



# REACHING *New Heights*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY  
2023

  
Columbia-Greene  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*“Life can only be understood backwards;  
but it must be lived forwards.”*

SØREN KIERKEGAARD

**Cover Photos by David McIntyre**

Left:

Harold Anderson, Auto Technician, '17

Thomas Shannon, Historian, '05

Jessica Cropper-Alt, Ceramicist, '05

Kaitlyn Raynor, Law Enforcement Officer, '15

Right:

Brian Peacock, Restaurateur, '15

Tracy Nytransky McComb, Teacher and Coach, '06

Da-Naysia Walker, Financial Services Representative

Chiara Hughes-Mba, Fine Artist, '04

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**“REACHING NEW HEIGHTS”**, the theme adopted by the College for 2023, resonates with the spirit of the *Change Matters* strategic plan to advance the learning and working environment to its next level of distinction and meet the expectations of multiple stakeholders, both internal and external to Columbia-Greene.

By any measure, much of the academic year focused on the visit in late March 2023 from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Evaluation Team that resulted in a stellar account of the College’s progress since the last accreditation visit ten years ago. In its “Self-Study Evaluation Team Report”, Middle States offered 13 commendations, three recommendations, and – *mirabile dictu* – no requirements!

Although the next accreditation visit is eight years away, Columbia-Greene must maintain its momentum and keep striving to advance the mission of the College by rapidly and intentionally responding to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. Most importantly, Columbia-Greene must provide the best possible educational experience for every student who seeks to learn – whether for a degree or a certificate or simply personal enrichment.

The pages of this *President’s Report to the Community* highlight key accomplishments that promote the five strategic goals: advance student success; strengthen academic programs; foster diversity, equity, and inclusion; increase enrollment; and upgrade information technology. In the words of Arthur C. Clarke, “The limits of the possible can only be defined by going beyond them into the impossible.”

**Carlee Drummer, Ph.D.**

***President***



REACHING  
*New Heights*

# IN THE CLASSROOM

*“We owe it to our children to equip them with all the capabilities they’ll need to thrive in the limitless world beyond the classrooms.”*

NAVEEN JAIN

## ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

### New Programs



Columbia-Greene expanded the curriculum to include two new certificate programs that specialize in immediate areas of employment: Cannabis Retail and Sales and Cannabis Cultivation and Processing.

According to a report released by the *New York Times*, the cannabis industry is expected to generate 63,000 jobs across New York by 2025, with New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut surpassing the West Coast region in sales and revenue over the next decade.<sup>1</sup>

Columbia-Greene brokered new articulation agreements with Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts and Maria College to prepare students for promising careers in Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant respectively. Both of these fields have a high demand for workers in Columbia and Greene Counties, particularly at Columbia Memorial Health, rehab facilities, and outpatient clinics.

<sup>1</sup> "Looking for a Job? The Cannabis Industry is Hiring in New York", *New York Times*, February 18, 2023

Moreover, a new Pathways Transfer Program Articulation Agreement with SUNY Empire will ensure qualified students who earn an associate in arts, associate in science, or associate in applied science degree from Columbia-Greene can transfer seamlessly. These students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree or higher without leaving their home community by developing a class schedule that fits family and work responsibilities.

The College also secured a grant to offer Google Career Certificates in Digital Marketing / E-commerce and Information Technology Support. Earning these highly marketable credentials will enhance students' employability. Other new programs developed during 2023 include Sports Management as well as a Human Services concentration for students pursuing an associate of arts in social sciences.

### Automotive Technology

Thanks to a generous grant from SUNY, the automotive technology department purchased three hybrid and one fully electric vehicle – the first in its fleet – to enhance Electric Vehicle (EV) certification training that prepares students for jobs in this rapidly changing industry.

### **Building Construction Technology**



During the spring 2023 semester, building construction technology students without prior construction work experience built an 8 foot x 20 foot “tiny house” that features a kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and second floor bedroom with a nice closet and headboard for extra storage. The house also features Pella windows, electric heating, and air conditioning. During the project, students learned about many important aspects of constructing a house including but not limited to framing, roofing, plumbing, and electrical work. At the end of the semester, the students sold the house in a closed-bid auction that brought in \$33,000. These proceeds will be used to purchase building materials for the program.

### **Law Enforcement**



In mid-spring, Columbia-Greene proudly hosted a graduation ceremony for five students who completed the two-semester Police Basic Training Certificate program inaugurated in summer 2022.

The Criminal Justice program also added an Individual Studies Law Enforcement Concentration to the Associate in Occupational Studies degree that qualifies students to earn the 60 credits needed to take the New York State Trooper exam.

