

VALLEY VIEW

The Hudson Valley Community College Magazine



HVCC: First Community College Chosen for United Nations Vocational Training Network



The State University of New York

SPRING 2024

ATEC: New Applied Technology Education Center Coming to Hudson Valley

HVCC SOUTH: New Campus Opens in South Albany

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CAMPUS NEWS

US Education Secretary Visits Campus, Praises College

US Education Secretary Miguel Cardona visited campus on June 27, 2023 as part of the Biden administration's Invest in America tour, which focuses on career and technical education. Cardona toured the Lang Hall Welding Lab, STEM High School and labs in Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills.

Cardona, the 12th US Secretary of Education, led a roundtable discussion with workforce

partners, during which he and the college's education and industry partners praised the college's new initiatives for workforce training.

"I'm excited about our future and I want to make sure this next generation has the ability to take advantage of the opportunities that exist," Cardona said. "Here at Hudson Valley, you're writing a blueprint on what we could see across the country."



Hudson Valley Wins Two Awards of Excellence from the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics

Hudson Valley received two prestigious World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) Awards of Excellence at the organization's annual World Congress in Montreal on April 25, 2023. The WFCP awards program recognizes outstanding contributions from member institutions and associations in advancing professional and technical education and training for the global economy. The college

earned a bronze award for Global Citizenship and a silver award for Strategic Leadership.

The college received a Global Citizenship Award, which recognizes the college's commitment to providing the exemplary strategies and tools to prepare students for global citizenship. Some of the college's initiatives that led to the nomination for this award include the Global Classroom

High School program, the relocation of the International Center of the Capital Region and a local chapter of the 100 Black Men organization onto Hudson Valley's Troy, NY campus, humanitarian efforts in Costa Rica and the Philippines, and more. Hudson Valley

also received a Strategic Leadership Award, which recognizes the college's creation of a STEM High School and Veteran's Resource and Outreach Center on campus, as well as the building of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills, and more.

WFCP is a member-based organization that brings together colleges, polytechnics, university colleges and institutes of professional education from all continents. Members are typically national and regional associations of institutions of applied higher education, individual institutions, NGOs or organizations representing the sector. WFCP is led by the country's representative body of colleges, institutes or polytechnics. Members collaborate on and share leading-edge education strategies and best practices to increase workforce employability in countries around the world.



Four Hudson Valley Faculty and Staff Members Receive Chancellor's Award for Excellence

Four members of the Hudson Valley Community College faculty and staff were named recipients of the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence for 2023. Instituted in 1972 by

the State University of New York, the SUNY Chancellor's Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the university by dedicated professionals. Recipients must show a strong

dedication to their work and scholarship. Since its inception, nearly 200 faculty and staff members from Hudson Valley have received the Chancellor's Award.



COLLEEN FERRIS

Excellence in Faculty Service - Department Chairperson and Associate Professor, Health, Physical Education and Exercise Studies



MARK FLAVIN

Excellence in Classified Service - Campus Security and Access Officer, Public Safety



GABRIELE HAMM

Excellence in Teaching - Assistant Professor, Dental Hygiene



DENNIS KENNEDY

Excellence in Professional Service - Executive Director, Communications and Marketing

Rensselaer County Career Development Center Opens on Campus

The Rensselaer County Career Center, which helps individuals prepare for and find careers in every sector of the economy, has opened a new satellite Workforce Development Career Center in the college's Siek Campus Center. Staffed by professionals from the Rensselaer County Department of Employment and Training, the affiliate Career Center provides job seekers with customized career planning, resumé assistance, career search workshops and tuition assistance for short-term training through the federal Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

Staff from the new Rensselaer County Workforce Development Career Center work in partnership with the college's Center for Career and Transfer in providing services that complement and expand the connection between education and workforce placement and development activities in the region. Local and regional businesses also have the opportunity to use the center for recruiting and development of current and future employees.



College Successfully Completes Middle States Reaccreditation



Hudson Valley has successfully completed the Middle States Commission on Higher Education 10-year reaccreditation process. Middle States reviewers, who visited the college from peer institutions across the country, determined that Hudson Valley is meeting all seven standards of quality noted in its accreditation: Mission and Goals; Ethics and

Integrity; Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience; Support of the Student Experience; Educational Effectiveness Assessment; Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement; and Governance, Leadership, and Administration. The accomplishment is the result of several years of hard work and dedication by all college employees.

College Joins JED Campus to Support Student Mental Health

Hudson Valley has joined JED Campus, a nationwide initiative of The JED Foundation designed to help colleges and universities evaluate and strengthen their mental health, substance misuse and suicide prevention programs. The collaboration is a four-year endeavor that will begin with establishing a core team of faculty, administrators and students to assess current tactics and identifying successes and opportunities for enhancements.

The Jed Foundation is a non-profit that protects emotional health and prevents suicide for our nation's teens and young adults. Their goal is to equip teens and young adults with the skills and knowledge to help themselves and each other by encouraging community awareness, understanding, and action for young adult wellness. More than 400 campuses are currently in the JED Campus program.



College Teams Up with Russell Sage to Support Refugee Resettlement

Hudson Valley was recently awarded a \$25,000 "Every Campus A Refuge" (ECAR) grant to support refugee resettlement in the Capital Region. The college has now collaborated with neighboring Russell Sage College to deliver housing, education and essential support services to assist families as they relocate to the area. Under the leadership of the Women's Institute and Office of Service Learning, Russell Sage was the first college in NYS to partner with ECAR and receive a grant in 2021, and Hudson Valley is the first SUNY institution to partner with ECAR and receive a program grant.

Hudson Valley and Russell Sage will support families in the first few months of their resettlement in the area by providing temporary housing and a wide range of support services, allowing them the space and assistance for a softer landing and a stronger beginning in their new communities. The ECAR grant provides supplemental funding for needs not covered by donations, including cellphones, mattresses, WiFi, moving expenses and the first month's rent. Additional resources will be raised through Hudson Valley's Foundation in conjunction with Russell Sage.

New Nature Trails and Paved Perimeter Path on Campus

Hudson Valley has created new nature trails and a perimeter pathway and installed outdoor fitness equipment on campus for student, employee, and community use. The trails, open from dawn to dusk, were created to improve mental health, encourage fitness and wellness, and increase time outdoors.

The nature trails include the McDonough Trail (.17 miles), the Upper LaPan Trail (.3 miles), and the Lower LaPan Trail (.08 miles). Trailheads are located north of the McDonough Sports Complex, Joseph L. Bruno Stadium, and LaPan Services buildings. The paved

perimeter pathway encircles campus and provides, and outdoor fitness equipment has been installed near the McDonough Sports Complex and Hudson Hall.

