NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NCCC ANNUAL REPORT
A look back on 2014-15
NCCC AT A GLANCE

FALL 2014 ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Applications ............................................. 6,576
Accepted Freshmen .................................. 2,499
Accepted Transfers ................................... 720
Registered Freshmen ................................ 1,384
Registered Transfers ................................. 560

DEGREES AWARDED IN 2014-2015

Associate in Arts .................................... 229
Associate in Science .................................. 308
Associate in Applied Science ...................... 429
Certificates ............................................ 108
Total 1,074

FACILITIES

Acres ..................................................... 287
Buildings .............................................. 10

FALL 2014 ENROLLMENT

From New York State ................................ 6,387
From Niagara County ............................... 4,194
Outside Niagara County ......................... 2,193
Outside New York State ............................ 79

2014-2015 STUDENT COSTS

Full-time Tuition .................................... $1,944/semester
HOUSING RATE:
Niagara Falls Campus ................................ $2,550-$2,856/semester
Sanborn Campus ..................................... $3,076-$4,264/semester

ALUMNI

Total Alumni .......................................... 39,000
Alumni in New York State ......................... 23,214
Alumni in Niagara County ....................... 15,472

2013-2014 EMPLOYEES

Full-time Faculty, Staff, Administration ........ 311
Part-time Faculty, Staff, Administration ........ 401

3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.
Sanborn, NY 14132
Ph: (716) 614-6222
Fax: (716) 614-6224
www.niagaracc.suny.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Left to right) Valerie Odom, Kayla Mansfield, Tyler Dardcinnski, Matt Keating, Brandon Rivera, Brett Helmbrecht Joey D'Angelo in front of Student Housing at the NCCC September Orientation.

NCCC ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the President .......................... 2
Board of Trustees ..................................... 3
Spotlight ................................................. 4
Highlights of NCCC ................................. 5
Niagara Falls Culinary Institute ................. 6
Awards & Recognition ............................... 8
Academic Highlights ............................... 10
Around Campus ....................................... 12
VE-Day Celebration ................................. 14
Commencement ....................................... 16
Athletics .................................................. 18
Financial Statements ............................... 20
Niagara County Legislature ...................... 21

NCCC FOUNDATION

Board Welcome ....................................... 22
Capital Campaign .................................... 23
Annual Scholarship Gala ......................... 24
Accomplishments .................................... 25
Donors .................................................... 26
Presidential Partners ............................... 28
Board of Directors .................................. 29

CONNECTIONS

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Class Notes ........................................... 1
All in the Family ..................................... 2
Annual Fund Donation ............................ 4
Alumni Spotlight .................................... 5
Wonder Woman meets Super Tripp at Superhero Night at the Bisons Game

(Back row left to right) "Wolfpack" members Candyy Zadul, Corey Boice, (front row) Jessica McNair and Olivia Spitzer welcome new students at Orientation in January

Professor James Mezhir was honored for his forty years of service to NCCC at the annual Recognition Reception held at NFCI in November. (Left to right) NCCC College Trustee Vince Ginestre, NCCC President James P. Klyczek, Professor James Mezhir, NCCC College Trustee Chair James Ward, NCCC College Trustee Bill Ross.

Math Professor Anne Jowsey and Rad Tech Instructor Elaine Beaudoin are all smiles as they participate in the Relay for Life on the Sanborn campus in March.

**ACCREDITATIONS**

**Institutional Accreditation**
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(267) 284-5000

**Baking and Pastry Arts**
American Culinary Federation Education Foundation
180 Center Place Way
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 824-4468 | (800) 624-9458

**Culinary Arts**
American Culinary Federation Education Foundation
180 Center Place Way
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 824-4468 | (800) 624-9458

**Medical Assistant**
Medical Assisting Education Review Board
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1575
Chicago, IL 60606 (800) 228-2262

**Nursing**
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326 (404) 975-5000
www.nlnac.org

**Physical Therapy Assistant**
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488
(703) 684-2782 | (800) 999-2782

**Radiologic Technology**
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606-3182
(312) 704-5300

**Surgical Technology**
Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
6 W. Dry Creek Circle, Suite #110
Littleton, CO 80120 (303) 694-9262

and
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
1361 Park Street
Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 210-2350

Professor James Mezhir was honored for his forty years of service to NCCC at the annual Recognition Reception held at NFCI in November. (Left to right) NCCC College Trustee Vince Ginestre, NCCC President James P. Klyczek, Professor James Mezhir, NCCC College Trustee Chair James Ward, NCCC College Trustee Bill Ross.

Math Professor Anne Jowsey and Rad Tech Instructor Elaine Beaudoin are all smiles as they participate in the Relay for Life on the Sanborn campus in March.
This past year has been a year of significant progress. The Niagara County Community College Foundation began the Learning Commons Capital Campaign, which will transform the current Lewis Library into the heart of NCCC’s campus. Please read more about this magnificent project in the Foundation pages of this report.

The College and its faculty received numerous awards throughout the year. In November, nominated alongside 1,000 other community colleges, NCCC was selected as one of 10 finalists for the national Bellwether Award in the category of Workforce Development for its program entitled: Retail Partnership Preparing an Educated and Experienced Workforce at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. This was a tremendous opportunity for members of the Board of Trustees, staff and faculty members to join me to explain to community colleges from around the nation just what an enterprising and economic development driver the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute has become since opening its doors in September of 2012.

Also, it was such an honor to have New York Times Best Seller, Pulitzer Prize finalist, Princeton’s Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities, and Lockport native, Joyce Carol Oates give the keynote address at Commencement. She told students to be stubborn and optimistic - but she also mentioned something else. She said, “As graduates of NCCC, you might revisit the college when you can—check in with former instructors—perhaps take courses here—those exciting courses (in the arts?) you could not fit into your schedule when you were a student. And if you can, contribute to the college—no matter how modestly, it will be appreciated. You are not isolated, singular individuals but members of a community united by common goals. Your instructors, like your parents and families, are the wellsprings of your career. Don’t hesitate to express gratitude!”

As president, I can tell you, Professor Oates is right. I extend an invitation to all of you reading this now to take a look at those arts courses or those community education and workforce development courses you have thought about taking but haven’t yet. Now is the time. And yes, no matter how modest, we do appreciate your contribution as it will serve students in our community.

The students worked tirelessly to gain new skills and contribute to the community. I invite you to read in the pages that follow how NCCC students, faculty and staff have been a part of the NCCC community and beyond this past year.