### **Psychology**

The College received approval to establish Psi Beta, a scholastic honor society that recognizes academic achievement among students in the field of psychology at community colleges. Being part of Psi Beta will provide additional opportunities for psychology students to engage in scholarship, leadership, research, and community service.

REACHING  
*New Heights*

# OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

*“Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome.”*

SAMUEL JOHNSON





## ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

### Enrollment Update

Fall 2023 yielded the highest enrollment increase in the SUNY system. Contributing to the significant jump is the new momentum gained with more high school and incarcerated students taking college classes, along with enhanced social media strategies. Facebook now reaches more than 50,000 people each month!

### Every Student Matters

The Enrollment Management Team continued the “Every Student Matters” initiative that began in 2022 by offering “instant admission” to every high school senior in the College’s service area. During 2023, nearly every district took advantage of this wonderful opportunity for their students who are planning to enroll in college, undecided about their next step, or for those who want to have Columbia-Greene as a backup option.

### Student Ambassadors’ Program

At long last, Columbia-Greene has a Student Ambassadors’ Program! The Office of Admissions

recruited two Student Ambassadors during the Spring and Fall 2023 semesters who interacted with prospective students by answering phone calls, providing campus tours, and being present at special events.

## COMMENCEMENT 2023



On May 13, 2023, ebullient graduates and their families and friends gathered for the first in-person Commencement since 2019. The Class of 2023 numbered 208

students, and approximately 150 walked across the stage in the Gymnasium to receive their degree or certificate. The new SUNY Chancellor, Dr. John B. King, Jr., delivered a powerful keynote address and then awarded the Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Professional Service, and Classified Service to Jared Wagner, Leslie Rousseau, and Harold Lansing, Jr. respectively. Joe Carr, a member of the Buildings and Grounds team and a Columbia-Greene alumnus, received the Lifelong Learner Award in recognition of his unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

## ACHIEVING THE DREAM PROGRESS



As part of Achieving the Dream's *Building Resilience in Rural Communities for the*

*Future of Work* cohort, the Core Team Co-Chairs, Professor Matthew Kenny and Dean Drew Ledoux, advanced the Community Partnership Initiative that launched in summer 2022. To date 37 business representatives – floor managers, human resources personnel, and company owners – in Columbia and Greene Counties have been part of in-person conversations to discuss opportunities for collaboration and learn more about the College's role in shaping the local workforce. In addition, the discussions focused on technical skills needed by employees and other



opportunities to close equity gaps. Digital literacy emerged as a vital need for employers, and the College is responding by including their concern in classroom instruction.

Achieving the Dream invited Columbia-Greene to share this important work with community college colleagues across the country at the annual national conference in February 2023 and in May featured the initiative in the Achieving the Dream *Pathways* blog, "Voices of Transformation".

## NEW HEIGHTS, NEW LOOK



Following extensive marketing research, the College introduced a new branding logo. The graphic – twin peaks representing the Catskill Mountains and the Berkshire Hills separated by the Hudson River – beautifully captures the essence of Columbia-Greene and replaces the former "flame", a rather commonplace symbol used by many colleges and universities.

## MAJOR LIBRARY ACQUISITION

The Library acquired a significant, sizable donation of microfilm and print-bound newspapers serving Columbia and Greene Counties from the Johnson Newspaper Corporation in Watertown, New York. Included in the gift are rare copies of the *Hudson Register Star* and *Catskill Daily Mail* dating to the early 1790s, along with other historic newspapers such as the *Chatham Courier* (1862 – 1923) and *Catskill Recorder* (1804 – 1825). Although the microfilm already is accessible to the public, the printbound materials will need to be catalogued and digitized, a project that will be tackled during 2024. The addition of these materials to the Library’s New York Heritage Collection will enhance research opportunities for students as well as individuals exploring the region’s local history.

## STUDENT LOUNGE



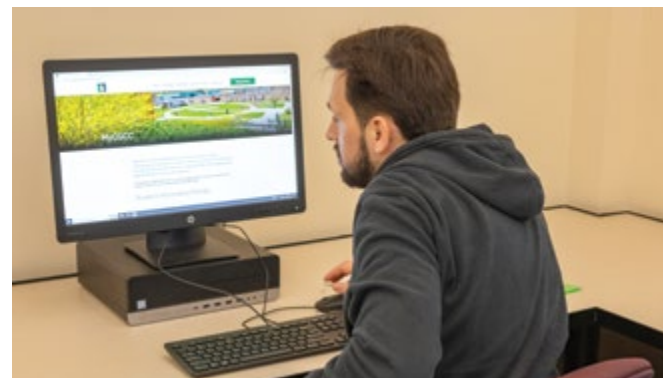
During summer 2023, the Buildings and Grounds team transformed the former bookstore into a Student Lounge, a sanctuary for students close to the Cafeteria and Gymnasium

with separate areas for quiet study as well as a nook with e-Sports activities for the Gaming Club. At the end of September, the College formally dedicated the space with a formal ribbon cutting.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Website Overhaul