Construction of the trails was made possible by a SUNY grant to support mental health and wellness activities on campus. The project was led by the college's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Construction Technology program students, faculty, and staff all pitched in to build small bridges and signage. The Student Senate and volunteers from various student clubs assisted with clearing the trails and cleaning up debris.



ACADEMIC NOTES

New Honors College Established at Hudson Valley



Hudson Valley established a new Honors College in the fall of 2023. The Honors College is designed for high-achieving students looking to transfer to top-tier institutions after graduation and emphasizes small class sizes, strong faculty/student interaction and a high level of academic scholarship.

Students accepted into the Honors College may enroll in one of approximately 20 eligible associate degree programs at the college and must maintain high academic standards through specific honors-level courses along with their academic program curriculum. Those who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will receive scholarships that cover the cost of tuition for up to two years.

The Honors College has built upon an already established and close relationship with Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for students at two-year colleges, as well as the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Northeast Regional Honors Council. In the past decade, outstanding graduates from Hudson Valley have transferred to schools such as Columbia University, Cornell University and Binghamton University, to name a few, and the Honors College will help create more opportunities for high-achieving students to do so.

New Campus Signage Marks Progress of Wayfinding Plan

A three-year signage and wayfinding project was recently completed as the campus saw the installation of new exterior signage that dramatically improves how students and visitors are able to navigate the campus.

New larger entry signs are clearly visible from Vandenberg Avenue and Williams Road, where they mark the main entrances to campus.

Additionally, the new wayfinding plan called for the replacement or enhancement of all exterior signage

on all Hudson Valley campuses, including:

- Buildings
- Walkways
- Parking lots
- Pedestrian maps
- Facility entrances

The next step on the wayfinding plan is to complete a full review and strategic replacement of interior signage in campus buildings.

Living Resources' CareerNext Program comes to Hudson Valley

Living Resources Corporation and Hudson Valley Community College have established a partnership to bring the Living Resources' CareerNext program to the college and increase access and support for students with disabilities.

Living Resources, an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities, expanded higher education opportunities for students with the creation of its CareerNext program in 2019. This unique college support program is designed

specifically to help students with autism and learning differences obtain an accredited degree and live independently after completion of the program.

Hudson Valley currently serves more than 600 students with learning and physical disabilities, and its Center for Access and Assistive Technology provides dedicated staff, programs and infrastructure to ensure students are able to meet their personal, education and career goals. The CareerNext program on campus now serves an additional 40 students.



New Transfer Agreements and Partnerships



AMAZON CAREER CHOICE PROGRAM

Hudson Valley has been selected as an education partner for Amazon's Career Choice program, which provides Amazon's hourly employees access to degree and certificate programs at the Capital Region's largest community college. College costs – including tuition, books and fees – are paid by Amazon. The program offers a variety of education and skill-building opportunities, including funding college tuition and education expenses, industry certifications, and foundational skills such as English language proficiency, high school diplomas, and GEDs.



HUDSON VALLEY AND WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Hudson Valley and nonprofit, accredited Western Governors University (WGU) have signed an agreement that creates educational pathways for Hudson Valley graduates and employees to earn a degree from WGU in several fully online undergraduate programs in business, information technology, K-12 education, and healthcare, including nursing. Hudson Valley graduates and employees will also be eligible to apply for specially designated WGU Community College Partner Scholarships, worth up to \$2,500. WGU was established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education; today, it is one of the nation's largest online, nonprofit, accredited colleges. It is the nation's leading competency-based university, WGU has been recognized by the White House, state leaders, employers, and students as a model that works in postsecondary education.

The pathway allows Hudson Valley's A.S. Biotechnology students to seamlessly transfer into an ACPHS bachelor's program in microbiology or pharmaceutical sciences. Students then have the opportunity to pursue ACPHS' Master's in Biomanufacturing and Bioprocessing, as well as have access to the College's burgeoning fellowship program with organizations such as BeiGene, Curia, Crinetics Pharmaceuticals, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT WITH REGENERON STRENGTHENS BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE

Hudson Valley has signed an agreement that solidifies a long-term working partnership with Regeneron. For more than a decade, the college's Biology, Chemistry and Physics Department has worked closely with Regeneron, which has growing research and manufacturing campuses in Troy and

Rensselaer, to collaborate on recruitment activities by hosting Regeneron-sponsored open house events on campus and working together on curriculum updates that can help students meet industry needs. The new agreement formalizes many of those activities and sets parameters for how the college and the company can build interest in biotechnology careers among not only Hudson Valley students, but also students currently in high school and middle school.

Hudson Valley. They will explore future careers in the semiconductor industry while working with RPI faculty mentors in RPI's state-of-the-art labs and facilities. The program provides scholars with financial merit awards for their first two years at Hudson Valley and a summer research internship at RPI. If accepted to RPI, scholars will receive significant financial aid to complete a bachelor's or combined bachelor's and master's degree.

In Fall 2023, Hudson Valley partnered with RPI to create a unique four-credit Introduction to Robotics course. The hands-on course co-taught by professors from both institutions to introduce students to the multi-disciplinary field of robotics, using state-of-the-art industrial robots from FANUC and Universal Robots. The two institutions also recently updated a longstanding transfer articulation agreement that allows Hudson Valley Engineering Science A.S. graduates to seamlessly transfer and complete a B.S. degree at RPI in their chosen engineering path.

SEMICONDUCTOR SCHOLARS AND OTHER NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH RPI

Hudson Valley and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) are working to meet semiconductor workforce demands with a new Semiconductor Scholars program, which has welcomed its first cohort. Funded by the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act, the program is one of many efforts in the Capital Region and around the country to prepare more students to enter the semiconductor industry. The initial cohort of scholars has six first-year students in the Engineering Science A.A.S. degree program at



NEW TRANSFER AGREEMENTS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Hudson Valley has created formal agreements with career and technical education (CTE) programs at local and regional school districts that will award credit for skills students have learned before enrolling at Hudson Valley. Agreements link programs like building construction, automotive technology, HVAC, manufacturing, welding, digital media, exercise science, criminal justice and early childhood education at regional BOCES to similar degrees at the college.

BIOMANUFACTURING TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH ALBANY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Hudson Valley announced a new partnership with the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) to build an educational pipeline for biomanufacturing.



