NEW YORK'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS



COMMUNITY COLLEGES: **BEST INVESTMENT IN NEW YORK'S FUTURE**



America's community colleges and their students added **$809 BILLION** in income to the U.S. economy, approximately equal to **5.4%** of the nation's Gross Domestic Product*.

In New York, the State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) community colleges serve among the largest populations of public higher education, with nearly 240,000 students enrolled at the 30 SUNY community colleges, joined by 98,000 students at CUNY's seven institutions.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES meet their students where they are and provide them with a wide array of resources they need to succeed. Similarly, community colleges are the driving force behind strengthening the economic power & educational readiness of New York State. This provides a significant return on investment, not only to students, but also to taxpayers, employers & local communities. As only one example of this, through the recent Next Generation Job Linkage Program, SUNY community colleges placed nearly 10,500 students in high-tech sector jobs that are in demand for the State's current and projected job growth needs.

*American Association of Community Colleges study compiled by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.

CREATING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Geographically situated from eastern Long Island to the Canadian border, these open enrollment institutions provide educational and professional-improvement opportunities that meet the needs of their local communities and the State at large. With hundreds of business and industry partners, SUNY and CUNY community colleges maximize limited resources to support the current labor force and help prepare the next generation of skilled and diverse labor to support NY's economic security and stability.

While the benefit of the 37 New York community colleges is without question, even greater opportunities for our state could be realized through a stronger investment strategy.

More students need to graduate from our colleges to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce. Too many high skilled jobs remain unfilled, with even more on the horizon. For NY to remain competitive, more students need to enter and graduate from our colleges. Additional State funding in the form of a rational investment plan in Base Operating Aid over three years, would enable these public institutions to better meet the ever increasing costs of benefits, salaries and simple inflation while reducing the need to raise student tuition rates.

ENSURING COLLEGE READINESS

In addition to these base costs, there is a huge opportunity for the State to realize a return on investment by providing additional support for activities surrounding the first-year experience of community college students. According to the College Board, only 40% of our graduating high school seniors are prepared when they enroll in college. These students, whether right out of high school or as returning adults, require additional support to succeed. Both SUNY and CUNY have dedicated their efforts to meet the academic and social challenges of these students, including returning veterans, and are seeking additional support for greater impact. With modest State investment, SUNY and CUNY would better prepare these students for college and improve their chances for success with the needed academic and social support.



New York's network of community colleges is one of its greatest assets. The education and job training programs offered at community colleges serve as a national model for higher education in the 21st century.

Supporting our community colleges is one of the best investments we can make, one that comes back to us manifold as the success of our community colleges and the students they serve spur an increased quality of life in every New York community.

NEW YORK'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

New York's 37 community colleges cater to a wide range of students who benefit from a wealth of programs enhancing the college experience. Whether it's providing access for specialized populations, supplying critical support services, promoting workplace opportunity or rendering other vital assistance, New York's community colleges offer students a springboard to success in a variety of chosen careers and professions.



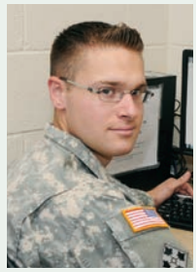
PROVIDING ACCESS FOR SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS

VETERANS



Erie Community College's Service to Scholar program provides Access Centers equipped with adaptive technologies to assist student veterans in the classroom while reducing the stigma of needing assistance. Forty-five percent of ECC's 600-plus student veterans attained a GPA of 3.0 or better for Spring 2014, a 5% increase over Spring 2013. The retention rate was 78%, owing largely to the efforts of Service to Scholar.

Columbia-Greene Community College, which was designated a military-friendly campus by *G.I. Jobs* magazine, has broadened and enhanced its program for veterans, installing a Battle Buddy Center in 2013. Since the center opened, veteran enrollment at the college has increased 26%. In addition, 90% of veteran students return for a second semester.



US Army Sgt. **Jesse Wiley**, a freshman at Columbia-Greene, takes full advantage of the college's Battle Buddy Center, which offers activities to foster camaraderie and encourage veterans to give and receive mutual support. The setup includes a lounge with a TV, computer workstation and coffee center. Wiley, a pre-nursing student, plans to continue serving his country as an Army flight nurse. A member of the National Guard, he was deployed to Basra, Iraq, during a three-year stint of active duty that began in 2009.

