



Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

March 19, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

[Zoom Link](#)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Welcome Guests**
4. **Introduction:** Robert Knight, Interim VP of Finance & Chief Financial Officer
5. **Approval of Agenda***
6. **Public Comment****
7. **Approval of February 19, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes***

8. **Chair's Report**
 - a. President's annual evaluation process
 - b. NYCCT Awards Nomination open
9. **Treasurer/CFO Report**
 - a. Finance and Budget Update
 - b. Audit Update
10. **President's Report**
 - a. Vice President Reports
 - b. Middle States Accreditation Preparations: Dr. Malvika Talwar, VP of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)
11. **Consent Agenda***
 - a. Resolution on Posthumous Degree Policy
12. **Committee and Affiliate Reports**
 - New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT)
 - College Senate
 - TC3 Foundation

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13. **County Liaison Update**

- Cortland County
- Tompkins County

14. **Executive Session***

15. **Adjournment***

Informational Items

SUNY Reconnect Books and Supplies Requirements

March 2026 NYCCT Board Chair Update

Calendar Items

- Board Finance & Audit Committee Meeting, March 25, 2026
- Board of Trustees Meeting, April 16, 2026
- Grad of Note, May 5, 2026 ,11:30 a.m., Forum

16. **Board vote required**

****Public comment: Provision is made at this point in the agenda for citizens of the College community to make comments regarding any agenda item to be discussed at that meeting. Citizens will not be recognized at any other time except at the request of the Chairperson after approval for such recognition by a unanimous vote of the Trustees in attendance. No person, not a member of the Board, shall speak for more than five (5) minutes without specific approval of a majority of the Trustees. The minutes shall show that privilege of the floor was granted and shall include a brief statement of the subject matter presented.**

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Minutes



Minutes
February 19, 2026
Open Session at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Roxann Buck, Dean Corbin, Sue Dale-Hall, Judy Davison, Matt McSherry, Schelley Michell-Nunn, Seth Peacock, Lisa Perfetti, Shana Piotti

Excused: Frank Kruppa

County Liaisons: Reed Cleland, Dan Wakeman

Foundation Liaison: Loren Sparling

Staff: Leah Calzolaio, Heather Clifford, Nic Dovi, Amy Faben-Wade, John Geer, Regina Holl, Mary Ellen Ensign, Amy Kremenek, Nancy Murphy, Rob Palmieri, Dennis Panagitsas, Aaron Tolbert (v),

1. **Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Davison.
2. **Roll Call:** Ms. Murphy called roll.
3. **Welcome Guests:** Chair Davison welcomed President Bitterbaum and his wife Ellen Howard Burton of SUNY Cortland; in attendance for the 2026 Friend of the College Award in Honor of the late Regina Grantham.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Buck moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Perfetti; motion approved unanimously.
5. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
6. **Approval of January 15, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes:** Mr. McSherry moved that the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting be approved as submitted; seconded by Ms. Michell-Nunn, motion approved unanimously.

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7. Chair's Report:

- **Tompkins and Cortland County Liaisons:** Chair Davison welcomed Reed Cleland Cortland County Liaison, resident of Homer and Dan Wakeman, Tompkins County Liaison, resident of Dryden to their first TC3 Board of Trustees meeting.
- **Resolution to posthumously recognize Regina Grantham as 2026 Friend of the College:** Chair Davison read the resolution awarding Regina Grantham the honor and called for a motion. Ms. Dale-Hall moved that the 2026 Friend of the College resolution be approved as submitted; seconded by Mr. Corbin, motion approved unanimously. SUNY Cortland President Bitterbaum was presented a copy of the resolution and invited to speak. He introduced Lorraine Lopez-Janove, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and Deb Sharp, Chair of Communication Disorders and Sciences, in attendance with he and his wife Ellen Burton. President Bitterbaum then shared stories of his years working with Regina the imprint she left on the campus, community and individuals. A brief recess was called to allow the guests to exit.

8. **Treasurer/CFO Report:** Treasurer McSherry reported on the January 28, 2026 Finance and Audit Committee meeting where Mr. Panagitsas reviewed the College financials. Bonadio Group provided an update on the audit, which is delayed. Mr. Panagitsas shared the following:
- At the close of December, an increase was spent on wages.
 - Eighteen percent increase in health insurance in 2026.
 - Revenue from students from core enrollment for fall and spring was 4-5 % higher. Chargebacks for the fall were \$170,000 lower, planning that they will be \$300,000 - \$400,000 lower next year.
9. **Student Trustee's Report:** Ms. Piotti reported that the Get Connected Fair attracted 143 students, reflecting an increase in attendance this year. Students are becoming familiar with the new office locations following the winter relocations. Clubs are back up and running, hosting open houses and resuming regular meetings. Dylan Mitchell has been elected as the new SGA president, and the remaining positions are currently being filled. On Thursday, February 26, SGA will host a blood drive. Adult learners are also showing increased engagement.
10. **President's Report:** The President shared that Ms. Piotti will be rotating off as Student Trustee in the spring, she will be helping us with the search to find the next trustee. The week of February 9th, the President traveled to DC to the ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit. She brought back sheets with the National Platform featuring the advocacy strategy. While there she met with Congressman Riley and spoke with him about Pell Grants, visited the Department of

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Labor and Energy, the Urban League and New America. Dates for the Middle States visits have been set, these will be emailed to the Board. The campus is virtually hosting researcher Jane Elliott, who did the Blue Eyes/Brown Eyes Exercise. President Kremenek commended the Diversity Action Council for bringing her to campus virtually.

- Vice Presidents Reports: Dr. Tolbert reported out that February 9-11, 2027 the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) campus visit will take place. The ACEN self-study is due on December 29, 2026.

11. Committee and Affiliate Reports

- New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT): Ms. Buck reviewed the NYCCT budget request- continuation of the funding floor; request in base aid funding on top of that; request of an additional \$8 million; request for capital expense money of \$128.1 million for community college capital, which provides a 50 percent match for local sponsors. Childcare funding increases, Reconnect program funding with an additional \$5 million for operating support for this program.
- College Senate: College Senate Co-chair Amy Faben-Wade shared that the Chancellor awards submission process was slightly different this year, taking this into account there is a plan in place for next year. Reviewing bylaws, with specific focus on equitable campus representation. Discussed issuing an all-campus call for membership and contacting division Vice Presidents to strategically identify and recruit representative voices.
- TC3 Foundation: Mr. Sparling shared that the Executive Director search is ongoing; the call for offers on dorms has closed, the Foundation/TC3 is sponsoring a table at the Cayuga Health Gala, sponsoring at the Job Internship and Career Fair and the Tompkins/Cortland Chamber Joint Business After Hours.

