

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Whitney 210**  
**Presiding: Trustee John Sindoni, Chair**

**Trustees:** Jaime Alicea; Dr. Donna DeSiato; Hannah Durand; Dr. Daryll Dykes; Melanie Littlejohn; Paul Mello; Tara Owens; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

**Staff:** Dr. Agatha Awuah; Derrick Carr; Kathleen D’Aprix; Dr. Karen Fabrizio; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Kelly Larrivey; Mark Manning; Roger Mirabito; Michael O’Connor; Samantha Roberts; Kelly Seibt; Timothy Stedman; Susan Tormey; Dr. Eunice Williams

**Students:** Isabella Commesso; Megan Phillips; Sarah Sovocool

**Call to Order**

At 9:10 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called the board meeting to order.

**Consent Agenda**

**On motion by Trustee DeSiato, and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.**

**Committee Reports**

**Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee**

No additional report at this time.

**Education Committee**

No additional report at this time.

**Student Government Update**

Trustee Durand provided a student government updates. She began by stating that their Chair of Health and Wellness organized a pre-Ramadan event that was well attended. Our Chair of Inclusion and Support held an event building zen gardens. Bi-weekly gaming nights in the Lazer Lounge, which has been very popular. Silent Disco was also popular. Earth Day ideas are coming as well to raise awareness. Recruiting officers for next year.

**OCC Foundation**

Trustee Sindoni introduced Kathy D’Aprix, Director, OCC Foundation, to provide her report. OCC Foundation is fully staffed. Alumni Face nominations are extended until Friday. 30 credit hours is the threshold – they do not have to have completed a degree. Alumni event at the Syracuse Crunch was popular. Next event is OCC @ Syracuse Mets on July 20 (7pm game). Donations taken in are \$379,835. \$10,000+ Highlights include \$110,000-US Dept of Education – Title III endowment; \$35,000-Micron – Chip Camp; \$20,200 – Diana Robertson – writing endowment (faculty stipend, programming/speaker, student award); \$20,000-National Grid – E-Sports program; \$20,000-Mary Porcari Brady Nursing Support Fund – emergency funding, nursing kits; \$10,000-Bond, Schoeneck & King – Unity Day; \$10,000-TACNY – student

stipends for research experiences. Scholarships awarded: \$371,608 (fall & most of spring). Week of Giving planned for April 10-14 [www.sunyocc.edu/givingweek](http://www.sunyocc.edu/givingweek) . Ms. D'Aprix showed the Week of Giving webpage and showed ways in which people can help with donations, including matches and corporate gifts. Ways in which to help spread the word via email, text, social media). Ways to become an advocate – Zoom tutorial at noon today, will be recorded. Ms. D'Aprix then reviewed the Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars: Col. Eileen M. Collins scheduled for April 22. She reviewed ways to participate and how to be a sponsor. For those who wish, there is a lecture at 4:00 PM and to attend the Fundraising Dinner (cocktail hour, 5pm; dinner, 6:15pm) (Board table of 8 available, \$1,000). How to help the Foundation: provide names of individuals, companies, or organizations that the Foundation need to know and who need to know the Foundation.

## **President's Report**

### **SUNY Update/Advocacy/State Budget**

Trustee Sindoni introduced Dr. Warren Hilton, President, to provide an update on SUNY, Advocacy and the State Budget. New SUNY Chancellor King visited campus February 17. We were able to spend a morning with him showing him campus including Whitney labs, Hospitality, and Nursing. At each stop Chancellor King engaged with faculty and staff, learned about their roles at OCC, and asked how SUNY could support what they do. The Chancellor's final meeting was a working lunch with a diverse group of students. He listened to each of their stories and took notes as they offered suggestions on how to make OCC even better.

When the Chancellor wrapped up his visit, we headed to Albany to take part in that afternoon's panel discussion titled "Right from the Start: Building a Just and Inclusive Semiconductor Workforce in New York State." The panel was co-moderated by Chancellor King, the Honorable Michaelle Solages, State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter, University at Albany President Dr. Havidan Rodriguez, Emma Cheer of GlobalFoundries, Dr. Robert Simmons of Micron, and myself.