Sincerely,

Dr. James P. Klyczek
President
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

James W. Ward
Chairperson
2012-2018

Henry F. Wojtaszek
Vice Chairperson
2011-2017

Bradley W. Rowles
Secretary
2015-2021

Gina I. Virtuoso
Financial Secretary
2009-2016

Vincent R. Ginestre
2011-2018

William L. Ross
2005-2018

Kevin C. Schuler
2006-

Bonnie R. Sloma
2008-2022

Sheila Smith
2009-2016

Olivia M. Spitzer
Student Trustee
2014-2015
GB: Why did you join the Board?
SS: Given my background in education, I have always been interested in looking at the full spectrum of education; meaning Kindergarten through post-secondary grades and the interdependence there is on one another. It is interesting to see the common trends and themes that transcend from K-12 and impact post-secondary education. These themes include ensuring academic readiness for all students, student access to the proper tools that will make them the most successful, and preparing students for global competitiveness which is one of the major tenets of Common Core.

GB: What is your greatest accomplishment?
SS: To this point in my life, it is being a parent. Being a parent allows me to have special insight into situations with my students. I see them from a holistic perspective. I look at my students pluralistically, through the lens of a practitioner that is teaching them academically and cognitively, and also through the lens of a parent that can teach and relate to them from a social and emotional place as it relates to my experiences with my family. I can listen with understanding and empathy.

As a member of the NCCC Board of Trustees, my greatest accomplishment is seeing the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute come to fruition and what a wonderful asset it has been for the city of Niagara Falls and Niagara County. There are many people that worked very hard to make NFCI a reality; it could not have been done without the former and current Board of Trustees and certainly without the leadership of Dr. Klyczek.

GB: What do you feel is NCCC’s greatest selling point, and why?
SS: There is such a wealth of academic programs available for students just starting out on their college path or those that are looking for a new career. NCCC keeps its pulse on the community by offering relevant degree programs that are in demand today, such as culinary arts, winery operations, biotechnology and digital media.

GB: What is your favorite part of commencement, and why?
SS: I love seeing the students walk across the stage to reach one of the most important milestones in their lives. As a college student, finishing their program and graduating is one of the most important indicators of future success. It means you have learned to be organized, stayed focused, and prioritized. You have learned new leadership skills, balanced work with home responsibilities, improved interpersonal skills, honed your emotional intelligence and learned team work.

GB: Do you have a hobby?
SS: Making furniture and Interior Design.

GB: What is your favorite meal at Savor?
SS: Salmon Milanese. The salmon is always done to perfection, the heirloom tomatoes in the champagne vinaigrette are delicious and the cheesy risotto is the perfect accompaniment.
The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are honors conferred to acknowledge and provide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. The awards provide SUNY-wide recognition in six categories: Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, Teaching, and Adjunct Teaching. The dedication and high standards put forth by these employees exemplify the very best of NCCC.
The Niagara Falls Culinary Institute,

A world class facility

NIAGARA FALLS CULINARY INSTITUTE NOMINATED FOR BELLWETHER AWARD

NCCC was selected as one of 10 finalists among 1,000 community colleges, for the prestigious 2015 Bellwether Awards in the category of Workforce Development for its program entitled: Retail Partnership Preparing an Educated and Experienced Workforce at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI).

President James P. Klyczek and other College stakeholders presented NFCI’s forward-thinking program model to the Community College Futures Assembly and a national panel of judges in Orlando, Florida. “Niagara County Community College is honored to be recognized by the Community College Futures Assembly for the contribution that the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute has made to the revitalization of the city’s downtown,” said President Klyczek.

The Community College Futures Assembly, convenes annually as an independent national policy forum for key opinion leaders to serve as a think tank in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellwether Finalist colleges as trend-setting institutions.

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE OFFER PATHWAY TO BACHELOR’S DEGREE

NCCC President James P. Klyczek and SUNY Empire State College President Merodie A. Hancock announced in October that the colleges are partnering to offer students at Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) a pathway to earn a B.S. in business, management and economics, with a concentration in culinary management, from Empire State College (ESC).

The agreement guarantees admission for NCCC students who complete their A.A.S. in culinary arts into Empire State College’s bachelor’s program. Coursework will be provided through a blend of traditional classes at NFCI and online learning.
Kara Weber, head pastry chef, shows off some of the popular Salted Caramel Tarts in La Patisserie pastry cafe at NFCI. In back, from left, are students Krystal Green, Jessica Faulhaber and staff pastry cook Stephanie Hauser.

(Photo by Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News)

The NY Times names the NFCI one of the Top 52 places to go in 2014.

Who would think that Niagara Falls Culinary Institute's La Patisserie would be the spot to go for a wide range of beautifully curated pastries made in the French tradition? This is a rarity in Western New York. Try the delectable Almond Pain au Chocolat.

- Buffalo Spree

NFCI students in front of the Leaning Tower of Pisa with study abroad coordinator Madison Ackerman.

NFCI STUDENTS EXPERIENCE ITALY

Students from the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute ventured to beautiful Italy to discover the meaning of the Slow Food movement that continues to have influences around the globe. During this thirteen day excursion students visited local farms to view the "farm to table" process, tasted local cuisine, received hands-on pasta making lessons, and even learned a bit of Italian along the way!

The Taste of Italy tour allowed us (students) to connect with another culture through cuisine, using our knowledge and passion for culinary arts. We had the privilege of traveling through several regions of the country, and as NFCI graduates we were able to spot the differences in food preparation, and how it is connected to cultural diversity.

- Erin Holody, NFCI Student

- 2014 Jury

American School & University 2014
Special Citation: Interior Renovation

- Buffalo Spree

Buffalo Spree: Best Pastries

Student Mary Bielman showcasing her pasta making skills.
The Arts, Media & Technology Division held their Awards Reception on May 7 in the Dolce Valvo Art Center. Awards were presented to graduating students in all of the programs within the division.

**Best of SUNY Student Art Awards**

Six student artists from Niagara County Community College were selected to be included in this year's Best of SUNY student art awards exhibition on display in Albany at the New York State Museum through September 6. The Best of SUNY exhibition features 84 works of art chosen by individual art departments across SUNY's campuses, including drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture and digitally produced works.