New STEM Education Center Opens at HVCC North

In 2022, Hudson Valley broke ground on a new \$12.5 Million STEM Education Center, located at the college's HVCC North extension center in Malta, NY. Less than two years later, the STEM Education Center is now open and running, offering a variety of courses during the spring of 2024.

The two-story, 14,500 square foot building includes several state-of-the-art labs for anatomy, biology, chemistry, microbiology, and physiology, as well as classrooms, student support spaces, and offices, all made to serve approximately 1,100 students.

Along with upgrades to the college's existing TEC-SMART (Training and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative and Renewable Technologies)

facility, the new STEM Education Center is a key component of increasing access to education and workforce training opportunities in the highly-specialized and growing fields of healthcare, STEM, and skilled trades.

Current course offerings at the new center include Topics in Biology – The Environment (BIOL 104); Biology of the Human Organism (BIOL 109); Nutrition (BIOL 125); General Biology I (BIOL 150); and Anatomy and Physiology II (BIOL 271). Course offerings at TEC-SMART include Healthcare Ethics (CMHL 115); Electrical Blueprint Reading and Estimating II (ECMN 132); and Precalculus (MATH 170), among others. Students can take other general education, business, liberal arts and humanities courses at HVCC North as well.



Through the new facilities, technology and instruction, HVCC North now provides the space and resources needed to support more than 30 degree and certificate programs, as well as non-credit, short-term workforce and professional education offerings. HVCC North currently offers full degree programs in Electrical Construction and Maintenance, Clean Energy Management, and Engineering Science, as well as a certificate program in Health Science.

With the creation of HVCC North, the college is poised to train hundreds of graduates and address urgent industry needs—while keeping the workforce local and providing a significant economic boost for the Capital Region.

HVCC SOUTH: Hudson Valley Chosen by The Capital South Campus Center to be a New Program Delivery Partner

In August of 2023, Hudson Valley was chosen by the Capital South Campus Center, a non-profit organization and housing and educational center in Albany, to be a new program delivery partner and open a new HVCC South extension center at 20 Warren Street in Albany.

As a result of the program delivery partnership, Hudson Valley aims to increase accessibility, establish relationships and develop an understanding of the community's needs. Hudson Valley will collaborate with the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), a key division of the college, to offer several programs at no cost, as well as other non-credit workforce training programs, allowing the college to deliver more off-campus options and increase educational accessibility in the community.

Using the 17,500 square-foot Capital South facility, HVCC South will allow Hudson Valley to expand its footprint into the City of Albany and provide credit-bearing and non-credit skills-based career and academic training services that will engage and empower residents through programs in a variety of fields, including culinary arts, computer literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training, High School Equivalency (HSE) and GED programs and testing, non-credit workforce training programs, and affordable childcare.

Additional programming extensions from the Troy EOC will include fields such as certified nursing assistant training, phlebotomy, welding, and more. Hudson Valley's Division of Workforce Development and Community Education, along with the EOC, also offered workforce development classes in the spring of 2024, including electrical technician training and a manufacturing boot camp. ESL/ESOL levels 1-4 and HSE/GED testing and programming are offered at no cost for those who qualify.

In addition, the EOC has introduced free drop-in daycare for enrolled students at HVCC South, sponsored by the Capital District YMCA. EOC students must enroll their children in the daycare program on a first-come, first-served basis.

The EOC also continues to operate a food pantry at HVCC South, which is available to all students. Each week, fruits, vegetables, and bread are made available to students through a partnership with the Northeast Regional Food Bank. All enrolled EOC students also receive a 24/7 all-access CDTA bus pass, providing a huge benefit for those facing transportation hurdles.

Though courses are already underway at HVCC South, Hudson Valley plans to refresh, remodel and repurpose the current facilities over the next 10 years of its lease of the property. Plans to reimagine and redesign various rooms and spaces will help the college and the EOC customize spaces and offer services in the most efficient way. Funding will be supported from within Hudson Valley's planned operating and capital resources, and the college will work with state and federal partners to help secure additional resources to expand academic and training efforts at HVCC South.

All details and future plans were discussed at a community open house event held at the Capital South Campus Center on Aug. 30, 2023, where community members had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Hudson Valley Community College, the Capital District Educational Opportunity Center and the Albany Housing Authority. Hudson Valley remains dedicated to engaging and collaborating with community members and other community organizations, such as the Capital District YMCA and Trinity Alliance. Current residents and community groups will not be affected and will remain with their current living arrangements at and around the Campus Center, but will have access to any of the services being offered.

College Receives Second Round Grant from Offshore Wind Training Institute

The School of STEM at Hudson Valley Community College was awarded a \$313,275 grant in January from the Offshore Wind Training Institute (OWTI) to create a Wind Energy Fundamentals micro-credential. The program will help increase the pipeline of wind turbine service technicians and address a severe workforce shortage in New York's growing offshore wind industry.

The OWTI, launched in 2020 in collaboration with SUNY's Farmingdale State College, Stony Brook University and NYSERDA, aims to advance offshore wind training programs and the educational infrastructure needed to establish a skilled workforce to support the emerging national offshore wind industry.

The college's proposed non-credit, skill-based micro-credential will focus on the recommended training for entry-level wind turbine service technicians within the GWO Entry Level Wind Technician Framework and prepare students for further company-specific training from wind turbine manufacturers and energy service contractors.

Micro-credentials are stackable sets of credit or non-credit bearing courses that help students gain career-specific skills. They may be used as an entryway to a degree or certificate at the college or as a standalone verified credential to start or grow within in a particular industry. Hudson Valley offers 32 micro-credentials in areas such as Greenhouse Management, Bioprocessing and Automation, and Foundations of Artificial Intelligence, among others.

The OWTI grant includes full scholarships for the two-course micro-credential for up to 48 participants. The courses and the micro-credential will be offered through Hudson Valley's Division of Workforce Development and Community Education and will be open to matriculated and non-matriculated students.

The OWTI grant is the second awarded to the college by NYSERDA to prepare the workforce for careers in the offshore wind energy sector. The first award, in the amount of \$500,000, provided funding to enhance the existing Welding and Fabrication A.O.S. degree program by adding submerged-arc welding instruction and practice, including nondestructive testing coursework and practice, and creating new certificates, micro-credentials and non-credit workforce development programs.



New Applied Technology Education Center Coming to Hudson Valley

In response to the urgent workforce demand that our region, state, and nation are experiencing across several trades and technology-based industries, Hudson Valley Community College is in the process of raising funds to build a new, state-of-the-art workforce training center known as the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) on our Troy campus.

