

Trustees Ensuring Student Success!



ANNUAL

# *Awards Program*



*Congratulations  
to our honorees*

We are indebted to the many individuals, organizations and businesses who are passionate about the mission of community colleges and who devote so much of their time, talent and treasure in supporting them.

NYCCT is pleased to present tonight's award winners as a way to recognize their unique contributions to our community colleges.



*Thank you for your sponsorship for the  
NYCCT Annual Awards Reception & Banquet*

*September 23, 2022*



NYCCT exists to strengthen the professionalism of community college trustees across NYS through education, communication and advocacy.

New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) and its affiliated educational foundation are fully dedicated to training and supporting all 315 SUNY trustees in their critical governance role for our 30 community colleges.

NYCCT offers:

- professional development programs and services specifically geared to New York State's trustees' needs
- activities that develop, influence and implement policies that affect our community colleges
- opportunities for sharing information and best practices among trustees across the state

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## NYCCT Executive Committee



(from left)

Ann Fleming Brown, *Chair* (SUNY Schenectady); Allen K. Williams, *Chair Elect* (Monroe); Frederick A. Watson, *Treasurer* (SUNY Orange); George Raneri, *Secretary* (Hudson Valley); Donna Mihalik, *Immediate Past President*, (Finger Lakes)



*Welcome*  
to the **NYCCT**  
*Annual Awards Ceremony*

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*Please join NYCCT in celebrating the dedication of our 2022 award winners, who have contributed so much to the mission of community colleges to provide open access to quality higher education, in a local setting, and at an affordable price.*


*Our awardees — those we honor tonight as well as the many honorees over the decades — have been an essential factor in our community college students' success.*



**Awards Reception**

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*5:30 pm, Saratoga Casino Hotel Lounge*  
Butler Passed Hors D'oeuvres  
One Complimentary Drink Ticket Per Guest & Cash Bar



**Dinner & Ceremony**

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*6:30 pm, Saratoga Casino Hotel Ballroom*  
Elaborate Charcuterie Display  
*cured salami, manchego, cheddar, prosciutto, roasted carrots, Kalamata olives, gherkins, wasabi stoneground mustard, apricot jam, crostinis & crackers*  
Artisan Garden Green Salad  
Chef's Selection Vegetable & Starch  
Chicken Margarita, marinated Grilled Chicken Breast Topped with  
Fresh Mozzarella & Tomato Basil Relish  
Penne Pasta Marinara  
Carving Station - Sirloin of Beef, with condiments  
Chef's Pastry Display

# ALICE HOLLOWAY YOUNG AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BY A RETIRED TRUSTEE

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## Scope and importance of award:

*The award is given for outstanding continued service to a community college after the Trustee's retirement from the Board.*

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### **Betsy May Stern**

RETIRED TRUSTEE

SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Betsy Stern has been not only a financial supporter of the SUNY Westchester Community College and the WCC Foundation (WCCF), she has been a volunteer, visionary, and leader. Former Trustee Stern has been a member of the WCCF Board since 1985, serving as president for over 10 years, and Chair for several more. She served as Vice Chair of the WCC Board of Trustees from 2013-2019. Her impact at the College runs deep, including the establishment of the WCC Honors College; development of the WCCF's volunteer program; creation of the Native Plant Center; support enabling the building of the Gateway Center (whose philosophy is based on welcoming new Americans); chairing the WCCF's first Capital Campaign for library expansion; and influencing luminaries such as General Petraeus and Elaine Chao to participate in WCC events on behalf of our students.

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### **Helen G. Ullrich**

RETIRED TRUSTEE

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For nearly 10 years, Helen G. Ullrich was a member of the SUNY Orange Board of Trustees. Her commitment to the College and its students was unwavering, and it continues today. Even in retirement, she supports the College as a member of the SUNY Orange Foundation Board of Directors. As a Trustee, Helen served as Chair of the Board for four years, providing strong and consistent leadership. She was a strong voice for the College and its students throughout the community, particularly with local, state and federal elected officials.