12. County Liaison Update

- Cortland County: Mr. Cleland shared that the new county mental health facility opened on Monday, February 16, a project that had been underway since 2022. He credited distinguished alumna, Patricia Schaap, Director of Community Services, with being phenomenal with this transition. Mr. Cleland serves on the Agricultural, Planning and Environmental Committee and Finance and Administration Committee for the Cortland Legislature.
- Tompkins County: Mr. Wakeman shared that the county has experienced a full 50 percent turnover in legislative seats. They have met three times with a focus on support for nurses seeking unionization at the Cayuga Medical Center, environmental risks for a data center on Cayuga Lake and meeting with representatives from NYSEG to discuss significant rate charge increase. Mr. Wakeman sits on the Facilities and Infrastructure and Government Operations Legislative Committees.

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13. **Executive Session:** Chair Davison called for an executive session for the purpose as stated in Article 7 of the NYS Open Meeting Law. Mr. McSherry moved that the meeting convene into executive session with no further business expected at 6:20 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Schelley-Nunn; approved unanimously. President Kremenek and John Geer were invited to join the executive session. Motion to go back into open session at 6:57 p.m. moved by Mr. McSherry; seconded by Mr. Corbin; approved unanimously.
14. **Adjournment:** Mr. Corbin moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:57 p.m.; seconded by Mr. McSherry; approved unanimously.

Nancy C. Murphy
Clerk to the Board of Trustees

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Financial and Budget Update

	Modified Budget 2025-26	Expend to Date 2025-26	Unexpend Balance 2025-26	% Expended 2025-26	Total Exp PY 2024-25	YTD Exp PY to Date 2024-25	PY % Expended 2024-25	Fav Var (Unfav Var) to PY	% Variance to PY
Forecasted Dept. Appropriations									
Personal Services	16,750,608	7,352,821	9,397,787	43.9%	17,657,648	7,300,569	41.3%	(52,252)	-0.3%
Equipment	383,200	57,024	202,611	14.9%	360,247	117,093	32.5%	(61,357)	-17.0%
Contractual Expenses	6,024,672	2,135,132	3,898,727	35.4%	6,383,540	2,411,100	37.8%	285,155	4.5%
Employee Benefits	9,126,839	3,716,541	5,051,606	40.7%	10,498,039	4,048,694	38.6%	(26,539)	-0.3%
Total Forecasted Departmental Appropriations¹	32,285,319	13,261,518	18,550,731	41.1%	34,899,474	13,877,455	39.8%	145,007	1.0%
Scholarships & Awards									
Student Services	-	268,733	(268,733)	0.0%	267,906	271,996	101.5%	3,264	1.20%
Academic Support	3,200,000	1,844,348	1,355,652	57.6%	3,699,845	1,596,748	43.2%	(247,600)	-15.51%
Total Scholarships & Awards	3,200,000	2,113,081	1,086,920	66.0%	3,967,751	1,868,744	47.1%	(244,337)	-13.07%
Total Forecasted Appropriations²	35,485,319	15,374,598	19,637,651	43.3%	38,867,225	15,746,199	40.5%	(99,329)	-0.6%
Personnel	16,750,608	7,352,821	9,397,787	43.9%	17,657,648	7,300,569	41.3%	(52,252)	-0.3%
Equipment	383,200	57,024	202,611	14.9%	360,247	117,093	32.5%	(61,357)	-17.0%
Contractual	6,024,672	2,135,132	3,898,727	35.4%	6,383,540	2,411,100	37.8%	285,155	4.5%
Scholarship & Awards Offset	3,200,000	2,113,081	1,086,920	66.0%	3,967,751	1,868,744	47.1%	(244,337)	-6.2%
Fringe Benefit	9,126,839	3,716,541	5,051,606	40.7%	10,498,039	4,048,694	38.6%	(26,539)	-0.3%
Total Approved Budget Appropriations⁴	35,485,319	15,374,598	19,637,651	43.3%	38,867,225	15,746,199	40.5%	(99,329)	-0.6%

Explanation of Sub-Totals and Totals:

1. *Total Forecasted Departmental Appropriations:* Enables an analysis of departmental operating costs.
2. *Total Forecasted Appropriations:* Forecasts the End-of-Year Appropriations for the College.
3. *Total Adjustments to Approved Budget:* Represents the forecasted adjustments to the 2025-26 Appropriations Budget. If positive, less Fund Balance is required. If negative, more Fund Balance is required.
4. *Total Approved Budget Appropriations:* This represents the Approved Budget.
5. Excludes impacts of GASB 68 (OPEB), GASB 75 (ERS/TRS) & GASB 87 (Lease Liability)

	Modified Budget 2025-26	Expend to Date 2025-26	Unexpend Balance 2025-26	% Expended 2025-26	Total Exp PY 2024-25	YTD Exp PY to Date 2024-25	PY % Expended 2024-25	Fav Var (Unfav Var) to PY	% Variance to PY
Instruction									
Personal Services	6,488,035	3,144,149	3,343,886	48.5%	7,292,941	3,135,403	43.0%	(8,747)	-0.3%
Equipment	0	0	0	0.0%	3,248	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Contractual Expenses	529,525	235,737	293,788	44.5%	1,292,545	642,365	49.7%	406,628	63.3%
Employee Benefits	3,420,434	1,702,563	1,717,871	49.8%	4,105,284	1,638,480	39.9%	(64,083)	-3.9%
Total Instruction	10,437,994	5,082,449	5,355,546	48.7%	12,694,017	5,416,248	42.7%	333,799	6.2%
Academic Support									
Personal Services	1,518,390	657,323	861,066	43.29%	1,685,234	682,926	40.52%	25,603	3.75%
Equipment	0	0	0	0.00%	13,883	13,152	94.73%	13,152	100.00%
Contractual Expenses	205,768	55,100	150,668	26.78%	202,485	50,926	25.15%	(4,174)	-8.20%
Employee Benefits	855,743	353,407	502,336	41.30%	889,505	348,477	39.18%	(4,930)	-1.41%
Total Academic Support	2,579,901	1,065,831	1,514,070	41.31%	2,791,108	1,095,481	39.25%	29,650	2.71%
Libraries									
Personal Services	576,249	235,126	341,123	40.80%	642,573	244,667	38.08%	9,541	3.90%
Contractual Expenses	283,200	123,566	159,634	43.63%	228,658	75,503	33.02%	(48,062)	-63.66%
Employee Benefits	289,183	114,378	174,805	39.55%	301,751	126,621	41.96%	12,243	9.67%
Total Libraries	1,148,632	473,070	675,562	41.19%	1,172,981	446,791	38.09%	(26,279)	-5.88%
Student Services									
Personal Services	2,499,274	976,832	1,522,442	39.08%	2,455,240	1,029,773	41.94%	52,941	5.14%
Equipment	0	42,637	(42,637)	0.00%	9,535	1,237	12.98%	(41,400)	-3345.88%
Contractual Expenses	744,176	216,645	527,531	29.11%	644,943	228,676	35.46%	12,031	5.26%
Employee Benefits	1,245,305	476,934	768,370	38.30%	1,413,453	560,502	39.65%	83,567	14.91%
Total Student Services	4,488,755	1,713,048	2,775,707	38.16%	4,523,171	1,820,188	40.24%	107,140	5.89%
Maintenance and Operations									
Personal Services	2,132,633	946,743	1,185,889	44.39%	2,112,065	866,808	41.04%	(79,935)	-9.22%
Equipment	70,000	5,872	64,128	8.39%	30,659	15,540	50.69%	9,669	62.21%
Contractual Expenses	1,144,975	420,299	724,676	36.71%	1,190,442	368,629	30.97%	(51,670)	-14.02%
Employee Benefits	952,264	431,907	520,358	45.36%	1,180,001	436,476	36.99%	4,570	1.05%
Total Maintenance and Operations	4,299,872	1,804,821	2,495,051	41.97%	4,513,166	1,687,454	37.39%	(117,367)	-6.96%
Institutional Support									
Personal Services	1,933,044	710,274	1,222,770	36.74%	1,829,585	681,826	37.27%	(28,447)	-4.17%
Equipment	0	0	0	0.00%	11,729	2,140	18.24%	2,140	100.00%
Contractual Expenses	739,600	266,042	473,558	35.97%	601,255	275,994	45.90%	9,952	3.61%
Employee Benefits	853,324	317,944	535,380	37.26%	973,683	356,367	36.60%	38,423	10.78%
Total Institutional Support	3,525,968	1,294,259	2,231,708	36.71%	3,416,253	1,316,326	38.53%	22,067	1.68%
General Institutional Services									
Personal Services	1,602,983	682,373	920,610	42.57%	1,640,011	659,166	40.19%	(23,208)	-3.52%
Equipment	30,000	8,515	21,485	28.38%	74,265	11,659	15.70%	3,145	26.97%
Contractual Expenses	2,371,445	817,744	1,553,701	34.48%	2,150,118	717,889	33.39%	(99,855)	-13.91%
Employee Benefits	651,137	319,408	331,729	49.05%	763,132	261,601	34.28%	(57,807)	-22.10%
Total General Institutional Services	4,655,565	1,828,040	2,827,525	39.27%	4,627,526	1,650,315	35.66%	(177,725)	-10.77%
Total Forecasted Departmental Appropriations¹	29,988,055	13,261,518	17,199,607	44.2%	32,565,241	12,986,012	39.9%	197,564	0.6%