In related news, on February 7 & 8 we were well represented at a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Future Ready Workforce Innovation Consortium. Participants included academic and skills training partners who will collectively develop and support multiple pathways to degree and non-degree programs, technical training, certificates, and specialized credentials in support of Micron's investment in Central New York. We were joined on the Steering Committee by CenterState CEO, Manufacturers Association of Central New York, Mohawk Valley Community College, SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers, SUNY Oswego, Syracuse City School District, and Syracuse University which hosted these initial meetings.

I wanted to let you know about two events with our elected leaders I was privileged to be a part of. On February 6, Governor Kathy Hochul was in Syracuse for a presentation on her budget proposal. She highlighted \$36 million in State funding for our capital projects. I had the opportunity to speak on your behalf and mentioned the importance of a funding floor, along with projects we are working on related to Micron. The event was held in the Marriott Syracuse Downtown which gave me an opportunity to salute one of our distinguished alumni, Ed Reilly, who bought what used to be known as the Hotel Syracuse and reopened it in 2016.

Two days later I was in Washington, DC where I joined Senator Kirstin Gillibrand for a roundtable discussion as part of the Community College Legislative Summit. During the event I

was encouraged to learn about potential funding opportunities for OCC. I also attended both the State of the City and State of the County addresses. The State of the County address was held at OCC in Storer Auditorium and I was fortunate enough to be able to introduce the County Executive. I also, just last week, provided a briefing to the Onondaga County Legislature's Facilities Committee on some updates from campus. Provost Anastasia Urtz joined me in that conversation.

2023-24 NYS Budget Advocacy efforts continue and included personal meetings with local State delegation to review the 2023 OCC Legislative Priorities document. Both Senate and Assembly support a 100% funding floor (2022/23 approved base aid) and rejected a proposed 20% holdback language. The Assembly proposed 4% increase in operating aid while the Senate proposed \$16.7M in additional operating aid. Both the Senate and Assembly are proposing \$75M Transformational Innovation Fund (one time) and support for all OCC capital projects (total \$70M). The budget deadline is April 1, 2023.

### Strategic Plan

Dr. Hilton continued his report with an update on the Strategic Plan. Work continues on the Strategic Plan. The consultants have been spending the month of March gathering data and speaking to focus groups across campus and the community. Thanks to all of the Trustees who participated as well. The Task Force will now review the information and strategize using SWOT and GAP analysis to help develop priorities for the College. We anticipate a final version of the plan will be presented to the trustees at the September 2023 meeting with final approval at the November 2023 meeting. More information will be available at the next board meeting.

### Commencement 2023

Dr. Hilton provided a reminder on Commencement 2023. I'd like to invite trustees to participate in the college's commencement ceremony being held on May 20, 2023. We will start at 11:00 AM and be done by 1:00 PM. Let Julie know if you are able to attend.

### Community Partners Update

Dr. Hilton provided an update on OCC's community partners. Our recent communications with Micron include:

- Confirming that the revised Electromechanical Technology curriculum meets the needs for employment of Technicians at Micron and the semiconductor industry. We are anticipating the curriculum will be approved by NYSED soon.
- Verifying that the cleanroom will be a Cleanroom Simulation Laboratory. OCC will not be constructing a fully functioning cleanroom as it is not needed to train technicians and it would limit access to the facility. Also, for informational purposes, a Cleanroom Simulation Laboratory also comes with less maintenance cost than a fully functioning cleanroom.
- Derrick Carr was hired as the Project Partner Director and started his employment with OCC in early February. He has worked with Micron and other partners since joining OCC.
- Lastly, a local startup semiconductor company has approached OCC to help meet its workforce needs.

The Amazon Career Choice Program is gaining momentum and we have students registered for fall using tuition funding Amazon provides. We are hoping to begin more outreach and advertising for this opportunity soon.

