

The Cayuga SPARTAN

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FALL 2025



**Workforce Development Center
New Regional Police Academy
Middle States Commission on Higher Education**

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CONTRIBUTORS**

Contributors:

Guy Thomas Cosentino, Kia Larsen,
Andrew Poole, Alissa Calandra

Graphic Design:

Terry Askey-Cole,
Askey Design & Illustration

Publication:

Jacobs Press, **David Verdi '06**

Dr. Brian M. Durant
CCC President



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past year has been one of achievement at Cayuga. Our students have excelled in new and exciting ways, and our institution saw the fulfillment of several long-standing priorities in Auburn and Fulton. By working together, we can carry these successes into 2026.

Foremost in our accomplishments over the past year was the reaffirmation of our accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This important process, conducted every eight years, evaluates all aspects of Cayuga and confirms to students and the community our accountability, innovation, academic excellence and more. Credit for this successful process goes to all Cayuga employees, but particularly Dr. Richard Bower and Dr. Terry Kupp, who co-chaired the Self-Study Steering Committee.

The successes didn't end with our re-accreditation. State and SUNY leaders joined us earlier this year in Auburn to celebrate the opening of the Workforce Development Center, which is now a one-stop location for those looking to identify career prospects or access career trainings. On the Fulton Campus we opened

the Oswego County Law Enforcement Academy, which offers an exciting opportunity for students in our Criminal Justice program. Combined, these new facilities represent Cayuga's commitment to pathways that connect our students' goals to career possibilities. I'm confident we'll see countless success stories emerge from both facilities.

Elsewhere in this edition you'll find stories about our Class of 2025, a visit from SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr., our annual President's Circle celebration, and details from author Dr. Mary Jumbelic's visit to our Auburn Campus, as well as recognition of our Alumni Award recipients for 2025. As I said already, it has been a year of achievement at Cayuga.

More than ever, our campus community has come together to make Cayuga the special institution we know it to be. You, our valued alumni, are a part of that as well. Your commitment and success show our students what they can accomplish if they follow the pattern you wove in your days at Cayuga and beyond. Thank you for your excellent example and continued support in the year ahead.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Brian M. Durant
President

ABOUT THE COVER

Cayuga Community College formally opened its new Workforce Development Center in Auburn on Thursday. Local officials joined Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant, seventh from right, Congressman John Mannion, sixth from right, and SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility Christopher White, fifth from right, for the occasion.

Pictured Left to Right: Aaron Wilcox, Constituent Services, Office of Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24), Marian Brown, Dr. Linda Van Buskirk, Mark Coleman, Hon. Heidi Nightengale, Hon. Aileen McNabb Coleman, Hon. Jonathan Anna, Dr. Brian Durant, Congressman John Mannion, Christopher White, SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility, Auburn Mayor Jimmy Giannettino, Jr., Guy Cosentino, Jeff Pirozzolo, and Tony Franceschelli.





Former Cayuga Professor Joins College's Board of Trustees

A former Cayuga Community College faculty member who spent three decades educating students in the classroom is the newest member of the College's Board of Trustees.

Retired English professor Agnes Crothers, who spent almost her entire academic career at Cayuga, said she's looking forward to returning to the College's community and supporting its students, staff and faculty as a trustee. Crothers was appointed to the board by Governor Kathy Hochul and was formally sworn-in at the board's February meeting.

Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant and Board of Trustees Chair Tony Franceschelli welcomed Crothers, saying her familiarity with the College and her experience as an educator would make her a strong trustee.

"Throughout her career, Agnes has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to Cayuga and her students, and an appreciation for the role education plays in our community. That level of dedication to higher education will make her an excellent trustee at Cayuga," said Dr. Durant. "I'm excited that she's joined our Board of Trustees, and look forward to working with her on new initiatives benefiting our current and future students."

"Agnes has tremendous experience working with students, and her career as an educator means she has

great familiarity with how our board can best support our staff and faculty as they prepare students for their next steps," said Franceschelli. "We're excited to have Agnes join our board, and we look forward to hearing her ideas on how we can continue to best serve students and our community."



Crothers spent the majority of her career at Cayuga, teaching courses ranging from English and Technical Writing to American Literature and Public Speaking. She led courses at Cayuga for 30 years before retiring in 2013. She also taught at Liverpool High School prior to joining Cayuga.

"It's a privilege to join Cayuga's Board of Trustees, who I know have dedicated extensive time and effort to supporting the College's students, staff and faculty," said Crothers. "I've followed the College's successes as a member of the community, and have been impressed at the effective initiatives and increased enrollment. I look

forward to helping the College continue to make an impact in our community during my time as a trustee."

Crothers earned her bachelor's degree from Mundelein College, and then a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Wyoming. She earned a second master's degree, this time in Education, from Syracuse University.



SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. visited Cayuga's Auburn Campus and toured the new Workforce Development Center this February. He met with students in Cayuga's Mechanical Technology program at the Center, discussing students' interests, career goals and access to trainings. On-campus he met with many students and employees, discussing services, opportunities, and students' plans for the future.

Cayuga County
Community College
Foundation Board
of Directors
2024 – 2025

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Guy Thomas Cosentino
Executive Director
CCCC Foundation



FROM THE FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The College Foundation is excited about two recently completed capital projects – the opening of the Workforce Development Center on Grant Avenue in Auburn, with the support of the Fred L. Emerson, D. E. French and Stanley W. Metcalf foundations and the Oswego County Regional Police Academy on the Fulton Campus with support from the Oswego County Legislature. The Foundation was able to assist the College in finishing both of these projects with capping grants generated through unrestricted donations to the Foundation over the years that were matched dollar for dollar by SUNY. These are two significant projects for the College and vital to the communities Cayuga serves. In the case of the Academy, 31 new law enforcement officers graduated this Fall and will serve in communities across Central New York.

The primary mission of the Foundation is to assist the College and support our students, faculty and staff. It can be through generating unrestricted gifts that allow us to help with capital projects and other special programs (you can read about some of these on page 18 of this issue, across from our donor envelope). It is also working with donors to create scholarships and special funds, like the scholarship established by the family of the late Dr. Robert E. Lubanski to help our nursing students. We also look to meet students unexpected emergencies with micro-grants that can be funded through this year's Annual Campaign focus, the **Spartan Student Success Fund**. This can make the difference in allowing our students to stay enrolled when they face an unforeseen emergency. We hope you will consider a donation to this fund, an unrestricted gift or a gift to our many established scholarships and funds that you can see on the College's website at www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/scholarships.

All the best,

Guy Cosentino
Executive Director

There have been several changes to the Board of the Foundation this past year. College Trustee Stephanie Hutchinson, who served as a liaison between the Foundation and the Board of Trustees, rotated off our Board after two years. We appreciate the time she was able to give to the Foundation. Dr. Dennis Golladay, former President of Cayuga Community College (1996 -2006) who served nearly a decade, many of those years as Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, rotated off the Board this past January. The Board of the Foundation unanimously elected him as an Honorary Member of the Board, effective this past June. Dr. Golladay joins founding Board member Peter J. Emerson, original Executive Director Dan Labeille, the late William G. Allyn, Dr. Joseph Karpinski and Vincent M. Kline in being awarded this distinction.

With these changes also came the addition of four new Board Members who you can read about across from this page. We are delighted to have three alumni join our Board. **Sharon Detzer '86** and **Dr. Cathleen McColgin '86**. Dr. McColgin may know the College better than most who initially join our Board, sharing the distinction of having worked at Cayuga before heading off to Onondaga Community College and eventually Herkimer College respectively. Ms. Detzer is also a former member of the College's staff, before going to Cornell. We also have **David Mamuscia '64**, who was a very active member of our Finance Committee agree to rejoin our Board. Jeff Pirozzolo, who serves as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, has also joined our Board.

As we head into the holiday season the Foundation hopes you can support our efforts and our commitment to Cayuga's students.



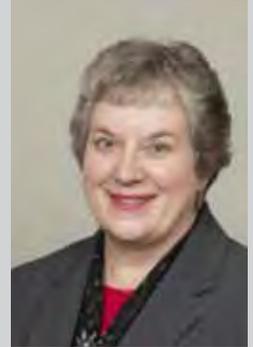
The Cayuga County Community College Foundation is Proud to Introduce Four Newly Elected Members of the Board of Directors.

A native of Central New York, **Dr. Cathleen McColgin '86** is a proud graduate with degrees from Washtenaw Community College (1976) and Cayuga Community College (1986). She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing from Syracuse University's College of Nursing. Additionally, Dr. McColgin earned a Ph.D. in higher education from Syracuse University.