Hostos Community College has increased the number of student veterans enrolled in degree programs from 45 in 2009 to 215 in 2014 after a revamping that created more opportunities. One of the new programs, the Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education (PROVE) based at Hunter College, served 70 of 123 (57%) of student veterans with 437 interventions in Fall 2013, and served 89 veterans with 845 interventions in Spring 2014.

Rockland Community College has expanded its programs and services for veterans,

including adding a Veterans Lounge, financial literacy program, scholarships and mentoring. RCC is also the first community college to install a chapter of SALUTE, the national honor society for veterans. More than half of RCC's 200 student veterans had a GPA above 3.0 for 2013-14.



Norm Cottrill, '14, served with the US Navy in the Persian Gulf War and later as a parachutist with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He made a successful transition to civilian and campus life with significant contributions in veterans affairs and multimedia production. At RCC, where he earned an AA in Communication and Media Arts, he produced and hosted interviews of World War II veterans for the College's on-campus television station, which were also featured in local media. Cottrill served as inaugural president of RCC's chapter of SALUTE, the national veterans honor society. Cottrill earned a scholarship to transfer to Marist College, where he is majoring in Media Studies/Film & TV.

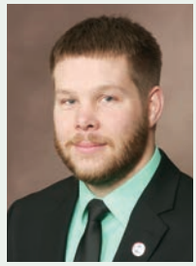
Adirondack Community College



Dan Roberts '15 joined the US Army shortly after the 9/11 attacks, and fought in the Global War on Terrorism for nine years. Today, married with a 3-year-old son, he serves as Student Trustee on the college's Board of Trustees. The NYS VA Office Counselor, who also staffs the College's Veterans Affairs Office, helped him prepare for his post-military life. Roberts is studying sociology with the goal of becoming a trauma specialist and making a difference in the lives of veterans. He also credits Adirondack with helping him in his role as a father to his son, who has autism.

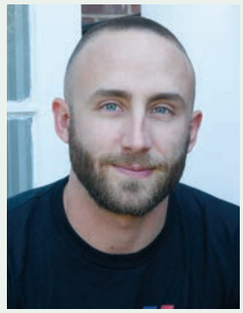
Ulster County Community College's veteran student population has increased 46% from 2010 to 2014, thanks to focused efforts to address critical issues such as benefits, housing and health-care assistance. The number of military dependents and family members, who also partake in the services, rose from 18 to 70 in the same span.

Cayuga County Community College



Brian M. Knapp '13 arrived at Cayuga after serving five years in the US Marine Corps, during which he sustained a traumatic brain injury. He graduated cum laude from Cayuga with an AS in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and earned the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence. At Cayuga he was on the President's Cabinet, vice president of the GIS Club, a charter member of the CNY Veterans Higher Education Regional Consortium, and speaker at two national educational conferences. Knapp founded the Student Veterans Club and served as its commander. After graduating, he was accepted at several four-year schools, but chose instead to work as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator/Caseworker for US Rep. Dan Maffei (24th District).

Nassau Community College



Kristopher Goldsmith serves as president of NCC's veterans club. He and other club members traveled to Capitol Hill during the winter of 2013-2014 to advocate for change in what they viewed as unfair treatment toward fellow veterans seeking to dispute discharge classifications of less than "honorable" when mental health diagnoses are involved. The legislative change they sought is included in versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 as passed by the House of Representatives and by the Senate Armed Services Committee, and is on the cusp of enactment into law.

WOMEN



Bronx Community College's Automotive Technology program is gaining popularity among the small but growing number of women entering the traditionally male field of auto mechanics. It the only program of its kind in the CUNY system, drawing students from as far away as Staten Island. The program recently completed a $1.2 million upgrade of its equipment, curriculum and 10,000-square-foot facilities.



Grace Claudio '10 knew nothing about cars when she enrolled at Bronx Community College in the fall of 2008. Today she is a much-valued "B Technician" at BMW of Manhattan. The transformation was made possible by BCC's Automotive Technology program, from which she graduated in 2010 with an AAS degree. She was attracted to the program by its reputation and affordability. As a boxer who won an impressive 9 of 13 bouts, Claudio was prepared for the physical demands of the job. She worked on a project of assembling a complete car from the nuts and bolts up for the Auto Tech's Cobra Club.

