
MARVIN A. RAPP AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED TRUSTEE SERVICE



Scope and importance of award:

The Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service honors individuals with outstanding records of dedicated and effective service as community college trustees over an extended period of time. This year NYCCT honors five trustees with this award.



Camille T. Kahler

TRUSTEE
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Camille T. Kahler was appointed to the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees in 2012 and has since held Board officer and leadership roles throughout her distinguished service. She served as Vice Chair from 2016-2018 and as Board Chair from 2018 to 2020, providing steady and critically important leadership during the early period of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to chairing various Board committees throughout her tenure, she has served as a member of the MVCC Foundation Board, the Dormitory Corporation, and the MVCC Auxiliary Corporation. Camille's contributions have left a lasting impact on the College and have fostered a culture of transparency, collaboration, and continuous improvement.



Jim Morgo

TRUSTEE
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Trustee Jim Morgo's nearly 13 years of volunteer leadership on the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees is an exemplary display of distinguished board service that embodies the highest standards. Trustee Morgo has been a champion of the community college mission, contributing insightful, student-centric leadership with a strong business acumen and a good sense of humor. His efforts have benefited over 20,000 students who annually enroll at one of the college's three campuses established to serve the county's 1.5 million residents. The college is honored to present this nomination for the Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service.



Dr. Patricia Pietropaolo

TRUSTEE

ADIRONDACK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Trustee Pietropaolo joined the SUNY Adirondack board in 2009 and has dedicated a significant portion of her time, talent, and treasure to advance the college. A two-time chairperson, vice chair and chair of multiple committees, Dr. Pietropaolo has given tirelessly to the board and the college. Her extensive career in higher education, primarily at SUNY community colleges, has been invaluable in helping the board and college leadership in addressing the challenges we've faced including student retention and completion. During her tenure she has supported and applauded innovation and data-driven decision making and the college is better because of her service. Her 14 years of distinguished service is formidable and worthy of the highest recognition.

Geoffrey Peck

TRUSTEE

FULTON-MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Geoffrey Peck has served as a member of the Fulton-Montgomery Community College Board of Trustees since 2015. He is immediate past chair of the board, and he chaired the recent Presidential Search Committee. He is a graduate of FMCC and SUNY Plattsburgh. Mr. Peck is the Vice President of Business Development at Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home. In addition to the Board of Trustees, Mr. Peck serves on several community boards including Fulton-Montgomery County Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Fulton County Center for Regional Growth, and the Gloversville Planning Board.



DONALD M. MAWHINNEY JR., TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD



Scope and importance of award:

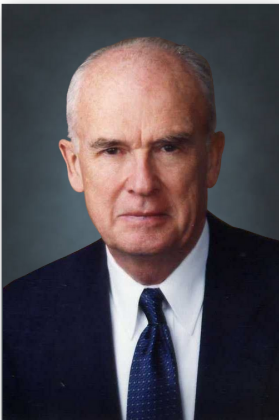
This award celebrates trustees who demonstrate a significant commitment to the community college mission through exceptional leadership, inspired vision, and outstanding professional contributions to the goals and accomplishments of their local campus, following in the tradition of Trustee Mawhinney,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



Elaine M. Falvo

TRUSTEE
MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For 35 years Elaine Falvo has served on the Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) Board of Trustees, including two separate terms as Board Chair. During her tenure, Elaine has provided exceptional leadership in addressing challenges related to facilities, finances, and overall institutional efficiency. Drawing from her extensive experience in the construction industry, she has played a pivotal role in guiding and overseeing the construction of multiple buildings and campus enhancements at the College. Elaine is also active on the MVCC Foundation Board where her influence led to the creation of three Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs). Elaine and members of the Falvo family established the Louis A. Falvo Jr. Memorial Scholarship that provides financial support to a MVCC graduating senior who will be pursuing an advanced degree in Engineering or Construction Management.