% Through Year (5 out of 12 Months)

41.7%

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

	Modified Budget 2025-26	Revenues to Date 2025-26	Unrealized Balance 2025-26	% Realized 2025-26	Total Rev PY 2024-25	YTD Rev PY 2024-25	PY % Realized 2024-25	Fav Var (Unfav Var) to PY	% Variance to PY
Student Revenue									
Core Tuition									
Fall	3,963,712	4,238,121	(274,409)	106.9%	3,764,362	3,736,926	99.3%	501,195	13.4%
Spring	3,511,304	4,093,254	(581,950)	116.6%	3,335,085	3,428,727	102.8%	664,527	19.4%
Winter	143,032	143,331	(299)	100.2%	157,803	157,803	100.0%	(14,472)	-9.2%
Summer	625,420	0	625,420	0.0%	595,942		0.0%	0	0.0%
Nonresident Tuition	813,600	1,277,211	(463,611)	157.0%	891,023	1,165,227	130.8%	111,984	9.6%
Student Fee Revenue	982,033	1,011,127	(29,094)	103.0%	997,888	919,975	92.2%	91,152	9.9%
Total Core Student Revenue	10,039,101	10,763,043	(723,942)	107.2%	9,742,104	9,408,657	96.6%	1,354,387	14.4%
Concurrent Enrollment Tuition	3,200,000	1,844,571	1,355,429	57.6%	3,698,543	1,597,380	43.2%	247,191	15.5%
Total Student Revenue	13,239,101	12,607,614	631,487	95.2%	13,440,647	11,006,037	81.9%	1,601,578	14.6%
Government Appropriations									
New York State	9,384,444	4,801,027	4,583,417	51.2%	9,787,799	4,893,900	50.0%	(92,873)	-1.9%
Local Sponsors	4,882,882	464,112	4,418,770	9.5%	4,882,882	0	0.0%	464,112	0.0%
Appropriated Cash Surplus	28,515	28,515	0	100.0%	1,127,425	1,127,425	100.0%	(1,098,910)	-97.5%
Charges to Other Counties	5,800,000	2,246,001	3,553,999	38.7%	5,825,323	2,417,088	41.5%	(171,087)	-7.1%
Total Govt Appropriations	20,095,841	7,539,655	12,556,187	37.5%	21,623,429	8,438,413	39.0%	(898,759)	-10.7%
Other Revenues									
Service Fees	96,040	129,348	(33,308)	134.7%	87,051	61,926	71.1%	67,422	108.9%
Interest Earnings	9,007	3,738	5,269	41.5%	10,044	4,098	40.8%	(360)	-8.8%
Rental of Real Property	11,035	225	10,810	2.0%	1,425		0.0%	225	0.0%
Contract Courses	25,031	2,495	22,536	10.0%	250,427	101,693	40.6%	(99,198)	-97.5%
Noncredit Tuition	174,870	74,624	100,246	42.7%	138,476	58,356	42.1%	16,268	27.9%
Grant Offsets	180,373	14,151	166,222	7.8%	183,915	79,459	43.2%	(65,307)	-82.2%
Unclassified Revenues	303,644	35,708	267,937	11.8%	74,426	21,237	28.5%	14,470	68.1%
Total Other Revenues	800,000	260,289	539,711	32.5%	745,764	326,769	43.8%	(66,480)	-20.3%
Total Revenues	34,134,942	20,407,558	13,727,384	59.8%	35,809,840	19,771,219	55.2%	636,339	3.2%
Student Revenue									
Student Revenue	13,535,042	12,814,081	720,961	94.7%	13,916,601	11,228,012	80.7%	1,586,070	14.1%
State Revenue	9,384,444	4,801,027	4,583,417	51.2%	9,787,799	4,893,900	50.0%	(92,873)	-1.9%
Local Revenue	10,682,882	2,710,113	7,972,770	25.4%	10,708,205	2,417,088	22.6%	293,025	12.1%
Use of Fund Balance	28,515	28,515	0	100.0%	1,127,425	1,127,425	100.0%	(1,098,910)	-97.5%
Other	504,059	53,822	450,237	10.7%	269,809	104,794	38.8%	(50,972)	-48.6%
Total Revenues	34,134,942	20,407,558	13,727,384	59.8%	35,809,840	19,771,219	55.2%	636,339	3.2%

