

iFeliz Hispanic Heritage Month!

Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month – and extending to the end of October – DCC will be hosting a wide array of events highlighting Latinx history and culture.

Explore the history of traditional Azulejo ceramic tile painting – and get hands-on experience creating your own design! Experience the son jarocho musical style of Veracruz, Mexico. Hear scholars talk about their research.

The rich lineup includes panel discussions, author readings, film screenings, dance workshops, music performances and more.

A full list of in-person and livestreamed events can be found on [our website](#).



From DCC to Washington, DC



Two SUNY schools – Dutchess Community College and Onondaga Community College – were among 12 community colleges from across the country invited to participate in a dialogue around President Biden’s **Investing in America** (IIA) initiative, aimed at providing pathways for diverse workers into well-paying jobs. Community college leaders, including our own Dr. Jordan, joined union representatives and government officials to explore collaborations that would design

and deliver high-quality education and training programs for IIA jobs. Priority occupations for potential Community College-Labor partnerships include mechatronics and HVAC – careers related to two of DCC’s growing programs.

“It was an honor to be asked to attend the meeting at the White House, and a privilege to be part of a conversation of such national significance,” said Dr. Jordan. “The shared commitment to social mobility and economic development, coming from a number of different regions and perspectives, underscores the importance of the work we’re doing at DCC to align program offerings with a rapidly evolving job market.”

Help us Build DCC’s Digital Presence!

Need to update something on the website? Submit a web request at sunnydutchess.edu/web-request.

Have a story or event to share? Past, present and future DCC stories and events – this is the material we need to engage our audience. Submit your ideas here: sunnydutchess.edu/social.



Convocation Recap

Fall convocation was brimming with information and inspiration, as colleagues new and old gathered to ring in the new academic year. The event opened with four dynamic speeches illuminating each of the lenses outlined in our 2023-28 Strategic Plan and ended with breakout sessions delving into detail about specific steps being taken to realize DCC's institutional goals.

Acting Student Resource Navigator Whitney Morris engaged the audience with an energetic talk about the many ways DCC departments come together in support of our **Students**. Next up was a conversational exchange about **Learning** – between Chief of Staff & Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Susan Rogers, who asked questions about the new Cannabis Retail Management microcredential, and Assistant Professor and Program Chair of Hospitality & Tourism Management Maureen Gittelman, who answered them. We heard from Instructor and Program Chair of the Human Services department Lacie Reilly, who highlighted the role of our new Direct Support Professional microcredential in bolstering the **Community**. The finale – Dr. Jordan's remarks on **Growth** – tied it all together, painting a vivid, panoramic picture of DCC's achievements over the past three years and the exciting opportunities ahead.

The presentation was followed by a keynote speech on artificial intelligence by IBM Fellow Donna Dillenberger titled "Learning from Each Other." Dillenberger explained the evolution of AI and machine learning, discussed how to distinguish between trustworthy and unreliable AI, and explored its potential impacts on the future of work and education.

During lunch, we celebrated our 2022-23 Chancellor's Award recipients – TRiO Director Dr. Melissa Carlo, Grants Director Martin Schneider, Associate Professor of Art Lindsey Guile, Instructor and Program Chair of the Human Services department Lacie Reilly, Senior Office Assistant in Business Technology Maureen Byrum, and Adjunct Instructor of English Danielle Ely. We also honored Professor of English Dr. Navina Hooker, who recently earned her Phi Theta Kappa pin for 20 years of service as a PTK advisor.

The five breakout sessions – on our Evergreen Solutions HR assessment, OurNext10 academic and facilities master plan, the Learning Commons, Title III/Guided Pathways, and the DCC logo redesign – allowed for cross-departmental discussion of each topic.



VIPs in Action: Linda Pratt



Linda Pratt was appointed to DCC's Board of Trustees by Governor Hochul last year. She has donned many hats over the course of her career — in this case, perhaps, an artist's beret. A collection of her exquisite collages, images of birds emerging out of cleverly arranged postage stamps, was featured in a duo exhibition at Hudson Beach Glass in Beacon from August 12 through September 4.

Pratt says the project started as a birthday gift for a friend — an art collector with a fondness for tending chickens. Encouraged by other artists, including Tanja Bos, the other half of the two-person show, to complete her first body of visual artwork, she created 13 pieces between February and August of this year and has already sold 12 of them.

While in college at The University of Texas at Austin, Pratt studied finance. She found her first professional role on the business side of the publishing industry. After foraying briefly into the world of bonds, she decided the stars had aligned properly the first time and has been working in the literary realm ever since. In 2011, Pratt co-founded a boutique agency, where she represents authors and illustrators of children's books and manages the firm's business operations.