After months of arduous work and research, Columbia-Greene unveiled its overhauled website in February 2023 with reimagined content and streamlined navigation for accessing information quickly. The home page features a photo essay entitled, “Our Alumni Are Everywhere”, with profiles of successful graduates who live and work in the community. Complementing the refurbished website is a new and memorable URL: **[columbiagreene.edu](https://columbiagreene.edu)**.



### **System Upgrades**

Since beginning the partnership with CampusWorks, the College's overhaul of its Information Technology system has been remarkable. Upgrades to the infrastructure include replacing a 12-year-old firewall with a digital-age system from Paloalto, a global leader in cybersecurity; fixing multiple security risks; transforming 10 classrooms with state-of-the-art technology; enhancing wireless access throughout the campus; providing increased Banner support; installing a 24/7 Help Desk; and providing guidance for the conversion to the new website.

### **Process Reimagine and Redesign**

The College and CampusWorks launched "Process Reimagine and Redesign" (PRR), an initiative to leverage technology to meet the evolving needs of students and employees. PRR required evaluating staff roles, current business processes, policies, information technology infrastructure, and communications strategies. Implementing PRR recommendations will streamline daily tasks in the Business Office, Financial Aid, Human Resources, and Records and Registration as well as optimizing the Banner Student Information System to improve student service.

### **Print Management System**

The College also adopted a new print management system that decreased the number of printers on campus and installed more multi-function devices that will increase efficiency for employees. This move will save Columbia-Greene thousands of dollars through reduced printing costs. Additional advantages include secure print technology, Wi-Fi based printing, remote printing without the use of a VPN, and printing jobs controlled by infrared technology (key fobs).

### **Learning Management System**



SUNY selected Columbia-Greene to be among the first community colleges to transition from the online platform Blackboard to Brightspace, a learning management system operated

by D2L (formerly known as Desire to Learn). Brightspace combines powerful tools and the necessary support to offer a smooth teaching and learning experience for instructors and students.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

### Inspiring Programs



The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) Committee advanced diversity, equity,

and inclusion on campus through meaningful and dynamic programs throughout the year.

- Historian Heather Bruegl, citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and first-line descendent of Stockbridge Munsee, delivered a talk that focused on legacies of colonization and indigenous histories.
- “Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment”, a workshop featuring Dr. Emily Hamilton-Honey, Associate Professor and Co-CDO at SUNY Canton, focused on strategies to foster inclusivity inside and outside the classroom. In a related program, the Office of Accessibility Services sponsored *Creating a Climate of Acceptance for Neurodiverse Students* featuring guest speaker Dylan Emmons who presented best practices for improving the academic experience for neurodiverse and autistic students.

- During American Heart Month in February, the Office of Health Services organized a program about disparities in healthcare for marginalized populations and preventive measures for health and wellness.
- City of Hudson Mayor Kamal Johnson and Superintendent of the Catskill Central School District Dr. Dan Wilson were panelists for “Millennial to Zillennial: Developing Youth and Young Leaders”. Their discussion centered on strategies for leading change in an increasingly diverse community that included how the different generations (Boomers, Millennials, Gen X, and Zillennials – aka “Gen Z”) can communicate with each other more effectively.
- During Women’s History Month in March, the College welcomed Dr. Toyin Tofade, President of Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS), who engaged in a conversation about her experience as an executive in STEM. She is the first woman of color to serve as the President of ACPHS.

### IDEA Minute

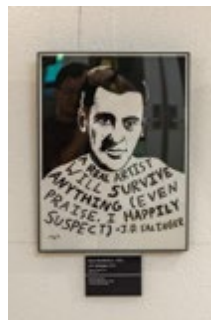
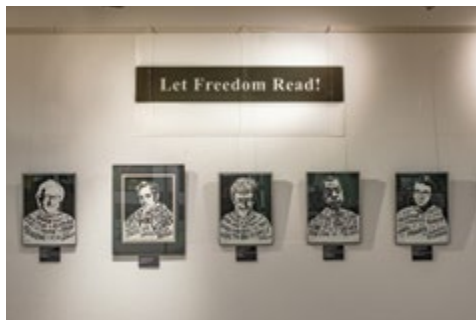
Every faculty meeting now includes an “IDEA Minute”. Delivered by a representative from the IDEA Committee, the factoid provides an update or interesting fact pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## ART MATTERS

Following the two-year pandemic hiatus, the College mounted inspiring exhibitions in the Kaaterskill Gallery facing the Library and the Foundation Gallery in the Arts Center.