	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 Actual	2025-26 Unexpended Balance	2025-26 % Unexpended	2024-25 Total Exp PY	2024-25 PY to Date	2024-25 PY % Expended	Variance CY to PY Fav(Unfav)	% Variance CY to PY Fav(Unfav)
Retirement Incentive Costs	185,167	88,301	96,866	47.7%	213,760	207,510	97.1%	119,209	57.4%
HRA Retiree Benefits	85,169	25,862	59,307	30.4%	105,539	39,728	37.6%	13,866	34.9%
State Employee's Retirement	1,127,884	687,334	440,550	60.9%	1,609,336	557,272	34.6%	(130,062)	(23.3%)
State Teacher's Retirement	182,296	85,266	97,030	46.8%	184,133	72,964	39.6%	(12,302)	(16.9%)
Optional Retirement Fund	817,894	362,482	455,412	44.3%	959,053	358,788	37.4%	(3,694)	(1.0%)
Social Security	1,299,274	562,270	737,004	43.3%	1,286,604	556,718	43.3%	(5,551)	(1.0%)
Worker's Compensation	95,339	28,776	66,563	30.2%	55,291	49,078	88.8%	20,302	41.4%
Disability Insurance	8,553	3,181	5,372	37.2%	9,007	3,933	43.7%	752	19.1%
Hospital and Medical Insurance	3,042,386	1,166,000	1,876,386	38.3%	3,168,399	1,156,511	36.5%	(9,489)	(0.8%)
Post Retirement Health Insurance	1,565,580	600,000	965,580	38.3%	1,502,093	600,000	39.9%	0	0.0%
Employee Tuition Benefits	129,602	97,323	32,279	75.1%	96,606	75,852	78.5%	(21,471)	(28.3%)
Life Insurance	7,717	2,276	5,441	29.5%	9,403	4,560	48.5%	2,285	50.1%
Vacation Benefits	94,871		94,871	0.0%	419,914		0.0%	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	3,323	745	2,578	22.4%	3,794	1,540	40.6%	795	51.6%
Unemployment Insurance	16,466	6,727	9,739	40.9%	25,671	15,003	58.4%	8,276	55.2%
Total Employee Benefits	8,661,521	3,716,541	4,944,980	42.9%	9,648,603	3,699,457	38.3%	(17,085)	(0.5%)

Amy Kremenek, DM, MPA, President

The following update reflects progress toward the 2025-26 Presidential Goals as approved by the Board of Trustees and shared with the campus community in August 2025. The goals are organized according to the four focus areas: Ensuring Middle States Accreditation, Strengthening the Institutional Framework, Building External Support and Investing in the Campus Community.

ENSURING MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

- The preliminary campus visit for the Middle States Team Chair confirmed for 5/8/26, with the full visit for the Middle States Visiting Team confirmed for 11/8-11/11/26. The agenda for the preliminary campus visit will be finalized by mid-month and provided for approval to the Team Chair. The Board of Trustees is requested to participate in both visits.

STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- TC3's eight-member team traveled to the annual ATD DREAM Conference in Portland from 3/2-3/5. The agenda included dedicated "Team Time" with our ATD Coach and ATD Data Coach, as well as coordinated time with the other three SUNY community colleges in our consortium. This work is supported by a grant from ATD as well as support from the TC3 Foundation.
- Approval of TC3's Academic Momentum Plan was received from SUNY on 3/9. Numerous areas of campus and plan strength were noted. In addition, a \$20K grant was provided by SUNY to support the work. Operationalizing the strategies and tactics within the plan, in coordination with ATD (below), will now begin.
- TC3's Cohort Student Success Action Plan for Achieving the Dream (ATD) Action Plan is due 6/5. This plan will align with the goals of Academic Momentum to ensure coordination and consistency through the common metrics.
- Representatives of the Board of Trustees and the TC3 Foundation Board meet on 3/12 to kick off the successor Memorandum of Agreement between the College and its Foundation. Each Board is represented by its own attorney for what is expected to be an amiable process.
- The President's appointments to the Faculty Student Association Board were updated on 3/1 to include VP of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Rob Palmieri as Chair and AVP of Student Affairs Joe Oravec, providing compliance with organizational bylaws and strengthened alignment with the College's Strategic Plan and operational goals.
- The search for the permanent VP of Finance and Chief Financial Officer launched on 3/2 with the goal to fill the role by the end of May. Interim CFO Robert Knight began on 3/2 and will serve through 5/31, focusing on division leadership, the 2026-27 Operational Budget and completion of the audits.

BUILDING EXTERNAL SUPPORT

- I hosted both County Administrators for Cortland and Tompkins Counties for a campus lunch on 3/10. Topics included commonalities between the counties, opportunities for collaboration and the role of the College in service to both communities.
- The timeline for the search for the Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the TC3 Foundation has been updated. Candidates are scheduled to be on campus in early April.
- TC3 will be hosting a community convening on Micron, supply chain companies, planning and opportunities for our region later this spring. Parties involved include both counties, SUNY, Ithaca Area Economic Development, Cortland Business Development Council, and others, in addition to Micron.

INVESTING IN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

- TC3 Employee of the Month award for March was presented on 3/10 to Sidney Hill of the Residence Life team. Several students also attended the presentation.
- My monthly lunch with Student Government leaders took place on 2/23. VP of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Rob Palmieri and AVP of Student Affairs Joe Oravec attended.
- Director of Workforce Development Carrie Coates Whitmore and Professor Patty Tvahora were selected from several high-quality applications to represent TC3 at the 2026 LEADERS Institute of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) in June in Seattle.



Vice President Reports

Facilities

Facilities staff managed significant winter operations while maintaining campus infrastructure and supporting several operational projects. Grounds crews addressed above-average snow removal and assisted with a residence hall water main repair. Maintenance staff completed HVAC preventative maintenance, plumbing and heating repairs in residence halls, circulation pump repairs, roof drain troubleshooting, and a variety of building repairs including electrical work, drywall, ceiling tile replacement, and equipment repairs. Work also began on the decommissioning of the Coltivare facility.

Custodial teams completed routine operations while also deep-cleaning offices and preparing a vacant residence hall unit. Environmental Health & Safety continued monthly residence hall inspections and advanced several initiatives including MaintainX implementation, carbon action plan reporting, indoor air quality vendor assessments, and state fire compliance documentation.

Campus Police

Campus Police supported the start of the semester through New Student Orientation, the Get Connected Fair, and completion of required in-service training. Calls for service have increased as expected with the return of students to campus.

The department continues to support campus programming and community activities, including coverage for local high school athletic events. A community engagement event with several regional law enforcement agencies will be hosted on campus on March 23 to strengthen connections between students, the College, and local public safety partners.

Campus Technology

Campus Technology continues to focus on system improvements, operational efficiency, and user support. Recent work included updates to the College Now registration site and TC3 application systems, along with expanded data integration supporting the Foundation's scholarship selection process.

A new campus asset management system has been implemented to better track software and licensing across the institution. Enhancements to the myTC3 portal added new bookstore functionality for students and improvements to the staff directory.