Pratt's business acumen and creativity are assets to DCC's Board of Trustees. Asked what she enjoys most about serving on the board, Pratt shares, "I've been truly inspired by the positive, forward-thinking philosophy shared by Dr. Jordan and the board. There's such a unified vision and focus on how DCC can best serve students and the broader community."

Combatting Antisemitism

This March, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which has been tracking antisemitic acts in the U.S. since 1979, reported that the **number of hateful incidents in 2022 exceeded that of all previous audits** — an average of 10 each day.

While it won't singlehandedly solve this problem, according to ADL, **Holocaust education remains an integral aspect of countering prejudice and cultivating inclusion.** By really learning about and grappling with what happened, students are much less likely to subscribe to antisemitic views and/or deny the reality of the genocide altogether.

At DCC, we're fortunate to have Professor of History and Honors Program Coordinator Dr. Werner Steger, who brings a wealth of information about the subject — knowledge he shares with students and the community in an effort to ensure history doesn't repeat. Although his doctoral training was in American history, a subject he's taught since he joined DCC in 2000, Dr. Steger was born in Germany and grew up just 10 miles from Flossenbuerg, a notorious concentration camp. Thanks to an education policy instituted in 1962 requiring the examination of the Holocaust in all West German schools, he benefitted from being taught about the country's darkest chapter of history and recognized the importance of confronting the brutal reality.

In 2008, Dr. Steger was awarded the Handel Foundation Greenspan Trust Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which provided the impetus for much of the work that followed. One of the first things he did as endowed chair was to revive the long-dormant **HIS 210: The Holocaust in History** class that now runs every fall semester. Of the three colleges in Poughkeepsie, DCC is the only one to offer a course focused on the Holocaust, making this a significant and singular contribution to the academic community. Over the years, he's developed partnerships with organizations, such as the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County — collaborating to bring renowned subject matter experts to DCC. Dr. Steger also worked with the Jewish Federation to host their annual Yom HaShoah Community Commemoration at DCC, where it's since been held for the past 15 years.

Dr. Steger shares, "I wish I could say that we have reached a point where antisemitism and xenophobia have lost momentum, but there continues to be plenty of evidence to the contrary. Education and engagement surrounding the Holocaust and Jewish culture is essential to addressing these problems."

There are many learning opportunities on the horizon. Mark your calendars for the **Kristallnacht Exhibit** grand opening taking place on November 8 in the Mildred I. Washington Gallery, which will include a panel discussion between the featured media artist Dean Goldberg, journalist Rosemary Armao and Dr. Steger.

The TLC Got Some TLC!

On September 20 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., faculty and staff are invited to attend a **Grand Opening and Open House** in celebration of the exciting renovations recently completed at the Dr. Mary Louise Van Winkle Professional Staff Teaching Learning Center – better known to us as the TLC. Thanks to the DCC Foundation, the administration, I & L, facilities and IT, the updated space in Hudson 232 includes a fresh coat of paint, new carpeting, new furniture, updated computers and an 86-inch touchscreen monitor. The grand opening ceremony, scheduled for 12 p.m., will feature a ribbon cutting by none other than President Jordan. So, head on over to see the space, pick up a brochure, share suggestions for programming and catch up with your colleagues!



From left are Christie Mitchell and Dr. Tommy Costello (back), and Carla DelTreste-Jutt and Carolyn Rounds (front). Not pictured: Teresa Burke.

SGA Donates \$30,000 to Help Fellow Students

Before there was DCC CARES, previous Director of Student Activities Mike Weida recognized a need to support students in a more holistic manner – by assisting with expenses such as food, transportation and medical bills – so they could overcome hurdles and continue to succeed in their college endeavors. He worked together with the Student Government Association (SGA) each year to raise funds for what was then the Students for Students Fund, established in 2012.

Weida, who served the College for more than 23 years, passed away last November. To honor his memory and contributions to the College, SGA donated \$30,000 to the DCC Foundation, renaming the endowment to the Mike Weida Student for Student Fund. The fund will be administered by DCC CARES to provide short-term emergency assistance to help students persist and complete their education at DCC.

Shiny New Things

It would be hard not to notice that the grounds of DCC received a major update this summer, thanks to the tireless work of our facilities colleagues. As you walk around the main campus, you'll notice a gleaming new fence along Mascot Drive, freshly striped parking lots, manicured lawns and two stately staircases – one leading up to Bowne and another to Orcutt Student Services Building. You may have also seen that there's a new entranceway in the courtyard by CBI and Washington and that the patio between Drumlin and Hudson is being reconstructed.



Associate Vice President of Administration in charge of campus facilities Bridgette Anderson says, "I'm proud of my team for all we've been able to accomplish, and I'd like to thank the campus community for their patience and cooperation. While the work necessitated a few detours, I think everyone can appreciate the improvements – and the folks who were here over the summer may have gotten a little more exercise!"