Finger Lakes Community College's Women's Initiative on Leadership engages up to 50 students each academic year in topics such as the art of leadership, group dynamics, overcoming adversity, confidence, self-esteem, taking risks and interpersonal communication. The students interact with guest speakers from the college and the local Chamber of Commerce, and serve as mentors for local middle school girls after completing the program.

Niagara County Community College has partnered since Fall 2013 with the WNY Women's Foundation to offer Mapping Opportunities for Moms (MOMs), which provides academic and career services to low-income single mothers enrolled in NCCC programs. Fall-to-Spring retention rates for participants increased 20% in 2013-14 over the two previous years, and participants had a 15.5% better retention rate in 2013-2014 than single mothers not in the program.

Corning Community College



Renee Staffeld's passion for animals led her to consider careers like animal control officer, where her self-perceived weakness in mastering scientific concepts would not be exposed. However, through the mentorship she received at Corning, her outlook changed. She decided to become a veterinarian and has successfully enrolled at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. At Corning she won numerous honors, including being named a 2014 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar, earning the American Chemical Society Award for Most Outstanding Chemistry Student, and the SUNY Chancellor's Award. She also co-founded CCC's science club.

Dutchess Community College



Danielle Teachey is on track to graduate from Dutchess in December 2014 with an AS degree in Communications. She hopes to use her education at Dutchess as a springboard toward a career in the field of communications, public relations or marketing. "Coming to DCC has strengthened my confidence. I am able to express myself in a clearer way. We have all the resources we need right here on campus. The faculty and staff have been easy to relate to and they are so caring."

Genesee Community College



After earning an AS in General Studies, **Jessica Stabell** '07 earned a BA in Anthropology from Buffalo State College, where she also received the President's Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Performance, gave two commencement addresses, and is now pursuing a PhD in Forensic Entomology. In 2012, she earned an Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship to study the effects of temperature on decomposition in Western New York using a method of accumulated degree-days. The significance of her work was highlighted on WKBW-TV in Buffalo when she was named Person of the Week in May 2013.

Ulster County Community College



Jennifer Naumchik '07 has lived and taught English in Korea and Japan since graduating, but still considers the college's Learning Center home. The guidance she received inspired her career path as a foreign affairs analyst. She earned her bachelor's at SUNY Albany in Japanese and Korean Studies following a year of studying abroad at the Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan, on scholarships from the Japanese and American governments. Naumchik has taught English to Korean elementary students and worked at a North Korean Refugee Center. She is currently pursuing her master's at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Onondaga Community College



Elizabeth Luke (l.) and **Kirstin Amisano** (r.) are among Onondaga's first class of STEM scholars, funded by a nearly $600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Luke, who is pursuing a Mathematics and Science degree, recently earned a scholarship to work on a bacteria research project at Syracuse University. After graduating, she plans to enroll in SUNY Upstate Medical University's medical biotechnology program. Amisano's love for science began in 6th grade when she participated in a career research project. After graduating she plans to transfer to St. John Fisher College through OCC's 2+2 partnership agreement.

MINORITIES



Tompkins Cortland Community College's Network Peer Mentor Program helps first-

generation students and students from historically underrepresented groups make a successful academic and social transition to college life. First-semester academic success (GPA at or above 2.0) of African American and Hispanic students increased 11% between Fall 2011 and 2013, and Fall-to-Fall retention of those groups rose 13%.

Erie Community College



For **Kevin F. Barnes**, ninth child in a family of 10, attending college was a dramatic departure from life on the streets of North Philadelphia. At Erie, he entered the Education to Recovery Program, which assists students dealing with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. He majors in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling and has achieved a 3.0 GPA. He also participates in the Educational Opportunity Program, where he receives academic advisement, counseling and tutoring. Barnes serves as president of Campus Ministry and has received four scholarships from the Erie Community College Foundation.

Orange County Community College



Erica Cruz '12 is now working toward her PhD in aeronautical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she earned her bachelor's degree. At Orange, she received the SUNY Chancellor's Award and was the student representative to the College's Board of Trustees. She was also a student ambassador and president of the Student Senate. Cruz's doctoral research will focus on dynamic vortex generators, which reduce aerodynamic drag on such objects as airplane wings.