**The six student artists from NCCC are:**

- Devon Gildner
- Greg Haase
- Angelica McGhee
- Mariah Scherrer
- Andrea Scott
- Crystal Walsh

**Arts, Media & Technology**

- **Excellence in Animation**
  - Devon Gildner
- **Excellence in Audio Recording & Production**
  - Gregory Alt-Winzig
- **Excellence in Computer Aided Drafting & Design**
  - Michael Sass
- **Excellence in Computer Information Systems**
  - Jonathan Haller
- **Excellence in Computer Programming Science**
  - David M. Cyman
- **Excellence in Digital Media**
  - Lauren Sosnowski
- **Excellence in Local Area Networks**
  - Larry Monroe
- **Excellence in Fine Arts**
  - Jesse Pace
- **Excellence in Mechanical Technology**
  - Cheri Mioducki
- **Excellence in Music**
  - Curtis Cook
- **Excellence in Public Communication**
  - Amanda Vallone
- **Excellence in Theatre Arts**
  - Emily Powrie

**Overall Best in Show Award at Plantasia**

The NCCC Horticulture program, under the direction of Program Coordinator Carolyn Stanko, and in partnership with the McKinley High School and Adult Continuing Education horticulture programs, earned the Overall Best in Show award at Plantasia, the premier garden and landscape show held each spring at the Hamburg, NY fairgrounds.
Rachel Krause and Nicolas Jerla were the 2015 recipients of the Dr. Kenneth "Ben" Raymond Proficiency in Mathematics Award. Dr. Raymond was an original employee of NCCC and continues to be a generous supporter of the NCCC Foundation, Inc.

The Medical Assistant Advisory Committee Award for Excellence in Medical Assisting was presented to Aileen Dauphin at the graduate reception on May 7, 2015 by Science, Health & Mathematics Division Chairperson Dr. Salvatore Passanese and Dr. Abigail Mitchell.

Two graduating students were presented with the top awards for the Phlebotomy program at a ceremony held at the end of the spring semester. (Front row from left to right) Melanie Rose received the award for Academic Excellence in Phlebotomy, Madaleine Riggs received the award for Clinical Excellence in Phlebotomy. (Back row from left to right) Dr. Abigail Mitchell, Program Coordinator, Dr. James P. Klyczek, NCCC President and Dr. Salvatore Passanese, Science, Health & Mathematics Division Chairperson.

Professor and Program Coordinator Cynthia Meyers, and Instructor Elaine Beaudoin, presented sophomores Heather Hamilton (top) with the Dr. Glenn Jones Radiology Award for the highest clinical competencies and Marissa Bavisotto (bottom) with the James Mussel/Kevin Tagg Memorial Radiology Award for the highest academic achievement at an award ceremony held at the end of the spring semester.

Debbie Sorrentino, Professor of Computer Science, was awarded the Dr. Carol Jamieson Award at a ceremony on December 9. Sorrentino was selected by the Advisory Board of the V. James Renda Faculty Resource Center for Academic Excellence. The award recognizes a faculty member who best exemplifies the outstanding traits Dr. Jamieson possessed: mentoring and support given to all faculty, continuous professional growth, the ability to inspire students, service to NCCC and commitment to academic excellence. Sorrentino has been a faculty member at NCCC since 1986 and was nominated and selected based on her college service work, her professional development activities and for enthusiastically engaging students in the learning process.

Previous Recipients
The 2015 graduates of the NCCC Physical Therapy Assistant program earned a 100 percent pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Assistant Examination (NPTE). The NCCC program is the only college in New York State with 100 percent pass rate on the national exam. The NPTE is the licensure examination to practice. The New York state average of first-time test takers was 92 percent, while the national average was 86 percent.

"I congratulate the Physical Therapy Assistant Program Coordinators Professor Susan Wehling and Professor Deborah K. Matuch, the PTA faculty, staff and students for their commitment to excellence," said Dr. James P. Klyczek, NCCC President.

In mid-October, Niagara County Community College hosted the New York State Engineering Technology Association (NYSETA) conference at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute in Niagara Falls. NYSETA is an association of collegiate level professors of engineering technology throughout New York State and Vermont. The conference also welcomes local professional engineers and architects to participate in the many PDH credits that are available.

Over 100 people participated in the conference including attendees, exhibitors, and speakers. The plenary session speaker was Brenden Mehaffy, Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning for the City of Buffalo, on the topic of "Buffalo Harbor Center Waterfront Development Project." The conference was sponsored by Western New York Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park (WNY STAMP) and Cadimensions Inc.
Assistant Professor John Strong (left) and Sean Reilly '14 (right) are congratulated by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Eunice Bellinger (center) on being named to participate in the SUNY Critical Issues in Higher Education Conference.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Last fall, Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher announced that two of the fifteen student and faculty Fellows participating in the State University of New York's fourth annual Critical Issues in Higher Education Conference were from Niagara County Community College. These Fellows include NCCC graduate Sean Reilly, '14 and Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, John Strong. Both Reilley and Strong were chosen based on their interest in social change and an established desire to contribute more to their campuses and communities.

On April 18th, forty-three students were inducted into the NCCC Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Membership into this honor society requires students to maintain a GPA of 3.5 or greater in their chosen area of study. Congratulations to all new inductees!

Psychology Professor Dr. Gerbasi works with Dooley, Monty, Huckleberry and Curly (not shown) to demonstrate classical conditioning and operant learning to students in PSY110.

For the past fifteen years, NCCC Psychology Professor, Dr. Kathleen Gerbasi has invited "esteemed visiting" Professors Huckleberry, Dooley, Monty and Curly (all members of the species canis familiaris) to her PSY110 class to demonstrate examples of classical and operant conditioning. She has found that her students learn much better by having real live (and somewhat unpredictable) examples in class, than by rather dry textbook examples.

The dogs lick their lips at the sight of the whipped cream can demonstrating classical conditioning. As for operant learning, that is voluntary and based on reinforcement and punishment. This was demonstrated with a hula hoop, doing puzzles and running to the sound of the clicker all over the classroom. Monty, Curly, and Huckleberry ran to the sound of the clicker to get treats (positive reinforcement). In a true demonstration of operant conditioning, Dooley, the oldest dog, preferred to nap or get petted, rather than run around and get treats.

Check out the YouTube video filmed in a previous semester, titled Examples of Classical and Operant Conditioning with Dogs.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB HOLDS WOLF TANK

Following the format of the popular television show "Shark Tank," the NCCC Entrepreneurship Club held its first ever "Wolf Tank" on November 19. Six student teams pitched their business ideas to three judges (wolves) for cash prizes, valuable experience and advice.

NCCC HOSTS THE 18TH ANNUAL TECH WARS

The annual Tech Wars competition brought over 700 students in grades 6 - 12 from 30 school districts to campus on January 14th to compete in 21 different engineering and technology based events. Tech Wars gives students the opportunity to apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) knowledge to real world applications and have fun while doing it. Cleveland Hill High School was crowned the 2015 Tech War Champions, the overall winner for the high school division.

ANIME CLUB HOLDS KAMINARICON 2015

In March the NCCC Anime Club held their first-ever convention: KaminariCon 2015 - featuring anime/gaming/comic book vendors, games, panel discussions and live entertainment.