- At the beginning of October, Columbia-Greene observed Banned Books Week, an annual event spotlighting current and historical attempts to censor books in public libraries and schools, with the installation of *Let Freedom Read* featuring the work of Ryan Sheffield. On view in the Kaaterskill Gallery were 16 black and white portraits, each accompanied by a notable quotation, of various banned book authors including Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, Jane Austen, James Baldwin, Emily Dickinson, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Toni Morrison, George Orwell, Oscar Wilde, and Virginia Woolf. A silent auction for each framed print raised \$1,485 to benefit the Library.

- In December the Kaaterskill Gallery featured another show, “Our Alumni Are Everywhere”, a unique exhibit of photography. David McIntyre, a celebrated Hudson-based photographer for *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, and other prestigious publications, took photos of 29 Columbia-Greene alumni who represent diverse career paths available to students. As noted earlier in this report, these photos also appear on the home page of the College’s website.
- The Art Department launched *Collective 23*, an exhibition in the Foundation Gallery that featured artwork by nine alumni artists who express themselves through various media including basic drawing, ceramics, charcoal, collage, computer graphics, digital photography, oil, and watercolor. Participating artists included Jess Cropper-Alt, Michael Drummer, Tanya Hamm, Christie Hicks, Bella Lugo, G Muñoz, Jacob Park, Cumanda Villagran, and Cecelia Winn.



- The College received an amazing donation of artwork from Brian Withers, whose father, George Withers, was a World War II book, magazine, and newspaper illustrator. Columbia-Greene exhibited the works in the Art Center Theater during the annual Veterans' Day observance in November. The collection now hangs in the Main Building adjacent to the Dean of Student Development's reception area.

- Columbia-Greene dedicated the first outdoor sculpture on campus appropriately located in front of the Arts Center. Created by Susan Lisbin, a devotee of the Open Ceramics Forum, she began working on the sculpture in 2016. Her generous donation to the College underscores the importance of the arts and the power of creativity.



## GRANTS TO ENHANCE LEARNING

### New York State Support

As reported in last year's *President's Report to the Community*, New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymember Didi Barrett announced Columbia-

Greene would receive a \$1 million grant to expand the Building Construction Technology / Historic Preservation Carpentry program. With this funding, the College will be enlarging the footprint of the Construction Technology Center to accommodate more students and add microcredentials in electrical wiring, HVAC, and plumbing. In late summer 2023, the College conducted interviews with four architectural firms and contracted with SBLM to provide the expertise needed to expand the space and accommodate the curricular additions.

### SUNY Support

- Noted earlier, the College received a SUNY grant of \$305,298 to enhance the automotive technology program by offering Electric Vehicle (EV) certification. The funding enabled the College to purchase two Subaru Crosstrek Plug-In Hybrids; two Toyota Rav4-Prime SE Plug-in Hybrids, and an Audi Q4 E-Tron Premium SUV EV. The addition of these five vehicles to the fleet will enrich students' training while also aligning with curricular and programming enhancements. To launch the program appropriately, Columbia-Greene also purchased EV charging stations.



- In spring and summer 2023, SUNY awarded Columbia-Greene a \$910,000 Transformation Grant and a \$75,000 High Demand Program Grant to launch a Licensed Practical Nurse



(LPN) certificate. Plans are well underway to add LPN to the healthcare curriculum at the beginning of 2025. Moreover, the College acquired \$22,500 to purchase a high fidelity birthing manikin for the nursing program. The limited number of obstetrics clinical experiences has been an ongoing challenge, and the addition of this piece of equipment will enable nursing students to experience a “live” birth. Coupled with the ever-evolving healthcare landscape, simulation manikins play an important role in providing training for those interested in maternity care.

- Other SUNY funding included an \$85,000 grant to expand internship opportunities for students in a number of fields including business, criminal justice, and environmental science by providing financial support through stipends and tuition.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS SCHOLARSHIPS



Career Connections continued to provide programming for area high school juniors and seniors. The initiative introduces students to career options through various

presentations from local businesses and organizations and arranges for summer internships. Seniors who completed the program in spring 2023 became eligible to receive a full scholarship for one semester at Columbia-Greene, thanks to the generosity of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Columbia Economic Development Corporation, Greene Economic Development, and the Columbia and Greene County Chambers of Commerce.