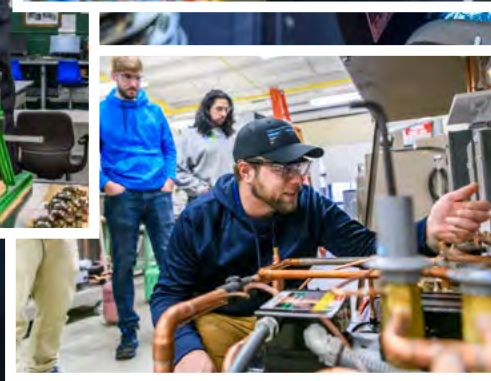
There are millions of unfilled skilled trades and technology-related jobs across the nation, with the gap widening each year. In New York State alone, the rate of job growth in the skilled trades continues to top 17 percent, with nearly 25,000 skilled trade jobs opening up annually; but due to labor shortages, many of them continue to go unfilled. Meanwhile, Baby Boomers, many with skilled labor jobs, will continue to reach retirement age at the rapid rate of nearly 10,000 per day between now and 2030.

ATEC will allow Hudson Valley to expand current programs and create new ones that address these areas of need, and train a skilled technical workforce for the new

economy. This new \$85 million, 130,000-square-foot workforce training center will support a new generation of skilled workers, preparing graduates for in-demand careers in the building systems, automotive and transportation technology, renewable energy and semiconductor manufacturing industries. It will support the community's pursuit of long-term economic wellbeing by creating an industry training hub, providing advanced, industry-validated certifications; skill-and-competency-based non-credit workforce training programs and bootcamps; and associate degrees in high-demand fields. ATEC's increased capacity will have the potential to add 15,000 technicians to New York's workforce by 2035, providing welcome relief to the region's critical skilled labor shortage. It will become a magnet for manufacturers and other technical companies around the region and the Northeast seeking a highly skilled workforce and use of industry resources, and become the model for other centers for applied technologies at SUNY institutions statewide.

ATEC will include state-of-the-art labs and classrooms outfitted with the newest technology and tools that allow students to engage in hands-on learning under the supervision of trained professional faculty, and gain the skills they need to succeed in these rapidly-evolving industries. Curriculum and academics will be tailored to address the complex nature of these jobs, combining classroom instruction and project-based learning. By collaborating with industry partners, Hudson Valley will ensure that all students are up to date on the latest industry knowledge and standards, and graduate prepared to step into the workforce.

To make ATEC a reality, public sector and private industry investment is crucial. To contribute to the ATEC Capital Campaign, please contact the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation at (518) 629-8012 or foundation@hvcc.edu.



HVCC is First Community College to Join United Nations', Technical and Vocational Education Network



Hudson Valley Community College has become the first community college in the United States to join the UNEVOC Network, the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) global network for advancing technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

A two-day event celebrating the college's inclusion in the international network kicked off with an official inauguration ceremony on Hudson Valley's Troy campus on the morning of Thursday, April 11, with remarks from college officials, UNESCO-UNEVOC representatives, community and educational partners, and other stakeholders, as well as an official ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling.

The event also included two days of workshops, information sessions, and networking opportunities on Thursday, April 11 and Friday, April 12. Workshop topics included robotics, electric and autonomous vehicles, virtual welding, and inclusivity in the trades through Hudson Valley's Uniquely Abled Academy, a new program designed to prepare students on the autism spectrum for careers in advanced manufacturing.

"Hudson Valley Community College is proud and honored to be the first community college in the United States to be inducted into the

UNEVOC Network," said Hudson Valley Community College Director of Global Initiatives Dr. Jay Deitchman. "We are committed to innovation and addressing the training and educational needs of both local and international communities as we work to address an increasingly global future, and we are thrilled to be able to share our programming and progress with the world as an official UNEVOC Centre, and to have the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with the more than 230 fellow members of the UNEVOC Network worldwide. This is truly a groundbreaking opportunity for Hudson Valley Community College as we continue to strive to be a leader in technical and vocational education and training, here in the Capital Region and around the world."

"UNESCO believes in the transformative power of education, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training, for individual, economic and social development. Hudson Valley Community College exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and innovation that underpins our shared mission. Its inclusion in the UNEVOC Network represents a significant milestone for all those committed to advancing TVET worldwide," said Friedrich Huebler, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET.

The UNEVOC Network is UNESCO's global network for institutions specialized in TVET.

It provides an environment for exchange, cooperation and mutual assistance for its members — UNEVOC Centres. There are four types of UNEVOC Centres: ministries, national bodies, training providers and research institutions. Through international collaboration and peer learning, UNEVOC Centres continue to enhance the quality of TVET teaching and learning opportunities offered in their respective countries.

Hudson Valley's inauguration comes at the same time as UNESCO-UNEVOC is introducing a new resource model to enhance the services provided to UNEVOC Centres – the Reference Center. Hudson Valley will be setting the standard for UNESCO-UNEVOC Reference Centers, which will provide support and guidance to the network regarding thematic areas in which they have expertise. The college's selected areas are Inclusive Training and Education in the Skilled Trades and English Language Training.

As a Reference Center, Hudson Valley will have access to and assist in the development of resources related to TVET; have the opportunity to expand global partnerships and network with other TVET providers around the world; participate in projects and activities sponsored by UNESCO-UNEVOC; and ultimately become a larger presence on the global stage.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Arlene Watrobski: Reflections on a 50+ Year Career in Nursing

Back in the late 1960s when Arlene (Welch) Watrobski was finishing up her studies at Tamarac High School and hoping to start a career in nursing, she applied first to the RN diploma programs at Samaritan Hospital and Memorial Hospital, but, disappointingly, found she didn't quite meet their standards.