# DONALD M. MAWHINNEY JR., TRUSTEE

## LEADERSHIP AWARD

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### Scope and importance of award:

*This award celebrates trustees who demonstrate a significant commitment to the community college mission through exceptional leadership, inspired vision, and outstanding professional contributions to the goals and accomplishments of their local campus, following in the tradition of Trustee Mawhinney, one of the longest continuously serving community college trustees in North America.*

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### **Joan W. Wolfgang**

TRUSTEE (Posthumous)  
NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joan Wolfgang was appointed to the NCCC Board of Trustees by the Niagara County Legislature in 1982. She served as the Chairperson for three different terms during her tenure, which lasted twenty-six years. She was the second-longest serving member of the NCCC Board of Trustees. While serving on the Board, Joan was instrumental in bringing to fruition many of the college's higher profile projects.

Joan Wolfgang passed away in 2010, leaving a legacy of lasting impact on her community and NCCC.

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### **David N. Favro**

BOARD CHAIR  
CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Chairman Favro is someone our students, faculty and staff can reach out to when they need assistance. He has guided many of our students in the Criminal Justice field as well as those seeking degrees in other areas. He is supportive and appreciative of what the student body brings to the College. He is a strong advocate for the college in raising awareness to our county

sponsor. He meets with local and state politicians to gain support for capital projects funds to maintain the safety and security of the facilities and to provide a learning environment conducive to success for our students.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR CIVIC CONTRIBUTION

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### Scope and importance of award:

*The civic award is presented to an individual whose contributions have improved their community and made the world a better place through volunteerism and community service.*

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### **Hassin Adams** ALUMNA ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hassina immigrated to the United States from South Africa in 2016 along with two younger siblings. Because her mother had died two years earlier, she would become her siblings' legal guardian. All three found a home at the Northside Learning Center which would become the focal point of Hassina's community service. She taught there three nights a week while attending OCC. On the way to earning her degree in 2017 she was a member of PTK Honor Society, C-STEP, History Club, International Club, and received a SUNY Chancellor's Award. Hassina transferred to Syracuse University and graduated Magna Cum Laude with degrees in International Relations and Political Science. In 2022 she began working at Hiscock Legal Aide as a legal aide in their Immigration Department. She plans to attend law school in 2023 and become a lawyer who advocates for refugees.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION

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### Scope and importance of award:

*The professional award is presented to someone who has reached the pinnacle of one's professional career or has achieved great success in one's field of study.*

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### **Daryll C. Dykes, PhD, MD, JD** ALUMNUS ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Daryll Dykes is a 1983 graduate of Onondaga Community College who is a leader in the field of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. He is Associate Vice President of Orthopedic Surgery, Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and Chief Officer at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. Dykes

graduated from Fowler High School in 1980, joined the United States Marine Corps, then came to OCC after completing his service where he earned his Mathematics & Science degree. Four decades after graduating, Dr. Dykes regularly comes to campus and shares his message of hard work, perseverance, and determination with OCC students.

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## **BENEFACTOR VISION FOR TOMORROW AWARD**

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### **Scope and importance of award:**

*The Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award is the highest award that NYCCT can make to a local benefactor for their commitment to their local community college.*

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**Robert R. Wiener**

**SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Robert (Bob) Wiener believes that “the purpose of life is to give back.” Promoting and providing educational opportunities to at-risk youth is a hallmark of Wiener Philanthropy. Mr. Wiener has been supporting the educational journey of SUNY WCC students through scholarship support for over two decades. Since 1999, Mr. Wiener and his family have donated over \$1 million so that almost 600 students could receive scholarships at SUNY WCC. The Wiener Philanthropy recently donated \$1 million to create the Robert R. Wiener Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity, including a state-of-the-art Cybersecurity lab and technologically advanced classrooms. The grant also covers the cost of faculty development, curriculum development, and adding new degree programs and industry credentials.