ELIZABETH FRITTS  
WIFE OF  
PHILIP STAATS  
Died Sept 29 1879  
Aged 31 yrs 5 mos

PHILIP STAATS  
Died Sept 29 1879  
Aged 31 yrs 5 mos  
STAATS

REACHING  
*New Heights*

# IN THE COMMUNITY

*“For my part I know nothing with any  
certainty but the sight of the stars makes  
me dream.”*

VINCENT VAN GOGH

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Columbia Memorial Health

The Columbia Memorial Health Foundation awarded academic scholarships to 10 Columbia-Greene nursing students to bolster the nursing workforce at the Hospital. Awardees signed a commitment to work a minimum of two years at CMH following their graduation from the nursing program.

### Olana



The College and The Olana Partnership / Olana State Historic Site completed year two of the partnership inaugurated in September 2021. Students enrolled in art, building construction

technology, business, environmental science, and history courses visited Olana and took guided tours of the historic landmark, and members of the Olana leadership team visited classes on campus.

Columbia-Greene and Olana also launched “Building Preservation Workshops: Window Preservation and Repair.” The five-part series, a collaboration among Continuing Education, Workforce New York, and Building Construction Technology, targets professionals in carpentry and construction who seek to hone their skills in accuracy, safety, and preservation of historic windows. Local homeowners also will benefit from the program by learning about and recognizing the value in preservation over replacement. New York Assemblymember Didi Barrett provided funding for this training.

### Family of Woodstock

At the beginning of 2023, the Offices of Continuing Education and Workforce New York announced a new partnership with Family of Woodstock, Inc. to develop a rural childcare network in Columbia and Greene Counties to mitigate the shortage of childcare options. The initiative will help people return to the workforce as childcare providers or resume their careers previously disrupted by the lack of childcare alternatives. Family of Woodstock is offering Family Childcare Training through Continuing Education with funding provided by Workforce New York.

### **Ichabod Crane High School**

During the fall semester, the College and Ichabod Crane High School launched a new pipeline in automotive technology. Students began the program by enrolling in Introduction to Automotive Repair (AU 128), the first course required to earn a degree or certificate.

### **“Think College Transition”**



Nine special education students from Hudson High School began participating in a non-credit course called “Think College Transition”. A collaboration among the high school, Continuing Education,

and Workforce New York, the initiative provides the opportunity for students to acquire educational and skill building experiences, as well as familiarity, comfort, and relationship building with the College. The intended outcome is for the students to enroll in college classes or transition into the workforce.

### **“New Visions”**

The College entered an agreement with Questar III to become part of the school’s “New Visions” initiative in the areas of accounting, business, and finance. A one-year Honors Level program, “New Visions” provides the opportunity for motivated high school seniors to learn and explore through mentoring, internships, and interactions with professionals. Questar III’s other higher education partners in this program are the University at Albany and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

### **Juried High School Art Exhibition**



Columbia-Greene showcased the juried work of promising high school artists in the Arts Center’s Foundation Gallery. Representing 11 schools in the region, the students’ work encompassed a number of fine arts fields including

charcoal, pen and ink, oil, watercolor, photography, and collage.

## **SAIL-CC**

Columbia-Greene is one of 25 community colleges in the nation selected to participate in the SAIL-CC (Social and Interactive Learning at Community Colleges) research project funded by the National Science Foundation with additional support from the Technology for Effective and Efficient Learning (TEEL) Lab at Carnegie Mellon University and the National Institution for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

## **Community College Leadership Academy**

Two senior-level administrators are participating in the New York State Community College Leadership Academy's first cohort. Aligning with Achieving the Dream, the year-long program provides a solid foundational understanding of critical student success and change management concepts with technical assistance from the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement (NCII), Aspen Institute, and the Ohio Success Center.

## **Hudson Link**

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison and Columbia-Greene celebrated this year's graduates from the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Stormville and

Greene Correctional Institution in Coxsackie. For the former site, 2023 marked the first graduation ceremony since its founding in 1949.

## **Hudson-Athens Lighthouse**



A unique collaboration with the Hudson Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society (HALPS) will enable students interested in art and history to link their coursework to the historic landmark constructed in 1874.

Continuing Education also offered summer programs for non-credit students seeking to learn more about this Columbia and Greene County treasure in the Hudson River.

## **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Columbia-Greene began a new relationship with the Cornell Cooperative Extension that will enhance learning opportunities for students interested in agriculture, environmental science, nutrition, sustainable energy, and more. The organization's two sites in the College's service area include the Extension Education Center in Hudson and the Siuslaw Model Forest in Acra. ("Siuslaw" is a Native American word meaning "land of the far away river".)