Westchester Community College



Robyn Austin '14 was homeless and lacked family support when she enrolled at Westchester. The WCC chapter of Single Stop USA, which helps low-income college students access the support they need to stay in school, assisted her with obtaining shelter, food, clothing, transportation and other necessities. Austin became the first in her family to earn a college degree when she graduated from WCC with a degree in Liberal Arts, social services concentration. She won the national Single Stop video contest and its accompanying $1,000 award. She plans on a career in social work.

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS



Fulton-Montgomery Community College's

TRiO Student Support Services program helps low-income, first-generation students with academic advisement, financial

literacy, transfer to four-year institutions and individualized guidance. Eighty-seven percent of participants persist each year, 68% earn GPAs of 2.0 or higher, and 45% in 2012-13 graduated on time and transferred to a baccalaureate institution.

Guttman Community College features an innovative educational model using New York City as a classroom. Its highly structured curriculum is designed to increase the graduation rate of students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. Eighty students (28%) of the College's 2012 inaugural class graduated in 2014, nearly double the three-year national graduation rate at large city community colleges.

Hostos Community College



Shalim Lopez was valedictorian of the Class of 2014, a major accomplishment for any student, let alone one who could not speak English upon enrolling at Hostos. After graduating from high school in the Dominican Republic, she and her family emigrated to America. Speaking only Spanish, she enrolled in the CUNY Language Immersion Program at Hostos. She was undaunted by the language barrier or by being the first family member to attend college. Five semesters later, she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and a Liberal Arts degree. She is now pursuing a BA in Social Work from Lehman College. She plans to go on to earn a master's degree and eventually a PhD in social work.

HIGH SCHOOL OUTREACH



Cayuga County Community College responded to low turnout for open houses by promoting the events earlier and more frequently through the use of direct mail to high school students, advertisements in high schools and local newspapers, and web ads online. The effort yielded more than 100 visitors to the college; 95% of those surveyed said they were more inclined to attend Cayuga as a result of their open house experience.

Hudson Valley Community College, seeking ways to serve a new student market, has offered online courses to New York State high school students the past two years. The classes supplement coursework that may have been eliminated from high schools due to budget cuts or are courses students cannot fit into their required curriculum. The number of students enrolled more than doubled from Fall 2013 to 2014, from 56 to 129.

SUPPORT SERVICES TO FOSTER SUCCESS

ENHANCE RETENTION & REMEDIATION



Borough of Manhattan Community College's Quantway is a remedial quantitative literacy course that uses the concepts of numeracy and algebra in real-world applications, and provides an alternative to Elementary (remedial) Algebra for non-STEM students. Pass rates in Quantway average higher than 60%, compared to pass rates in Elementary Algebra averaging 38%. BMCC has expanded the program in Fall 2014 to 22 sections serving more than 550 students.

Corning Community College's Nursing Education program launched a multi-year effort to improve student success and retention. Changes in prerequisites and enhanced academic support initiatives have boosted the number of students completing each phase of the program. Graduation rates have improved by 10%. From a group of 114 in 2010, the number of annual graduates has increased from 43 to 57 with 94% passing NCLEX the first time.

Herkimer County Community College's student athletes have benefited for more than two decades from the services of an academic support specialist, who works with the athletic director and coaches to boost academics among student athletes. Study groups led by student athletes rose to 14 from 3 in the past year. In 2013-14, 60.5% of second-year athletes graduated, and the overall GPA of student athletes was 2.88.

LaGuardia Community College's CUNY Fatherhood Academy, founded in 2012, provides education, employment, personal development and family engagement to low-income men with children. It has served more than 110 young fathers, ages 18 to 24, with a retention rate of 85%. Seventy-two graduates were placed in internships or jobs, and 48 grads earned high school equivalency diplomas or enrolled in college.

Queensborough Community College established in 2013 the Queensborough Academies, a campus-wide expansion of the 2009 Freshman Academies initiative that yielded a significant increase in student retention and graduation rates. The school-wide program, serving all full-time students, integrates curriculum, pedagogy and co-curricular activities in a cohesive undergraduate learning experience.

Sullivan County Community College's Career Center has hosted three job fairs, posted 50 job openings and assisted 67 SUNY Sullivan students and graduates in securing employment since the center re-opened in January 2014 after having been discontinued. The center is located in the newly designed Learning Commons and is part of a comprehensive plan to increase student retention and completion rates.

Westchester Community College's Single Stop WCC program has aided retention of economically disadvantaged students by removing obstacles to degree completion. Since 2012, Single Stop WCC and its partners have served nearly 4,500 families and individuals, connecting them to $9.5 million in benefits, tax refunds and supportive services.

