

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
TO  
TRUSTEE TARA OWENS**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Tara Owens faithfully served Onondaga Community College as a member of the Board of Trustees from April 2017 until January 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Owens has served the College with integrity and distinction having served as the Board of Trustees' Secretary from 2019 to 2024; and

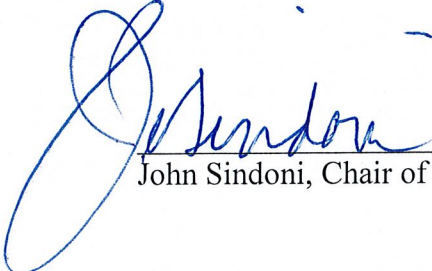
**WHEREAS**, as a Trustee, Ms. Owens dedicated considerable time, talent, and energy in support of the mission and vision of Onondaga Community College and was an incredibly reliable and intelligent member of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Onondaga Community College has made significant strides toward fulfilling its strategic goals over the course of Ms. Owen's service;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees expresses sincere appreciation to Ms. Tara Owens on behalf of the President and the entire campus community for her dedicated service to Onondaga Community College.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting on March 26, 2024

March 26, 2024  
Date

  
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John Sindoni, Chair of the Board

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR DEAN MICHAEL O'CONNOR,  
DR. MALKIEL CHOSEED, AND DR. MATTHEW DELCONTE**

**WHEREAS**, the OCC English Department will receive the 2024 Diana Hacker Two-Year College English Association Award for Outstanding Programs in English for Two-year Colleges and Teachers due to the incredible work done by Dean Michael O'Connor, Dr. Malkiel Chosed, and Dr. Matt DelConte; and

**WHEREAS**, OCC's entry for the Hacker Award was titled, *Integrated Reading and Writing and the Successful Elimination of Developmental Education*. The success story begins with a problem where incoming students who didn't score well on their placement exams were being put in developmental, or non-credit courses. They were paying money for classes which wouldn't result in credits earned toward graduation, there was a stigma which went along with being in those classes, and too many students weren't making it to the credit-bearing courses; and

**WHEREAS**, after examining what was being done at other institutions, OCC decided to bring the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) to campus from the Community College of Baltimore County. At the time it was considered the "gold standard" in developmental English instruction. With ALP, students began taking non-credit and credit courses in the same semester, and the rate of success improved; and

**WHEREAS**, a few years later, OCC's success with ALP turned it into a leader within the SUNY system. The College was awarded a \$600,000 grant from SUNY's Performance Improvement Plan to support 10 community colleges as each either created or improved its co-requisite model for teaching ALP. Dr. DelConte was named the Project Director; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the success with ALP, there was the belief within OCC's English department that more improvements could be made. The desire to accelerate developmental education was one of the pillars of OCC's Title III Guided Pathways Project, and it's that pillar which Dean O'Connor, Dr. Chosed, and Dr. DelConte focused on. The decision was made to eliminate placement testing, non-credit support courses, and the stigma which went along with being placed in one; and

**WHEREAS**, OCC's first semester without a single section of developmental writing or reading was the fall of 2020, which was also the first fall semester with Covid. Over time, results showed the changes led to greater student success. Completion rates for first-time, full-time students in ENG-103 with a high school grade point average of 75 or below improved annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Onondaga Community College was also nominated for a national Bellwether Award for this same work in the category of Planning, Governance, and Finance which recognizes initiatives that improve efficiency and effectiveness. The College's submission was titled, "To Save Developmental Education, We Ended It". While the College was not successful in winning this award, the students at Onondaga Community College will forever benefit from the change; and

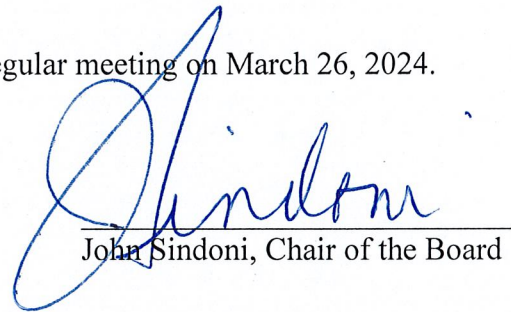
**WHEREAS**, a problem which sparked conversation and action more than a decade ago led to a solution with potentially life-changing impacts for students; and

**WHEREAS**, President Warren Hilton, Ed.D., recommends the Board of Trustees approve this recognition for Dean Michael O'Connor, Dr. Malkiel Chosed, Dr. Matt DelConte, and the faculty and staff who participated in this award-winning initiative;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees approves the recognition of Dean Michael O'Connor, Dr. Matt DelConte, and Dr. Malkiel Chosed, and the faculty and staff who participated in this award-winning initiative.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting on March 26, 2024.

March 26, 2024  
Date



John Sindoni, Chair of the Board