With more than 35 years of experience in higher education, Dr. McColgin has devoted her entire career working to advance community colleges. She was appointed as a faculty member and Coordinator of the Nursing Arts Laboratory at Cayuga Community College in 1988 and subsequently served as Provost of Cayuga's Fulton campus. She served as Provost and Senior Vice President of Onondaga Community College. In 2015, Dr. McColgin was appointed as Herkimer County Community College's fourth president, a position she held until retirement in 2023.

Sharon Detzer '86 grew up on a small dairy farm in Genoa, NY. A first-generation college student, she enthusiastically continued her education at Cayuga, graduating with an A.S. in Business Administration in 1986 and a B.S. in Communications from Cornell University in 1988.



For more than three decades Ms. Detzer has worked in University Alumni Affairs, and currently serves as Associate Dean of Alumni Affairs and Development at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is a tremendous advocate for community college education and the impact Cayuga Community College has across the community. She was an active member of the ACC/CCC Alumni Board serving on it for many years.

David Mamuscia '64, was born and raised in Auburn. A proud member of the ACC class of 1964, he went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University, majoring in mathematics. He retired from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan after a 30-year career as an actuary in 1997. He went on to serve as the Midwest Region Consulting Actuary for Mercer/Marsh McLennan and then Director of Underwriting and Chief Actuary for Health Alliance Plan. He served as a consulting actuary for employee benefit consulting companies based in Michigan. He was an active member of the Cayuga County Community College Foundation Board from 2015 – 2024, sitting on the Finance Committee. He lives in The Villages in Florida with his wife, Maxine.



Jeff Pirozzolo has been elected to be the College Trustee Representative on the Foundation Board. Mr. Pirozzolo joined the Auburn Enlarged Central School District almost two decades ago, and served as the District's Superintendent from 2015 until his retirement in 2025. He also served as an Assistant Principal and Assistant Superintendent for Personnel in the Auburn School District after working in administrative roles in Ontario and Elmira, New York. Mr. Pirozzolo is currently the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. He currently consults with the C & S Companies based in Syracuse, New York.



About Cayuga Community College

Founded in 1953, Cayuga Community College is one of 64 accredited institutions that make up the State University of New York (SUNY) system. Cayuga offers open access and an affordable gateway to higher education, with courses and degree programs offered at campuses in Auburn and Fulton, NY and online. Cayuga Community College provides a strong liberal arts foundation for further study and career preparation. The College also addresses identified community needs through targeted training and personal enrichment programs. By sustaining academic excellence within a supportive learning environment, the College, a careful steward of human and fiscal resources, serves as a valuable asset to the development of our local, regional, and global communities.



Amy Mahoney

Alfieri McColgin Nursing Excellence Scholar and Joan Post Worden Memorial Scholar, member of Phi Theta Kapp

Class of 2025

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the Joan Post Worden Memorial Scholarship this year. This was a very rigorous program and I am honored to be recognized with this scholarship. Thank you for providing a nurturing and supportive environment, while maintaining high standards. As I prepare to begin my career in the cardiothoracic unit ICU step-down unit, I feel confident and well prepared to apply the knowledge and skills I gained through CCC's Nursing Program.



Bryan Leader

Wilfred "Sonny" Taylor Memorial Award

Class of 2025

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the Wilfred "Sonny" Taylor Memorial Award. I am incredibly honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award, and am sincerely appreciate of the recognition.

The significance of the award, which acknowledges the therapeutic use of humor as an interpersonal skill within the practice of nursing, resonates deeply with me. I am committed to integrating humor as an effective nursing intervention to convey kindness and caring, concern for others, and I am truly grateful that my efforts in this area have been acknowledged and celebrated.

ACC/CCC Alumni Association Scholarships

Louis & Madeleine Alfieri Memorial Nursing Award
 Alfieri & McColgin Nursing Excellence Scholarship
 Dr. G. Burnett & Vera K. Atwater Memorial Award
 Auburn Community Hospital Auxiliary Award
 Claudine B. Babiarz Memorial Scholarship
 David L. Becker II Memorial Award
 Blodgett Memorial Scholarships

Irving & Helen Belth Memorial Award
 Neilia Hunter Biden English Awards - British Literature
 Neilia Hunter Biden English Awards - Journalism
 Dean Norman F. Bourke Memorial Scholarship
 Edward T. and Alice L. Boyle Memorial Scholarship
 Carol A. Brewer Sportsmanship Award
 Cayuga Bank Scholarships

Business Transfer Award
 Professor Joseph A. M. Camardo Memorial Award
 Sandra B. Carbary Memorial Award
 Ralph J. Casbarro Sports Award
 Mark "Chico" Castiglione Memorial Award
 Philip Thomas and Mary Pace Cefarati Memorial Award
 Vickie Cook Condie Nursing Excellence Award
 Thomas and Eloise Cool Memorial Award
 Sue Court Memorial Award
 John A. Daum Memorial Scholarships

Barbara Dove Memorial Award
 Educational Support Professionals Scholarships

Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarships

Fulton Savings Bank Scholars

Clarie E. and Frank A. Fama Memorial Awards

Foresman Family Scholarship
 Anne Drancsak Gallagher Memorial Scholarship
 Joseph P. and Elizabeth J. Ganey Business Award
 Harry and Dorothy George Scholarships

Harrington Business Award
 Jack M. Hayden Jr. Memorial Scholarships

Walter W. & Mabel C. Hornburg Award
 Walter W. & Mabel C. Hornburg Scholarships

Huhtamaki Scholarship
 Honey and Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Award
 John Karpinski Memorial Award
 Samuel V. and Marion B. Kennedy Memorial Award
 Ruth Kimball Kent Memorial English Award
 Shadrack Moinket Kitamwes Memorial Scholarship
 Richard and Barbara Knaul Award
 William Komanecky Memorial Science Award

Jane E. Walsh
 Ahndria B. Wilson
 Victoria Lynn Russell
 Amy Mahoney
 Alex C. Reuter
 Stephanie I. Rhodes
 Kaylina Huynh
 Kevin J. Dolan
 Alyvia Murphy
 Stacy Spadaro
 Kayla Edna Bunce
 Angela Martin
 Joshua D. Herrick
 Haley Marie Mosch
 Alivia L. Solomon
 Lexi R. Alberici
 Angelina Bogart
 Heather James
 Brooke Larkin
 Angela Martin
 Jacob Soltero
 Jennifer Wager
 Julia Kathleen Wilson
 Andrew David Seward
 Megan E. Bentley
 Jacob E. Botterill
 Jasmine Lukowski
 Maggie E Dolan
 Charlene L. Maciak
 Faith M. Campbell
 Alex C. Reuter
 Taha Sarwar
 Max J. Morabito
 Isabella Marie DiLallo
 Jorge M. Jimenez & Jeremy Recio
 Lili Bernard
 Jorge M. Jimenez
 Margaret Palmer
 Kayla E. Bunce
 Sabrina A. Carvey
 Katie Collins
 Zachary Grinnell
 Alexander J. Maciariello
 Niko K. Rosenbaum
 Sean Daniel Mahoney
 Jace E. Dunlap
 Jayden Deanangelis
 Alexis Martinez
 Julia Kathleen Wilson
 Kennedy Giancola
 Ally Michalski
 Max Morabito
 Alivia L. Solomon
 Sean Mahoney
 Darwin Warner
 Julia Wilson
 T'Queria Bowman
 Noah Bowman
 Xavia Evener
 Owen Dumouchel
 Haley Marie Mosch
 Algernon Avery Fuller
 Christopher J. Boutillier
 Danielle Elizabeth Mackey
 Sheyla Ortega
 Lillian C. Bray
 Dylan Cox

A. L. Lee Memorial Scholarships

Raymond F. Leszczynski Memorial Award
Walter K. Long Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Robert E. Lubanski Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Payne McQueeney Memorial Scholarships

Maureen Mahany Memorial Scholarship
Richard J. Mahlstedt Sr. Memorial Award
Rocco Malvaso Memorial Scholarship
Ethyl W. Mapes Nursing Awards

Mathematics Excellence Award
Elizabeth B. Metcalf Memorial Awards

Miele/Fama Leadership Award
Mirabito "Blue Collar Scholar"
Germain Morin Memorial Nursing Scholarship
NAMI Cayuga County Nursing Scholarship
NBT Bank Scholarship
William J. Painter Memorial Award