Honoring DCC Retirees

The College will be holding a **Retiree Reception** on October 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Greenspan Cafeteria to celebrate 2019–2023 retirements. Stop by to reconnect with former colleagues and mingle with old friends. There'll be afternoon coffee, tea and a delicious assortment of desserts!

Congratulations, Interim Leaders!



Dr. Melissa Carlo was recently appointed to serve as our interim chief diversity officer. A fierce advocate for underrepresented students, Dr. Carlo brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the role – including more than seven years as the director of the TRiO opportunity program.

Dr. Carlo shares, “I look forward to working in partnership with the College community to advance DEISJ initiatives. In this interim role, I plan to collaborate with campus leadership and mitigate policies and practices that create barriers to access, retention and success for students. I hope to work towards practices that reduce barriers to talent acquisition and employee retention, encouraging increased diversity among administration, faculty and staff.”

Deb Ramsay is our newly appointed acting associate vice president of Human Resources. Ramsay, who began her career as a certified public accountant, joined DCC in 2007, and became assistant dean of administration (better known to us as payroll director) in 2014. In each of these roles, she's demonstrated a strong commitment to developing effective and efficient processes, and helping her colleagues understand them.

Ramsay says, “I am encouraged by the HR staff and excited to work together to transform the department by creating better policies and procedures to improve the service our employees receive.”

Campus Notes

Enrollment Up-Up-Updates!

Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success Scott Schnackenberg reported on September 19 that, as of the census date, fall enrollment is up for both new and returning students. There are 290 more students (+7.4%) registered in 3,425 more credits (+7.8%), compared to this time last year. Non-matriculated student numbers have also increased, for a total of 140, with 45 enrolled in new microcredential programs such as Cannabis Retail Management and Direct Support Professional. Furthermore, DCC is outranking other SUNY community colleges, according to preliminary/projected new student enrollment data – far surpassing the median increase of 3.9% with a whopping 17.6% so far.

Schnackenberg says, “This is the first time we have had an increase in enrollment in over a dozen years.”

Late-start classes begin in less than two weeks, so there is still another opportunity for enrollment to grow.

FalconFest Brings the Heat!

While many of us (this writer sheepishly included) worked indoors on September 7 and 8, our colleagues and students staffing the booths at this year's FalconFest braved very uncomfortable temperatures to deliver a fun and educational experience. The main campus walkway was lined with tables showcasing all things DCC – from student clubs and athletics to resources and internship opportunities. Students enjoyed lunch and playing with the giant Jenga set. Falco even made an appearance despite the sweltering heat!



Campus Notes

DCC Health Career Fair - Sept. 20

DCC students, alumni and community members are invited to explore internships and careers in the healthcare field at the Health Career Fair, scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 from 4 to 7:00 p.m. in the Greenspan Dining Room. There they'll have the opportunity to meet with potential employers and explore internships in areas such as nursing, clinical lab technology, phlebotomy, mental health and more. Registration is required through Handshake – scan the code to the right or use [this link](#) to sign up.



Advancing LGBTQI+ Policy in New York

Associate Professor of Art Lindsey Guile and Behavioral Sciences Department Chair and Professor of Psychology Michael Hall are representing DCC and the LGBTQIA+ of DCC group at the Fall 2023 LGBTQI+ Convening this week in Albany. This will be an opportunity to hear from peers and other advocates on some of the most pressing issues in our community within the areas of trans health, LGBTQI+ parents and protecting LGBTQI+ safe spaces against violence, just to name a few.

Student Art Exhibition

An opening reception for the Fall Student Art exhibition was held on Wednesday, August 30. Three students received Presidential Recognition Awards – with first place going to Marissa Casey for a photograph taken for ART 257 with Professor Holly McCabe; second place to Mia Yanoti for a drawing completed for ART 113 with Professor Lindsey Guile; and third to Briana DiLorento for a photography project for ART 157 with Professor Jesse Navarra.

The exhibition, which is on display in the Mildred I. Washington Art Gallery, will be up through September 20 – so head over quickly to check it out!



Campus Notes



Summer Playlist

On August 30, the Academy of Music hosted a summer concert featuring their young soloists and adult ensemble groups – including ukulele, guitar and jazz combos.