## Environmental Field Station



Toward the end of the summer, Greene County began the transformation of the Environmental Field Station in the Cohotate Preserve. In the planning stages for several years,

the \$1.2 million makeover will enable the facility to operate year-round with heat, electricity, running water, and internet access. Following the renovation, the College will expand class offerings in art, biology, environmental science, river ecology, and more.

## Economic Development

Workforce New York sponsored the first “Columbia-Greene Economic State of the Counties” seminar featuring guest speakers James Hannahs, Executive Director of the Greene County Economic Development Corporation, and Mike Tucker, President and CEO of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation.

## Legislative Breakfast



The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce hosted the first Legislative Breakfast since 2019 in the College’s Dining Hall. Guests of honor included New



York State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblymembers Didi Barrett and Scott Bendett, and Chairman of the Columbia County Supervisors Matt Murell. The elected

officials discussed critical issues affecting Columbia County including affordable housing, short-term rentals, climate change, the Cellular Mapping Act Bill, agribusiness, and more.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### The View from Capitol Hill

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand invited New York's community college Presidents to a round table in the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. Nine Presidents attended the gathering and discussed a number of issues including the vital need for increased state funding for the community colleges, Pell Grants for short-term programs, and enhanced SNAP benefits for students. Immediately following the Senator's meeting, the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) hosted its annual Rural Day and featured keynote speaker Dr. Amy Loyd, United States Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. The RCCA focuses on rural policy agendas from the White House and Congress and how community colleges can best serve the needs of students and other community stakeholders.

### Twin County Recovery Services

Twin County Recovery Services opened a satellite location in the Professional Academic Center staffed by Shannon Richardson, a Prevention Specialist, who provides

counseling and educational awareness to students, employees, and the wider community four days a week. She also works collaboratively with the CARES (Concern, Assessment, Response, Evaluation, Support) Team to offer timely support for students in need. Her on-campus service is made possible by a grant from New York State's Office of Addiction Services and Support.

### Clothing Drives



Students in the Criminal Justice Club received donations of new and gently used coats or other winter items for adults and children to support members of the Columbia-Greene community

in need. The Student Success Center, in collaboration with the CARES Team, collected socks for two charities: Columbia Opportunities, Inc. and Community Action of Greene County.



### **“It’s All in the Planning”**



The Office of Accessibility Services hosted “It’s All in the Planning”, a conference sponsored by Columbia-Greene, SUNY Delhi, and Bard, to prepare

high school students with disabilities for the transition to college. More than three dozen students from Catskill, Hudson, and Red Hook High Schools attended the event. Topics included requesting accommodations at any college; navigating the digital environment; and using Assistive Technology to meet academic needs.

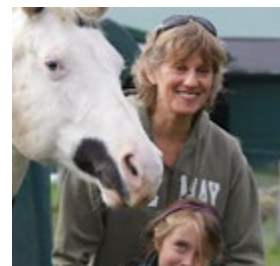
### **Health Matters**

The Columbia County Department of Health continued its partnership with the College during the first half of the Fall 2023 semester, offering COVID-19 vaccination as well as booster clinics on campus to hundreds of residents. Many second-year nursing students helped administer the vaccine and/or booster shots.

### **Greene County Threat Advisory Team**

Drew Ledoux, Dean of Student Development, and Maria Ostrander, Director of Health Services, became members of the new Greene County Threat Advisory Team. Other members of the task force include representatives from law enforcement, health care, human services, mental health, and K-12 superintendents. The Team, an essential resource that will enable the community to improve response protocols for target violence threats, acts as a central clearinghouse of information specific to situations that pose an imminent safety risk.

### **National Library Week**



To commemorate National Library Week, the Columbia-Greene Library hosted a special program for the community featuring Kathy Stevens, author of *Where the Blind Horse Sings* and *Animal*

*Camp*. She discussed her vital work at the Catskill Animal Sanctuary along with provocative perspectives about animal sentience, animal rights, and veganism.

REACHING  
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# IN PHILANTHROPY

*“Man’s reach must exceed his grasp,  
or what’s a heaven for?”*

ROBERT BROWNING



## **COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

During 2023, the Columbia-Greene Community College Foundation continued its 40-year tradition of transforming the lives of traditional-age students, career changers, immigrants, struggling parents, the disenfranchised, and lifelong learners. Heartfelt thanks to the generous donors acknowledged in this report who provided the vital support that helped inspire students to reach for the sky and accomplish the impossible.