LTG (R) Charles McCausland

TRUSTEE *retired*
FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LTG (R) McCausland served for fourteen years as a board of trustee member for Finger Lakes Community College and as Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair of the Board of Trustees. During this time period, he was instrumental in securing funding and oversight of a \$55 million construction and expansion program that included a new student center, performing arts center, viticulture

center, a student dormitory, and two campus centers in Geneva and Victor, NY. In addition, he later served as a member of the FLCC Association Board for auxiliary operations for an additional six years.



Belinda Pagdanganan

TRUSTEE

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Trustee Belinda Pagdanganan serves on both the Board of Trustees for Suffolk County Community College and on the Board of Directors for the college's Foundation. A die-hard advocate who is dedicated to the community college mission, she tirelessly makes herself available to address student needs by developing strong community alliances. Her efforts have benefited over 20,000



students who annually enroll at one of the college's three campuses established to serve the county's 1.5 million residents. The college is honored to present this nomination for the Donald M. Mawhinney, Jr. Trustee Leadership Award.



In memory of Jerald (Jerry) I. Wolfgang, a member of the Niagara County Community College (NCCC), who passed away earlier this year. Jerry was a true champion of NCCC and its students. He committed selflessly to his passion, community service. Jerry's leadership, his willingness to take on new challenges and his dedication to the college and Niagara County

were exemplary. The Board of Trustees lost a fierce and loyal advocate of Niagara County Community College.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR CIVIC CONTRIBUTION



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.



Jasenko Mondom

ALUMNUS
ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jasenko Mondom is a refugee who fled Bosnia in 1992 with his family, went to Germany with the dream of one day coming to the United States, and arrived in the U.S. five years later. Mondom went through the Refugee Assistance Program, then was hired by the Syracuse City School District as an Employment Consultant. He trained refugees for entry level manufacturing and liked to tell students that through hard work they could achieve anything. In 2007 he enrolled in Onondaga Community College's Business Administration degree program. He completed his degree two years later and earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia College, all while continuing to work for the Syracuse City School District.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION

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.



Howard Hellman

ALUMNUS
ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Howard Hellman is Founder and Chairman of All Bright Electric, founded in 1969. A business started by a self-taught teenager. Now 45 years later All Bright Electric has been successful living up to its mission to "deliver to every client the highest

standards in workmanship, safety, ethics, and customer service." Howard is a long-serving member of the RCC Foundation, serves as the current Treasurer and was a member of the Alumni Board Association. Howard is also a frequent speaker and mentor to the Presidents Society. His support for our students has afforded them the opportunity to graduate.



BENEFACTOR VISION FOR TOMORROW AWARD

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.

Margaret “Meg” O’Connell ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Meg O’Connell has a lengthy and distinguished career of community leadership, particularly with Onondaga Community College. She served as a member of its Board of Trustees, as Chair of the Board of Trustees two different times, and in between was the College’s Interim President for one year. In 2022 her husband Eric Allyn, gave the College \$1 million dollars for the creation of the "Meg O’Connell Center for Social Justice and Community Impact" which would provide support for students in volunteer and service-learning opportunities. Through these opportunities, students would use their undergraduate experience to support local efforts, gain work experience, and use their expertise to improve our community.



NYCCT congratulates Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President of SUNY Westchester Community College, for being named the ACCT 2023 Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to SUNY Westchester Community College.

EDWARD J. PAWENSKI BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AWARD



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.



Wolfspeed

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Wolfspeed is a worldwide leader in the rapidly-evolving field of silicon carbide and GaN(gallium nitride) materials and products, leading research and development of faster and more powerful semiconductors for application in electric vehicles, aerospace and defense, renewable energy systems, industrial power, communications infrastructure, and much more. The nature of the industry ensures that Wolfspeed's workplace is never constant. Swift advancement of technologies and automation processes require significant R&D (research and design) engineering investments to stay ahead of the curve and necessitate ongoing employee upskilling and retraining to keep pace with industry shifts.



