Greetings from the Provost’s Office!

Autumn in the North Country is definitely in the air… crisp mornings, frosted windshields, short days, and the flurry of activity as we head into Finals Season.

As we honor our military on Veteran’s Day, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, faculty, and staff who have served our country. We are honored that you are part of our SUNY Potsdam family, and deeply respect and appreciate the many sacrifices that you and your families have made on behalf of our community and nation. Our deepest gratitude is extended to each of you!

I also want to again thank those of you who have provided feedback regarding this newsletter and the monthly “Conversations.” Please keep sharing your thoughts and ideas on how I can best communicate with you and across Academic Affairs—your insight is invaluable!

Campus Updates

Our Campus’ Commitment to Diversity. The past few weeks have been challenging ones for our campus community, and have been particularly impactful on our students, faculty, and staff. I want to thank those of you who have been able to participate in the campus’ various forums and meetings, including the Community Check-Ins and Day of Reflection events. Congratulations to members of POP and DIAC, and the faculty/staff presenters, for the exceptional sessions offered on our Day of Reflection! I also want to thank those of you who were able to attend the November 3rd “Coffee and Conversation,” which had previously been slated to focus on Arts Integration. I appreciate your willingness to refocus on the topic of diversity, and to honestly share your concerns, frustrations, and suggestions. As promised, we will continue our informal Conversations on the following dates (sessions to be held in the Raymond 8th floor dining room):

- Friday, December 2nd, 8:00-9:00am: Diversity
- Thursday, December 15th, 8:30-9:30am: Arts Integration
In order to enhance my own understanding of issues of diversity on our college campus, and to learn how to more effectively support you and our students, I will be attending two SUNY-sponsored diversity events: An Institute for Senior Leadership on “Cultural Competency and Inclusive Excellence,” which I’ll attend with President Esterberg, and the system’s Diversity Conference focused on “Building a Culture of Inclusive Excellence.” I also look forward to seeing many of you at the Associated Colleges’ Teaching Effectiveness Conference on November 12th, and following up with you after this event to brainstorm how we can best implement the “lessons learned” from this experience. In addition, I encourage you to attend the campus’ upcoming workshop on “Being the Change- Enacting an Inclusive Campus” on December 7th, facilitated by the Diversity Programming and Training subcommittee of DIAC. I look forward to learning with—and from—each of you as we continue to develop a campus and academic culture that embraces and enhances each student’s individual potential.

**Middle States Periodic Review Report.** Our campus is required to submit a Periodic Review Report (PRR) to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in June 2017. The PRR includes a summary of our progress on the recommendations from our 2012 Self-Study and External Review Report as well as verification of our continued compliance with accreditation standards. The draft PRR report will be shared with our campus community in January. In order to be sure the report is comprehensive and accurately reflects our collective work on campus, there will be several opportunities early in the spring semester for you to share your input. Please watch your Potsdam email in January for more details. Thanks ahead of time for your participation and input!

**Renewal House.** A group of students on campus is working to collect donations for the Renewal House in Canton, which provides much-needed services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Renewal House is in need of many supplies; a “wish list” has been provided in a recent email. Collection boxes are being placed in the Sociology department office (Satterlee Hall 311). If it is inconvenient for anyone to drop off donations in Satterlee, interested parties can contact Jackline Kopyt at kopytji198@potsdam.edu to arrange a pick up of donations. Thank you!

**Student Success Collaborative (SSC).** The SSC Implementation Team, led by Sean Partridge, continues its tremendous work in planning the process for initiating our campus’ long-awaited
student retention tool. As noted previously, our contract with SSC includes a campus-wide membership to the Education Advisory Board’s Academic Affairs Forum, through which you can access a wide range of reports and webinars on topics specific to student success, pedagogy, best practices, trends in higher education, etc. You can create a username to access the Academic Forum using the following steps (be sure to use your Potsdam email!):

2. On the top right of the homepage, click on “Log in now” and then click on “I’m a new user” in the middle. Alternatively, there is a box on the right below Today’s Daily Briefing that says, “New User? Create your account.”
3. Clicking the link takes you to the registration page through which you will be prompted to provide your location, institution name, and your personal information. You will also create a unique password.
4. Click "submit" and you will receive an email in your university inbox containing a confirmation code and a link to log in to the website. Please check your spam folder if the email containing the link does not arrive in your inbox after several minutes.