Over 150 attendees, many dressed in costumes, played in gaming tournaments (Smash!, Yu-Gi-Oh, Magic, Pokémon, League of Legends), watched videos in the Anime Showing Room, strolled through vendors in Artists Alley, and watched a live performance of Japanese folklore dances.

The money raised from ticket sales was donated to the American Cancer Society to support the Relay for Life program.
VETERANS HONORED ★
at Annual Ceremony

NCCC hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony in the campus Veterans Memorial Park led by Brandon A. Czerwinski, the president of the NCCC Student Veteran Association.

Keynote speaker, State Senator Robert G. Ortt, said he was proud to serve in response to the attacks of September 11th, 2001. “Everyone always says that America is the greatest country in the world. One of those reasons is because men and women, for generations, have been willing to serve in uniform…and put their lives at risk for the freedoms and liberties that we have here at home."

“Thank you for your service to our country, for protecting our freedom, and for keeping us safe.”

President James P. Klyczek said, “Approximately 200 veterans are enrolled in classes at Niagara County Community College, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and I, we are honored that they have chosen our institution for this phase of their life. Thank you for your service to our country, for protecting our freedom, and for keeping us safe.”

The ceremony was attended by members of American Legion Post 1451, Purple Heart Chapter of Wheatfield, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 120, the 914th AMXS, Region One Patriot Guard, Wheatfield Chapter of the Legion Riders, members of Niagara County Community College faculty, staff and administration and the general public.

DOLCE VALVO ART CENTER HOSTS EXHIBITS

(Top) Guests attend the opening reception of the Student Honors Show featuring artwork from Fine Arts classes selected by faculty.

(Bottom) Patrons view the colorful landscape painted by Buffalo artist Peter Fowler as part of the exhibit: New Paintings and Sculpture by Bruce Bitmead & Peter Fowler

State Senator Robert G. Ortt with Region One Patriot Guard, Wheatfield Chapter of the Legion Riders
Never was so much owed by so many to so few —

- British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill
August 20, 1940

Niagara County Community College, under the direction of Dr. Don Fisher and Dr. Matthew Claracq, hosted a series of activities dedicated to remembering, commemorating and reflecting on the experiences of the men and women who served in the armed forces and worked in the factories during World War II.

WALL OF HONOR

One of the projects was a photographic "Wall of Honor", that was located in the southern hallway of D building near the Dolce Valvo Art Gallery. This was a collection of wartime photos and every person represented in the exhibit was related to a member of the NCCC "family" (faculty, staff, administration or students). Throughout the semester, the campus community was able to view photographs and remember their loved ones and honor their sacrifices and service.

NCCC HOSTS A SERIES OF WWII EVENTS THROUGHOUT SPRING 2015

COURSES

As part of a broader effort to commemorate the end of the Second World War, several departments offered courses on different aspects of the war for the Spring 2015 semester.

FILM SERIES

A free weekly film series was offered at NCCC that ran throughout the entire semester. Below are a few of the films featured in the series:
- Captain America: The First Avenger
- Casablanca
- Saving Private Ryan
- Inglourious Basterds
- The Monuments Men

"BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND SWEAT"

Faculty and visitors presented on various topics including the atomic bomb, code-breaking, baseball, art, poetry, the movie industry and conducting family military research.

CABARET

The NCCC department of Theatre Arts performed Cabaret to a sold out crowd, whose story followed a young writer through his days in Berlin, the infamous European hot spot for decadence and excess, as it faced the rise of the Nazi party.
Fall 2015  Written by: Denyel Koury

1  CLASS NOTES
  Exciting professional and personal updates from fellow NCCC Alumni

2  ALL IN THE FAMILY
  James Turner '86
  V.P. of Surgical Services at ECMC

3  ANNUAL FUND DONATION
  Your Annual Fund contribution goes to where funds are needed most

4  ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
  Fred Rickan '81 Gives back to NCCC and the Western New York Region
Ken Shearer '70
Ken obtained an Associate's degree in Art and then went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Buffalo State College in 1972. Since leaving NCCC, Ken has established his own design business, teaches drafting, is a professional caricature artist, and works for a major publishing firm.

Chris Therrien '78
Upon graduating from NCCC with a degree in Fine Arts, Chris went on to receive a Bachelor's and Master's in Art Education from Buffalo State College. He is a retired art teacher and also owned Airbrush Artworks at Darien Lake Amusement Park. Since retirement, he enjoys creating and selling his art.

Christopher Paul Fiegl '84
Upon graduating from NCCC, Christopher went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University in 1987, and then received his Juris Doctor from Cleveland Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University in 1992. He now serves as an Attorney at Law in the state of Ohio.

Shannon Smith '12
Shannon graduated from NCCC with an Associate's degree in Human Services and from Buffalo State with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is now employed in Orlando, Florida in a Health and Rehab Center, as a social worker for seniors. She says, “It is a rewarding experience to help people. I love to interact with the residents and try to brighten their day.”

CLASS NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE NCCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Michael LaFever '70
Mike LaFever majored in Liberal Arts at NCCC and graduated in 1970. He went on to earn Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Elementary Education from Buffalo State, a Master's degree in Administration from St. Bonaventure University, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from University at Buffalo. He taught for over ten years, spent over 25 years in school administration, was a School District Superintendent, and now works in Higher Education Administration as the Chief Administrative Officer at a local college.

Sal Messina '76
Sal received his Associates degree in Accounting and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business from Buffalo State and a Master's degree in Economics from the University at Buffalo. He is a retired Chief Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force and a retired officer from the Internal Revenue Service.

Lester Robinson III '87
After graduating from NCCC with an Associate's degree in Business, Les went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Finance from SUNY Brockport. Les now works at Northwoods as Senior Long Term Care Planner.

Dan Jackson '99
Dan graduated from NCCC with a degree in Liberal Arts. He then attended Buffalo State and received a Bachelor's degree in Business. He is now employed as a Local Sales Manager for WIVB.

Do you have personal or professional updates which you would like to share with your classmates? Simply fill out our easy form online at http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/alumni/alumni_info.php and look for your class notes in the edition of “Connections.”

Interested in reconnecting with NCCC? Join the NCCC Alumni Association! Find out more information by emailing alumni@niagaracc.suny.edu.
“Do you mind if we walk and talk?” asked Jim. I looked around at the walls, rooms, patients, doctors, cases of medicine, and anxious families. I smiled and nodded unsurely, “Uh-huh.” It was immediately clear to me that Jim enjoyed the busy hospital units, working closely with his teams, and helping patients when possible. The paper work in his office could wait for today.