### Student Success Challenge

Regarding the Student Success Challenge (SSC) to decrease the achievement gap of first-generation and under-represented minority students by 50% by 2026, several efforts have been undertaken. Multiple 'student success' communications have been sent to faculty and staff highlighting ways that we all can help. Communications to students provided strategies for success.

The Strategic Initiative Project request for proposals were adjusted so that only projects related to the SSC would be funded. A new SSC Fund was created to solicit projects that support the SSC that have the potential for larger impact. The difference between Strategic Initiative Projects (SIP) and Student Success Challenge (SSC) projects are:

- SIPs are specifically for full-time Faculty and are usually projects with smaller scale.
- Student Success Challenge funds are intended to have greater impact on a larger scale and are collaborative projects across a large department or departments.
- \$30,000 is available for Strategic Initiative Projects and \$200,000 for Student Success Challenge Projects.

### Aspen Institute Update

Dr. Hilton provided an update on the Aspen Institute. Thank you for Trustees Sindoni and Dykes for participating in the SUNY Aspen Institute workshops. This is a series of three workshops, the first of which we completed last month. The focus is on student success, particularly that of our first-generation students and underrepresented minority students and is crucial to our enrollment and something the College is taking on through our own Strategic Initiative Projects and Student Success Challenge. Crucial data was provided to trustees at the workshop so they can look deeper at poverty levels, income, and educational access in those areas, etc. We will take a bit of time at the retreat next month to share this data with you to help make informed decisions about how we all champion for student success.

### Men's and Women's Basketball at OCC

Dr. Hilton introduced members of the Women's Basketball Team who were able to attend the Board Meeting this morning. He then reviewed their accolades at the National Championship Tournament. As many of you are aware, our women's basketball team received an at-large bid to attend the NJCAA National Championship in Minnesota. After a close first round loss, the team rebounded to win the consolation game. We are especially proud of our own Hannah Durand who was named MSAC Player of the Year, named to the MSAC All-Conference Team, named First Team All-Region III, and finished the first-round game of the playoffs with a career high 30 points. Congratulations are also in order for Coach Kelly Seibt who was named MSAC Coach of the Year. The team finished 17-9 overall and their average GPA from fall 2022 was 3.0. Other All-Region III honors go to Macey DeOrdio – first team and Zhane Holmes, second team. MSAC All Conference Team to Macey DeOrdio, Zhane Holmes and Ryleigh Endres. All Region 3 Team: Isaiah Warmack received second team honors; Jaylen Warmack received third team honors; All MSAC Conference: Isaiah Warmack, Jaylen Warmack

### Chair's Report

\*Honorary Degree, Founder's, and Trustee Award Nominations

**On motion by Trustee Littlejohn and seconded by Trustee Alicea, the motion to approve the Honorary Degree, Founder's, and Trustee Award nominations were unanimously approved.**

Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar - 2023

Trustee Sindoni commented that the draft meeting calendar for 2023 is in trustee packets. He asked they review it and let Julie Hart know of any conflicts. We will approve the calendar at the May board meeting.

Nominating Committee Appointments

Trustee Sindoni asked Trustee Melanie Littlejohn to chair the Nominating Committee. Trustee Littlejohn will then ask two additional trustees to assist her with developing a slate of officers to present at the May board meeting for approval at the June board meeting.

Retreat – April 21, 2023

Trustee Sindoni commented that the date for the Board of Trustees spring retreat is scheduled for **April 21, 2023**. He anticipates a ½ day program to allow for an in-depth look at the budget and enrollment.

Executive Session

At 9:52 a.m., Trustee Sindoni called for a motion to enter into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 105, Article 7f of the Public Officers Law to discuss financial matters. **On motion by Trustee DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session.**

**At 10:32 a.m., on motion by Trustee DeSiato and seconded by Trustee Tryniski, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a motion to move out of Executive Session and return to the board meeting.**

There being no further business, Trustee Sindoni adjourned the board meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Prepared by:  
Julie Hart  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:  
John Sindoni  
Chair, Board of Trustees