### **INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

The Foundation currently manages 80 scholarship funds that awarded \$768,991 in 2023. These named scholarships and unrestricted awards enable more students to graduate with fewer loans to be repaid. In fact, WalletHub's annual rankings cite Columbia-Greene for having the lowest student loan default rate in New York and one of the five lowest in the nation.

#### **Greene County Cares Fund**

The *Greene County Legislature* again voted unanimously to grant \$100,000 during 2023 to continue its investment in the Greene County Cares Fund. Starting in 2020, this fund has

provided tuition assistance for 269 Greene County residents seeking to enroll in credit or non-credit classes.

#### **Hole In One for Education**

The Foundation's annual Hole-in-One for Education in June hosted by the Columbia Golf and Country Club in Claverack attracted a record number of golfers. The event, including gifts from lead sponsor, The Bank of Greene County, and additional sponsorship support from A. Colarusso & Sons, Bates & Anderson, Iron Horse Cigar, Marshall & Sterling, Metzwood Insurance, and Mid-Hudson Cablevision, added almost \$20,000 for student scholarship funds.

#### **Holiday Craft Fair**



Kicking off the holiday season in mid-November, the Craft Fair featured 80 vendors and attracted some 1,700 shoppers to the College – many of whom had never been on campus before! This was the largest – and most successful – Fair to date, raising more than \$8,000 for student scholarships.

## EXTENDING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

### LPN Program Grants

- Through a \$75,000 grant, **The Home for the Aged** provided equipment underwriting for the College’s new Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certificate anticipated to launch in January 2025.
- A \$20,000 grant from **The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** further supported the LPN initiative. This program responds to the high demand for LPN training in the Twin Counties to alleviate the high, unmet need for nurses.

### Building Construction Technology Program Grant



In fall 2023, a cadre of students from historically under-served backgrounds entered the Construction Technology program with full funding from **Spark of Hudson**. This grant

encourages recent high school graduates who qualify to explore – and thrive – in the construction industry.

## EMBRACING STUDENT RESILIENCE

### Student Emergency Fund

Through the generosity of individual, corporate, and foundation donors, the College, as advised by the CARES Team, provided \$34,243 in direct support to students who faced unexpected challenges that might otherwise derail their academic progress. The CARES Team provides immediate relief through wrap-around counseling in financial planning and referral to outside agencies that help ensure students are able to sustain their momentum and complete their educational goals.

### Laptop Loans

Through its laptop loan program, the Foundation assisted students unable to access the College’s computer labs. As one student commented, “With all the new ways to take classes virtually, I felt underprepared and overwhelmed because I didn’t have a computer. The Columbia-Greene Community College Foundation helped me worry about one less thing by loaning me a laptop.”



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

*“Everyone is entitled to reach for the stars.”*

VIKRAM BHATT





## *Thank You, Donors!*

Heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations for their generous support during 2023 – and their belief in the Mission, Vision, and Values of Columbia-Greene Community College.

### **\$25,000 AND UP**

Anonymous  
Dr. Carlee Drummer and  
Michael Drummer  
The Symansky Family Trust

### **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Christine Cumming  
James S. Finch and  
Martin Salerno  
Alan Gosule and Nina Matis  
Dr. Joseph P. Lalka and  
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STATE UNIVERSITY

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Note to Donors: You  
deserve to be properly  
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contributions. If we have  
made an error, please  
contact the Foundation  
Office at 518.697.6368.

\*Deceased



*In Memoriam:  
Eugene Peduzzi*

On August 9, 2023, the College lost a beloved employee, Eugene Peduzzi, who worked in the Buildings and Grounds Department for 17 years. Columbia-Greene's President, Dr. Carlee Drummer, and her husband, Michael J. Drummer established a memorial scholarship that has received support from nearly two dozen donors.

**COMMUNITY AND  
FOUNDATION SUPPORT  
2023**

Advanced EyeCare Solutions

Anonymous

T. Backer Fund

Bates & Anderson/Redmond & Keeler

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Books For Life

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids, Inc.

Cairo-Durham Dollars for Scholars, Inc.

CampusWorks, Inc.

Clarke White American Legion Post 589

A. Colarusso & Son, Inc.

CMS Foundation Inc.

Columbia-Greene Community College

Columbia-Greene Community College  
Human Services Club

Columbia Economic Development  
Corporation

Columbia-Greene Faculty Association

Columbia Memorial Health

Dyson Foundation

Todd Farrell's Car Care Center

Fingar Insurance

Firemen's Association of the State  
of New York

Freeman Howard, P.C.

Edward W. Golden Foundation

Ginsberg's Foods

Greene County Bar Association

Greene County Legislature

Greene County Volunteer Fireman's  
Association

Greylock Federal Credit Union

Guterman, Shallo & Alford, PLLC

Nan Guterman Foundation

GTel

Ed Herrington, Inc.

