, and the team is looking to advance to the postseason to vie for a Region XV Championship and Division III National Tournament.

[View the full schedule here](#) and come cheer them on at their final game scheduled to take place in Falcon Hall Gymnasium on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. The team's eight sophomores who have competed in two NJCAA men's basketball season will be recognized after the game.



Picture This

Instruction and Learning notes that the Ritz Library recently added a special selection of graphic novels to its collection thanks to a donation to the DCC Foundation. The graphic novels were chosen based on recommendations by English professors, Willie Morris and Melanie Klein, who focused on work that would be of interest to students and in line with DCC's curriculum and institutional focus on DEI. The DCC Foundation, the English and Humanities department and the Ritz Library collaborated to make this happen, and they are looking forward to expanding the collection using additional funds donated to the Foundation.

Check out a sample of the books in the library's first batch:

[Tales from La Vida: A Latinx Comics Anthology](#)

[The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History](#)

[American Born Chinese](#)