

Celebrating Women

Women's History Month is underway! The Women's Activities Committee – Shalon Hallager, Susan Conrad, Lindsey Guile, Laraine Kautz and Tina Kiernan – has organized a calendar of events around the theme set by the [National Women's History Alliance](#): "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."

Committee Chair and History Instructor Shalon Hallager says, "This year's theme is very exciting because it invites us to think about the ways that women have shaped the past and continue to change the world around us." She tells us about two of the annual events, "Women Reading Women" and "Women in STEM," and how they've shifted to accommodate more voices. For example, the first "Women" was dropped from the "Reading Women" event, allowing anyone interested in reading work by their favorite woman-identifying author to do so, and an "A" was added to "STEM," making it "Women in STEAM" to include the perspectives of professional women in the arts.

Hopefully you had the chance to participate in this year's "Reading Women," but if not, there's still time to get involved and check out the other events happening this month. Attend Assistant Librarian Tina Kiernan's restorative yoga series Wednesdays in Falcon 202 from 12 to 1 p.m. and resume your day feeling a little lighter and calmer. Finally, be sure not to miss the "Women in STEAM" panel in on March 30 in Dutchess 101 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., where you'll hear about successful career journeys – with all of the challenges and rewards encountered along the way – including that of our own Associate Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Jessica Geer!

A full lineup of this year's events can be found at sunydutchess.edu/whm.



Women in STEAM
Panel Discussion 3/30



Restorative Yoga
Tina Kiernan Wednesdays

Conversations with the Chancellor

In a refreshingly interactive introductory meeting with faculty and staff in the James and Betty Hall Theatre on Feb. 9, SUNY's new chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr. laid the groundwork for discussion by sharing his story and skipping the microphone and podium.

He illustrated his belief in the transformative power of education with the effect it had on his own life – providing him with a sense of belonging and possibility amidst incredibly challenging circumstances at home when he was growing up. He spoke about how his career, from teaching high school social studies to serving in President Obama's cabinet as Secretary of Education, grew out of his formative experiences in public education and how, every day, he is "driven by trying to ensure that schools do what they did for [him]."

The chancellor's goal is to visit every SUNY campus by May, and DCC was stop 9 of 64. In addition to meeting with campus and community leadership and industry stakeholders, King is making a point to hear from faculty, staff and students about the unique strengths and opportunities of each school.

He started the conversation at DCC, in true educator fashion, by asking a question – "What are some great things happening at DCC?" It didn't take long for several positive responses to bubble up from the audience – the four lenses



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developed through DCC's collaborative strategic planning process; strengthening connections between faculty and students; developing wraparound supports for students to address food insecurity and housing insecurity through DCC CARES and The Pantry; improving mental health supports in partnership with JED Campus; our mechatronics lab and cannabis retail microcredential both set to go this fall; and Conklin Hall, providing a home away from home and safe space for students.

Chancellor King is already working hard to secure greater funding for SUNY in the New York State budget, and after hearing about many of DCC's strengths, he asked, "Where would more resources be helpful?" Faculty and staff talked about the need for more transportation for students (between campuses, internships and work); improvements to transfer; more opportunities/pathways for ESL students and other underrepresented groups; continued support of humanities programs; and hiring and retaining underrepresented faculty and staff.

These areas of improvement align with the chancellor's stated priorities – his core priority being diversity, equity and inclusion, which he pointed out "cannot be the job of one person; everybody has to be responsible." He relayed that he was in the process of hiring a new SUNY system DEI Officer and that there will be a focus on hiring diverse faculty and staff, building on current programs such as the Hispanic Leadership Institute to develop networks and talent pipelines.

Check out photos of the event on [Flickr](#).



Dance & Make a Difference with the DCC Foundation!



Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Keith Daly '72 and
Rita McPeck '88



Bridge to the Future Award Recipients:

Michael Francis Dupree
and Michael Fleischer



Bernard Handel Community Leadership
Award Recipient:

Ronald M. Lane '75

Each year, the Foundation hosts the *Our Community's Bridge to the Future* gala to celebrate distinguished DCC alumni, benefactors and student leaders and raise funds to support scholarships and College initiatives – totaling more than \$800,000 annually. All of the proceeds from the gala go directly to the Fund for Dutchess, which provides assistance to the areas of most urgent or immediate need.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 25 at The Grandview, and you're invited! Enjoy some delicious food, toast the 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees, congratulate Bridge to the Future and Bernard Handel Community Leadership award recipients and, of course, dance! Among those being honored this year are alumni Rita McPeck, an Italian immigrant whose DCC education led to a successful career as vice president of KeyBank, and Keith Daly who went from playing basketball with the Falcons to exceeding targets as CEO of Footlocker. DCC Trustee and Board Chairman Michael Dupree and his husband Michael Fleischer will be presented with the Bridge to the Future award in appreciation of their generous support of student housing.