Technology staff are also addressing residence hall network reliability issues in coordination with Residence Life and the College's service provider. The help desk continues extended service hours while usage data is collected, and increased student printing demand is being reviewed with Academic Affairs.

Rob Palmieri, VP of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs

Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP)

The next meeting of the SEP Council is scheduled for March 13th. Members will review data and insights from recent surveys, student focus groups, and analyses of common student technology issues and other barriers to success. They will also examine enrollment reports, including Spring 2026 melt analysis, SUNY Reconnect profiles, Fall-to-Spring retention, and Fall 2026 enrollment targets. The Council will review updates on current strategies, including the development of the one-stop business process portal and the expansion of Slate CRM to support the full student life cycle. The discussion will include a brainstorming session to help inform 2026–27 strategies aimed at advancing the four main goals of the SEP Plan.

Student Services Fee Review

Following the February 17th Faculty Student Association (FSA) Board meeting, a review of the Student Services Fee was also shared with the President's Cabinet and College Senate to ensure transparency and maintain shared governance in informing the campus community. The review highlighted projected funding challenges for 2026–27 and the importance of maintaining fee resources to support student-centered services. Student Services Fee Allocation Guidelines are being developed with input from students and campus leaders to prioritize engagement, align resources with evolving enrollment, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Enhancing Student Support Technology

TC3 is transitioning from the Starfish student success platform to Slate CRM to simplify advising and enhance student support. Starfish currently helps track student progress, early alerts, and engagement, but it has become costly and inflexible, requiring faculty and staff to navigate multiple systems. Slate CRM is a centralized student relationship management platform that integrates advising, communication, and key student information in one place. Feedback from faculty and staff highlighted areas for improvement, including too many clicks, scattered information, and repetitive data entry. Slate CRM will streamline these processes, creating a more efficient, user-friendly experience while helping students access support and resources more effectively. Faculty, staff, and students will continue to provide feedback, and training sessions will be offered before and after the transition to ensure everyone is prepared and supported.

Student Engagement & Campus Activities

Students remained actively engaged in Athletics, Recreation, Student Activities, Health & Wellness, and Continuing Education & Workforce Development. Men's basketball reached its fifth consecutive NJCAA Region 3 Tournament, while spring teams prepare for competition. Fitness and recreation programs, along with events like the IAC high school basketball championships, provide opportunities for connection and participation.

Student Activities hosted Stuff Your Heart Out (77 participants), Hearts and Crafts (70), Glow Casino Night (59), and the Safe Sex Express initiative. Twelve active clubs and the SGA engaged in leadership, service, and campus projects, including a Red Cross Blood Drive that exceeded its 36-unit goal. Career programming included Find Your Summer or Fall Internship, Resume Lab, How to Chat with Employers at Events, and the TC3 Job, Internship, and Volunteer Fair, connecting students with over 30 employers. Health & Wellness supported students through medical and mental health services, the Best Life Lounge, and the Panther Pantry, which served 183 students and 449 individuals, including 96 children in February.

Malvika Talwar, VP of Institutional Effectiveness

January and February activities of the institutional effectiveness and research unit of the College are as follows:

Middle States (MSCHE) Self Study Update: The College's Middle States team submitted their final chapter/standards drafts to the Core team on March 4th. These chapters were submitted after a second round of feedback from the core team and subsequent work by the Team chairs. The core team will now be integrating the chapters over the next month to ensure that the overall narrative draft is ready two weeks before May 8th when the Middle States evaluation team chair, Dr. Margaret McMEnamin, will be visiting the College. The final drafts for three chapters will also be reviewed by a SUNY team of volunteers to provide additional external input to help improve the quality of the chapters.

Institutional Effectiveness and Research Updates: The period from late December to end of February constitutes a critical data collection and compliance window for the College. The following crucial reports have been submitted after careful analysis and data checks in this period. These include NY State Education Department, SUNY data reporting, and Federal Reports to the Integrated Federal Post-Secondary Education System (IPEDS) in compliance with the College's participation in Federal Financial Aid or Title IV programs. Finally, we have also taken on a bigger role in refining our reporting to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) over the last year, this effort has been time-consuming but remains crucial as it also is an important part of the federal student loan program. Specifically, The NSC provides mandatory enrollment data to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) for federal student loans, ensuring lenders know when a student is in school, graduated, or withdrawn. Data quality of these submissions is therefore crucial in ensuring that loan payments are accurate based on student enrollment status.

Organizational Development and Chief Diversity Officer update (CDO): Through the work of Diversity, Equity Action Council or DEAC the College has been continuing to celebrate our shared history and diversity. In February, the focus was on Black History Month. The events organized for this month are outlined below as an example of some of the work being carried out by DEAC which is chaired by the CDO, Michelle Nightingale, and co-chaired by Shadayvia Wallace.

Black History Month Celebrations Message and Events:

February 1 marks the start of Black History Month in the United States. This year's theme, [A Century of Black History Commemorations](#), honors 100 years of recognizing the achievements, resilience, and ongoing struggles of African Americans. The observance traces its roots to 1915 with the founding of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926, the first formal celebration—then called *Negro History Week*—was established and later expanded into the month-long observance recognized today.

Tompkins Cortland Community College is proud to celebrate Black History Month with a series of engaging events. Festivities kick off with a [Black History Month Trivia Kickoff](#) today at 12:00 p.m. in the Student Center. Additional programming includes a [Lunch and Learn](#) featuring the

Malvika Talwar, VP of Institutional Effectiveness

Tompkins/Cortland chapter of the [NAACP](#) (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) on **Monday, February 16, at 12:15 p.m.** in the Student Center Conference Room.

The Diversity, Equity, Action Council (DEAC) will also host two guest lectures:

- **Thursday, February 19, from 3:00–4:00 p.m.** — [Archiving the Sacred: Preserving Black Gospel Music History](#), presented by **Dr. Ambre Dromgoole**, Professor of Africana Studies at Cornell University.
- **Thursday, February 26, from 12:15–1:15 p.m.** — [Speculative Fiction and the Black Experience: Displays of Race and Racism](#), featuring **Dr. Chris Ortega**, Associate Professor of Communications and Africana Studies at SUNY Cortland, exploring portrayals of the Black experience in film and television.

Aaron Tolbert, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs

1. Academic Portfolio

a. New Programs

- i. Workforce - The college has good momentum on working on the current HVAC and Commercial Electrician proposals. In March, Carrie Whitmore (Director of Workforce Development) and Aaron Tolbert (Provost & VPAA) traveled to Jamestown Community College to visit their current HVAC program to better understand the design, form, and costs of the program. JCC staff and faculty were very giving of their time to help TC3 work to build its own program. In addition, the college has plans to visit Mohawk Valley Community College in April to see their current Associates in Occupational Science electrician program to gain understanding of their work.
- ii. For academic credit programs, Hanover Research returned their feasibility report on Nutrition Science. The report was definitive showcasing that the marketplace is saturated with programs; student enrollment in the state is dropping because there are more academic programs offered by colleges in the state than demand by students or employers. Next, I've sent to Hanover Research a feasibility analysis request for Medical Coding and Billing certificate programs, a program they noted as one of possibility in their May academic portfolio report.

