

Provost's Corner

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October 7, 2016

Greetings from the Provost's Office!

I hope that you and your students are enjoying this extraordinary autumn! It's hard to believe that cold and snow are around the corner...

I want to again extend my thanks to those of you who have provided feedback regarding this newsletter. Please keep sharing your thoughts and ideas—your insight is invaluable!

Position Updates

Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies. The SOEPS Dean Search Committee's work is underway, led by Dr. Deborah Conrad. The position has been posted, and applications are already being submitted! The Committee has a very aggressive timeline, and hopes to have finalists on campus before the end of this semester. The anticipated start date for the new Dean will be June 1, 2017. I want to extend a huge thanks to Deborah and the Search Committee for the tremendous job that they are doing with this critical search!

Director, Center for Creative Instruction. We are currently searching for an interim Director for the CCI. Originally, it was hoped that a faculty member could assume this role on a three-quarter time release, but unfortunately we did not receive any applications. Therefore, our current plan is to use the funding from a former CCI staff position to hire a Director on an interim (one-year) basis, while we consider new structures within Academic Affairs that will align with the goals of our strategic plan. As noted in the job posting, the Director will provide vision and leadership in developing, coordinating, implementing, assessing, and revising programs for faculty and staff that enhance the following: professional development; teaching effectiveness and curricular quality; and research, creative activity, and other scholarly pursuits. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this role, please encourage them to apply at the following site: <http://employment.potsdam.edu/postings/3393>

Instructional Designer. As part of our SUNY Online Loan, we are currently searching for an Instructional Designer who will work with the faculty and Online Loan implementation team in

supporting the development of new courses and programs. As noted in the job posting, the Instructional Designer will support faculty through the application of instructional design best practices to develop high quality online learning environments. This individual will design and implement training opportunities to enhance faculty knowledge regarding online learning possibilities, and will coordinate the development of online and hybrid courses. This position is funded through the Online Loan. Information about this position can be accessed at the following site:

<http://employment.potsdam.edu/postings/3382>

Campus Updates

Strategic Planning. On behalf of the President's Council, I want to once again thank all of you who were able to attend the first campus-wide strategic planning session on September 12th. As noted by President Esterberg, by working together and continuing the dialogue, we will collaboratively plan for our third century of excellence at SUNY Potsdam. The Council continues to collect responses from the conversations that took place and are now scheduling opportunities to share the proposed draft plan in regular small group meetings. There is also an opportunity for input through a series of questionnaires on the website, at potsdam.edu/about/administration/president/strategicplanning. Your voice in this process is vital and I thank you in advance for your participation.

Kyiv National Economics University (Ukraine). Ten students from KNEU recently received special certificates for participation in Dr. Greg Gardner's International Business Communications course via a Skype ceremony that included remarks from KNEU's Prorector. The students had participated in the online course with their SUNY Potsdam counterparts, completing cross-institutional group projects.

Learning Management System (LMS). I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the first "Coffee and Conversation" last month to discuss issues, concerns, and ideas related to our campus' LMS. The dialogue was extremely helpful as we consider the pros and cons of a transition from Moodle to Blackboard. While it appears that the actual components of Moodle and Blackboard are similar, the primary advantage in considering a transition to Blackboard is the support that we would be able to gain through our affiliation with SUNY Online and access

The Provost's Corner is Online!

Have you misplaced a previous edition of the Provost's Corner? All editions can be found at: <http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/newsletter>

to the system's HelpDesk and other professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff. An FAQ sheet has been posted to my website, along with a link to a survey: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/lmsfaqs>. I look forward to hearing your ideas regarding this possible transition!

For those of you interested in learning more about Blackboard, you can create a SUNY Commons account using the following steps:

1. Go to <http://commons.suny.edu/>.
2. On the right hand side, half way down the page, click on "create your account and login"
3. Sign up for a SUNY Commons account
4. You will be able to login using "SUNY Login"
5. Once you are in, click on "Groups"
6. In the search bar about 1/3 down the page, type in COTE
7. You will need to request membership to this group; once it is completed, and you are in COTE, click on Community of Practice, then COTE Hub
8. Within the COTE Hub website, click on the "pedagogical perspective" link in the blue bar, and then select "courses for observation"

St. Lawrence Leadership Institute. The Division of Graduate & Continuing Education has been working on forming an exciting new partnership with an entity known as the St. Lawrence Leadership Institute (SLLI). This program, recently supported by the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, is an apolitical, not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to foster the development of emerging and existing leaders for the advancement of St. Lawrence County and its communities. SLLI cultivates individuals willing and capable of being inspiring leaders by offering education on issues related to our community, leadership skills development, and networking opportunities.

This program is a part of the division's vision to expand professional development offerings for a variety of populations. This project will also include partnering with the Department of Business Administration in exploring opportunities to offer a "for credit" option for participants. Participants will receive a non-credit local certificate of completion, as well the potential option for up to 3 graduate credits. The existing board of directors will begin meeting with the division this month with plans to begin a cohort in the fall of 2017.

North Country Regional Science Fair. SUNY Potsdam will be hosting the first annual [Terra Northeast Regional Science and Engineering Fair](#) on March 11, 2017. Students in grades 6-12 will compete with topic presentations, or Junior and Senior Research and Engineering Designs.

More information will be forthcoming, including ways in which our faculty, staff, and students can engage with this wonderful event as judges and volunteers. This event will provide an outstanding venue to showcase our STEM-related applied learning!

Space Committee. The link to the Space Request Form is now online, and available at <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/physicalplant/space/request>. Prior to submitting a request, be sure to work with your dean/unit head and to discuss your proposal with any affected units or areas.