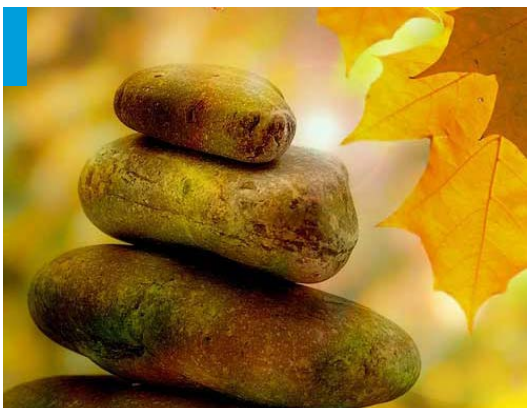
“It was our first time holding this recital during the first week of DCC classes, hoping to introduce our program to a greater community and get more engagement with our college students,” said Academy of Music Director Jenny Park. “Concerts are a celebration of the students’ hard work and dedication to their craft. It is always a joy to be in the same space and time among our students and instructors performing their music.”

On the horizon – the Academy of Music has scheduled two informal studio recitals for 5 p.m. on October 18 and November 15, and the next Fall Ensemble is set for December 6 at 5 p.m. All events will be held in the James and Betty Hall Theatre, so stop by and catch some tunes!



Eleanor Roosevelt: The First Lady of World War II

On October 12, author and journalist Shannon McKenna Schmidt will present an historical account of “America’s most traveled first lady,” Eleanor Roosevelt, whose courageous and unconventional support for US troops during the Second World War included a rigorous five-week journey to the front lines of the Pacific theatre in 1943. This free community event will take place in the James and Betty Hall Theatre at 7 p.m. The lecture comes to us courtesy of the Handel Foundation and Dutchess Community College Foundation. Shalon Hallager, instructor of history and recipient of the Handel Foundation Endowed Faculty Chair to Perpetuate the Legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, will facilitate the event.



Take Time to Relax

Experience tranquility and increase flexibility through weekly yoga classes – two free options for DCC faculty, staff and students each week! (Be sure to bring your college ID).

Mondays: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the new meditation space (H-222), taught by Assistant Librarian Tina Kiernan

Fridays: 12 to 12:50 p.m. in Falcon Hall Aerobic Studio (F-210), taught by Associate Professor Debbie VanBuren

Campus Notes

Cheers to Our New Chairs!

Department Chairs

Dr. Tommy Costello, Performing Visual Arts and Communications (PVAC)

Elizabeth Justin, Allied Health and Biological Sciences (AHBS)

Todd Wilmot, History, Government and Economics (HGE)

Program Chairs/Coordinators

Jason Bishop, General Studies (GSP)

Susan Conrad, Liberal Arts & Sciences: Science (LAX)

Renee Lathrop, Engineering Science (ENR)

New Hires – Welcome to DCC!

Jennifer Aguilera, instructor, ESL

Adelina Aragon-Mateos, program assistant, Admissions

Lisa Bauer, academic coach - interim, Academic Advising

Vladimir Beauge, adjunct fall, Computer Information Systems

Joantue Blackman, sr. program assistant, DCC Fishkill

Veni Castro Hernandez, groundskeeper I, Grounds

Raya Duenas-Varga, coordinator of health services, Health Office

Eric Ehrnschwender, adjunct fall, Art

Angelina Epsaro, personnel administrator, Human Resources

Naomi Lyn Flinchum-Marquez, professional tutor, Math & Science Center

David Freeman*, half time lecturer, Architectural Technology

Joan Hukle, instructor - temp, English

Mary Iatropoulos, adjunct fall, Communication Media

Jeremiah Jones, adjunct fall, Art

Andrew Karl, adjunct fall, Theatre

Salvatore Lagonia, adjunct, Aviation Science

Gail Lee, adjunct, Math

Rosalie Lessard, adjunct fall, Aviation Science

Nicholas Luiso, professional tutor, Math & Science Center

Harro Penk, adjunct fall, Computer Information Systems

Michael Petralia, instructor, Engineering

Corey Petteway, head cleaner, Custodial Services

Daphne Png, adjunct fall, Computer Information Systems

Shiji Pothen, instructor, Nursing

Mark Roland*, half time lecturer, Math

Jennifer Seidel, instructor, Nursing

Amber Synnett, adjunct fall, Art

Allison Tebolt, assistant professor, Nursing

Jennifer Ward-Shultz, adjunct fall, Sign Language

Kymouye Jourdeone Williams-Gourdine, CNA Lab clinical instructor, Credit Free - Health Programs

Sandra Wisor, adjunct fall, Computer Information Systems

Nancy Wolfe, instructor, ESL

Bethann Zehnbauer, instructor - temp, Math

Marissa Zuccardo, instructor, ESL

** Welcome back!*

Congratulations, Colleagues!

Mary Buglion, counselor - part time, CASAC

Diana Kiernan, director of mental and physical health services, Office of Advocacy & Accountability

Debra Ramsay, acting associate vice president of Human Resources, Human Resources

Eric Tomik, tutoring coordinator, Learning Commons

Jessica Whelan, executive assistant to VP of Enrollment and Student Success, Enrollment and Student Success