Call for Awards 2024 *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 2024 NYCCT award, please send an email to NYCCT@suny.edu.*



FRIEND OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE AWARD

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.



M&T Bank
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

M&T Bank executives have served and led Monroe Community College (MCC) for more than three decades. Exceptional M&T Bank executives have held the highest leadership positions at MCC—including as Chair of both the Foundation Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees. In addition to a dedicated history of extraordinary service, M&T Bank has also distinguished itself as a long-standing philanthropic leader having given to the Monroe Community College Foundation annually for 38 years, supporting numerous scholarships, special events and projects.



Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Alice Holloway Young, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the Monroe Community College campus. NYCCT honors retired trustees who have signified outstanding dedicated service to a community college after the trustee's retirement from the Board, with the Alice Holloway Young Award for Distinguished Service.



ANNE BUSHNELL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Scope and importance of award:

This is the highest accolade that NYCCT awards to a trustee. It recognizes extraordinary leadership and achievement as demonstrated by the incomparable Trustee Bushnell, throughout or in part of the term of his/her service as a trustee, to the trustee's local college or the community college system. Only one award in this category is presented in any year. The NYCCT Awards Committee can nominate an individual to receive this award.



Dr. Frank Dubeck, Jr.

BOARD CHAIR

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Frank Dubeck's service on the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees began in 2016 and he has since served as Vice Chair (2020-22) and currently serves as Chair. Frank has been instrumental in the support for the development and implementation of several impactful initiatives at the College including Guided

Pathways, Fast Track, and soon, a new dental hygiene program on the College's Rome Campus. In the face of challenges and uncertainty, Frank's unique qualities inspire trust and foster a positive environment for all who have the pleasure of working with him.

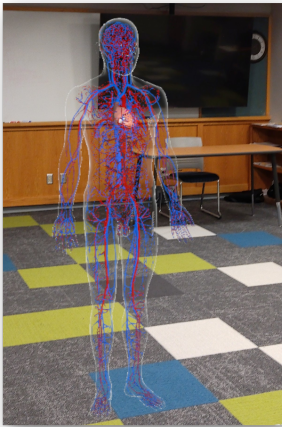




COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION AWARD

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.



Augmented Reality – A New Educational Resource Innovation FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE



FLCC uses both virtual reality and mixed reality in educational programming to provide a more immersive learning environment. In 2018, the College began using three-dimensional holography, called HoloAnatomy, a form of mixed reality to enhance the teaching of human anatomy and physiology, a required class for several

programs. FLCC is the only community college in the nation working with Case Western Reserve on the holography project. Students in the HoloAnatomy section are more likely to finish the course. FLCC's commitment to using innovative technology to support teaching complex and challenging content helps expand student success in high demand fields.





COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION AWARD

Honorable Mentions

Fast Track Program

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



In November 2022, Mohawk Valley Community College launched its Fast Track program—a restorative action to reconnect neglected populations to outcomes through intentionally designed program structures that provide individuals with momentum points of success and multiple credentialing opportunities in extended career pathways. This program attempts to address discriminatory legacy systems and systems lacking equity measures that have allowed too many students to fall through the cracks and never truly reap the benefits of receiving an education. Developed with community-based, user-designed outreach, the College engaged 341 individuals in Fast Track curriculums within the first two months of launch in fall 2022 and remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding programming to meet the needs of the individual, community, and industry alike.



Enrollment Task Force
SUNY ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Enrollment Task Force created by SUNY Orange's Board of Trustees began in 2020 and will continue. The Task Force has come to understand some of the many reasons for enrollment declines at the College (pandemic related and otherwise) and has supported the College in broadening its enrollment initiatives for both recruitment and retention. The College is hard at work implementing a variety of projects, grants and initiatives that are intended to increase enrollment at the College. Spring 2023 enrollment figures, and early Fall 2023 projects, indicate this innovation is working.