**Call for Awards 2023** *It is not too early to begin considering nominating individuals who are examples of excellence in trusteeship, or those persons, businesses or organizations that are outstanding in supporting the community college mission. If you would like to consider nominating someone for a 2023 NYCCT award, please send an email to [NYCCT@suny.edu](mailto:NYCCT@suny.edu).*

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## EDWARD J. PAWENSKI BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

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### Scope and importance of award:

*This is the highest award that NYCCT can bestow on an individual from a business/industry/corporation, or a business/ industry/corporation for their partnership and commitment with the local community college.*

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### Rockland Paramedic Services ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Rockland Paramedic Services/Rockland Mobile Care is an Emergency Medical Services organization serving Rockland County. The evolution of the industry and the worldwide pandemic have led to unprecedented staffing challenges. In conjunction with Rockland

Community College's Workforce Development Program, we were able to transform these challenges into opportunities to bring inexperienced community members into our team by providing education so that students may earn certification to practice as Emergency Medical Technicians. Our inaugural cohort graduated all 11 students, nine of whom are actively employed in our organization. We are thrilled with this collaboration and are moving forward with our next cohort.

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## FRIEND OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD

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### Scope and importance of award:

*This is a major award of NYCCT. It is the highest distinction that NYCCT can bestow on an individual who — though not a community college trustee — has significantly advanced the cause of community colleges.*

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### Harry Phillips III SUNY WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Harry Phillips III has served SUNY Westchester Community College for over thirty years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and as a WCC Foundation Board member. He has been a valued advisor to the WCC presidents in his capacity as Regent for the New York Board of Education. He has also been an advocate with county, state and



federal legislators. In his role as NYS Regent, former Trustee Phillips was directly involved in licensing and credentialing that impacted community college curriculum, including registered nurses and EMTs. These contributions ensure safety and high standards for these critical middle skills professions.

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## COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION AWARD

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### Scope and importance of award:

*This award was established in 2022 to recognize a community college that has introduced a unique idea, project, process or procedure that has resulted in significant improvements in student success. It was established due to the confluence of numerous factors, especially: an increased focus on ensuring our community college students succeed; the devastating impact on our students and colleges due to the global COVID pandemic; national, state and local events that highlighted our need for improved diversity, equity and inclusion; and the serious concern for the sustainability of our community colleges.*

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### Chatbot Innovation

Genesee Community College implemented an artificial intelligence (ai) chatbot as a tool to support student success and retention. Students are engaged with an evidence-based retention framework via text messaging that is automatically checking in with students and connecting them to

the right resources at the right time. Through the G-Dub bot (named after the college's mascot), GCC built a powerful communication channel that allows the institution to listen to students and support them at scale. This innovative idea has been used to boost student persistence and team efficiency.



## **Division of Economic Mobility and Workforce Innovation**



In the winter of 2021, Rockland Community College announced a new partnership with Rockland Paramedics Services which allowed for the creation of an EMT-B training program. There is a strong need for paramedics in the County and following completion of the EMT-B program and passage of a licensing exam, graduates of

the program are offered employment with Rockland Paramedics. In its inaugural semester, all 11 members of the program completed the training program, passed their licensing exam, and were hired by Rockland Paramedics at a family-supporting entry level salary.

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## **President's Challenge Scholarship Innovation**



SUNY Ulster's President's Challenge Scholarship program is innovative by targeting disadvantaged youth in our community, providing mentorship and support, educational tools and removing barriers to make higher education attainable. The combination of targeting younger students with resources for college and offering them support and exposure to the college experience early increases the likelihood that they will complete high school and be successful in college and beyond. This program is changing lives and benefits the youth and families within Ulster County. It is a visionary program that will be regarded as a legacy within our institution and community for many years to come.





## **Directed Self Placement Innovation**

SUNY Westchester Community College implemented a Directed Self Placement (DSP) process in 2020 to improve the efficiency and accuracy of remedial education placement. This placement process closed equity gaps in remedial placement and reduced the cost of placement by thousands of dollars while positively impacting student outcomes. By using existing test scores rather than a high-stakes assessment, and allowing students to recommend their own mathematics and English placement levels through an online questionnaire, the college significantly reduced the need for mathematics and English remediation, reduced equity gaps in these placements, and increased the first year credit accumulation of non-white students.





## *In Gratitude*

Thank you for attending tonight's awards presentation to help us honor those who set the ultimate example of service on behalf of our New York State community colleges.



*Thank you for your sponsorship for the  
NYCCT Annual Awards Reception & Banquet*

### **New York Community College Trustees**

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