Two bands, Joe North Trio and [The Chain Gang](#), will light the stage over the course of the evening, from cocktail hour through the end of the evening, and you'll have the chance to bid on several trips, some new jewelry, wine, spa excursions, game tickets or a pass to the exclusive Pawling Mountain Club in the silent auction.

Executive Director of the DCC Foundation Diana Pollard says, "Last March was the first gala we held in person since the pandemic, and it was outstanding! Folks were so happy to get dressed up and mingle– really enjoying one another's company, applaud the accomplishments of DCC alum and the great work happening in the community. As we prepare for our next in-person gala, we're excited for more of that energy. We have a great group of individuals being recognized from across the country, including one coming all the way from Texas with his family. It's inspiring to see the power of DCC as our alumni come full circle!"

Check out photos from last year's gala [here](#), and watch [this short video](#) to see what it's all about. If you're interested in learning more, attending and/or contributing to the Foundation, visit sunydutchess.edu/gala.

VIPs in Action

Lisa Gharthey Ogundimu

You may recognize her as one of DCC's trustees, but did you know that [Lisa Gharthey Ogundimu, Esq.](#) is also on the executive leadership team of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OFS) where she works to realize "her vision for a just and equitable child and family well-being system"?



In celebration of Women's History Month and kicking off a new section of DCC Connects (which will feature accomplishments and updates from members of DCC governance) is this month's spotlight on Gharthey Ogundimu, who made an important announcement at Albany Medical Center on

Feb. 15 regarding the launch of New York state's new mandated reporter training.

In an [article](#) about this development, Gharthey Ogundimu reflects on the previous model: "For years, the message to mandated reporters has been 'when in doubt, call the SCR [Statewide Central Register of Abuse and Maltreatment hotline]'. . . [which] has resulted in a staggering increase of abuse and maltreatment reports that not only are unwarranted in the first place, but in many cases were based solely on race and poverty."

In the new training model, professionals required by state law to report suspected incidences of child maltreatment and abuse to the SCR – such as social workers, teachers, police officers, childcare workers and doctors – will learn to recognize implicit bias before it impacts their decision-making. The change has the potential to not only curb unsubstantiated reports and their resulting negative effects on people of color and families living in poverty but also improve the efficiency of the child welfare system by ensuring that families in need of resources receive support and cases in need of intervention are addressed by Child Protective Services.

President Jordan said, "Not only do DCC's trustees have a major impact on helping us develop as a College, but they're also doing great work every day – work that affects our community beyond our immediate scope, by advocating for changes such as those Lisa helped execute with the OFS. We're incredibly proud to have the benefit of her governance on the board and commend her dedication to inclusion and social justice."

A Middle States Milestone!

The DCC Middle States team submitted the final Middle States Re-Accreditation Self-Study report at the beginning of this month, marking the culmination of two and a half years of hard work involving over 70 faculty and staff. This was DCC's penultimate step in the Middle States re-accreditation process – Steering Committee members are now preparing for the Visiting Team's arrival in April, and they invite you to do the same!

If you haven't yet had the chance, make sure to check out the details on the [myDCC](#) portal under the "Middle States Self-Study" tab. You can also access the full report directly from [this link](#).

Appointed Middle States co-chairs when this process began in fall 2020, Professor and Chair of the Behavioral Science Department Michael Hall, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Susan Rogers, and Acting Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg facilitated the massive undertaking in collaboration with members of the Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee.

"I am particularly proud of the degree of involvement we have had across the campus," said Michael Hall. "This is not an easy process and has required a significant amount of work over an extended period of time. I believe it speaks highly of our colleagues and sends a message to the visiting team that the campus takes re-accreditation seriously and came together to work collectively."

Dr. Susan Rogers echoed this sentiment: "Completing the Middle States Re-Accreditation Self-Study was an incredible accomplishment that relied on the combined efforts of groups across campus. I am grateful for and impressed by the commitment shown by the entire campus in pulling this project together."

Congratulations to Michael, Susan, Scott and everyone else whose efforts got us to this point, and good luck to our entire DCC community this April!

Creating a Culture of Safety & Belonging

DCC announced on Mar. 1 that it has joined JED Campus, which takes a campus-wide approach to strengthening mental health support for students. The four-year journey begins with an assessment of the College's existing programs, policies, systems and services.



DCC is already acting on one of our JED Campus Advisor's recommendations to provide after-hours services. DCC is one of eight SUNY schools partnering with Christie Campus Health to offer 24/7 crisis counseling and a "Wellness Hub," a mobile tool, which provides videos on a range of behavioral health and substance abuse topics, tools and self-assessments, and a list of available campus services and resources. The anticipated launch is later this month.