AT-RISK STUDENTS



Adirondack Community College debuted in Fall 2014 a support class called Bounce Back for students at risk of dropping out. All 26 students enrolled are on academic probation or have been re-admitted after a dismissal from the college. Students who complete the course successfully receive 1 elective credit toward degree completion. A pair of student mentor/peer coaches receive internship credit for their participation.

Orange County Community College's STEPS Program provides peer mentoring, basic skills workshops and other support services

to disadvantaged students from the City of Newburgh to help them earn a GED, make the transition to and succeed in college. The program serves first-generation, academically at-risk, disabled, low-income, and non-high school graduates between ages 17 and 21. The fall-to-fall retention rate for the program was 75%, significantly above the national average.

Schenectady County Community College received the largest award in its history in Fall 2010, a five-year, $11.2 million Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG). HPOG has enabled the college to expand its non-credit health program, graduating more than 1,100 underserved individuals receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and placing them as Certified Nurse Aides throughout the Capital Region. The program has a 95% completion rate and 93% licensure rate.

Jefferson Community College



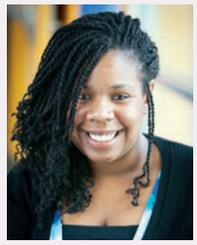
Brenda Yerdon '13 became addicted to alcohol as a way to cope with an abusive relationship. Her mental and physical health had deteriorated when she checked herself into the detox unit at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. After treatment, and joining Alcoholics Anonymous, her health improved. With her newfound sobriety, she enrolled at Jefferson in both human services and chemical dependency programs and maintained a nearly 4.0 GPA. She was selected as Most Outstanding Human Services Student and received five scholarships through the JCC Foundation. "If I was able to turn my life around, anyone can. It's never hopeless," she says.

Monroe Community College



Amari Lesesne has made good on a vow to her newborn sister to set an example and attend college. Lesesne enrolled at Rochester Early College International High School (RECIHS), an initiative involving MCC, the Rochester City School District and the Asia Society that makes college a reality for students at risk of dropping out of high school. As a 10th grader, she took courses at MCC and St. John Fisher College. By the end of her junior year, she had completed six courses at MCC and qualified to graduate from high school a year early, achieving the distinction of salutatorian. She is a Liberal Arts and Sciences/ Humanities major at MCC, planning a career as a counselor or broadcaster.

Tompkins Cortland Community College



Ashlee Seals '13 overcame an unstable family environment to get on track toward career success. She and her mother fled an abusive father, winding up in a home for battered women where her mother enrolled in a community college to study electronics. Seals followed her mother's positive example. After high school, she joined Job Corps and earned a certificate in Administrative Medical Care. She then enrolled at TC3 as a Pathways Scholar and Service Tradition Scholar. She thrived in the college setting, founding her own club, Women of Excellence, and serving as an RA in the residence halls. She now attends Binghamton University, studying education with a focus on urban education policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Broome Community College's Accessibility Resources Office aids students with disabilities, whether cognitive, physical or mental health-related. Accommodations include longer times for tests, note-takers for class, sign-language interpreters, alternative format textbooks, computer software and other assistive technology. The center assists about 500 students per semester and expects 600 in 2014-15 due to a nearly 50% increase in freshman participants.



John Covert '14, was diagnosed with dyslexia at age 5 and placed in special education. Trained as a machinist, he spent a decade in the field until he was twice laid off. At age 31, he decided to attend college, first obtaining his GED, then enrolling at Broome. He benefited greatly from the Learning Assistance Department, obtaining accommodations such as alternative textbooks and class note-takers, as well as tutoring and extra time during tests. After graduating, he returned to work for the department that helped him. His next step: pursuing a four-year degree in assistive technology.

Hudson Valley Community College



Dorothy Jean Reinhardt '14, known as DJ, has cerebral palsy. She uses a wheelchair and is accompanied by an aide at all times, but has not allowed her disability to stop her from pursuing her education with the goal of becoming an assistive technology specialist for children with disabilities. She uses a voice technology device to enable listeners to understand her speech. An adapted keyboard and special software allow her to use a computer for schoolwork. Inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she graduated with a certificate in Disabilities Studies and was a guest speaker at commencement.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE



Clinton Community College's "Clinton Cares" program aims to ease the transition to college life for new students by making a connection, by letter and by phone, during the summer months prior to their first semester. Volunteers also follow up with students after their arrival. More than 60 faculty and staff members, from the President to clerical staff, have volunteered, each "caring" for up to three entering new students.