2. Retention

The college sent a team of eight to Portland, Oregon to the Achieving the Dream Conference, the colleges core engine for institutional transformation towards students success. Faculty and Academic Affairs members were represented by Professor Mary Ellen Ensign (Math), Leah Calzolio (Student Success Advisor), Dr. Susan Muller (Nursing), Merryn Clay (Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs), Eric Jenes (Librarian, and College Senate Co-Chair).

3. Academic Affairs Leadership

Searches for the three academic deans are underway with the goal of April offers for the roles. This will allow for a June 1 start for the successful candidates which in turn will help foster the opportunity to develop this new team well in advance of the fall 2026 semester start.

4. Culture

Academic Affairs continues to hope month "open houses" to intentionally give space for all members of the campus community develop their professional relationships outside of normal roles. Academic Affairs is working on requests for proposals for both additional online tutoring and the college bookstore with faculty and student task forces built to review the proposals and make recommendations to the president and executive council.



Consent Agenda

**TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RESOLUTION 2025-26-23**

Posthumous Degrees Policy

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Tompkins Cortland Community College recognizes the commitment and academic efforts of students who have pursued educational goals at the College; and

WHEREAS, the College occasionally experiences the unfortunate passing of a student prior to completion of all requirements for a degree or certificate; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to provide a mechanism by which the College may honor the academic progress, dedication, and achievements of such students; and

WHEREAS, many institutions of higher education maintain policies allowing the conferral of posthumous degrees or certificates in recognition of students who were in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress toward completion of their programs; now therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Tompkins Cortland Community College hereby establishes the following Posthumous Degrees Policy:

- 1) It is so requested by a family member, survivor, or legal representative of the student; or a campus representative may initiate the request in which case TC3 shall obtain consent from a family member, survivor, or legal representative.
- 2) TC3 has verified that the student passed away.
- 3) The student was in good academic and conduct standing at the time of their passing, with consideration given to extenuating circumstances related to their passing that may have impacted their standing.
- 4) The student had earned a minimum of 30 credits toward the degree, with at least 6 credits completed at TC3.
- 5) The Associate's degree may be awarded with Latin honors with the appropriate earned GPA.
- 6) The President may make exceptions to these criteria as appropriate to the circumstances. Additionally, the College may consider an alternate honor if an exception is not available.
- 7) There will be no charge to the family for the granting and issuing of the posthumous Associate's degree.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Board of Trustees and shall be incorporated into the College's comprehensive policy manual.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

I, NANCY MURPHY, CLERK of the Board of Trustee of

SS:

Tompkins Cortland Community College,

COUNTY OF TOMPKINS:

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of Tompkins Cortland

Community College at a regular meeting of said Board on this 19th day of February 2026 and the same is a complete copy of the whole of such resolution.

Posthumous Degrees Policy

CONTINUED

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of Tompkins Cortland Community College to be hereunto affixed this 19th day of February.

Clerk of the Board of Trustees

TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

POLICY

Policy: Posthumous Degrees

Policy Reference No: A20

Date of Last Update: 3/19/26

Responsible Division: Office of the President

Purpose:

The Board of Trustees establishes the criteria under which a posthumous degree may be awarded to a student who was matriculated at Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) and passed away prior to degree completion. This policy is consistent with SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution on Posthumous Degrees on December 5, 2023, and SUNY Policy and Guidance on Posthumous Degrees issued by the SUNY Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost on July 18, 2025.

References:

[TC3 Board of Trustees Policy on Conferral of Degrees](#)

[SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution on Posthumous Degrees, December 5, 2023.](#)

Contacts:

Assistant to the President, [Nancy Murphy](#), ext. 4367

Policy Statement:

A posthumous Associate's degree may be awarded in the name of a matriculated student, in the discipline in which they were matriculated when:

- 1) It is so requested by a family member, survivor, or legal representative of the student; or a campus representative may initiate the request in which case TC3 shall obtain consent from a family member, survivor, or legal representative.
- 2) TC3 has verified that the student passed away.
- 3) The student was in good academic and conduct standing at the time of their passing, with consideration given to extenuating circumstances related to their passing that may have impacted their standing.
- 4) The student had earned a minimum of 30 credits toward the degree, with at least 6 credits completed at TC3.
- 5) The Associate's degree may be awarded with Latin honors with the appropriate earned GPA.
- 6) The President may make exceptions to these criteria as appropriate to the circumstances. Additionally, the College may consider an alternate honor if an exception is not available.
- 7) There will be no charge to the family for the granting and issuing of the posthumous Associate's degree.

Resolution Number:

Resolution #2025-26-23

To: TC Board of Trustees

From: College Senate /Amy Faben-Wade and Eric Jenes (Co-chairs)

College Senate Report March 5, 2026 for March board meeting

- Senate received a presentation and provided feedback to Rob Palmieri on The Financial Challenges of the Student Services Fee.
- Senate has been reviewing the SUNY AI Policy and Posthumous Degree Policy for campus and has provided feedback to the President.
- We have heard from Jonathan Walz-Koeppel on the Campus Technology Update.
- Senate continues to review the College Senate Bylaws. We will especially be focusing on membership and scope of College Senate for the 2026-27 academic year.

Gina Holl, Director of Auxiliary Operations

This update provides an overview of current priorities and progress across Foundation-managed auxiliary operations, governance, advancement, and asset stewardship. The work reflects coordinated leadership, disciplined financial stewardship, and continued alignment with College priorities.

Leadership, Governance & Compliance

- Foundation Executive Director Search: Initial candidate interviews did not yield a viable finalist. The search has resumed and recruitment efforts continue in coordination with the Foundation Board.
- Foundation–College Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Review and updating of the agreement between the College and the Foundation has begun. Preparatory meetings took place in February, with the joint committee kickoff meeting held in early March to begin the formal review process.
- FSA Governance: President Kremenek appointed VP for Enrollment and Student Affairs Rob Palmieri as TC3’s Senior Student Affairs Officer effective March 1. Per FSA bylaws, the SSAO serves as President of the FSA Board of Directors; VP Palmieri assumed the role on March 1. Transition planning is underway as the Director of Auxiliary Operations rotates off the Board and out of the Interim President role.
Focus: governance clarity, institutional alignment, and risk-aware oversight.