Phi Theta Kappa,
Dean Norman F. Bourke Memorial Award
Pine Family Memorial Scholarship
Patricia K. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship
Linda A. Rooker Nursing Scholarships

Dorothy M. Rooker Award
Patrick G. Ryan Memorial Award
St. Alphonsus School Scholarship
Herman & Margaret Schwartz Scholarships

Nataline Dulles Seymour Memorial Scholarship
Dr. George Sincerbeaux Pediatric Scholarship
Siracusa "Everything is Connected" Awards

Katie M. Socci Memorial Scholarship
Anne I. Stapleton Award
Anne I. Stapleton Scholarship
John E. Stapleton Award
John E. Stapleton Scholarship
Josephine A. Stephen Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Thomas F. Steenburgh Memorial Award
Wilfred "Sonny" Taylor Memorial Award
Thank a Service Member Scholarship
Telcom Audio Production Award
Telcom Faculty Awards

Preston Thomas Memorial Scholarships

Trustees Memorial Award
TRW
Shirley Vargason Memorial Award
Herbert P. Ward Memorial Award
John M. and Marjorie D. Wetherby Scholarship
Lisa A. McLoud White Memorial Scholarship
Thomas James Wiggins Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Dellaphene Winters Memorial Scholarships

Joan Post Worden Memorial Scholarships

Michael C. Wride Memorial Award
Jean Sturges and David Aiden Young
Memorial Awards

Kylie Patrick
Alyssa Watson
Luca D'Emilio
Faith M. Campbell
Victoria Russell
Braydon Crosby
Cole Hawkins
Charlene L Maciak
Abigail D. McKalsen
Jakob Lupo
Katelyn Merisa Hartman
Kaylina M. Huynh
Taha Sarwar
James P. Bogart
Abigail D. McKalsen
Julia Kathleen Wilson
Andrew Poyneer
Victoria Russell
Charlene L Maciak
Eddie Hardter
Jessica Ann Ferretti
Clara Culeton

Jorge M. Jimenez
Stephanie Rhodes
Reilley Patterson
Isabella Dilallo
Clara Culeton
Cole William Hawkins
Anthony Mark Borges III
Sheyla Ortega
Lili H. Bernard
Eddie J. Hardter
Margaret L. Palmer
Brandyn Rodriguez
Hannah N. Ross
Reanna Bianca
Cameron Michael Daddabbo
Algernon Avery Fuller
Alyssa Marie Watson
Hannah Newert
Zackery Michael Augustine
Jamil Callender McArthur
Kirsten Marie Casterline
Nathaniel Lupo
Katelyn Hartman
Jorge M. Jimenez
Bryan E Leader
Nicholas Palmer
Elijah D. Stroman
Jasmine Marie Sims
Isaiah Michael Daniel Babb
Hunter Kot
Andrew Poyneer
Algernon Avery Fuller
Colby Church
Alexis Martinez
Charlene L Maciak
Cameron Daddabbo
Melody Bennett
JariAnna Gleason
Natalie Inal
Rachel S. Simmonds
Nicole Meaker
Amy Mahoney
Jack A. Molisani

Julia Wilson
Savanna Murray



Sheyla Ortega
St. Alphonsus School
Alumni Scholarship
and the Shadrack
Moinket Kitamwes
Memorial
Scholarship
Class of 2026

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the generous St. Alphonsus School Alumni Scholarship and the Shadrack Moinket Kitamwes Memorial Scholarship at Cayuga Community College.

I am absolutely thrilled and honored to have been selected for these awards. They will be instrumental in allowing me to focus on my studies and pursue my academic goals at CCC.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to making the most of it.



Reilley Patterson
Presidential Scholar
and Patricia K. Rizzo
Memorial Scholar
Class of 2026

The scholarships at Cayuga have been very helpful in my schooling. They have made it more accessible for me to continue my schooling. It has helped to push me to do the best I can to keep improving. The scholarships I have received have been so impactful in making my college experience so amazing.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving, or Legacy Giving, may allow you to make a meaningful and lasting legacy for generations of students to come. There are a variety of ways to make planned gifts to the Foundation that will not deplete lifetime assets, and in some cases, can furnish additional income and significant tax deductions. Ways to include the Foundation in your estate plans include bequests, life insurance, charitable annuities, retirement funds, trusts and real estate.

Planned giving helps ensure the future and growth of Cayuga Community College by securing a base of permanent support for College initiatives. Talk to your financial advisor, or contact the Foundation Office at (315) 294 8587 or www.cayuga-cc.edu/foundation, to start the conversation.



CAYUGA PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The Cayuga Presidential Scholarship recognizes and rewards outstanding students from high schools in Cayuga and Oswego counties, as well as the Jordan-Elbridge, Skaneateles and Red Creek school districts. Students who graduated in the top 20% of their high school, attend Cayuga as full-time students and maintain a 3.0 GPA are eligible for full tuition scholarships for up to four consecutive semesters at Cayuga. The Cayuga Presidential Scholars raise the academic bar in every classroom and we are exceptionally proud of their academic achievements.

2024 - 2025

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Brandon J. Babcock | Logan Mathews |
| Kayla Bunce | Solomiia Melnyk |
| Sabrina Carvey | Reilley Patterson |
| Kirsten Casterline | Lexi Pettit |
| Rylee Catalano | Jack Phillips |
| Kaitlyn Catalone | Harley Potter |
| Sophia Church | Alex Reuter |
| Gabriela Farnham | Niko Rosenbaum |
| Katelyn Hartman | Alyssa Sawyer |
| Jonathan Herrick | Kaiden Sharpsteen |
| Beverly Hotchkiss | Abrielle Soluri |
| Cody Jarabek | Shayla Sykes |
| Morgan Jones | Reese Watts |
| Jacob King | Sierra Wells |
| Anna Kostreva | Ahndria Wilson |
| Alyssa Larrabee | Victoria Wood |
| Nattallie Lent | |

THE FRED L. EMERSON FOUNDATION ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fred L. Emerson Foundation Academic Scholarships have celebrated student excellence within the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES school districts since 2017.

Fred L. Emerson Foundation Academic Scholarships were earned by the following students during the 2024 - 2025 academic year:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Brandon J. Babcock | Andrew Seward |
| Kayla Bunce | Vitalina Vasylyk |
| Sabrina Carvey | Catherine Vernak |

D.E. FRENCH AND STANLEY W. METCALF FOUNDATIONS

Cayuga County Community College Nursing graduates provide an outstanding level of care throughout Cayuga County and the Central New York region. They pursue employment opportunities in hospitals, ambulatory care, skilled nursing facilities, schools and community agencies.

It is with utmost gratitude we thank the D.E. French and Stanley W. Metcalf Foundations for their generosity in supporting the Cayuga Nursing program. The Foundations' investments in the Nursing program helps students reach their career goals while encouraging students to enroll in a top tier program locally.

The following students earned Nursing grants from the D.E. French and Stanley W. Metcalf Foundations during the 2024 - 2025 academic year:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Juliana Bochenek | Autumn Layton |
| Savannah Brier | Bryan Leader |
| Kali Casper | Alexis Martinez |
| Makayla Church | Emma Mioni |
| Jordan Cook | Ashley Pisarz |
| Cameron Daddabbo | Victoria Russell |
| Grace Ford | Jenna Squires |
| Liana Gibbs | Tobias Stahl |
| Katelyn Hartman | Catherine Vernak |
| Jessica Jasniewski | Julie Yawney |

SCHOLARSHIPS

(Non-Endowed Named Scholarships)

A minimum gift of \$2,500 establishes a named non-endowed scholarship. You may also choose to continue the scholarship with annual donations. Gifts can also be made to the Foundation's General Scholarship Fund.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

You can create a named endowed scholarship fund for Cayuga Community College students. An endowed scholarship requires a minimum gift of \$25,000, made as one-time cash gift, stock transfer, or donations given over an established amount of time. Please contact the Foundation office at 315.294.8587 or email foundation@cayuga-cc.edu for more information.

CAYUGA'S ACCREDITATION REAFFIRMED BY MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Cayuga Community College announced this summer that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) formally reaffirmed the College's accreditation through the 2032-33 Academic Year.

Conducted for member institutions every eight years, the reaccreditation process included a comprehensive review of all College offices and operations to ensure compliance with MSCHE Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. The MSCHE is comprised of more than 500 higher education institutions, and confirms the educational quality of its members for the public.

Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant said the reaccreditation was a significant achievement for the College, whose accreditation was previously reaffirmed in the 2015-2016 Academic Year during Dr. Durant's first year at Cayuga.

"We're proud of this reaffirmation of accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. We've worked diligently over the past three years as part of this process, and it represents outstanding effort by our entire staff and faculty. It's a tremendous reflection on our institution, our teamwork, and the quality of education and services we provide the community," he said.

The reaccreditation process involved a thorough evaluation of the College conducted by a team of administrators and educators who served as peer evaluators for MSCHE. Reaccreditation confirms institutional accountability, self-review, innovation, and continuous improvement at MSCHE institutions.

The review included a self-study analysis of all components of Cayuga, from the College's Mission and Vision to the operation of its offices and students' experiences. The process included interviews with staff, faculty and students, evaluations of offices and programs, and a formal visit to the College. Evaluators also visited institutions that partner with the College, including high schools where students participate in concurrent enrollment programs.

For more details on Cayuga, visit www.cayuga-cc.edu. For more details on MSCHE, visit <https://www.msche.org/>.



An essential aspect of the reaccreditation process is the Institutional Self-Study. The report, compiled by the College over several years, addressed the standards used in a MSCHE review, including Mission and Goals, Support of the Student Experience, and Governance, Leadership, and Administration. This lengthy report outlined the College's services, relevant data, strengths, internal reviews, and planned improvements.

Dr. Durant praised Dr. Richard Bower and Dr. Terry Kupp (pictured above), two professors who co-chaired the Self-Study Steering Committee for Cayuga, as well as the staff and faculty who served on Standard Working Groups for the Self-Study.

"Richard and Terry did remarkable work guiding us through the Self-Study process and coordinating efforts with our committees to collect and share information in the Self-Study Report. Their work, and the work of the staff and faculty on our Standard Working Groups who assisted in this process, was truly outstanding," said Dr. Durant.

Cayuga's next evaluation visit is scheduled for the 2032-33 academic year.

Cayuga's Middle States Steering Committee

Dr. Nicole Adsitt, Director of Student Engagement and Academic Advisement
Dr. Ronald Cantor, Vice President
Dr. Brandon Davis-Shannon, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Institutional Technology
Professor Sara Davenport, Librarian
Dr. Cathleen Dotterer, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Linda Frank, Associate Professor of History
Professor Joel Humphrey, Professor of Biology
Professor Steven Keeler, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Telecommunications

Dr. Keiko Kimura, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor Kassie McGrath, Associate Professor of Nursing
Professor Mark Montgomery, Professor of English
Registrar Shannon Patrie
Professor Paul Richardson, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Dr. Virginia Rudnick, Director of Institutional Research and Planning
Professor Elizabeth Seton Mignacca, Director of Assessment
Professor Eric Zizza, SUNY Distinguished Service Professor, Division Chair



Pictured L to R: Dr. Durant, Tony Franceschelli, Sheryl & Dr. Robert Lubanski Jr., Rylee Catalfano, Christine Cuff, John Lubanski, Matthew Cuff, Kevin LaMontagne, Kia Larsen and Guy Cosentino

DR. ROBERT E. LUBANSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The family and friends of Robert E. Lubanski, M.D. have established a nursing scholarship at Cayuga Community College in memory of his remarkable life.

After watching his mother struggle to get healthcare, Dr. Lubanski dedicated his career to the care of women, especially

“Dr. Lubanski was an integral part of the healthcare landscape in Auburn and Cayuga County for decades.”

disadvantaged women. He worked in private practice in Auburn for 40 years, and later helped to establish East Hill Family Medical. While practicing in Auburn as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he served as Chief of the OB/GYN Department at Auburn Memorial Hospital, President of the Cayuga County Medical Society, as well as the Medical Director of East Hill Family Medical Center.

In his retirement years he continued to volunteer at a clinic for women in Florida and to train nurses to care for their patients. He enjoyed sharing his expertise and knowledge with the nurses he worked alongside in the clinics, the operating room, and especially on the Labor and Delivery floor.

Christine Cuff, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lubanski, said “My father felt it was important to continue to provide medical care to all members of the Auburn area community. My family hopes that by establishing this scholarship to aspiring nurses, they will continue to care for those within their local community with compassion.”

This year, Rylee Catalfano of Auburn, NY, has been awarded the Dr. Robert E. Lubanski Memorial Scholarship.



A second-year nursing student at Cayuga Community College, she was nominated by the faculty committee to receive this prestigious scholarship.

“Dr. Lubanski was an integral part of the healthcare landscape in Auburn and Cayuga County for decades,” said Guy Thomas Cosentino, Executive Director of the Cayuga County Community College Foundation. “His dedication to the health of women through all phases of their lives serves as a tribute to his own mother’s healthcare journey. We are honored to continue his legacy as we educate new generations of nurses.”

Those wishing to donate to the Dr. Robert E. Lubanski Memorial Scholarship may mail a check to the Cayuga County Community College Foundation, 197 Franklin Street, Auburn, NY 13021 or online at <https://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/> and indicating it is for the Dr. Lubanski Scholarship in the tribute section.



CAYUGA'S NEW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS THE PREMIER LOCATION FOR CAREER & TRAINING SERVICES



Left to Right: Aaron Wilcox, Constituent Services, Office of Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24), Marian Brown, Dr. Linda Van Buskirk, Mark Coleman, Hon. Heidi Nightengale, Hon. Aileen McNabb Coleman, Hon. Jonathan Anna, Dr. Brian Durant, Congressman John Mannion, Christopher White, SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility, Auburn Mayor Jimmy Giannettino, Jr., Guy Cosentino, Jeff Pirozzolo, and Tony Franceschelli.

Cayuga Community College formally opened its new Workforce Development Center in January, creating a streamlined avenue offering accessible services for job seekers and supporting the long-term economic success of regional employers.

SUNY, federal, state and local leaders joined Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant and other College administrators at the ribbon cutting of the Workforce Development Center, which is the primary source of employment services in Cayuga County. The one-stop is the local epicenter of career-focused agencies, helping job seekers, employers, and current employees looking to upskill.

Opening the state-of-the-art Workforce Development Center represented the completion of a critical strategic priority for Cayuga and demonstrated the College's commitment to the area workforce and the future economic vibrancy of Cayuga County, said Dr. Durant.

"The Workforce Development Center is a symbol of Cayuga's confidence in the vitality of our local economy and the talent and promise of our workforce," said Dr. Durant. "Each day at this Center, career-focused agencies support the growth of our workforce and the prosperity of local businesses and industries. I appreciate the support of SUNY, the Cayuga County Legislature, and everyone who believed in this project and its potential to help our communities."

The Workforce Development Center, located at 248 Grant Avenue in the City of Auburn, houses Cayuga's Office of Community Education and Workforce Development, along with Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Cayuga Works Career Center, which includes the New York State Department of Labor and Cayuga County Employment and Training, is also located in the Workforce Development Center.

Those seeking services at the Center find diverse opportunities, including career counseling, vocational training, job skills training, and employment services for adults, youth and dislocated workers. Resources for employers are also available, including customized employee training.

"Cayuga Community College's new \$6 million Workforce Development Center streamlines employment services and offers career training to support job seekers and meet the needs of our local economy," said Representative John W. Mannion, NY-22nd District.



Christopher White, SUNY Vice Chancellor speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



“I thank President Durant for sharing my commitment to building the workforce of the future and ensuring the region is well-positioned for Micron. In the state legislature, I more than doubled the funding for apprenticeship and career training programs. I look forward to working with NY-22 stakeholders to build on this record of success in Congress so the next generation has the skills they need to succeed and stay right here in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley.”

Diverse community partners supported the establishment of the Workforce Development Center. Cornell Cooperative Extension generously donated the building to Cayuga, and additional financial support for the project came from SUNY, the Cayuga County Community College Foundation, the Cayuga County Legislature, a Regional Economic Development Council consolidated funding application, and local philanthropic organizations.



The Cayuga team that brought it all together, Left to Right: Josh Rogalski, IT Network Technician, Bruce Walter, IT Manager of User Services, Dr. Brian Durant, College President, Doug Kinney, Director of Facilities Services & Public Safety/Chief of Campus Police, Tom Pratt, Architect, Thomas R. Pratt Architect, PC, and Anthony Ciampi, Building Maintenance Mechanic.

Cayuga County REALTORS® Association Create “Welcome Center” At Workforce Development Center



Members of the Cayuga County Chapter of the Greater Syracuse Association of REALTORS were on hand for the ribbon cutting on January 30th.