Dutchess Community College's SmartStart is a four-week summer initiative of skills-building classes for incoming freshmen who need extra help to place into college-level courses. Classes focus on mathematics, reading, writing and study skills. In July 2014, 134 students graduated from SmartStart. Over the past three years, more than 92% of SmartStart students completed the program. SmartStart students graduate at a rate double that of students who are eligible but don't participate.

Jefferson Community College created the 24-Hour Access program under NYSHESC's College Access Challenge Grant to assist non-high school graduates with completing a high school equivalency diploma and entering post-secondary education. First-year results illustrate these at-risk students exceed expectations, with more than 82% in good academic standing and more than 75% returning to college the following semester.

Kingsborough Community College's nationally recognized freshman Learning Communities serve 1,200 incoming students annually. These multidisciplinary course links allow students to earn transferable credits while progressing through ESL, developmental English or freshman composition classes, and acquiring college success skills in a seminar setting. Sixty percent of students in the program pass directly out of ESL and 20% exit developmental English altogether.



Brittany Dennis, an exemplary Kingsborough student, started in the Opening Doors learning communities and the College Discovery program. A Mental Health major, she now works to give back to the school that gave so much to her. She is a Phi Theta Kappa honors student, a Kaplan Leadership Program participant, a Student Ambassador, and student member of the College Council, serving on the Judiciary committee. She credits Kingsborough's support with preparing her to graduate in June 2015, when she will become the first in her family to earn a college degree.

Schenectady County Community College



Khulwanttee Singh was part of the inaugural group of students in Schenectady Smart Scholars Early College High School, an innovative program and partnership between SCCC and the Schenectady City School District. The program aims to increase high school graduation rates, enabling traditionally underrepresented students to complete high school while earning at least 20 college credits. Singh was a member of the program's first group to graduate from high school, in June 2014. She then enrolled at SCCC as a science major and plans to transfer after graduating to pursue a career in marine biology. "My dreams were the moon," Singh says, "and Smart Scholars has given me the rocket."

Borough of Manhattan Community College



Kibin Alleyne is a prime beneficiary of BMCC's Freshman Learning Academy, which offers a structured, supportive transition from high school to the first year of college. She enrolled in Fall 2012 and did well her first semester, but struggled with math. Although it took her a few attempts, she persevered through the difficult classes, and over two years has completed 47 credits while maintaining a strong 3.4 GPA. She began her fifth and possibly final semester in Fall 2014 and plans to transfer to City College after graduating to pursue a degree in psychology and a minor in communications.

IMMIGRANTS/ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Mohawk Valley Community College has initiated a number of programs to accommodate the Utica area's growing refugee population. When these students arrive at MVCC they take an ESL placement exam, and advisors custom-design schedules based on the results. Student ambassadors help with the financial aid process, and the Learning Center offers ESL tutoring. MVCC also offers a non-degree certificate program in developing English proficiency.

Nassau Community College's Language Immersion program is an intensive non-credit course offered to students whose native tongue is not English. Entailing 20

hours of class a week, the program serves students from more than 50 countries and helps them gain the linguistic ability necessary to fully participate in and excel in the regular courses at NCC. Since 2012, 82% of the program's students have continued their studies at NCC.

Guttman Community College



Gibsy Lino '14 has dedicated herself to serving those in need. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, she helped rebuild houses in Far Rockaway, Queens. Born and raised in Honduras, she also helps Manhattan International High School students enroll in college, and volunteers with cerebral palsy patients. At Guttman she was an Academic Success Peer Mentor and an executive member of the Trending News Update Club. A human services major and winner of the 2014 Campus Compact Frank Newman Civic Fellows Award, she is pursuing a degree in social work at Lehman College, CUNY.

LaGuardia Community College



Jeremy Tsubota '14 lost much of his proficiency in his native Japanese after moving to Hawaii to finish high school, but regained his fluency after enrolling at LaGuardia's Luce Heritage Scholar Program. The program is a yearlong scholarship initiative supported by the Henry Luce Foundation that educates and trains heritage language speakers in order to fulfill the global need for bilingual workers. His internship at the international San Fujisankei broadcasting corporation further cultivated his language skills. He is now studying Cinematic Arts on a full tuition scholarship at the University of Southern California, eyeing a career goal of documentary filmmaking on issues of race, equality and social justice.