James Turner, Vice President of Surgical Services at the Erie County Medical Campus (ECMC), or simply, “Jim,” handed me a fresh pairs of scrubs and showed me the changing room. I suited up, Jim approved of my new look and we were out the door, quickly walking to do rounds. We toured the Emergency rooms, the Peri-operative rooms, Ambulatory/recovery rooms, Sterile Processing, and the Cardiac Catheterization Lab. Doctors were whizzing by, patients were being tended to, nurses were administrating medicine, and families eagerly looked through the waiting room glass.

We approached the doors to 12 trauma operating rooms and I learned that it was time to suit up even further. Jim handed me a bouffant cap, medical shoe covers, and a face mask. I slipped into the coverings and we entered the surgical suites. As we walked through the double doors, I saw a wall-sized chart indicating the locations of all surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and surgical technicians. The Charge Nurse was at the main control center meticulously coordinating names, teams, and rooms with magnets highlighting staff members and their assignments. Twelve screens monitored 12 rooms. There was also a patient tracking electronic screen showing location and status similar to a flight schedule. The coordination, planning, and professionalism was fascinating.

Jim then led me to the new four-room Surgical Center which opened in December 2014. Years of experience in the surgical technology field paired with his passion for innovation in the operating room prepared Jim to plan and oversee the $16 million design of ECMC’s new Surgical Center. After touring the new Peri-operative, Operation, and Recovery rooms, I was in awe. The floor plans and placement of each machine, bed, light, hose, rack, station, and computer were specifically planned and placed to be the highest functioning in the operating room for staff and safest for the patient. “Technological developments create newer ways to treat patients. It’s an exciting world,” boasted Jim. The spirit of the new building spilled into the waiting room. Beautiful mosaic tiles and modern soft lit chandeliers adorned the lobby. Several televisions were mounted to the walls and overlooked the couches and comfortable seating where a few patients waited for their loved ones.
As we made our way through the Campus, it was obvious that the staff admired and respected Jim. Most noticeable was their exchange of witty banter and humor. Jim exudes humility and a teamwork spirit. “Everyone has a role and everyone is important for daily operations and daily procedures,” he explained.

His knowledge of surgical procedures and each person’s role may stem from the fact that Jim’s passion lays in his experience as an EMT, a surgical technician staff nurse, surgical charge nurse, endoscopic patient care coordinator and endoscopy manager in several area hospitals. Since 2001, as Vice President of Surgical Services at ECMC, Jim oversees Surgical and Cardiac service lines and has direct responsibility for 12 trauma operating suites and the four room surgical center. His department is responsible for Anesthesia, Urology, GI, Ambulatory/Recovery, Sterile Processing, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, non-invasive cardiology, and a Vascular Access Lab. He oversees a surgical procedure volume of 16,000 each year and is responsible for an eight-figure expense budget.

A career in healthcare is not possible without adequate training. Jim began his education at NCCC and graduated with an Associate’s degree in Surgical Technology. “NCCC helped drive my focus into the next steps of healthcare.” Jim dug deeper into his educational path and went on to receive an Associate’s degree in Nursing from Erie Community College in 1988 and then a Baccalaureate of Nursing from Daemen College in 1997. Jim also attended the Harvard Business School Healthcare Delivery Program, learning about the business side of healthcare and graduating in 2011. He is now a speaker for the local Harvard program where he teaches Orthopedic and Surgery case studies to local healthcare executives.

In addition to this teaching opportunity, Jim led the building of a NCCC surgical technologist classroom and simulated operating room at ECMC. This allows NCCC students to take classes on the hospital campus, train, and also do their clinical rotations. This gives true life training and shows the student their career direction. Jim also serves on the NCCC Curriculum Advisory Committee for the Surgical Technology Program. “I take my job very seriously on the committee. The Program Coordinator, Gemma Fournier, is exceptional. She stays up-to-date with certifications and she is a huge resource to the region. The committee is diverse and helps steer the direction of the program and employment opportunities.”

Jim gives back to NCCC in other ways as well. He is a Foundation Board Member, a Presidential Partner, and a member of the Alumni Association Committee. “It’s interesting to give back to my roots. I love being a part of growing the next generation of students.” It’s important for Jim to reflect on those roots and view the College experience through new students’ eyes. Jim shared, “Before each meeting on campus I arrive 45 minutes early to reflect on my time as a student. I walk the halls, visit the cafeteria, wander through the library, and put myself in the current students' shoes. It’s important to see their perspective.”

Outside of NCCC, Jim donates his time and talents to other organizations close to his heart. He was involved in leadership with the Boy Scouts and raised two Eagle Scouts of his own, Kevin, 21 and Brian, 19. As an avid sportsman, Jim bike rides over 1,500 miles a year as a member of the Niagara Frontier Bike Club. He has participated in the “Registered Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa,” the largest across-state bike ride, covering over 550 miles in six days. Additionally, Jim has participated in the “Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee” and the “London, Kentucky Three Day Redbud Ride.” His exceptional biking skills and leadership are used during his annual participation in the Ride For Roswell and as the ECMC Team Captain for the Tour de Cure.

His wife, Nancy, is supportive of his educational, career, and personal endeavors. She, too, is a healthcare professional and works as a Registered Nurse in a local hospital. She is always by his side at the Annual NCCC Foundation Gala, the largest fundraiser for scholarships each year. Jim gives back at this event and throughout the year because “NCCC is a great stepping stone for students. The tuition is affordable, many important courses are covered, and study habits are instilled. Students can go on to even higher education or they are prepared to enter the workforce.”

“I started in welding as a vocation in high school and ended up the Vice President of Surgical Services. How does that happen? Surgery is just a different type of shop that focuses on the patient’s procedures and care needs. Once you find your passion, you’ll find the job for you.” I left his office on this note, grateful for the tour of the hospital and more appreciative of all healthcare workers, especially our NCCC Alumni in the field. Thank you for your service, Jim. We are proud to call you a member of the NCCC family.
Your Annual Fund contribution goes to where funds are needed most. Your contributions support scholarships which aid with tuition, equipment, academic competitions, and more in order to ensure student success. Your gifts, whether grand or modest, add to the student experience and the quality programming we offer our community. We thank you for your continuous support of your alma mater.

NCCC ALUMNI DONATION FORM

NAME MAJOR GRAD YEAR

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE EMAIL

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to:
□ Annual Fund □ Learning Commons Capital Campaign □ Alumni Scholarship □ Special Allocation:

I would like to make a tax deductible donation in the amount of:
□ $1,000 Patron □ $500 Blue & Gold Club □ $250 Thunderwolves Club □ $100 Friend □ Other

METHOD OF PAYMENT
□ Enclosed is a check made payable to the NCCC Foundation
□ Discover □ Master Card □ Visa

ACCOUNT # EXPIRATION DATE SIGNATURE

Please detach form and mail to NCCC Foundation, 3111 Saunders Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132. If you would like to make a contribution over the phone or in person, please call (716)614-5910. Please call for more information about memorial contributions, legacy giving, naming opportunities, or creating or contributing to a scholarship.
Fred Rickan '81 considers himself fortunate. With “the greatest wife in the world” by his side, four charming and successful sons, and leadership in a local investment firm, life is good according to Fred.