A generous donation made by the Cayuga County Chapter in 2022 supported two key student-focused initiatives at Cayuga Community College and closed out the Foundation’s Student Emergency Fund Challenge Grant created that Fall, surpassing its goal through their generosity.

The \$40,000 gift from the REALTORS Association was divided between the Foundation’s Student Emergency Fund Challenge Grant and the creation of a new scholarship. The Cayuga County REALTORS Scholarship was established to support business students attending Cayuga. In recognition of this generous gift the Cayuga Community College Board of Trustees recognized their support with a sign at the entrance area of the Workforce Development Center.

Several members of the chapter were present for the photo that includes President Brian Durant and members of the Foundation Board and staff.

To be eligible for the Cayuga County REALTORS Association Scholarship, students must be enrolled full-time in Cayuga’s Business Administration program. A student whose parent or grandparent works or worked in the real estate business will be given first preference. Second preference will go to a student demonstrating financial need. The recipient is selected by the College’s Business faculty.



EXPERT FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST, AUTHOR OF *'HERE, WHERE DEATH DELIGHTS'* SPEAKS AT CAYUGA

Cayuga Community College welcomed an expert forensic pathologist and author to its Auburn Campus on April 23rd where she shared insights from her first book and her 25-year career in forensics with students, college faculty and staff. She also spoke, later that day at an event open to the public.

As part of the College's Visiting Writer Series, Mary Jumbelic, M.D., recounted her trailblazing career supporting victims and serving as the first female Chief Medical Examiner in Central New York. She also discussed how that experience shaped her first book, *Here, Where Death Delights: A Literary Memoir*.

Dr. Jumbelic spoke to more than 85 students in person on the Auburn campus and with students through Zoom on our Fulton Campus. She then joined more than two dozen students for lunch in our Student Center to answer questions on her writing and on past cases that she has worked on.

"Dr. Jumbelic's writing connects exceptional storytelling with an obvious expertise in forensic pathology, and the result is a memoir that connects you to a scientific world without sacrificing the human element of her work," said Cayuga Writing Professor Mark Montgomery, who leads the Visiting Writer Series. "As Dr. Jumbelic has said, 'I speak for the dead. The dead speak for me.' I can't think of a better way to describe her expertise and her memoir."

Published in 2023, *Here, Where Death Delights: A Literary Memoir* recounts Dr. Jumbelic's career in forensics, her fascination with death and the science behind it. The memoir won first place from The BookFest, a Gold Award from the Colorado Independent Book Publishers, and Silver Awards from the

Nonfiction Authors Association and Reader's Favorite.

"I am energized by combining my love of forensics with writing. It was an honor to share that with the students and professors of Cayuga Community College," said Dr. Jumbelic.



Dr. Jumbelic recently published *Speak Her Name*. The book provides insight and examination of high-profile Central New York investigations, including the deaths of Jill Lyn Euto, Carol Ryan and Leslie Neulander, whose death was featured on a "Dateline NBC" episode.

"Dr. Mary Jumbelic's visit to Cayuga engaged our students across many majors," said Professor Richard Bower. "Her stories capture real-world investigations through personal, empathic insight. Students were inspired by her writing process: systematic journaling and creative nonfiction, and they got an exclusive preview of her new book, *Speak Her Name*. The chance to ask questions and share lunch made the visit especially memorable."

During her 25 years as a forensic pathologist, including serving as the Chief Medical Examiner in Onondaga County, Dr. Jumbelic performed thousands of autopsies and led efforts to improve child safety and the prevention of injuries. She also assisted in responses to national and international disasters, including 9/11.

Her work drew statewide and national acclaim, including awards from the New York State Senate and the National Organization of Women as a Trailblazer in Forensic Medicine.

Her career in forensics has shaped her storytelling, with her writing drawing approbation over the past decade. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and was a finalist in the Tucson Literary Festival, and has seen her work published in more than 30 publications.

A popular feature at the College for almost four decades, Cayuga's Visiting Writer Series connects students and faculty with active authors and poets who share their insights on the writing and publishing worlds. The series was founded by poet and Professor Emeritus Howard Nelson, and is sponsored by the Noreen and Michael J. Falcone Lecture Series and the Cayuga County Community College Foundation.

"We can't thank Dr. Jumbelic enough for her time – her interactions with the students at her lecture and during their lunch together were fantastic to observe," said Guy Thomas Cosen-tino, the Executive Director of the Cayuga County Community College Foundation.

For more information on Dr. Jumbelic, visit <https://maryjumbelic.com/>.

For information about Cayuga Community College, visit www.cayuga-cc.edu.



37th ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE DINNER HELD AT EMERSON PAVILLION



College Trustees, Foundation Board members and students at the Presidents' Circle Dinner, July 2025.

The College Foundation holds its annual Presidents' Circle Dinner to thank supporters of the Foundation that include those who donate at the President' Circle Level (\$1,000 or above), as well as our local philanthropic community who have long supported the work of the College, its students and faculty. Our 37th Annual Dinner was held at the Emerson Park Pavilion in July. The Foundation also invited and recognized several students, who have benefited from the support of donors, who also attended the event, with scholarships and Commencement Awards.

The students were presented a gift from the Foundation by Board President Kevin LaMontagne.



Dr. Cathleen '86 & Bob McColgin, Linda Alfieri and Dr. Linda Van Buskirk.



STUDENT ART FEATURED AT DINNER

The Foundation, with the assistance of members of our art faculty, choose a piece of student art to be featured on our annual Presidents' Circle invitation and program. The work of **Abigail McKalsen '25**, (pictured with her art), a Summa Cum Laude graduate with a degree in Studio Art and Design, was chosen. Ms. McKalsen was the President of Cayuga's Fulton

Art Club and an English tutor. She has transferred to SUNY Oswego this Fall and is aiming to achieve a Bachelors in Fine Arts with a concentration in painting. The featured work, "Retreat Within" was created in Prof. Rebecca Spink's Painting II course this past Spring. The media is oil pastel on paper.



Dawn and Lew Allyn



Melissa and Jackie O'Hara Komanecy '58



Joe '66 and Gail '68 Sullivan

DR. DENNIS GOLLADAY NAMED HONORARY DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION

Dr. Dennis Golladay, who served as Cayuga Community College's 5th President and was a long time member of the College's Foundation Board, including a term as Vice President, was unanimously elected an Honorary Director of the Foundation Board this past July.

When making the announcement, at the Foundation's 37th Annual Presidents' Circle Dinner, Board President Kevin LaMontagne said "It has been a pleasure to work with Dennis during my tenure on the Board. I suspect it has been his time as Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee that he has enjoyed the most; championing students, developing programs to assist emerging needs, and continuing to foster a gratitude for and dedication to educating the whole student. We have learned a tremendous amount from Dr. Golladay and deeply appreciate his dedication to Cayuga".

Recognizing the profound impact Dr. Golladay has had on Cayuga, both as



College President and as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors, the Foundation Board voted to appoint Dr. Golladay as only their sixth Honorary Director. Mr. LaMontagne said "I have

never seen so many people want to make or second a motion in all our meetings!"

In this capacity, Dr. Golladay's thoughtful voice will continue to be a part of Cayuga's success, and we will continue to learn from his keen insights, grace and intellect. Founding Foundation Board Member Peter Emerson and Dan Labeille, the Foundation's first Executive Director are Honorary Directors, and are invited to attend all Board Meetings and Foundation events. The late William G. Allyn, Dr. Joseph Karpinski and Vincent M. Kline have been the only others given this distinction.

Dr. Golladay has had a career, indeed a life dedicated to public higher education and we could not find a better way to recognize his profound achievements, than asking him to continue to share his time and talent to the College he so ably led.



Leaders from Cayuga Community College, Oswego County, the Oswego County Sheriff's Office, the cities of Fulton and Oswego, and local and state police agencies officially opened the new Oswego County Regional Police Academy in May. The facility is located on the College's Fulton Campus.

CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, OSWEGO COUNTY OPEN NEW REGIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

Elected and police officials joined Cayuga Community College leaders to celebrate the new Oswego County Regional Police Academy in May, saying the facility will have an immediate impact in meeting the needs of law enforcement and regional communities.

Local lawmakers and representatives from federal and state officials joined Cayuga President Dr. Brian Durant to officially open the academy, which is located on the College's Fulton Campus. Under construction for approximately one year, the academy is already in operation, with a class of cadets currently completing training.