Mohawk Valley Community College



Pawsansoe Karen Bree '13 spent 13 years in the Nu Po refugee camp in Thailand, where she and her family lived after escaping war in Burma. In 2008 she began a new life, taking ESL classes at MVCC and, soon after, matriculating and majoring in international studies. After graduating with honors, Bree realized many of her dreams - she became a US citizen, served as a panelist at the UN's International Youth Day, and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in international human rights law at Hartwick College. In summer 2013 she returned to Thailand and initiated a project to build a library for refugee children near the Thailand-Burma border.

Queensborough Community College



Yueting Chen '14 received a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which provides up to $30,000 per year to top community college transfer students seeking to complete their bachelor's degree. After emigrating to the US from China in 2009, she enrolled at QCC and thrived in its Liberal Arts Academy. She was awarded two competitive summer internships, one on the study of water analysis at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and presented her findings at prestigious symposia hosted by Columbia and Yale. She is now a junior at Stony Brook University, studying biological sciences and conducting research in genetics.

PROMOTING WORKPLACE OPPORTUNITY

RE-ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE



Jamestown Community College, helped by a Western NY Regional Economic Development Council grant and other resources, developed a Machinist Training Program for long-term unemployed individuals. Out of 18 graduates from the program, nine are employed in advanced manufacturing, two are furthering their education in the field, and five are employed in a field not directly related to manufacturing.

Monroe Community College's Accelerated Precision Tooling Certificate Program is helping displaced and underemployed workers in Western New York secure high-demand careers in advanced manufacturing. The program enables participants to gain education and hands-on training, earn a certificate in half the time, and find employment within a year. Of the 28 individuals who completed the program since its inception in 2013, at least 75% have been hired.

Finger Lakes Community College



Patty Babowicz '14 left the workforce to care for her newborn daughter 15 years ago. She began working again as a substitute teacher but, as a single mom, needed a better job. She eagerly enrolled in the instrumentation and control technologies degree at Finger Lakes. This advanced manufacturing program took her previous education and work experience and updated it for the current market. Her advisor arranged co-op experiences at ITT Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls, and Babowicz's excellent work prompted Goulds to offer her a job as an engineer to serve as test supervisor in its manufacturing area.

Fulton-Montgomery Community College



Julia Caro worked for 17 years with Centro Civico, a not-for-profit assisting the Latino community in the Amsterdam, NY, area. That experience heightened her awareness of the importance of education and prompted her to enroll at Fulton-Montgomery. Today she is employed by NYS Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk as Director of District Operations. Each of her three children participated in FM's Early Admissions program. She intends to resume her education and pursue a bachelor's degree in business. "We rely on community colleges, specifically FM, to be our gateway, our conduit, and our bridge to higher education, the workforce, and economic development," she says.



VOCATIONAL/TRADE EMPLOYMENT



Fashion Institute of Technology partners with the NYC Economic Development Corporation to offer Design Entrepreneurs NYC, a free, intensive, mini-MBA program for New York City-based fashion designers. The program provides classroom instruction led by industry professionals in areas including fashion business marketing, operations, and financial and legal management. More than 100 emerging talent and fashion brands have graduated from DENYC in its first three years.



Tenille Warren, FIT '14, has endured a long, difficult journey toward her dream career in fashion design. College looked like the next logical step when she graduated from the selective Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC, in 1994. Having been selected for the "I Have a Dream" Foundation's college program as a 7th grader, her college tuition was guaranteed upon graduation from high school. Her impoverished upbringing proved a major challenge but Warren was resilient, earning admission to FIT on her third try, at age 35. She earned her AAS degree in Fashion Design and is continuing her education in the college's BFA program.

Genesee Community College's Food Processing Certificate Program – a partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell and National Fuel – trains entry-level workers in the growing food-processing industry in Genesee County. As of January 2014, 54% (30 of 55) of 2013 program graduates were hired for their new skills. Most graduates were hired in the food industry or food-sanitation field.

North Country Community College's accredited Radiologic Technology program has expanded its services to second-year students preparing for national licensure certification. These efforts resulted in a pass rate of 88% for 2014 graduates who were first-time certification test takers, who can now enter the workforce. The 2014 program retained and graduated 33% more students than in 2013.