Asset Stewardship & Facilities

- Apartment Building E, F, G: Submitted offers remain under review with brokers, legal counsel, and bondholder representatives. Market response and next-step options continue to be evaluated.
- Culinary Arts Center: The Foundation is negotiating two potential lease buyout options intended to remove all TC3 presence and associated liability for the facility, including the Coltivare restaurant and academic space. One prospective buyer has expressed interest in maintaining collaboration with TC3 through partnership opportunities with the College’s hospitality program.
- Ithaca Extension Center: Initial meetings with a potential buyer have taken place, and the Foundation is coordinating requested documentation to facilitate submission of a formal offer. The intent is to bring an offer to the Foundation Board for discussion at the April meeting. The buyer has also expressed interest in incorporating student internships and workforce partnerships into future use of the facility.
- Cortland Extension Center: The sale of the building to SUNY Cortland is in its final stages. The agreement has been accepted by all parties, documents have been executed, contract number assigned by the Office of the Comptroller. Finalization and ribbon-cutting are anticipated within the next two to three months, with SUNY Cortland expressing interest in continued workforce collaboration.
- Property Transition Planning: The Foundation is coordinating across departments to decommission and prepare vacant facilities—including the apartment buildings, Culinary Arts Center, and Ithaca Extension Center—for orderly transition and potential transfer of ownership.
Focus: financial stewardship, flexibility, and informed decision-making amid evolving enrollment and operational realities.

Advancement, Student Support & External Engagement

- Career & Workforce Advancement Initiatives: Planning continues for the Workforce and Career Advancement Center. Conceptual renderings supporting fundraising, grant development, and stakeholder engagement have been completed, and grant proposals are being prepared for federal and state funding opportunities with spring deadlines.
- Community Outreach & Strategic Partnerships: TC3 continues advancing its strategic objective of expanded community engagement. Discussions are underway with regional partners including Beginnings Credit Union, the Ithaca and Cortland Chambers of Commerce, Guthrie, Cayuga Health/Excelsus, the YMCA of Ithaca and Cortland, NYSEG, and local and federal elected representatives.
Focus: active engagement in local, regional, and SUNY-related initiatives supporting advocacy, workforce development, and institutional partnerships.



Informational Items



The State University
of New York

**Office of Community Colleges
and the Education Pipeline**

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community College Presidents
FROM: Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
DATE: February 18, 2026
RE: **SUNY Reconnect Books and Supplies Requirements**

Valerie Dent

With the spring semester fully underway, we wanted to share a reminder about the standards to be applied for the award of SUNY Reconnect funding for required books and supplies costs for your students after applicable financial aid. Reconnect students shall be provided with an award amount for books and supplies with consideration of their full-/part-time enrollment status and based on the current cost of attendance for their Reconnect-eligible program. "Required supplies" includes program-specific supplies such as tools, equipment, and/or uniforms that are a program/course requirement.

Please note that if a campus currently determines a single cost of attendance for all programs and where specific eligible programs require more than standard supplies (specialized equipment, uniforms, etc.), the program cost of attendance used in the award should include the additional supplies. Specialized supplies that Reconnect students must purchase from an external vendor are to be included in the program-specific supply cost and award amount as the intent of the program is that no Reconnect student should need to pay out-of-pocket for books or supplies and request reimbursement.

Further, Colleges shall not charge Reconnect-eligible students for tuition, fees, books, or supplies or require students to pay these costs up front for reimbursement, including students who opt to take out student loans. A student who receives federal loan funds may not have those funds used to cover tuition and other eligible expenses while the campus awaits Reconnect funding disbursement.

COMMUNICATION

Follow us & stay connected



Communications Committee: David Males, Chair (JCC), Ann Fleming Brown (SCCC), George Cushman (FLCC), Linda VanBuskirk (CCC), Wendy Waters (MVCC)

We Want to Hear Your Story – Share a Video

Testimonial!

NYCCT is collecting short video clips to help make the case for community college funding during this critical budget season. We are looking for real stories from real people – students, alumni, faculty, business partners, Reconnect participants, and anyone whose life has been touched by a New York community college.

We encourage trustees to share this request broadly – with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners. Every college, every story, every voice matters.

If every college submits just one video, imagine the impact!



Stories don't need to be polished – authentic and heartfelt is exactly what we're looking for! ❤️

A simple selfie-style video shot on your smartphone is perfect. 30 to 45 seconds is all you need!

Consider sharing your thoughts on:

- How did your community college experience change your life?
- Where would you be without it?
- Why is support for community colleges important?
- What would you say to the people responsible for funding your college?

👉 **To submit your video:** Email your clip to nycct@suny.edu with your name, college affiliation, and a brief description.

EDUCATION

👏 Calling All Student Trustees – You're Invited!

Being a student trustee is a unique and important role, and NYCCT wants to make sure you're connected with your peers across New York State! Whether you joined us in Saratoga, Albany, or Washington, D.C. – or we haven't had the chance to meet yet – we'd love to see you at our **Student Trustee Zoom Meetup!**

✔️ **Monday, March 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM by Zoom – 30 to 45 minutes**, relaxed and focused

This is your space to meet fellow student trustees from colleges across the state, share what's working on your campus, and build connections that will last long after your term ends.

Board chairs – please share this invitation with your student trustee! [REGISTER HERE](#)

📺 NYCCT Educational Module | March 26 4:00 PM

Topic: SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) – An Untapped Opportunity for Community Colleges

NYCCT invites all trustees, presidents, and anyone at your institution who may benefit from this topic to join us for our next Educational Module on **March 26th**, featuring an informational session on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) – a powerful but often overlooked federal funding opportunity for community colleges.

This session will explore how trustees can encourage their institutions to leverage SNAP E&T to strengthen student support services, expand case management, and advance equity and workforce development – all while easing the financial burden on colleges. Don't miss this important conversation! [REGISTER HERE](#)

April 24, 2026 | Dutchess Community College

We are excited to host our Spring Convening on the campus of Dutchess Community College! Trustee participation from every community college is strongly encouraged – there is no limit to the number of trustees who may attend, and we welcome as many as possible. Diverse perspectives enrich our discussions and strengthen our collective advocacy efforts. **Presidents are also invited to join us for any portion of the day.**

Dinner the evening before: Join us on Thursday, April 23rd for dinner at the Inn at Bellefield at 6:00 pm. RSVP through the registration link by **April 18th.**

Hotel: A block of rooms is available at the [Inn at Bellefield/Hyde Park](#) (25 Old Vineyard Pl, Hyde Park, NY 12538) for \$159/night. Deadline to book: **March 31, 2026.** Please remember to bring your tax-exempt form.

 [REGISTER HERE](#) |  [BOOK A ROOM](#)

ADVOCACY

Government Relations Committee: Grant Valentine, Chair (RCC); George Cushman (FLCC), Allen Williams (MCC), Mary Alice Panek (GCC), Diana Kastenbaum (GCC), Devi Momot (CCC), James Testani (BCC), George Raneri (HVCC), Wendy Waters (MVCC), Thomas Weddell (OCCC)

NYCCT's February 4th Albany Lobby Day & Legislative Reception were a tremendous success!