Along with supporting local law enforcement agencies, the academy will create greater opportunities for students in Cayuga's Criminal Justice A.S. program, one of the College's most successful programs.

"The Oswego County Regional Police Academy fills a critical need in our region, allowing future police officers to prepare for a career in law enforcement at a state-of-the-art facility," said Oswego County Legislature Chairman James Weatherup. "Through rigorous training and instruction, academy students learn the skills necessary to best respond to challenges and help keep our communities safe. We're pleased to see this project come to fruition and look forward to seeing generations of law enforcement officers complete the academy."

"We are thankful for this collaboration with Cayuga Community College and we look forward to the opportunities this brings for our community," said Oswego County Sheriff Don Hilton.

The Oswego County Legislature was one of the foremost supporters of the academy, awarding the College \$400,000 in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for the construction. The academy construction was capped by a \$100,000 gift from the Cayuga County Community College Foundation.

The academy, which also received significant support from the Oswego County Sheriff's Office, represents a substantial investment in providing the future law enforcement workforce with an exceptional training facility.

The academy features space for lecture instruction, physical training, and a virtual simulator to provide trainees with opportunities to experience different scenarios they may see as members of law enforcement. The academy is staffed by members of the Oswego County Sheriff's Office, the Fulton and Oswego City Police Departments, and instructors from police agencies in surrounding counties.

Having the academy on-campus will allow Cayuga students to simultaneously earn their degree and complete Phase I of the academy while connecting with local law enforcement. Through these conversations and trainings, students will identify potential career paths and the steps necessary to reach those professions.



At the same time, connecting the academy with students will support local law enforcement agencies with a regularly graduating pool of qualified candidates.

Cayuga has offered one of the top associate's degree programs in Criminal Justice in New York State for more than 50 years. The College previously offered separate programs dedicated to Corrections or Police, but in the past two years unveiled a new A.S. program that provides students with a transfer-oriented curriculum.

For more details on the College's Criminal Justice A.S. program, visit <https://www.cayuga-cc.edu/academics/schools/social-sciences-and-education/criminal-justice/>.



CAYUGA GRAD JOHN WALSH SPEAKS AT DEDICATION

John Walsh '65, the original host and creator of "America's Most Wanted" and a 2016 ACC/CCC Alumni of the Year award winner, congratulated the College on the building of our new Oswego County Regional Law Enforcement Academy on the Fulton Campus.

In a video played at the May 7th dedication he told those assembled:

"It's a fantastic moment to see Cayuga, Oswego County and the Oswego County Sheriff's Office come together to reinforce the future of law enforcement in Central New York.

There's a growing demand today not only for careers in law enforcement, but also for a law enforcement workforce equipped with forward-thinking training to deal with the challenges in today's world.

That's what the Oswego County Regional Police Academy will offer the agencies who serve and protect in Central New York.

And there's no better location for this academy than the Fulton Campus of Cayuga Community College.

As a proud Cayuga alum, I know the College has one of the top Criminal Justice programs in Central New York.

For years this program has provided aspiring members of law enforcement with top-tier training and instruction, strengthening the skills they need to serve our communities.

Between the Criminal Justice program and faculty of Cayuga, and the superb training and instruction at the Oswego County Regional Police Academy, the future of law enforcement is bright in Central New York."





HOW YOU HAVE AND CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Donations to the Cayuga County Community College Foundation make a difference in the lives of our students, faculty and staff every day, whether that gift is restricted or unrestricted.

Most commonly we receive unrestricted gifts that allow the Foundation Board to be nimble and meet emerging needs or take advantage of opportunities to leverage other funds to benefit your Alma Mater in both small and large ways.

In the last year alone, unrestricted funds allowed the Foundation Board to:

- Leverage a one for one \$20,000 match from the Mary Procari Brady Fund to assist our Nursing Students to continue to excel in their program.
- Assisted dozens of students through our successful \$100 Make a Difference Campaign and remain enrolled at Cayuga.
- With the College's Leadership Team, we launched a pilot Early College Pathways Program encouraging high school students to come to Cayuga's campuses to finish their college degree, resulting in nearly 100 students enrolling at Cayuga.
- Support unique educational opportunities, including our Cayuga Book Club, led by Librarian Holly Kuhl and Writing and Tutorial Support Coordinator Chris Mott, to purchase both the "Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas and "Into the Woods" by Liz Moore for our students

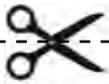
and also give them the opportunity to attend lectures by the authors in Syracuse.

- Invest \$100,000, in addition to participation from the Fred L. Emerson, D. E. French and Stanley W. Metcalf foundations, in the new Work Force Development Center in the former Cornell Cooperative Extension on Grant Avenue in Auburn to assist with the economic needs of our region's employers, matched with SUNY funds.
- Commit \$210,000 for the creation of the Oswego County Regional Police Academy that saw Oswego County invest \$400,000 in this project that were both matched by SUNY.
- For the 2025-2026 Academic year we have created the **Spartan Student Success Fund**. With your support, we will assist students during unforeseen emergencies, with the goal of helping our students remain enrolled at Cayuga. Your tax-deductible donation will go directly towards student emergency support, or if you prefer, to another designation. For your convenience, you can use the envelope across from this page to make a donation or you may give online at www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving.

We want to thank you in advance for being part of Cayuga's success – our communities are better because of your generosity!

As we all know, technology, especially social media, is changing the way we get information. We would like to identify those Cayuga Alumni who would rather receive *The Spartan* by e-mail and/or in a print format.

If you are interested in receiving future *Spartans* electronically, please fill out the form below and send it back to us in the envelope across from this page, or e-mail your request to alumni@cayuga-cc.edu. You also have the option to receive it both electronically and still by mail, if you wish.



Name _____

Address _____

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I would like to receive *The Spartan* both electronically and in print for now.

Envelope

Envelope

Introducing the 2025 Alumni Award Winners



We celebrated the extraordinary achievements of the 2025 Alumni Award winners in June. Welcoming family, friends, former professors and colleagues, and recognizing winners Teresa Ringwood Hoercher '78, Kendra Leather Janssen '03 and Jay Warren '93, Alumni Board President Amanda Stankus, Esq., '03 said, "It is truly fascinating to discover the myriad of paths Cayuga graduates have taken in their professional lives and the manner in which those paths evolve."

Pictured L to R: **Teresa Ringwood Hoercher '78, Jay Warren '93** and **Kendra Leather Janssen '03** at the Auburn Community College/ Cayuga Community College Alumni Awards reception.



Teresa Ringwood Hoercher, Class of 1978, holds a Bachelor of Arts from Nazareth College, a Masters in Library Science from SUNY Geneseo and a Certification in Developmental Education from The Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University.

Her occupations included working as a Children's Librarian in Geneva and Henrietta, and as the first Director of the Rochester Toy Lending Library - a Junior League of Rochester initiative. But it is her long and happy career at Cayuga Community College that is one of her greatest sources of pride and gratitude.

Ms. Hoercher's 28-year career as the Tutorial Coordinator at Cayuga Community College was an opportunity to build a tutorial program; one which earned the highest levels of certification from the College Reading & Learning Association and served as a model at other colleges. She was active in committee work and as Co-Advisor for Phi Theta Kappa, the Honor Society for Community Colleges. She is proud of the relationships

she made with faculty, staff and, most importantly, tutors and students.

Retirement provided Ms. Hoercher with the time to serve as a contributing writer for *The Citizen*, celebrating people in the "Legends of Auburn" series. Her passion project and a source of great fun has been THE POSTCARD PROJECT.

She started a "Little Free Postcard Mailbox" located at Hoopes Park. Visitors are encouraged to take a free postcard. Another project is underway with two 5th grade classrooms engaged in a Pen Pal Project. Students from Herman Avenue Elementary School are exchanging postcards with students at the State Street School in Skaneateles.

THE POSTCARD PROJECT was awarded the prestigious New York State Senate 2024 Empire Award "in recognition of outstanding contributions and dedication to the growth, prosperity and betterment of the community and New York State."



Kendra Leather Janssen, Class of 2003, graduated with honors from Cayuga Community College with a degree in Accounting and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Accounting from SUNY Oswego.

She is the founder and president of Chester's Barn, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Cayuga County. Chester's Barn is dedicated to supporting animals in need, educating the public about agriculture, and promoting the profound impact of animal-assisted therapy on mental health. Over the past two years, Ms. Janssen has brought

animal therapy to more than 3,000 individuals, reaching schools, nursing homes, and private residences. Through tireless fundraising, outreach, and advocacy, she has fostered greater community involvement, inspired youth interest in humanities, and advanced a more compassionate, connected business environment.