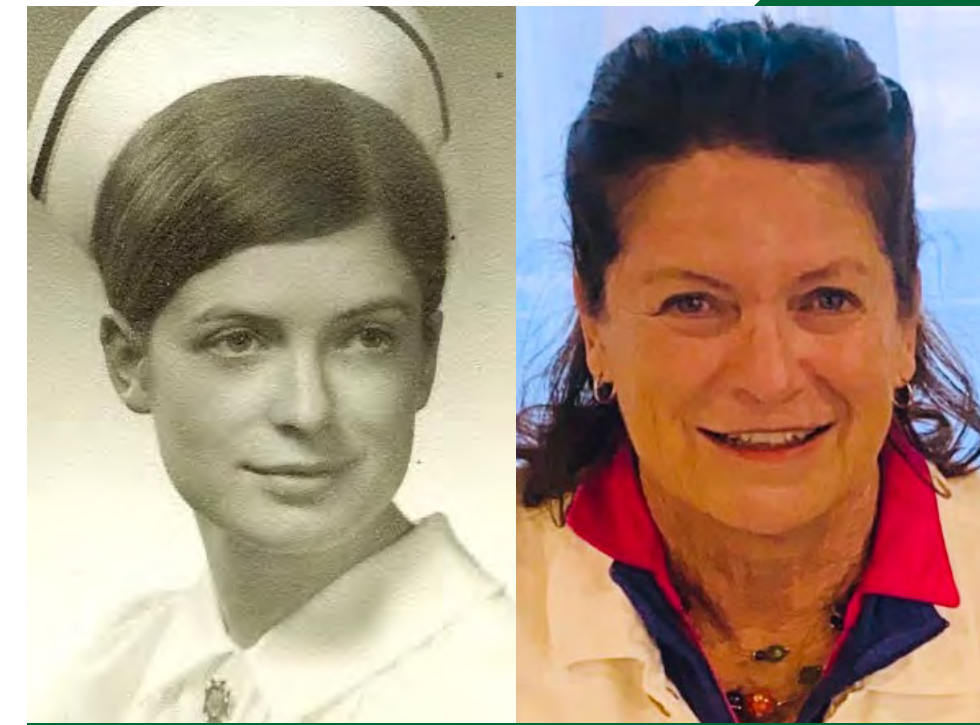
It was the then-relatively-new associate degree program at Hudson Valley Community College that gave her a chance, and now, as she looks back on an award-winning and rewarding 50+ years in nursing, she wants to say a simple "thank you" to Hudson Valley for helping her begin her career.

"I was so thankful to have gone to Hudson Valley. I was not accepted into two nursing programs when I got out of high school," she said. "I just had an amazing career because I was given that opportunity. A two-year degree worked for me, and I had a great experience at Hudson Valley."

After passing her boards at age 19, Arlene's career began at Samaritan Hospital - where her mother also had a 25-year career as a nurse's aide - and then continued at hospitals in Rochester and Columbus, Indiana, as she and her husband moved for his career. She loved the work and she loved the camaraderie that came with emergency room nurses and doctors meshing together as a team.

"You have to have real compassion for people. I worked in the ER for most of my career, and you have to look at your patients as humans, not just say 'there's a stroke in room three and an appendectomy in room five'," she said. "I want them to know my name and I want them to know that I really care about their situation."

Her most recent career stop was more than 20 years at one of the busiest inner-city hospitals in Charleston, South Carolina. After years of working together as a team, she said, the ER nurses at Roper Hospital had an innate sense of how to triage patients.



"I used to tell people, if you need the emergency room, come to Roper on the weekend because we'll have over 300 years of nursing experience on staff. Eventually, you gain an intuitive grasp for what the best course of action is for your patients and you become far more valuable to the doctors and your fellow nurses," she said.

It's those decades of experience and the desire to show new nurses how rewarding the profession could be, that led Arlene to recently stand in front of a group of soon-to-be-graduating RN students in Charleston. She was asked to speak by a former nursing colleague who is now teaching, and told the graduates to think about the big picture when looking for a job.

Arlene spoke about her own career and emphasized how important relationship building is among nurses and doctors, as well as with patients. She talked about how, for her, nursing was a career that could sustain a family, a scenario that unfortunately played out when she suddenly became a single mother and had to provide for two daughters on a single salary. She reassured them that, yes, nursing has always been a high-stress career, but it's also one with incredible rewards.

"I had an amazing career that lasted 52 years. It is hard work but there's always a nursing job. I just had major back surgery and I'm 72, but if I could find a younger self I would go back and work. Nursing has given me a lot."



College Marks 70 Years of Service

In 1953, Hudson Valley Community College was founded as the Veteran's Vocational Institute, offering skill-based training to veterans returning home from war. Over the years, the college has seen incredible growth, and continues to provide amazing opportunities to its students, talent and partnership to the surrounding workforce, and a vibrancy to the Capital Region community that is simply unparalleled at any other institution.

Over seven decades, the college has made a

dramatic transformation, both in size and scope of programming and delivery, but also in its instruction and information technology that supports and enhances our faculty's expertise and delivery of coursework.

The campus itself has grown almost to an unrecognizable place for those who haven't visited recently, keeping pace with contemporary industry standards while maintaining a personal touch and care for our students that has become the hallmark of this great institution.

Through caring and dedicated faculty and staff, the college advanced support services, and maintained our commitment to the exceptional cultural, student life and athletic opportunities that enrich our students outside the classroom.

The college has served as the foundation for success for more than 90,000 alumni who give back to our region, state and beyond in so many positive ways, and it remains committed to changing lives for the better, each and every day.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Spring 2024

2023 Graduate Ken Rutsky Wins SUNY Art Award

For two-time Hudson Valley graduate and Fine Arts student Ken Rutsky, art is more than a job or a hobby. It's a way of life.

The 46-year-old earned his first Hudson Valley degree in 2000, an AA in Liberal Arts, and went on to get his bachelor's degree in writing. Though he's always enjoyed visual arts, he spent the next decade pursuing other creative endeavors, mostly music and writing. Then, about ten years ago, a series of life changes led him back to his earlier passion for painting—and back to Hudson Valley in the process.

"My marriage ended, my band ended, and I finally shelved the novel I'd been picking at since my mid-20s," Ken explains. "I was disillusioned with music, couldn't write. I needed a new outlet, so I started drawing. After a year of that, I bought a set of acrylic paints and I was off to the races."

His first round of studies at Hudson Valley had gone well, so he decided to come back to pursue an A.S. in Fine Arts to keep developing his rekindled passion for painting. "I chose this school the first time because everyone I talked to had good things to say about it, and I could afford to pay for that first semester out of pocket," he says. "I loved the experience so much that, when I decided to re-return to school a few years ago, there was no question whether I'd make my re-start at Hudson Valley or not."

The second round went well, too—so well, in fact, that after he graduated with his A.S. in Fine Arts in 2021, he decided to further hone his skills by enrolling in the college's advanced study course in drawing and painting. The decision paid dividends in both art and accolades.

"My time in the art program here – two years for the degree, followed by two years in the advanced course – has had a profound impact on me and my art," he says. "The students here are super talented

and have inspired me to do my best to keep up with them. I've made some good friends here, despite the age difference. Classes have all been challenging, teaching not only basic skills, but introducing me to new artists or concepts I'd never have found on my own. I think Hudson Valley plays a large part in the improvement my art has seen over the past four years—and in my humble opinion, it's seen a LOT."