Dr. Jordan said in a press release regarding the program: "At DCC, we recognize the importance of strengthening mental health supports of our students. Our partnership with The JED Foundation will provide much needed evidence-based guidance to help us develop best practices that foster greater wellbeing within the DCC community. We look forward to the insights on how to create a culture in which everyone experiences a considerable sense of safety and belonging."

A Pathway for Students with Disabilities

DEI SPOTLIGHT



DCC's Think Ahead program was featured in a Spectrum News story published on Feb. 23 – **Dutchess County Program Aids Those with Intellectual Disabilities**. Check it out!

For those of you not yet familiar, the Think Ahead program provides opportunities for Dutchess County residents who are high school graduates over the age of 18 and living with a disability, to develop job and life skills while also gaining exposure to college. This academic year (2022-23), there are 13 students enrolled, some of whom have participated in credit-bearing classes as auditors and developed skills in workplace settings across campus.

In interviews with Spectrum News reporter Brooke Reilly, two students with Down Syndrome – Kaiya Stafford and Brian Tartaglia – share their experiences in the program and ambitions for the future.

Stafford speaks about the challenges she's had to overcome throughout her education and the perseverance and resilience she's cultivated throughout her journey. She says, "My goal is to be healthy and independent, 100% independent."

Her classmate, Tartaglia, talks about new possibilities he's discovering as a student and how the Think Ahead program changed his life for the better. "I never thought I would ever be at the college level," Tartaglia says. "To be in the Think Ahead program was a big challenge for me. I really wanted to challenge myself and see how far I get."

Lydia Abreu, who's been teaching in the Think Ahead program for five years, emphasizes that there is so much talent in the student population she serves. She says there aren't many programs like Think Ahead available for people with intellectual disabilities to continue their education, and she hopes ours can serve as a model.

Applications for the 2023/24 Think Ahead program will be available March 21 and due April 14. If you are interested in learning more, you can check out their **webpage** and consider attending their next Open House on March 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. in Bowne Hall, room 122. RSVP to Linda Bertolozzi at bertoloz@sunydutchess.edu.

Asked what to expect at the Open House, Bertolozzi says: "Prospective applicants will have the opportunity to meet the instructors, agency support staff and current students in order to determine if this is a program they'd like to attend. We provide an overview of the curriculum, student expectations and DCC activities available to participants if they are accepted. Visitors have the opportunity to listen to current students sharing their advice and wisdom with prospective applicants, along with a Q&A session to assist prospective students and their families to make informed decisions about whether to apply for admission."



Title III / Guided Pathways Updates

Annual Report

Acting Associate Dean of Instruction & Learning: Pre-Collegiate Programs/Title III Project Director Rachel Mead is hard at work this week finishing up the Title III Grant Annual Report ahead of the deadline on March 17. The review covers the College's progress during the first year of the grant (Oct. 1, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2022).

External Evaluation

Michael Gaudette, an external evaluator for the Title III grant, visited DCC on March 1 and met with many of the positions funded by the grant to gain a thorough understanding of the various initiatives taking place across the College. He was impressed overall with how much has been done since the fall semester and provided insightful guidance for continued progress on Guided Pathways.

New Career Coach

John Alley, recently moved into the Academic, Career & Transfer Center where he's setting into his new role as career coach and assisting with the enhancement of career advisement on campus.

Digication

The College recently acquired Digication e-portfolio software. This software will be utilized by the Teaching Learning Center for faculty and staff professional development. It will also be utilized as an additional pathway for students to potentially document prior learning, as part of Title III's collaboration with faculty to enhance the prior learning assessment model at DCC.

Handshake is Live!



Handshake, launched March 13, is a career management platform designed to connect students with job opportunities and internships, both locally and across the country. Students can access the platform on their mobile device, where they can create their profiles, message directly with employers and set up interviews. Students received an activation message via their DCC email, so please encourage them to read the message and confirm their account!

For more information on creating a profile, students should visit:

- [Video: Driving Profile Completion in Handshake](#)
- [Getting Started with Handshake](#)
- [Campus Profiles in Handshake](#)
- [Student Homepage FAQ's](#)

Have questions or want to recommend a local employer to be added to the network? Contact Workforce Pathways Coordinator Linda Haas Manley, linda.hassmanley@sunydutchess.edu.



Mark Your Calendars for DCC's Career Fair April 12!

DCC will be holding a Career Fair on Wednesday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Falcon Hall gymnasium, and students, graduates, alumni and community members are invited to attend. Over 55 employers have confirmed their attendance. Check out the [growing list on Handshake](#)! No registration is required, but professional dress is strongly recommended.