Since 2005 she has worked full-time at Cornell University, making a lasting impact on student engagement, experiential learning and campus life.

Continued on next page.

2024– 2025
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To nominate an outstanding alum for the 2026 Alumni Awards go to: <https://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/alumni/nominate/> or email alumni@cayuga-cc.edu. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, February 27th, 2026.

Kendra Leather Janssen, continued.

Ms. Janssen is currently collaborating with tertiary institutions in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Zealand to develop a curriculum focused on mental health and well-being for agricultural students. She is helping create educational modules designed to build a resilient next generation of agricultural leaders – equipping them to recognize signs of mental distress and access the resources needed to manage it. She is a certified instructor of the “Talk Saves Lives” and “It’s Real” programs – nationally recognized courses on suicide prevention and mental health. She is bringing these vital

conversations to rural communities throughout New York State. Most recently, she piloted ‘Farmer Friday’ in Cayuga County – a grassroots initiative that offers farmers a space to connect over breakfast and talk openly about the realities of farm life, both the good and the difficult. Ms. Janssen’s dedication to mental health runs deep. She has been featured on Cornell Cooperative Extension podcasts, in news articles, radio and television interviews, sharing her message of breaking stigma, building community, and caring for ourselves and each other.



Jay Warren, a 1993 Cayuga graduate of the Criminal Justice – Police Program, began his career as a Wayne County corrections officer and underwater search and recovery diver for over five years before serving with the Village of Newark Police Department for 23 years. He worked as a patrolman, a Drug Abuse Resistance Educator Instructor and School Resource Officer for three years.

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, which was quickly followed by Sergeant/Investigator. He earned letters of commendation for multiple arson, burglary, larceny, and child exploitation investigations, unit citation awards for three years straight, and the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office Commendation Award in 2020 for the investigation into a child predator case with digital forensics and criminal investigation work.

During his investigations Mr. Warren developed a passion for learning about digital forensics and recognized the significance of them in his investigations. He spent time training at the National Computer Forensic Institute, which provided the prospect of expanding his investigations with the Newark Police Department and created opportunities to train other officers

in emerging trends in digital technology. He honed his skills as a forensic digital investigator for eight years, where he assisted local, County, State and Federal agencies.

He conducted complex forensic examinations for financial fraud, network intrusions, Internet Crimes against Children, and served as a subject matter expert for officers in his department in preparing search warrants relating to electronic media. He was ranked number one for the Digital Examiner Award at the United States Secret Service National Computer Forensics Institute in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Since his retirement from the Newark Police Department, Mr. Warren has worked with the United States Secret Service as a Network Intrusion Forensic Analyst.

In celebrating the remarkable achievements of the 2025 Alumni Award winners, Jay Warren ‘93 remarked “...this award isn’t just a celebration of past efforts, it is a spark for new possibilities. I am reminded that no one achieves success alone. We rise together, we lift each other up, and that is what makes this honor so special. Thank you sincerely for this incredible recognition

and for the shared journey that brought us here.”

To read more about the 2025 Alumni Award winners go to: <https://www.cayuga-cc.edu/giving/alumni/honors/alumni-awards/>

“...this award isn’t just a celebration of past efforts, it is a spark for new possibilities. I am reminded that no one achieves success alone. We rise together, we lift each other up, and that is what makes this honor so special. Thank you sincerely for this incredible recognition and for the shared journey that brought us here.”



Cayuga Celebrates Class of 2025 in Commencement at Falcon Park

Class of 2025 this spring, with college and community leaders encouraging graduates to believe in themselves and confidently pursue any future they wish.



Family and friends joined Cayuga staff and faculty on May 14th at Falcon Park in Auburn for the ceremony, which has been the home for the College’s Commencement exercise since 2022. College leaders and trustees were joined on-stage by Cayuga County Legislature Chair Jonathan Anna.

College President Dr. Brian Durant and Board of Trustees Chair Tony Franceschelli applauded graduates for their perseverance, and called on them to rely on the skills they developed at Cayuga in the years ahead as they join the workforce or transfer to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“The world needs your optimism, your courage, and your vision. It needs problem-solvers who don’t run from complexity, but toward it. It needs listeners and bridge-builders, innovators and advocates. In short — it needs you,” said Dr. Durant. “So whether you’re stepping into a new job, continuing your studies, launching a venture, or still discovering your path, carry with you the spirit of curiosity and compassion that defines this institution.”

Chair Franceschelli encouraged graduates to exercise patience before rushing through a decision about their next step after earning their degree.

“Think about what you want, about what’s best for you and your family. Remember everything you’re capable of, everything you demonstrated here at Cayuga. You have no reason to doubt yourself, and every reason to believe in your best future possible. And that is what we wish for you — the best future possible,” he said.

Graduates earned Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and Associate in Applied Science degrees and certificates from the 32 degree programs and 10 certificate programs available at Cayuga.





Student speakers for the ceremony were Jorge Jimenez, who earned an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Sciences, and Charlene Maciak, who earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing.

Jimenez is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, graduated magna cum laude, received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, and the SUNY Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. Maciak earned her fourth collegiate degree Wednesday, is a Phi Theta Kappa member, graduated summa cum laude, and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Class Marshals were Max Morabito, who graduated with an Associate in Science in Computer Science, and Shaqueta Small, who graduated with an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Sciences with a concentration in Psychology.

Jimenez and Julia Wilson, who earned an Associate in Science in Business Administration, were recognized for receiving the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

The College also honored employees who received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence. Professor Mark Montgomery received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Professor Elizabeth Seton Mignacca, who is also the Director of the Office of Institutional Assessment, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Custodian Donna Whiting received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service.

A recording of Commencement is available at the YouTube page for the College's School of Media and the Arts, <https://www.youtube.com/@mediacayuga3821>.



Charlene Maciak & Jorge Jimenez



Dr. Durant congratulates Julia Wilson.



Scholar-athletes cheer on fellow athletes with air horns at Falcon Park.



Class Notes

1961

Susan A. Stubbs reports that she is enjoying 30 years of retirement.

Patricia Dinsmore Walter wrote “I am enjoying my elderly years with family, grandchildren and friends. I keep very busy with volunteer work. I continue to direct the handbell choir at my church.”

1963

This past May the Auburn YMCA staff celebrated long time supporter **Richard Knaul** with the Camp Y-Owasco Linger Award. A former member of the Auburn



YMCA Board of Directors and long time Camp Y-Owasco Committee Member, he was instrumental in the acquisition of the former Boy Scout property adjacent to Camp Y-Owasco. The driveway into the former Boy Scout side of the camp has been designated Rich Knaul Drive.

1966

Mitchell Ross wrote “We continue to be blessed with our health, a modicum of prosperity and eleven grandchildren that have truly enriched our lives. We continue to split our time residing in Long Island, New York and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We convey our best wishes to all ACC/CCC Alumni!”

1967 & 1968

Maureen Kenna Wetherby '68 and Jay Wetherby '67 said “We both loved our time at A.C.C. and love to see the growth of the College. All five Wetherby siblings have degrees from Auburn Community College. Jerry was on the College soccer team that went undefeated and I was one game away from going to nationals. We had many fine professors here and credit the school with a wonderful start to college.”

1968

Thomas Lewis wrote “After ACC I graduated from SUNY Buffalo in 1970 with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and earned my Master’s Degree in 1973.



I worked for five companies over the course of my career, including IBM, where I worked for many years. I retired in 2014. My current hobby is amateur radio, and call is N4TL.”

Hon. Ronald Wilson reports that he is still the Mayor of Port Byron, NY.

1969

Larry McEver finally retired in 2024 after working for 30 years at ARCO and 20 years at Beckman Laser Institute. “I enjoyed working at both companies, but it was time to retire and do some traveling,” he said.

1971

Thomas Gangemi, reports that he is “happily retired from Liverpool Central Schools. I taught math and reading to sixth grade students.”

1972

Vance Coons wrote “Since retiring from Anesthesia (19 years at St. Joe’s and 12 years at Community General) in 2017, I have been spending winters at our oceanfront condo in North Myrtle Beach. In 2022 we moved to Myrtle Beach permanently. Good decision! We are very happy!”

Rick Patchen reports that he published an article in Farm Collection magazine regarding the John Deere – Chase Motor Truck Syracuse connection. He retired from the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES.