Designed for students who've completed foundation fine arts courses and wish to pursue their own body of work, the advanced study course Ken enrolled in includes two semesters of guided study in drawing and painting, taught by Fine Arts Professor Thomas Lail—who, as it turned out, would inspire Ken even further in his creative career. It was Professor Lail's encouragement that led him to submit one of the paintings he created during the course, "Hiding in Plain Sight," to the annual Best of SUNY Arts Exhibition this spring. He was one of three students from SUNY's 64 campuses to win a "Best of SUNY" award for his work. Though he's been selling and showing his art since 2020, he says he was surprised—and thrilled—to get the news.

"I chose my final painting from my first year in the advanced course because it worked coherently on a lot of levels in a way nothing I'd done before really had. Almost everything about the painting, from the title to the aspect ratio of the canvas to the clothing and poses of the subject figures, has a significance that relates to the painting's theme," he explains of his award-winning piece.

"Hiding in Plain Sight" is an example of how Ken's art has evolved: these days, he says, he's into representational art, mostly architectural or figurative, using oil or acrylic paint as his medium of choice. But his inspiration runs deeper than paint on canvas: it comes from lived experiences, and a unique way of viewing the world.

"Most of my paintings depict the people and places I see as I live and work my life away. They're rooted in a deep love I have for the Capital Region, in that I try to include things that locals would recognize... not so much the monuments or symbolic buildings, but more the places people move through on their way from point A to point B," Ken explains. "You can see every possible scene from every possible story in those places. My paintings come from snapshots I take when I see one of those scenes and realize I'm seeing it in time to capture it."

Though Ken has now graduated from Hudson Valley for the third time, he has no plans to leave the classroom or the studio for good. He'd like to go on to graduate school, to keep a community around him, and to further develop his art conceptually. He's just had his first solo show at a local gallery, and, he says, he hopes it's the first of many. He is finally, after all, living his dream.

"I'm rapidly closing on 47. It's only recently, and with the indispensable help and urging of my partner, Shannon, that I found the courage to pursue a life I've always dreamed of leading," he says. "I was very unhappy for years – decades! – trying to live like I thought I was expected to live, and I realize now how counterproductive that was. I learned after too many years that I'm not the type who thrives in an office environment, and after years of self-doubt I'm ready to take on the challenge of making a life in the arts, whatever form that might take."

Ken's unique experiences have left him with some wisdom to share with students just starting out. "I'd like every student who reads this to know that you should live the life that's for you, not the one that most everyone tells you to live," he says. "Happiness is worth a lot more than money in the long run."

Former Hudson Valley student Annemarie Bradley-Sherron, who won a 2023 Academy Award for Best Achievement in Makeup and Hairstyling, visited Assistant Professor Rosanne Raneri's Acting III students in April to talk about her career in films and television. Bradley-Sherron was recognized with an Oscar for her work on "The Whale," starring Brendan Fraser. Most recently, she oversaw the hair department for "Dead Ringers," a six-episode series that premiered this spring on Prime Video.

Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media Department Chair Scott Hathaway was an acquaintance of Annemarie, while both were students at Hudson Valley, and was instrumental in arranging her visit to campus this spring.



Valley View

Hudson Valley Community College | 15

Ivan Gomez Receives Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for EOP Student Excellence

Business Administration graduate Ivan Gomez of Valatie was the Hudson Valley Community College recipient of the 2023 Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Student Excellence. He was recognized for his academic achievements, along with 45 other SUNY students, at a ceremony held on April 17, 2023 in Albany.

SUNY Educational Opportunity Programs provide access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college. The Award for EOP Student Excellence recognizes the academic and personal achievements of outstanding EOP students from colleges and universities across the SUNY system.

Gomez graduated in 2023 with a Business Administration degree and went on to continue his education at SUNY Polytechnic. After completing college, he hopes to open a business of his own. A first-generation college student, he said his parents, who emigrated from Mexico, worked very hard and instilled the importance of education in both him and his brother and sisters.

Hudson Valley EOP Academic Counselor Michelle Cavaleri nominated Gomez for the award. "Ivan is one of the most resilient and inspiring students I have met," she said. "He is academically exceptional and eager to get involved in the campus community. Ivan is one of the hardest working students I have seen – in both his academic and personal life. He doesn't let anything get in his way."

A two-year member of the Vikings men's soccer team, Gomez also served as a peer mentor for the EOP program and was president of the EOP Club and a member of several other student clubs.

"EOP has given me a sense of home and belonging on campus," he said. "Being here and being a part of EOP has given me the courage to try different things and come out of my shell a little."

The SUNY Award for EOP Student Excellence is awarded in memory of Norman R. McConney Jr., who, along with former NYS Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, helped to establish the Educational Opportunity Program in 1967.

Dental Hygiene Class of 1963 Returns to Campus

For some, it had been nearly 60 years since they stepped foot on the Hudson Valley Community College campus, but the 10 women who returned to Troy last fall for the Dental Hygiene Class of 1963 reunion relished the chance to see old classmates and talk about being pioneers in what was then a very early profession.

It's hard for subsequent generations to imagine the limits that were put on women seeking a career in the early 1960s, but the Hudson Valley Dental Hygiene program opened another path that these reunion-goers gladly chose.

"We were told: secretary, teacher or nurse, when we were in high school," said Diane Driscoll Costello, who had been in the dental field and was a hygienist in Connecticut before returning to the Capital Region to continue her education at Hudson Valley. "I think the

campus was just four buildings then. I know all of our classes were in one building. I'd get lost walking around this campus now!"

The Class of 1963 was just the second graduating class of Dental Hygiene students at Hudson Valley, but some of these women's careers spanned more than 50 years in the field.

"I worked 50 years; 45 in one practice," said Nancy Smith Duval. "I really didn't know much about it but, to me, it sounded like a profession and I liked that."

The reunion was hosted by the college Foundation and included lunch, a campus tour, a visit to the college's Robert H. Hill III Dental Hygiene Clinic, and the chance to talk with faculty and current students studying Dental Hygiene.