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**Coming Soon: Coffee and Conversation**

As a means to connect directly with faculty and to dialogue on issues and initiatives impacting Academic Affairs, monthly “Coffee and Conversations” with the Provost are being scheduled. The tentative schedule follows:

- Friday, December 2nd, 8-9:00am: Diversity
  [Please note the time and change of topic!]

- Thursday, December 15th, 8:30-9:30am: Arts Integration

The Coffee and Conversations will be held on the 8th floor of Raymond Hall. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Patty Stone at stonepl@potsdam.edu.

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**Coming Due!**

**Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence.** The Employee Awards Committee is pleased to announce it is accepting nominations for the 2016-2017 Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in the following five categories: Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, and Teaching. Additional information including policy and procedures,
eligibility, and the nomination form are available on the Awards page of the Human Resources website. The nomination deadline is November 14, 2016 at the close of business. Please take a few minutes to nominate one of the many talented and deserving employees on campus!

**General Education Model Proposals.** You are invited to share your ideas for an innovative College Core with the General Education Task Force! The ultimate charge of the Task Force is to propose a new College Core program (GenEd + College Requirements). To meet this goal, members have been exploring several innovative models and discussed the knowledge, skills, values, and experiences that students should take away from a liberal education at SUNY Potsdam. As a next step in this process, the Task Force is asking members of the campus to put forward their “ideal” College Core program in order to encourage participation from as many different voices and creative perspectives as possible.

If you are interested in developing a proposal, please contact Krista Medo (medokl@potsdam.edu) or Alan Hersker (herskeal@potsdam.edu) by November 18th. They will direct you to the resources you may need and share with you the specific work the Task Force has already done. Proposals will be presented to the task force on December 5th.

**(Dis)enfranchisement Conference Proposals.** The Gender, Sex, and Sexualities conference organizing committee is extending the deadline for conference proposal submissions to this Friday, Nov 11th. Please consider submitting a proposal. If you have any questions about the proposal process, please contact Christine Doran at dorancm@potsdam.edu.

**Reunion Weekend.** The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking ideas from faculty and staff for sessions to be held during Reunion Weekend 2017, July 13-16. If you are willing to volunteer your time to offer a presentation, which is typically an hour in length, please submit your topic for consideration to Mona Ouimet Vroman, Director of Alumni Relations no later than December 1, 2016 (vromanmo@potsdam.edu). The Schedule of Events must be finalized by the end of this semester for publication purposes. Thank you for your support of our alumni and friends!

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Being the Change- Enacting an Inclusive Campus.** On Wednesday, December 7th, the Diversity Programming and Training subcommittee of DIAC is facilitating a workshop on “Enacting an Inclusive Campus” from 3:30-5:00pm in the Raymond 8th floor Dining Room.
This session will be an open conversation on our current efforts at deepening inclusion. The session will examine the impact of diversity on teaching practices, working practices at administrative offices, and student interactions. In addition, the session will also aim to collectively develop recommendations to creatively implement inclusive practices on our campus.

The workshop will be led by Morolake Odetoyinbo, founder of Positive Action for Treatment Access and Mary’s Home for Adolescent Girls in Nigeria. Morolake is an activist, advocate, writer, trainer, public speaker, and television and radio producer with 20 years of experience fighting for the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable in society. Reserve a seat at the session by e-mailing Beth Fayette at cfd@potsdam.edu by no later than 4 PM, Friday, December 2.

National Distance Learning Week. The Center for Creative Instruction will be celebrating National Distance Learning Week with live and recorded webinars throughout the week. The following sessions are scheduled:

Tuesday, November 8th
12:00 – 1:00 PM
“Supporting Academic Integrity and Honesty in Online Courses”
This presentation will cover how to support academic honesty and integrity in fully online classes. The session will address why students cheat and how course design, pedagogical techniques, and use of technology can help create a culture of academic honesty.