Because life is so good, he is adamant about sharing his talents and treasures with the Western New York region. “I enjoy giving back to the community that has given so much to us,” affirms Fred. In addition to serving on the NCCC Foundation Board and his Presidential Partner membership, Fred was also the first Presenting Sponsor of the NCCC Alumni 5K Run/Walk. As an alumnus of NCCC, this sponsorship is particularly special to him. “NCCC gave me time to focus; time to mature. I was able to work and afford college, so I want to support the school where I got my start.”

Fred is currently employed as the Senior Vice President at Morgan Stanley. He has been intrinsically interested in the Market since he was a teenager. “I owned stock when I was in high school. It sparked an interest in me, especially when we played stock market games in class. It influenced me to pursue a business degree at NCCC.” After hearing about the successful reputation of NCCC’s Business program, he and a group of friends decided to attend. Fred earned his Associate’s degree in Retail Business Management in 1981, and has been working in the field ever since. Today, his passion for NCCC remains and he is now an advocate for attending community college. “NCCC is a great place to start. Every student will receive a solid education, they will be able to transfer their credits to another college, and they can graduate without going into large amounts of debt.”

Fred enjoyed his time at NCCC. Not only did he receive a quality education, he was also given the opportunity to play club lacrosse and connect with several teachers who made an impact on him academically and personally. “The instructors had real world experience. They were actual accountants and leaders in business who were teaching us. I liked the practical methods they used.”

Upon graduating from NCCC, Fred proved to be promising in his area of study and was immediately hired by a small boutique firm. He found his niche in 1984, when he began his career with Morgan Stanley. Fred has held a leadership role with the company for more than half of his career and continues to emulate successful business practices with his team members.

Outside of his suit and tie, Fred can be found in more comfortable attire. He is an avid sportsman and has coached lacrosse, baseball, and hockey for many years. Fred is also an enthusiastic outdoorsman and enjoys spending time on his property in the Southern Tier. His wife, Sharon, and their four grown sons: Eric, Brent, Grant, and Blake make it a priority to support local charities outside of the NCCC Foundation. Recently they have supported Carly’s Club, Summit Educational Resources, UB’s Buffalo Law Alumni Association, and various charity golf tournaments.

His sons are certainly following in their father’s footsteps as the three eldest are practicing business at Morgan Stanley. We are sure they, too, will leave their own positive imprints on Western New York just like their father, Fred.
Over 200 people line up at the starting line for the 2015 Alumni 5K Run/Walk.

Alumni Committee Members (Dr. Martin Drake ’75, Dan Jackson ’99, Sal Messina ’76) sell raffle tickets to raise funds for student scholarships.

Foundation Board Members and Alumni welcome the new class of Distinguished Student Scholars.

Distinguished Alumnus William Paterson, James Carr, and Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Leon Smith from the first graduating Class of 1965 lead the Class of 2015 to Commencement.
The campus at Niagara County Community College took on a historic feel on a sunny May afternoon as students, visitors and local veterans took part in a unique celebration recognizing the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

The Victory in Europe Day Celebration was the final event of a semester-long observance of the war’s anniversary. The event included a chicken barbeque, a USO Show and fundraisers for Honor Flight Buffalo and WNY Heroes, Inc., which assists local veterans of all wars.

Guests saw characters such as Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosie the Riveter and the Three Stooges mingling throughout the fair and they were able to learn to swing dance, listen to patriotic music and attend a WWII history fair featuring activities and exhibits by area historical societies, veterans groups and civic clubs.

"It’s been very rewarding seeing people from all across campus pitch in to help organize the events, from faculty and staff donating photos for our wall of honor to the building and grounds people making sure our conference was set up smoothly," history professor Matthew Clarcq said. “Everyone has recognized how important this commemoration has been."
"...This stubborn optimism, this predilection for trying one more time, I bequeath to the graduates of the class of 2015 in fact, to us all."

- Joyce Carol Oates, Author, Keynote Speaker
NCCC Commencement • May 16, 2015
Author and keynote speaker Joyce Carol Oates urged NCCC graduates to focus on their strengths and “not to give up” at the 51st annual Commencement Ceremony held at the Seneca Niagara Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY. Oates, a Lockport native and author of more than 50 novels, including the national bestsellers “We Were the Mulvaneys” and “Blonde” (a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize), addressed the crowd of 2,400 driving home the point “success is luck... tell yourself not to give up...always try one more time.”

Three hundred seventy-five graduates walked the stage and received diplomas from NCCC President Dr. James P. Klyczek, Trustee Gina I. Virtuoso and Trustee Bonnie R. Sloma. The Master of Ceremonies was Board Chairperson James W. Ward and participating in the program were Board of Trustee members Henry F. Wojtaszek, Bradley W. Rowles, Vincent R. Ginestre, William L. Ross, Kevin C. Schuler, Sheila Smith.

A speech that deserves an encore

- Time Magazine Best Graduation Advice from 2015 Commencement Speeches: Joyce Carol Oates to Grads: Be Stubborn and Optimistic
  (Time.com)
  May 21, 2015

- The 10 Best College Graduation Speeches of 2015
  (GoKicker.com)
  May 28, 2015

- 11 commencement speeches given by women this year that deserve an encore...
  (Women in the World Media in Association with the New York Times.)
  May 29, 2015

PRESIDENT’S MEDALLION AWARD

Matthew Melcher, NCCC Student Senate President, was awarded the President’s Medallion at the 2015 Annual Student Awards Banquet. The award is presented to a graduating sophomore who has contributed significantly to the development and expansion of co-curricular activities. It recognizes club involvement, participation on college committees, community service, campus leadership experiences, involvement in campus events and academic achievement. The recipient of this award also has the unique opportunity to introduce the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony.
FALL 2014

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

The women’s volleyball program under the direction of Coach Joe Daigler won 19 matches and finished as runner-up to Monroe Community College at the Region III Division III Tournament. Sophomore outside hitter Jordan Glosser was selected as a First Team All-Western New York Athletic Conference and First Team All-Region III performer. Classmate Haley Dumbleton picked up Second Team All-Conference and Third Team All-Region honors. Both Glosser and Dumbleton will go down in the NCCC record books as just the third and fourth players in program history to record 500 career kills and digs.