HRBT Foundation

Jason D. Walch, LLC

Iron Horse Cigar Depot, LLC

Kaaterskill North Carpentry

Henry L. Kimelman Family Foundation

Kneller Insurance Agency

Lawlor's Package Store

Marshall & Sterling Insurance

MetzWood Insurance

Mid-Hudson Cablevision

Nine Pin Ciderworks, LLC

NYS Correctional Officers & Police  
Benevolent Association

OutHudson

ProPrinters

Reentry Task Force of Columbia County

Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation

Riders Mills Historical Association

RBT CPA's LLP

Saturn Industries, Inc.

SPARK of Hudson

Ethel & Orville Slutzky Family Foundation

F.H. Stickles & Son, Inc.

Stottville Volunteer Fire Company No.2

Taconic Hills Dollars for Scholars, Inc.

Talbott, Arding and Co. LLC

The Bank of Greene County

The Clarke Scholarship Fund

The Patricia E. and Joseph W. Phelan  
Family Foundation

The Home for the Aged

The Senator Stephen M. Saland  
Legacy Fund

TLC Electric

Williams Lumber & Home Centers

Ullman Family Charitable Foundation

Valley Energy



# BALANCE SHEET

## COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.\*

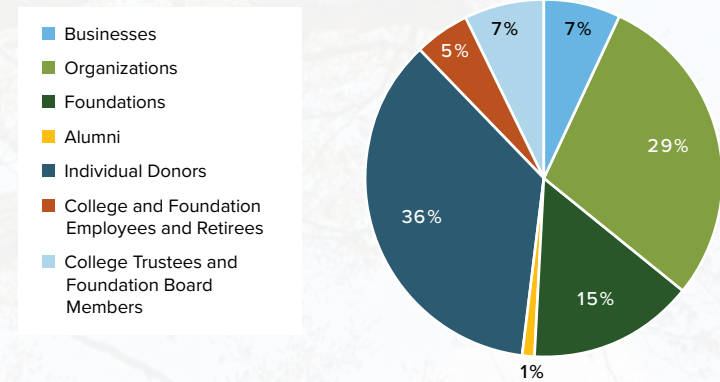
ASSETS	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,864,873
Prepaid expenses	18,139
Grant receivable	30,000
Certificate of deposit	14,494
Investments	2,554,639
Equipment	11,457
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,493,602</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable	\$18,633
Scholarships payable	161,521
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$180,154</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Without donor restrictions	\$814,399
With donor restrictions	4,499,049
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$5,313,448</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$5,493,602</b>

Note: The financial statement for 2023 is under review.

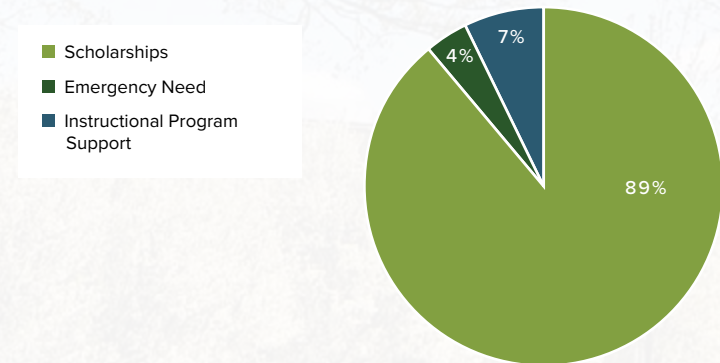
\* Formerly Columbia-Greene College Foundation, Inc., a component unit of Columbia-Greene Community College

### WHO GAVE IN 2023

\$880,893 RAISED BY 360 DONORS



### WHERE THE DOLLARS GO



### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023**

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Laura Best-Macia, *Student Trustee\**

Bruce Bohnsack

Doreen Davis

Kelly Konsul

Maryanne Lee, *Vice Chair*

Michael Liddy, *Student Trustee\*\**

Peter Markou

Charles Millar

Edward (Ned) Schneier, Ph.D.

*\*Term ended June 30, 2023*

*\*\*Appointed October 1, 2023*

### **COLUMBIA-GREENE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023**

Bruce Bohnsack, *Columbia County Trustee Representative*

Christine Cumming, Ph.D., *Treasurer*

Doreen Davis, *Co-Vice President, Greene County  
Trustee Representative*

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Carlee Drummer, Ph.D., *College President*

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Christian Kersten, *Co-Vice President*

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Frances Spark

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*\*Term ended September 30, 2023*

*\*\*Term began November 1, 2023*



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