Campus Notes



Governor Hochul & DCC Shake Hands in White Plains

Dr. Jordan, Dr. Rogers, Scott Schnackenberg, Diana Pollard, Paloma Krakower, John Meagle and Dr. Rachel Mead traveled to Pace University on Feb. 21 to hear New York state's plans for investing in the Hudson Valley Region. Governor Hochul proposed her plans for \$2.3 million to be allocated to DCC in the 2024 Executive Budget.



Congressman Pat Ryan Meets with Vets

On Feb. 15, President Peter Jordan welcomed Congressman Pat Ryan and the Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board, who held their first meeting on DCC's campus. Dr. Jordan remarked "DCC and the Veterans and Military Families Advisory Board share a common bond and goal. We're both charged and driven to serve our community to its betterment."



Liberty and Justice for All

On the first Friday of February, DCC hosted a Naturalization Ceremony in James & Betty Hall Theatre. Dr. Jordan gave a [welcome speech](#) in which he reflected on his own experience of becoming a Naturalized U.S. citizen over 30 years ago and shared that DCC's student body has national origins in 68 countries. He spoke about the possibilities that lie ahead for the new citizens who took their Oath of Allegiance that day – including continuing their education at DCC to make their dreams come true!



The NYS Sheriffs' Institute Scholarship Goes to...

Student Kelin Garcia won this year's New York State Sheriffs' Institute Criminal Justice Scholarship. She is pictured here receiving congratulations from representatives of Dutchess County Sheriffs' Department, Captain John Watterson and Sheriff Kirk Imperati (left), and DCC's President Jordan and Criminal Justice faculty members Dan Valentine and Matthew Greenstein (right).

Campus Notes

New Hires – Welcome to the DCC Family!

Daviyaun Dobbins, program assistant, Admissions

Susan Grega, academic coach, Academic Advising*

Xenia Incremona, part-time faculty, English

Sharisse Smith, academic coach, Academic Advising

Kathleen Vu, TRiO success coach/counselor, TRiO

**Formerly a program assistant in Academic Advising, Susan Grega has recently accepted an academic coach position in the same department. Congratulations!*



Spring Club Fair

DCC students set up around the Greenspan Cafeteria on Feb. 2 to showcase their club offerings – including the Black Student Union, Gender Sexuality Alliance, Speech and Debate, Student Government Association and Christian Fellowship Club. Check out [photos here](#).

It Takes a Village

Marketing has been hard at work preparing to launch the College's new website, and we want to make it shine – that's where you come in!

We've received a great deal of responses already that have helped us update and refine content to accurately showcase the work of different departments, and we'd like your help to keep going.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Go to the development test site here: <http://testwww.sunydutchess.edu/index.html>

Reminder: You'll need to be on campus or logged in via VM to access the development site.

2. Check for accuracy. Review content for your area and let us know of any changes that need to be made by submitting a web change request:

sunydutchess.edu/web-request

3. Tell us what's great about your program: Fill out our new "Program/ Department Highlights" smartsheet to share anything that would help with promotion, including examples of colleges your students transfer to, places they go to work, and any alumni stories and successes you'd like to highlight:

sunydutchess.edu/program-highlights

Not only will the material you provide be on the website, which will serve as an opportunity for constant promotion, but we can use it in social media posts.

The website launch is just one phase in the process. A great website never stops developing; we will need to keep gathering and incorporating information over time to stay up to date. These links are meant to be memorable, so you can fill the forms out again and again as new things happen. Bookmark or remember "web-request" and "program-highlights" to make our website a truly representative 360 degree view of DCC!

Campus Notes: Athletics



Men's Basketball Makes Nationals

The men's basketball team has been busy this past month. They finished out their regular season on February 18 with a home game win against Suffolk CC (94-80) and went out on the road to win three consecutive games at Borough of Manhattan CC on March 1 (81-57), Kingsborough CC on March 4 (74-55) and Nassau CC (68-61).

Winners of the Region XV tournament, the Falcons made it to the **Division III National Championship at Herkimer CC**, which is being held from March 15 through March 18, with twelve teams from across the country competing. Though the Falcons were defeated on March 15 by Northampton, they met their goal of advancing to the Nationals.

Congratulations to Coach Piano and his team!

eSports is Online!

After getting their state-of-the-art equipment installed in February, DCC eSports participants quickly got to work practicing and playing, in-person and online, to prepare for matches against other colleges across the country.

The DCC Valorant team held their first matches on Feb. 16 (lost 0-2 to Trinity Valley CC) and Feb. 23 (won 2-0 against Heartland CC), and they have played two more matches since then. The Overwatch team competed in their first match on Mar. 3, and the Call of Duty Team was in their first match on Mar. 6. In the coming weeks, as interest on campus continues to grow, the eSports program may add additional teams.

Outside of Junior College competition, the DCC eSports Program hopes to partner with local high school eSports teams and invite them to campus for competitions, and raise awareness of eSports at DCC.