MEN’S SOCCER

Coach Carl Clark had the men’s soccer team competitive throughout the season, finishing with four victories. Freshman goalkeeper Ryan Holovics, a Second Team All-WNYAC choice, made an eye-popping 130 saves in net. That total was good enough for third among Region III keepers.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

The women’s soccer squad, led by Coach Kathleen DiPasquale, battled its way to two wins, including a 10-0 romp over Jamestown-Olean. The Thunderwolves were led by sophomore forward Tara Beach, who finished with a team-high five goals. Beach was named Second Team All-WNYAC.

WINTER 2014-15

MEN’S BASKETBALL

The men’s basketball team, led by Coach Bill Beilein, won 20 games for the third straight year, advanced to the Region III Division II Final Four and spent time in the NJCAA National poll. Sophomore Sheldon Zablotny-Crosby spearheaded the Thunderwolves attack, averaging 20 points, five rebounds and four assists per game. Zablotny-Crosby was named to the NJCAA All-American Third Team along with being a First Team All-Region selection.

WRESTLING

Coach Keith Maute’s wrestling program had yet another successful campaign, qualifying seven wrestlers for Nationals and finishing as Region III runners-up to Mercyhurst North East.

First Team All-Region III performers included: DeShawn Oliver (125), Joe Dowdall (149), Zach Colgan (165) and Tom Confer (184).

Earning Second Team All-Region honors was the trio of Kyle McGregor (133), Jude Gardner (157) and Brian Kerwin (197).

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Coach Nate Beutel led the women’s basketball team to a second-consecutive 20+ win season and a berth in the Region III Division II Final Four for the third straight year. NCCC started the season 15-0 and at one point was ranked as high as 17th in the National Rankings. Sophomores Jesse DeWaters and Tanisha Moyer led the charge for the Wolfpack, both earning Second Team All-Region III honors.
SPRING 2015

BASEBALL
The highly-successful baseball program had another strong year as Coach Matt Clingersmith's crew won 31 games and advanced to the Region III Division III Final Four. The team's pitching staff, led by freshman right-hander Matt Matre, was dominant. Matre picked up First Team All-Region III honors after going 6-1 with a 2.42 ERA and 55 strikeouts. Sophomore righties Kyle Bell and Matt Keating each added five wins, while classmate Jake Collins had three wins and freshman RHP Alex Kubera was 3-1 with four saves.

GOLF
Golf Coach Matt Oleski picked up Region III Coach of the Year honors after his team finished fifth at the Region III Championships and had the lowest stroke average since he took over three years ago. The T-Wolves also finished second at the NCCC Invitational and qualified an entire squad for regional play.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL
The softball program, under the direction of first-year coach Nate Beutel, took a step forward, winning seven games. NCCC began the season with a trip to Maryland and was in the playoff chase until the final days of the regular season. Offensively, NCCC had seven players hit over .300 with freshman third baseman Morgan Bedford leading the way at .420. Freshman right-hander Matt Matre led a strong stable of arms for the Thunderwolves, who made the Region III Final Four.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
With a young roster, the women's lacrosse team, led by Coach Sarah Kirchberger, battled through a winless season. NCCC was led by First Team All-WNYAC selection Kailey Dougherty, who anchored the team's defense in front of goalkeeper Victoria Stevenson. A Second Team All-WNYAC choice, Stevenson finished the year with over 100 saves, putting her among the leaders in Region III despite playing just eight games.

MEN'S LACROSSE
Coach Todd Faddoul's men's lacrosse team's season was highlighted by a 14-10 home victory over Hudson Valley Community College. First Team All-WNYAC goalkeeper Nick Garlock stood on his head, stopping over 200 shots during the course of the season. Long-stick midfielder Luke Hinton was also named First Team All-Conference after netting nine goals and six assists.
STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>State Aid</td>
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<td>State Aid</td>
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<td>Chargebacks</td>
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<td>Other Revenues - Offset</td>
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<td>$1,206,798</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>Contractual Expenses</td>
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<td>Employee Benefits (A)</td>
<td>$14,827,877</td>
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Revenues over/(under) Expenditures (A) ($238,586)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance (8/31/13)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance (8/31/14)</td>
<td>$11,992,946</td>
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(A) Does not include the expense associated with implementation of SGAS 45 regarding the accounting for other post-employment benefits of $2,719,352 for fiscal year 2013-14, which also served to reduce the fund balance on August 31, 2014 to a deficit of $33,753,594.

The Grants Office managed over $1.9 million in grant funds during the most recently completed fiscal year which included $1,206,798 in new funds. Twenty-five grant applications totaling $1.75 million in funding request were made in 2014-2015.

FUNDER

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<td>Niagara County Workforce Investment Board</td>
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<td>SUNY Innovative Instruction</td>
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<td>NYS Department of Labor –</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolidated Funding: Unemployed Worker Training</td>
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<td>Statler Foundation</td>
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<td>Empire State Development</td>
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<td>NYSED Math Science Partnership</td>
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<td>NYSED Coordinated Collection Development Aid</td>
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<td>NYSED Perkins Title IV Career and Technical Education Act</td>
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<td>SUNY Small Business Development Center (SBDC)</td>
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<td>NYSED Liberty Partnership Program</td>
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TOTAL

$47,013,698

$47,252,284

$1,206,798
For over 50 years Niagara County Community College has been committed to providing our students with an educational environment dedicated to excellence. The NCCC Foundation was established in 1987 to seek external funding for unmet financial needs at NCCC; including student scholarships. The symbiotic partnership of the NCCC Foundation and Alumni Association continues to fuel development and success for the College and its students.

The beginning of the 53rd academic year already shows great promise with new and exciting opportunities to positively impact NCCC.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the NCCC Foundation and Alumni Association accomplished fundraising and outreach by hosting events, raising funds for scholarships, and connecting with many alumni and community partners. The Culinary Students once again showcased their talents and tantalized the taste buds of the guests at the Annual Scholarship Gala, the Alumni 5K Run/Walk had record breaking attendance, and two new Directors joined our Foundation Board. Our success would not be possible without our many generous donors, volunteers, student workers, and interns. Your continuous support is gratefully appreciated.

We invite you; the community, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students along for the ride as we embark on the Capital Campaign for the new Learning Commons, host alumni events, and continue to raise funds for scholarships.

If you are already involved, whether it be through attending our Annual Scholarship Gala and 5K Race/Walk, being a Presidential Partner, establishing a scholarship, donating to the Foundation, or volunteering for our events, we thank you for your continuous support! The Foundation and Alumni Office operate by Winston Churchill’s motto, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” We hope you would like to share your time, talents, and treasures for the benefit of the next generation.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Foundation, we invite you to contact us to learn about ways you can leave a legacy at (716) 614-5910 or dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu.