Onondaga Community College launched in 2014 two new programs designed to meet employer needs for workers skilled in today's in-demand jobs. The Nuclear Technology AAS provides students classroom and hands-on learning experience and internships necessary to obtain high-paying entry-level positions in the nuclear power industry. The one-year certificate program in Advanced Manufacturing-Machining develops highly trained and technically skilled employees in modern advanced manufacturing.

Herkimer County Community College



When **Bryon Lynch** completed his degree in Criminal Justice in 2013, he was not yet old enough to qualify for the NY State Police. While he had a job as a corrections officer, he also wanted to diversify his options and make himself more valuable. With a basic EMT certification already under his belt, Lynch decided to continue his education and earn an associate's degree in Paramedic-EMT, which he received in 2014. He achieved a nearly perfect GPA while working as a corrections officer at the Herkimer County Jail and as a tutor in HCCC's Academic Support Center, as well as working as an EMT for Mohawk Valley Ambulance Corps. Lynch's advice to future students: "Just dive in. Do not limit yourself."

Niagara Community College



Donna Kates is a single mother of two teenage boys and a Surgical Technology major. She has a BS in Deaf Education and Interpreting from UNC Greensboro and is a US Air Force veteran. Donna was working as a freelance interpreter but had trouble finding steady work. She sought help from Niagara's Mapping Opportunities for Moms (MOMs) program and was advised to enroll in the Workforce Development Sterile Processing program to obtain certification. Donna received a scholarship through MOMs and is now a Sterile Processor at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, pursuing her AAS in Surgical Technology.

Jamestown Community College



Jennifer Morgan-Burt '11 has overcome long odds to progress toward a career in social work. She dropped out of high school at age 17 and got her GED when she was 20 and pregnant. She enrolled at Jamestown at age 32 and excelled in the developmental studies program. She graduated from JCC with high honors and earned induction into Phi Theta Kappa. From there, she graduated from Empire State College with a 3.98 GPA, and worked first as a homeless intervention specialist at Cattaraugus Community Action, then as a program manager for an SRO (single room occupancy) facility. She is now enrolled in the MSW Social Work program at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

INTERNSHIPS



Suffolk County Community College has been the strongest pipeline of interns to nearby Brookhaven National Laboratory for the last ten years. More than 120 Suffolk STEM scholars have been awarded paid research internships in facilities ranging from Brookhaven National Laboratory to Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California.



Cassandra Nyati, Suffolk '14, earned a National Science Foundation Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (NSF S-STEM) Scholarship and was a Collegiate Science Technology Entry program scholar. She was invited to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Lexington, KY, where she presented her research to students and faculty from around the world. Her research, "Internalization and Colocalization in Raft-Mediated Endocytosis," was chosen from more than 4,000 submissions and culminated in summer research at Stony Brook University, where she is now continuing her science studies and research.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SUCCESSES



North Country Community College



James Muldowney Jr. '09 earned a degree in Sports and Events Management from North Country. He currently works in the Events Department for the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), which was created to manage the facilities used during the 1980 Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid. ORDA operates the Whiteface and Gore Mountain Ski Areas, Olympic Jumping Complex, Olympic Sports Complex, and the Olympic Center.

Sullivan County Community College



Marc Baez's academic background fueled his professional growth, beginning with an associate's in Liberal Arts from Sullivan in 1985, a bachelor's in Marketing from SUNY Oswego, and certification from the University of Oklahoma-based American Economic Development Council. As an economic development practitioner and CEO of the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development, he has successfully secured more than $150 million, two million square feet of space, and the creation of more than 1,500 jobs. He serves on the board of the Greater Hudson Valley Health System and the Mid-Hudson Cooperative Insurance Company.

New York's community colleges play a vital role in broadening access to higher education and stimulating the economy. Community colleges provide effective, affordable education and demonstrate remarkable flexibility in meeting local needs and training requirements.

The 37 community colleges in the City University of New York (CUNY) and State University of New York (SUNY) educate more than 340,000 students.
The majority (51.8%) of undergraduate students in the SUNY and CUNY systems are enrolled in community colleges.

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Rockland Community College
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Ulster County Community College
Westchester Community College

Mohawk Valley
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
Herkimer County Community College
Mohawk Valley Community College

New York City
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North Country
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SUNY The State University of New York