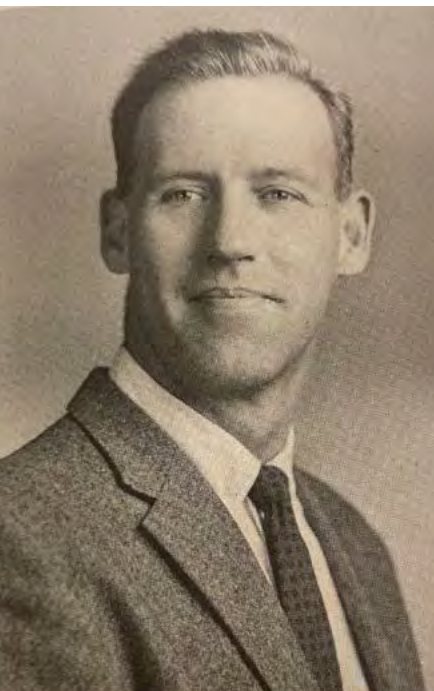
CLASS OF 1963 REUNION PARTICIPANTS:

- Mary Ellis
- Anne Blake VanDrearon
- Sandra Marshall Phelps
- Jean VanVranken
- Susan Lohnes
- Diane Costello
- Susan Strain
- Linda Simidian
- Dianne Spiak Trinkala
- Nancy Smith Duval



FACULTY PROFILES

George C. Baker: Academic Pioneer at Hudson Valley Community College



By now, tens of thousands of students have walked through doors of the Fitzgibbons Health Technologies Center, which was dedicated in 1986, turned left and entered HVCC's largest instructional classroom space - George C. Baker Lecture Hall.

Outside the 190-seat lecture hall hangs a bronze plaque that notes Professor Baker's

accomplishments, beginning in 1955 when he was hired as a junior instructor all the way through his nearly 20-year term as department chair for the math and science and engineering science programs.

Plaques certainly don't tell the whole story of the impact Professor Baker had on the college, and his role, along with other early administrators and faculty members, on the growth of Hudson Valley Community College.

When he arrived in the mid-1950s, HVCC was still HVTI, the Hudson Valley Technical Institute, located in a run down former factory building in downtown Troy. When he finished his tenure in 1983, Hudson Valley was established as one

of the most well-respected two-year schools in the SUNY system.

"During his early years at the college, returning from war and still being in his 20s and 30s, a lot of his students were his age or close to it. He was there at the transition between what was essentially a technical training school and a community college that also served students who wanted to complete a four-year degree through transfer," said Baker's son, David.

It was an opportune time to be working at the community college, the younger Baker said, with a core group of individuals who were dedicated to seeing the institution grow and succeed. When George Baker arrived, the college served just under 500 students; when he completed his tenure in 1983, the college had nearly 8,500.

Baker was largely responsible for the creation of the Math and Science and Engineering Science degrees, and thanks to his connections with faculty at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the college began, and students have long benefitted from, the close relationship between the two schools. Hundreds of students through the years have started their engineering studies at HVCC and finished them at RPI.

"My brother was one of those students. He started at Hudson Valley and then transferred on to RPI," David said.

One of seven Baker children, David said he literally grew up with the college, attending groundbreaking

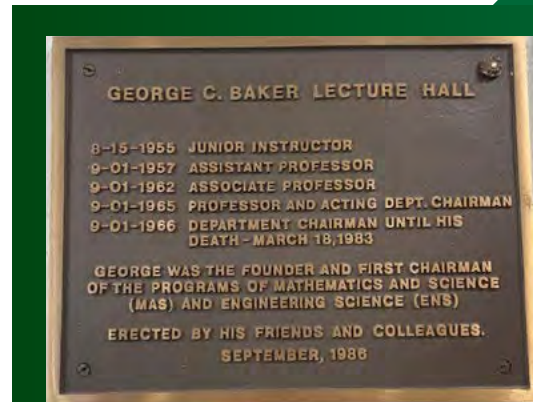
ceremonies for campus buildings and Friday night basketball games at a packed gymnasium, alongside his father.

But what resonates with him the most are the occasions when former students would stop his father in a parking lot, restaurant or grocery store and excitedly tell him about their career or future plans. "They would often turn to me and say something like, 'I've got a career now because of your father, because he believed in me.' As a kid, that kind of experience sticks with you," he said.

Baker even experienced his father's impact firsthand while taking a high school technical drawing class in high school. One day, his teacher leaned down and whispered: "Your dad was one of my teachers at Hudson Valley and now I'm your teacher. Your dad inspired me to become a teacher."

"It's one of those defining moments in my life. I don't know what you call it, maybe charisma, but he had a personality that really inspired people," David said.

Maybe that's why three years after George Baker's passing, when the Fitzgibbons Health Technologies Center was dedicated, the college decided to honor one of its most dedicated faculty members who had impacted so many students' lives.



Kenny Tremont '81: Alumnus/Faculty Member Retires from Racing But Continues Passing on Knowledge in the Classroom



You could say Assistant Professor Kenny Tremont is the closest thing Hudson Valley Community College has to a "celebrity" among its faculty ranks, but you'd be hard pressed to find a more down-to-earth and likeable gentleman, even though he's built a reputation winning modified dirt track races across the eastern United States for the better part of 30 years.

Now in his second decade of teaching in the Automotive Technical Services program, Tremont put the finishing touches on his racing career this fall, wrapping up the Big Block Modified seasons at the three tracks he's raced for the past several years - Lebanon Valley, Albany Saratoga and Devil's Bowl in Vermont.

"Next year, I'll be there, but not as a driver. I'd rather go out on a positive. It's hard on the body. There are guys out there still racing older than me, but it's really a young man's sport for the punishment that you take," he said.

Based in West Sand Lake, the Tremont racing tradition spans three generations and some 60 years now. Ken said when he was born there was already a race car or two at the house.

"My dad was always a race enthusiast and we've owned a repair shop in West Sand Lake for over 60 years. It's been cars and cars and more cars my whole life. When my dad started, he would hire drivers and when I hit my teenage years, I'd start to warm the cars up and then from there just started driving. For a while, we were spending more time on the race car than the business. It's hard to main that level of intensity," he said.

At its most active, Tremont's racing career had him travelling as far north as Quebec, south to Florida and out to Texas for Super Dirt Car Series races. He said for a few years, the Tremont team

was competing in an incredible 100 races a year, often five races a week. More recently, they've focused on the regional tracks where they built their reputation.

He said he was a little late to the teaching profession but he's enjoyed the past 20 years at Hudson Valley and the generations of students he's had the chance to mentor. Tremont uses the word "fortunate" a lot to describe his time in the classroom and on race track.

"We've been lucky with the students in this program. The majority of students in the automotive program are here because they want to be. They love cars. They love working on cars. They're eager to learn. The people who work here are good people," he said.

Tremont is not only a faculty member but he's also an automotive program alumnus - Class of 1981. In fact, he said, he teaches the same course in the same classroom where he took it some 40 years ago.