Jerald I. Wolfgang  
Chairperson  
NCCC Foundation, Inc.

Deborah A. Brewer  
Director  
NCCC Foundation, Inc.
The NCCC Foundation, Inc. is embarking on a significant fundraising initiative for the Niagara County Community College Sanborn Campus; the Learning Commons.

It will transform the conventional Henrietta G. Lewis Library; providing modern tools and integrated work environments that cater to multiple learning styles and group-focused work. It will be a place for faculty to collaborate and help students develop critical thinking skills while incorporating state-of-the-art technology, multiple student support services, and a home for both students and staff. This will support NCCC's overarching goals to improve student success and graduation rates.

On April 16, 2015 Senator Rob Ortt announced that $12.5 million has been secured from the State to create the Learning Commons at Niagara County Community College. "NCCC is an economic engine in Niagara County and an academic model for the community college system," said Ortt. "They provide quality, affordable education and career training options to local residents looking for advancement. This capital funding will enhance the student experience at NCCC and ensure that we continue to attract high quality students locally and across the state."

On June 16, 2015 Niagara County Legislature Chairman William L. Ross announced that the Legislature approved the $10 million funding for the Learning Commons Project!

Ross, who also serves as a Trustee for NCCC, said the college "has been given a direction to raise an additional $2.5 million." Ross said "the Learning Commons will be a venue that will provide student achievement by improving success, retention, and graduation rates. It will be the heart of our campus!"

NCCC President James P. Klyczek said, "This funding will make the Learning Commons project a reality for the students of Niagara County Community College."

"We believe in NCCC and are offering you the opportunity to invest in the future of Western New York's youth, adults, businesses, organizations, and communities. In Niagara County, we are the community's college: Touching Lives, Building Futures. I invite you to join me in the development of the new Learning Commons", said Peter I. Certo, Chairman, NCCC Capital Campaign.

For a complete scope of the Capital Campaign Learning Commons project, naming opportunities, or ways to contribute, please contact Foundation Director, Deb Brewer at 716-614-5911 or at dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu. We thank you for your consideration.

"$12.5 million has been secured to create the Learning Commons at Niagara County Community College."

The Learning Commons will be a venue that will provide student achievement by improving success, retention, and graduation rates. It will be the heart of our campus!

-William L. Ross

Peter I. Certo
Chairman
NCCC Capital Campaign

William L. Ross
Chairman
Niagara County Legislature
On Saturday, October 18, 2014, the NCCC Foundation held the Annual Scholarship Gala. Nearly 400 guests gathered at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute for a tour of Tantalizing Tastes from Around the World prepared by NCCC Culinary and Baking & Pastry Arts students under the guidance of Chef Mark Mistriner, Business & Hospitality Division Chair, and their culinary instructors. A remarkable silent auction, basket raffle, and drawings were held throughout the evening. Five new Distinguished Student Scholars from Niagara County were recognized and Patrick Sorge '85 was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Gallery. Patrick is now part of the 70-member strong Distinguished Alumni Award recipients who exemplify educational achievements, career success, community involvement, and support to NCCC.

Thank you to the 2014 co-chairs, David & Monica DiCamillo.

They raised over $140,000 for the NCCC Foundation and scholarships.

The success of the Gala is largely due to the numerous volunteers, donors and sponsors. We appreciate your continued support.

2014 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Alliance Niagara Federal Credit Union
American Concrete
Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC
BFC Print Network
Bonadio Group
Buffalo Hotel Supply
Cannon Design Inc.
Catholic Health Systems
Certo Brothers
Chudy Paper
Cohen & Lombardo P.C.
Crown Benefits Group
Damon Morey LLP
Dental Care Associates, LLC
Dessert Deli
Erie County Medical Center
Ferguson Electric
First Niagara Bank
FreedMaxick CPAs, PC
Greater Niagara Newspapers
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP
Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc.
Hodgson Russ
Hogan Willig, PLLC
Hurwitz & Fine, P. C.
IBEW Local 237
JMZ Architects
Kopczynski Family Foundation
Lewiston Insurance Agency
LP Ciminelli
Lumsden & McCormick
Manning & Napier
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
National Grid
NCCC Faculty Association
NCCC Student Services Division
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters
Park Strategies
Reid Group
S & H Enterprises
Seneca Niagara Casino
Summit Pediatrics
Walsh Duffield Insurance Group
Waste Technology Services
Waterbourne Construction Advisors
Wegmans
Alumni Engagement
The Alumni Office began collecting and utilizing emails, building it's fan base on social media websites, and reaching out to more alumni at college and community events. Please “like” the NCCC Alumni Association on Facebook and follow us on Twitter! Other engagements include presence at college and community events and a bi-annual mailing of the Alumni magazine, Connections.

NCCC Alumni 5K Run/Walk
The Alumni Association held their annual 5K Run/Walk on Friday, May 1, 2015. Fred Rickan ’81 and his sons: Eric, Brent, and Grant stepped up to name The Rickan Group at Morgan Stanley as the Presenting Sponsor. A special thank you to the Rickans and all our sponsors for their support: Certo Brothers Distributing Co., Cristoforo Colombo Society, D&T Graphics, Dory Trading Post, Friends of NCCC Alumni, JBF Express Inc., Mark Cerrone Inc., NCCC Security Department, NCCC Student Senate, Pepsi Co, Road ID, Tom Tower Farms, US Foods, Tom Bishop ’83, Marty Drake ’75, Dan Jackson ’99, Mike LaFever ’70, Jim Turner ’86, and Ronald J. Winter, Esq. ’74 & Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Thank you also to the volunteers who helped to make this year’s Run/Walk a success.

Over 190 runner and walkers participated raising almost $5,000 for Alumni services and student scholarships.

Flower Sale 2015
The Alumni Association sold fresh flower bouquets to families and friends who wished to present them to our grads at the annual Commencement ceremony.

Over $1300 was raised for Alumni services and student scholarships.

Scholarships
Since 1987, donors have generously funded scholarships for NCCC students. Scholarships are often named to honor the memory of loved ones. Others are named in tribute to alumni, board members, faculty, retirees, organizations, and companies.

This past year, the Foundation awarded over $160,000 in scholarships to over 200 students.

Distinguished Student Scholarships (DSS)
The DSS awards are the most prestigious scholarships given to high school seniors in Niagara County. The award offers two years of tuition-free education at NCCC for students who exemplify superior academics, community service, and commitment to Niagara County.

Establishing a Scholarship
Create a lasting legacy by establishing a scholarship. For more information, please contact Deb Brewer, NCCC Foundation Director, at (716) 614-5911 or email dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu.

For details on all scholarship opportunities, please visit http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships

Alumni Fitness Memberships
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