Tuesday, November 8th
2:00 – 3:00 PM
“Instructional Designers in Higher Education: The Role, Responsibilities and Experiences of Instructional Designers”
In this recorded webinar, learn all about instructional designers; their role, responsibilities and experience. Topics include: the evolving/emerging role of the ID, the ID as a hidden asset on campus, the tragedy of being multi-talented, and the difficulty with awareness of the ID role in higher education.

Wednesday, November 9th
1:00 – 2:00 PM
“Ask Me Anything: Online Students Tell All”
Over 5.8 million students are taking at least one distance education course. What did they look for in a program to fit their needs? What tools help them succeed? What advice would they
offer to a first-time online learner and/or educator? What do they really want to tell their teacher about their class? Join us for this open dialogue with three students currently enrolled in 100% online courses.

**Thursday, November 10th**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

“*How We Got Here! The Evolution of Research and Models of Online & Blended Education*”

In this recorded webinar you will be given a brief introduction of the history of how we got from the 1990s Asynchronous Learning Models (ALM) of online learning to the present online/blended learning/MOOC environments. The presenters then provide insight regarding critical studies in the field and a quick review of several theoretical models as defined in the presenters’ books, as well as discussion surrounding the Blended with Pedagogical Purpose Model that illustrates that it is the pedagogy that needs to drive the technology in our instructional designs, regardless of modality.

No RSVP necessary. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the CCI (cci@potsdam.edu).

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**Around the State**

**SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) 2017.** The SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) is a multidisciplinary spring semester event hosted each year by a different SUNY institution. SURC brings together undergraduate student researchers and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system for a full day of activities, including sessions devoted to student presentations (oral, performance, artistic displays, and poster); luncheon with keynote speaker(s); a SUNY Transfer, Graduate School, and Career Fair; and professional development workshops for students and for faculty. This year, for the first time, the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) will be held at two SUNY campuses, increasing the ability of all SUNY undergraduates to participate.

Suffolk Community College will be hosting SURC EAST on **April 21st, 2017** and SUNY Fredonia will be hosting SURC WEST on **April 22nd, 2017**. The intent of hosting at geographically dispersed institutions is to draw as many students as possible from all of the SUNY schools. Students are welcome to participate at either institution!
Awards & Recognition

Potsdam Appreciation Week. The week of October 31st was designated as “Potsdam Appreciation Week” by the campus’ student group, Emerging Leaders. As part of their festivities, student have identified the following as “Favorite Professors”:

- Timothy Messner
- Jan Trybula
- Haley Bullecks
- Carrie Corriveau
- Lonel Woods
- Kenneth Andrews
- Shelly Tramposh
- Rebecca Lehman
- Nancy Lewis
- Skakuntala Das
- William Brown
- Shiho Imai
- Harold Ellingsen
- David Curry
- Lawrence Brehm
- Heather Beauchamp
- Anna Sorensen
- Adam Wheeler
- Danielle Johns
- Shalu Wunnava
- Victoria Hayes
- Brian Ladd
- Michelle Martin-Atwood
- Nils Klykken
- Jeffrey Francom
- David Bugg
- Alla Semenova
- Liberty Stanavage
- Michael Rygel
- Steven Stannish
- Liliana Trevizan
- Matthew LaVine
- Robert Hinckley
- Thomas Gerstenberger
- Donald Borsh
- Christine Doran

The Emerging Leaders also recognized the following staff members:

- Favorite Clerical Staff Member: Daisy Cox
- Favorite PACES Staff Member: Rajendra Chakranarayan
- Favorite Librarian: Tammy Gore & Nancy Alzo
- Favorite Administrator: Ariel Adams
- Favorite Cleaner: Kevin Bailey

Congratulations on your recognition, and thank you for all that you do on behalf of our students!

Do you have ideas or news to include in the next Provost’s Corner? Be sure to let me know! Just email me at bergerbs@potsdam.edu.