1976

Angela Rose Lentini, wrote “I graduated from CCC with a degree in Nursing, and worked for 46 years before retiring 8 years ago. I moved to Oregon in 2001. I have two sons, Joseph and Mario, four grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. I enjoy pool exercises and walks with my dog, Niko, a bichon frise.

1980

Justin Thomas wrote that he is enjoying retirement from NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

1981

Nelsa Selover was one of 100 seniors from across the state honored during the annual Older New Yorkers’ Day in May.



Her service includes working to develop Bluefield Manor in Auburn and sitting on its board of directors, as well as volunteering on the boards of the Statewide Senior

Action Council, the SCORE mentorship program and the Edward T. Boyle Senior Center. She has also been a member of the Melrose Park Seniors since 2006 and helped revitalize the Cayuga County Council of Senior Citizens. She spent 12 years as a nursing home social worker before becoming Director of the Cayuga County Office for the Aging in 1994 and retiring in 2005. There, she served in multiple leadership roles and carried out many new initiatives to improve services for older adults.

“Nelsa Selover is widely known in the community for her giving spirit and willingness to get involved,” the New York State Office for the Aging said. “When she retired from a career in social work, she doubled her efforts to serve the community, bringing her knowledge and skills to multiple volunteer groups serving older adults while working as a tireless advocate for the needs of older adults.”

1983

Susan Gawlicky reported that she retired from the New York State Department of Corrections in Auburn in 2019 after 26 years of service.

Moved? Changed Names? New Job?

Update your information by calling 315.294.8587 or emailing alumni@cayuga-cc.edu

Class Notes

1983

Bob Padula wrote “I finally retired for the second time. I retired as the Community Liaison at the Gavras Center after four years. I am still serving on the following boards: Cayuga County Homesite Development, E. John Gavras Center, EJG Foundation and Matthew House, where I also volunteer. Hope to travel and follow my grandchildren’s various sporting activities.”



“Staying here, building a network, seeing how things have changed, seeing students, seeing progress, seeing people come back or move up ... it’s gratifying and reminds me of the humanity that is important,” he said. “We’re all in this for a specific reason: to make the world a better place in some way. I know that sounds cheesy. But just remembering that is the core of everything.”



2004

Matthew Androsko was named Auburn Police Chief in January. A 2004 Summa Cum Laude Cayuga graduate, he has a bachelor’s degree in Public Justice and Forensic Science from SUNY Oswego. He began with the Department as a patrolman in 2007 and became an Evidence Technician and Field Training Officer in 2009. He moved up to Road Patrol Sergeant in 2017, to lieutenant in 2020, to supervisor of the Finger Lakes Drug Task Force in 2021 and to Captain in 2023. His duties have also included being a member of the emergency response team, supervising the hostage negotiations team and drone unit, and running. As Captain, he supervised the School Resource Officer, Special Patrol Officers and the Gun Involved Violence Elimination Unit.



Chief Androsko said his education at Cayuga prepared him well for his career in law enforcement. “I learned the most out of my CJ (Criminal Justice) Program (at Cayuga).”

2014

Tautvydas Poniškaitis a goal keeper who attended Cayuga Community College from 2013 to 2014 as a student-athlete, has just launched BaltixSport, a sports scholarship agency that connects promising footballers (soccer players) from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia with US college programs across the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).



“We’re proud to now help others pursue the same life-changing opportunity that began at Cayuga.”



Jesse Horn completed his degree and started the police academy all at the same time. (Photo with Cayuga’s Criminal Justice Professor Teri Misiaszek)

CONGRATULATIONS (SUNYCUAD) HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE TIM NEKRITZ

Tim Nekritz '88 was inducted into the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD) Hall of Fame during this year’s conference in Rochester.

Nekritz, who received an associate’s degree in communications from Cayuga Community College, is SUNY Oswego’s Director of Communications in the Office of Communications and Marketing.

The honor recognizes individuals who “have distinguished themselves, their institutions and the State University by their significant contributions to the organization and its mission of service and education,” according to the Council.

“We carry out our missions with pride and joy, despite much smaller budgets and staff, and truly connect with our students,” Mr. Nekritz said.



He acknowledged SUNY employees are just as good, if not better, than counterparts from private and expensive institutions.

“To be recognized by [them], all your friends, all the people you’ve met throughout the years, was humbling, and I was very honored.”

When asked what drew him to a career at Oswego spanning more than two decades and now involves running communications and news operations, including a daily newsletter during the semester, he mentioned two things repeatedly: students and stories.

“The students that we serve remind me of myself when I was a young person.... Some of us needed direction, coming in with not a lot of money or resources, but as people who really wanted to work hard and make something of themselves,” he said. “Every time I talk to a student, I walk away impressed by them and think, ‘This is why I do what I do.’”

Reflecting on his time at Oswego and involvement in SUNYCUAD, Nekritz said the connections he has made and the stories he has helped share make this his “dream job.”



Paul W. Lattimore Jr.

Former Cayuga County Community College Foundation Board Member Paul W. Lattimore Jr., 84, of Auburn, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family, on April 2, 2025.

A lifelong resident of Auburn, Mr. Lattimore graduated from Mount Carmel and attended the University of Buffalo. He owned and operated the former Lattimore Insurance Agency and Lattimore Real Estate Co. for many years. He was deeply committed to his community and actively involved in numerous organizations, including the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce, Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA), of which he was a founding member, and the Cayuga County Industrial Development Agency (CCI-DA). He also took pride in participating in the Children's Pride Program at Genesee Elementary School. Among several other civic contributions, he served as a Board Member for O.T.B. appointed by the Cayuga County Legislature.

"While he was well known for his work as a businessman, his civic involvement covered a wide range of interests that he had over decades" according to **Gail Homick Herrling '62**, a member of the Cayuga County Community College Foundation Board and longtime friend. She further stated that "his engaging personality and a spirit that focused on getting things done and making our community better were well known. While he was very proud of his family, his commitment to such efforts as laying the groundwork for protecting Owasco Lake and its watershed will be remembered for generations to come".

Mr. Lattimore cherished each day, often saying, "It's a beautiful day." He found joy in life's simpler pleasures-country drives, meals with friends at the Auburn Diner or At Long Last, watching sunrises, or just sitting quietly in nature. His gentle spirit and unwavering love will be deeply missed and forever held in the hearts of those who knew him.



William F. Jacobs '73

Former ACC/CCC Alumni Board Member William F. Jacobs, 89, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2025 at his home in Auburn following a lengthy illness. He attended West High School and joined the United States Marine Corps in 1954 where he held the rank of Sargent. A graduate of Auburn Community College with a degree in Fire Science, he served the community for 25 years as a firefighter, obtaining the rank of Captain.

After his retirement, he did not slow down. He continued to share his knowledge as a fire prevention specialist with the United States Fire Administration and as training unit leader for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). His role with FEMA sent him all over the United States when disaster struck, including New York City following the September 11th attacks and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Jacobs served on the Auburn City Council and was a member of many local organizations.

Professor John Lamphere '74 said of his friend, "Bill defined the term public servant. United States Marine Corps, City of Auburn Captain - Auburn Fire Department, County Fire Investigator, County Fire Instructor educating literally thousands of volunteer firemen in Cayuga County, NYS Fire Academy instructor, FEMA investigator and educator literally traveling the world – he wrote the definitive study for fighting fires in mines. He took part in many of the Alumni associations trips to Gettysburg, had numerous cameos in the movie "Gettysburg" and contributed and is mentioned in numerous books about the 111th NY.

"I first met Bill in 1972 when he was my fire department instructor when I joined the Weedsport Volunteer Fire Department. He was my mentor on all things Gettysburg. We literally went to the field hundreds of times and walked every square inch of the battlefield and related sites. He claimed right up to his death that the monument to the 111th, the figurine depicted, was his relative Pvt. Henry Clark."

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50TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL CRAFT FAIR CAYUGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Saturday, December 6
10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, December 7
10 am – 3 pm

A HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Cayuga Community College and the **Cayuga County Community College Foundation** are proud to announce our **50th Annual Holiday Craft Fair**. This year's event will take place from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on **Saturday, December 6th** and **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on **Sunday, December 7th, 2025**. The event, held throughout the College, is free and open to the public.

More than 140 craftspeople, artists, and direct sale vendors from throughout the Central New York will display and sell items during the two-day event. There will be a children's craft table, dancers and live music in the cafe. Food trucks will be located outside the Spartan Hall entrance.

Mark your calendars for this shopping adventure!



Owasco's Troup 21 Scouts selling Krispy Kreme donuts at the 2024 Craft Fair.