Thirty-two participants from 16 community colleges across the state descended on the Capitol to advocate for community college funding priorities – including the FLOOR Act and nursing workforce legislation – meeting with legislators who responded enthusiastically and pledged to include NYCCT's priorities in their budget letters to leadership. **We'd love to see even more of you join us next year – your voice matters!**  See photos on page 4.

Funding Stability Act

[A8504/ S7122](#)

Nursing Education Support Act

[A7966/ S7652](#)

NYCCT's FY2027 Budget Priorities

In advance of Lobby Day, NYCCT finalized its FY2027 New York State Executive Budget priorities, outlining key funding requests, including continuation and increase of the community college funding floor, \$8 million in targeted aid for high-need workforce programs, expansion of the Reconnect Program, AI education funding, support for student-focused programs such as ASAP and EOP, and \$200M for CUNY community college infrastructure repairs.

Put It Into Action! Use NYCCT's Trustee Advocacy Letter Template to urge your legislators to support these priorities directly. The template letter reflects our full budget asks in a personalized, ready-to-send format.

FY2027 New York State Executive Budget priorities

 Review the full document [HERE](#)

- Download the Template Letter [HERE](#)
- Then visit [nycctrustees.org](#) to find the legislators representing your district and **send your letter today!**

NYCCT Legislative Breakfast | 2026 ACCT National Legislative Summit (NLS), Washington, D.C.



On February 10th, NYCCT hosted its Legislative Breakfast at the 2026 ACCT NLS in Washington, D.C. to a wonderful turnout of New York's community college trustees and presidents. It was an energizing and informative gathering- the perfect way to connect, align on priorities, and prepare before heading to Capitol Hill for meetings with federal lawmakers and agency representatives.

NYCCT Chair George Cushman Testifies at 2026 Higher Education Joint Budget Hearing



On Tuesday, February 24, NYCCT Chair George Cushman testified before the Senate and Assembly Higher Education and Finance Committees in

Albany, advocating for continued operating funds, the Community College Funding Stability Act, and support for high-cost nursing programs. You can watch his testimony and fielding of questions [HERE](#) beginning at 4:44:30. Full [WRITTEN TESTIMONY](#)



Congratulations to SUNY Orange County Community College!

NYCCT extends its warmest congratulations to SUNY Orange on winning the prestigious 2026 national Bellwether Award in Instructional Programs and Services! The award, announced at the Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, recognizes SUNY Orange's innovative redesign of its math placement process and developmental math pathways – work that has improved student outcomes, increased equity, and generated lasting academic momentum. SUNY Orange was the only SUNY community college among the 30 national finalists across all three award categories. We are incredibly proud to have such exemplary institutions among our membership! [👉 READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE.](#)

2026 NYCCT Award Nominations open March 16 | Deadline: June 17



Do you know a trustee, business partner, or alumnus who has made an extraordinary impact on their college or community? Now is the time to recognize their impact! Starting March 16, you can nominate exceptional individuals and organizations for NYCCT's 2026 Awards. Winners will be honored at our **Awards Reception & Banquet on Friday, September 18 at Saratoga Casino Hotel.**

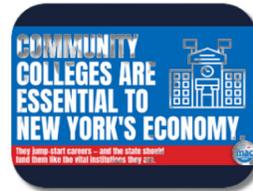
Visit our awards page for nomination categories and criteria. Questions? Contact us at nycct@suny.edu.

New York Community College Trustees
nycct@suny.edu | nycctrustees.org

Featured: What New York's 2026 Budget Cycle Means for Community Colleges – and Why It Matters

In February, NYCCT published an article highlighting the importance of community college funding during the 2026 New York budget cycle, spotlighting two key legislative priorities – the FLOOR Act and nursing education legislation – and making the case for community colleges as high-return public investments.

[Read the full article](#) and explore more community college news and advocacy updates at nycctrustees.org/media.



Take Action: Support Community College Funding

NYSUT has launched an action alert urging lawmakers to increase funding for community colleges and

expand the SUNY and CUNY Reconnect program – priorities that align closely with NYCCT's own 2026 legislative agenda. We encourage board chairs to share this link with trustees, faculty, staff, students, and community members and ask them to send a message directly to their legislators. **Every voice counts during this critical budget season!** [👉 TAKE ACTION HERE](#)

	UPCOMING EVENTS:
March 9	Student Trustee Virtual Meetup
March 16	NYCCT Awards Nominations open
March 26	NYCCT Educational Module: SNAP E&T
April 24	Spring Convening at Dutchess CC
Sept. 16 - 18	NYCCT 72 nd Annual Conference

Lobby Day & Legislative Reception



Front row, left to right: Valerie Dent (SUNY); President Joe Keegan (NCCC); Senator Toby Ann Stavisky; Wendy Waters (MVCC); Grant Valentine (RCC); Michael Arvanites (CUNY). **Back row, left to right:** President Edward Bonahue (SCC); Will Schwartz (SUNY); President Warren Hilton (OCC); President Adiam Tsegai (ECC); George Cushman (FLCC)



Front row, left to right: Assemblymember Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes; Grant Valentine (RCC); President Adiam Tsegai (ECC); Wendy Waters (MVCC); Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman; President Joe Keegan (NCCC); Valerie Dent (SUNY). **Back row, left to right:** President Edward Bonahue (SCC); President Warren Hilton (OCC); Michael Arvanites (CUNY); George Cushman (FLCC); Will Schwartz (SUNY)



Left to right: President Victoria Walsh (CGCC); Arshley Desir (RCC); Ruby Lema (RCC); Valery Dutan Guartan (RCC); Ian Wolf (RCC); Doreen Parsley Davis (CGCC); Thomas Weddell (OCCC); President Kristine Young (OCCC); Assemblyman Chris Eachus, Staff Member, Assemblyman Chris Eachus' Office; Daphne Oliveros (OCCC); Peter Bambino (OCCC)



Bottom Left: Ben Naylor (WCC); Arshley Desir (RCC); Ruby Lema (RCC); Assemblyman Pat Carroll; Valery Dutan Guartan (RCC); President William Mullaney (RCC); Ian Wolf (RCC)



Left to right: Shawnee Ramos (FMCC); Laura Lincoln (ACC); President Anastasia Urtz (ACC); Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo; Dana Jerrard (MVCC); Pete Suttmeier (NCCC); Ann Fleming Brown (SCCC); Tiombé Tatum (SCCC).



Legislative Reception at The Egg, Swyer Lounge
Left to right: Grant Valentine (RCC); Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman; President William Mullaney (RCC)



NYCCT Legislative Breakfast, ACCT NLS Washington, DC
Pictured Left Left to right: George Cushman (FLCC); Valerie Dent (SUNY); Wendy Waters (MVCC)
Pictured Right Left to right: President Alison Buckley (SUNY Ulster); Donna Mihalik (FLCC); President Kristine Young (OCCC)



Thank you to everyone who showed up, spoke up, and advocated for New York's community colleges in February.
We are stronger together!