"The teacher I had was Walt Cross. He must have been teaching here for a good thirty years. Very well-respected guy. I took his engines class right in the same lab I'm teaching that same class in today. Williams Hall, room 146."

With two years of vocational education in high school as well as time working in the family automotive repair business, you could say Tremont might not have needed the two years of education at Hudson Valley. He would disagree.

"I learned the proper way to do a lot of things," he said. "How to use

tools that I had already been using and different features of the tools. When we came here it was more intense. You had a deeper understanding of things. I came out of this program knowing a lot more than I knew going in."

With his family history and love of all things automotive, Tremont was probably destined for a racing career, but his time teaching in the classrooms and labs of Williams and Cogan has been a meaningful part of his adult life as well, he said.

"We've been lucky with the students in this program," he said. "The majority of students in the automotive program are here because they want to be. They love cars. They love working on cars. They're eager to learn. I've got people, former students, who will come up to me at the race and say 'remember me?' and I might not remember him but it feels good just to be a positive influence, so that says something. When you look back on life, I guess if you can say you taught some kids, that's something."



ATHLETIC NEWS



Vikings Win NJCAA Region III Community Service Award for Sixth Straight year

Hudson Valley's Athletics Department was recognized with the NJCAA Region III Community Service Award for the sixth straight time in 2022-2023, thanks to their numerous contributions to the college and greater community.

"This award is a testament to the overall philosophy of the college and our athletics

department," said Hudson Valley Director of Athletics Justin Hoyt. "Our student-athletes, coaches, and administrators fully support our community and understand the importance of giving back. It's an award we take great pride in, and we will continue to foster relationships with our community members."

Vikings' Football Featured on ESPN+ NJCAA Game of the Week

In September of 2023, Hudson Valley's football team faced off against Nassau Community College in ESPN's nationally-televised Game of the Week, marking the first time the Vikings' football program has been featured on the ESPN family of networks. The game was one of only 13 NJCAA football games to be streamed on ESPN+ this season.



Justin Hoyt Named NJCAA Region III Athletic Director of the Year

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region III named Hudson Valley Community College Director of Athletics Justin Hoyt as the 2022-23 NJCAA Region III Athletic Director of the Year. Hoyt has served as director of athletics at the college since 2016, after spending more than five years as assistant athletic director and sports information director.

During the 2022-23 year, Hoyt chaired Region III sports committees for football, tennis, and track & field, while serving as a member of the Academic All-Region Committee, Professional Development Committee, and the Standards and Ethics Committee. He serves on the Region III Executive Committee as the women's assistant regional director and as the national chair for the NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball Committee. He also serves on the NJCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee and NJCAA Women's Tennis Committee. Hoyt is also the Mountain Valley Collegiate Conference president and oversees the track and field and tennis committees.



In Memoriam: Legendary Hudson Valley Women's Volleyball and Basketball Coach Paul Bishop Passes Away

Legendary Hudson Valley Community College women's basketball coach and Title IX champion Paul Bishop passed away surrounded by family on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

Coach Bishop, known for wearing his iconic cowboy hat on the sidelines at the McDonough Sports Complex, coached from 1971-1999 and finished his career with more wins than any other coach in Hudson Valley history.

Coach Bishop posted a 358-197 record at the head coach of the women's basketball program. He guided the basketball program to four Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) titles, three NJCAA Region III championships, and the 1992-93 NJCAA Women's Basketball National Championship. Bishop also coached the women's volleyball team from 1971 to 1988 and posted a 276-153-4 record, winning four MVC championships and one Region III title.

Coach Bishop and his dear friend Phil Brown are considered two of the most pioneers for the development and growth of Hudson Valley's women's sports programs. In 1971, when Bishop landed a position as the college's assistant intramural director, he began developing "play day tournaments," inviting women's teams from northern New York to play at Hudson Valley.

The success of these tournaments served as a springboard for what would become successful women's basketball and women's volleyball programs at the college. He was a passionate advocate for women's sports, not just at Hudson Valley, but throughout the region, encouraging other institutions to start up women's athletics programs as well.

Coach Bishop was inducted into the Hudson Valley Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003 as part of the college's 50th anniversary celebration. He was also inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women's Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004.

In honor of Coach Bishop's historic success at Hudson Valley, the Athletics Department awards the Paul Bishop Coach of the Year Award to the department's best head coach each academic year.



Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2022

Every five years, the Hudson Valley Community College Department of Athletics inducts a new class of alumni athletes and other notable contributors to Viking athletics into the college's Athletics Hall of Fame. The latest class to be inducted, during Homecoming weekend 2022, included Jenna Brophy '15 (Women's Tennis); Justin Gallo '08 (Men's Basketball), Kamar Jordan '09 (Football), former Director of Athletics Drew Marrochello, and the 1971 Baseball Team.



Former Director of Athletics Drew Marrochello with Athletics and Phys. Education Program Assistant Stephanie Clarke



Jenna Brophy '15 with former Women's Tennis Coach Denise Potenza



The 1971 Baseball Team

ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund plays a pivotal role in the Foundation's efforts to support the college. Through donations to the Annual Fund, we are able to support:

- Student Success
- Diversity Efforts
- Academic Programming
- Enrollment
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Community Engagement
- Campus Renovations and Enhancements
- Scholarships
- Student Emergency Fund
- Student Honors Program
- Second Chance Scholarships
- International Initiatives
- Enrollment Initiatives
- And more

WAYS TO GIVE

ONE-TIME GIFT: Your participation matters. Every gift, no matter its size, makes a difference in our students' lives.

RECURRING GIFT: Show your ongoing commitment to the college with a recurring gift, which will allow you to continue to support Hudson Valley automatically with gifts that add up over time.

PLANNED GIFT: A planned gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy with a charitable contribution to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. Your gift will create a lasting effect, enabling the college to sustain educational excellence well into the future.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Aside from financial gifts, there are other ways you can show your support for the college:

- Refer a high school student to the college
- Help students and alumni with career networking
- Offer student internship opportunities
- Host an alumni gathering
- Update your contact information

If you are interested in more information about these opportunities, contact foundation@hvcc.edu or (518) 629-8012.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ONCE A VIKING, ALWAYS A VIKING!

Even though you may not be roaming campus anymore, Hudson Valley Community College wants you to stay a part of our community. From celebrating victories to finding resources to propel you towards your goals, we want to help you succeed and stay

connected. To stay involved with college news, events, volunteer opportunities and more, make sure to click here to update your contact information and don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, YouTube and LinkedIn.

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