Student Success Collaborative. Thanks to the input and efforts of the Retention Committee, our campus is finally in the process of implementing a web-based Retention Tool! The Student Success Collaborative (SSC) combines technology, consulting, and best practices to support campuses in their retention and graduation efforts. Specific elements include predictive modeling that assists in identifying at-risk students, a robust “early alert” system, and advising supports. Because SSC is in the early stages of creating connections with the SUNY system, we were able to negotiate for a substantial reduction in cost for this tool. Our plan is to pilot SSC for three years, at which time we will assess the impact of this tool on our retention and graduate rates. The Implementation Team, led by Sean Partridge, will begin planning this fall with a proposed target date of full implementation by the fall 2017 semester.

As part of our contract with SSC, we also have a campus-wide membership to the Education Advisory Board’s Academic Affairs Forum, which includes access to a wide range of reports and webinars on topics specific to student success, pedagogy, best practices, trends in higher education, etc. More information will be coming soon regarding the login process to access these resources. I will continue to keep you updated on the progress of SSC’s implementation!

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:

- Thursday, November 3rd, 8:30-9:30am: *Arts Integration*
- Friday, December 2nd, 8-9:00am: *Academic Strategic Plan*



The Coffee and Conversations will be held on the 8th floor of Raymond Hall.

In Case You Missed It!

Grants Panel. As previously announced, the Research and Sponsored Programs Office will be hosting a faculty panel discussion "Getting Started with Grants at Potsdam" on **Friday November 4, 2016** from 12-1 pm in Satterlee Hall 117. Gordon Plague (Biology), Victoria Klawitter (Mathematics), Fadi Bou-Abdallah (Chemistry), and Nancy Dodge Reyome (Research and Sponsored Programs) will serve on the panel. Please join the panel as they discuss the issues involved in seeking external funding to support scholarly and creative projects.

Coming Due!

Research and Creative Endeavors Program. The Research and Creative Endeavors Program will have two deadlines this academic year: Wednesday October 5, 2016 and Wednesday April 5, 2017. Submissions are due by 4:00 pm in the Research and Sponsored Programs Office, located in 238 Satterlee Hall. The Research and Creative Endeavors Program is designed to provide faculty and staff with seed money to pursue a research or scholarly project and eventually seek and attract external funding for their work. The maximum award per project is \$1,000. Generally, this program does not provide funding for conference travel, computer equipment, or general office expenses.

The online application can be found on the Research and Sponsored Programs website: <http://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/research/rspo>. For more information, feel free to contact the Research Office at x2131.

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!



Mark Your Calendars!

2016 Teaching Effectiveness Conference. The Associated Colleges of St. Lawrence County will be hosting the 2016 Teaching Effectiveness Conference on **November 12th** at the Clarkson University Cheel Barben Rooms. The five-hour workshop, “Creating an Environment for Student Success: Cultural Competency in the Classroom,” will be presented by Dr. Robbin Chapman, the Associate Provost and Academic Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Wellesley College.

Topics covered in the workshop will include cross-cultural communications in the classroom, unconscious bias, micro-messaging, creating inclusive classroom experiences for all students, and handling tensions in the classrooms. Details regarding registration will be forthcoming.

Pedagogy & Teaching of Online Learning. The CCI will be offering an online seminar called "Pedagogy & Technology of Online Learning" beginning October 11th and ending November 18th. Whether you are developing an online course now, planning one for the future, are a veteran of online education, or just curious about it – your participation is encouraged and welcomed!

Each participant will systematically design and build an online course; participate in weekly discussions on such topics as instructional design, student engagement, and online pedagogy; and learn the fundamentals of Moodle. Although this is an online seminar, it will also include weekly, onsite sessions for those interested. These sessions are NOT required for participants of the seminar, but are offered to provide options for in-person instruction and discussion as the seminar unfolds (meetings held in the Center for Creative Instruction; time TBD).

If you are interested, please register by **10 AM Tuesday October 11th** by visiting: <https://moodle.potsdam.edu/course/view.php?id=708>. If you have questions, please email Michael Phillips at phillimj@potsdam.edu.

Please Note...

I will be out of the country between October 10-26, traveling to China with Krista LaVack to attend a variety of student recruitment events. Should any emergencies arise, Jill Pearson and Alan Hersker will be able to assist you. I look forward to seeing you upon my return!



Anne Malone Lecture Series. The Anne Malone Lecture Series will be held on **Friday, October 21, 2016** on the 8th floor Raymond Hall at SUNY Potsdam. Dr. Jo Reger, Professor of Sociology and Director of Women and Gender Studies, Oakland University, MI will be the guest speaker. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Patty Stone at stonepl@potsdam.edu. If you have already sent in your RSVP, thank you!

SOEPS Seminar Series. The SOEPS Seminar Series “Disciplined Inquiry in Education” is holding its next seminar on **October 12th** at 12:00 in the Literacy Center Balcony (Room 260). Dr. Kathleen Valentine will be presenting on “Isn’t This a lot of Fluff?” For more information about this and upcoming seminars visit:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/education/seminar/index.cfm>

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

Capital Campaign Celebration. I would like to extend a huge “thank you” to all the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the September 30th Capital Campaign celebration! Your stories were inspirational, and clearly demonstrated the impact that the Campaign is having on the experiences of our students. Kudos also to Dr. Doug Schatz (Department of Art) and his

student Ashley Stay who created the extraordinary sculpture to commemorate our bicentennial campaign, now displayed in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center. I look forward to working with all of you as we enter our “third century” of academic excellence!

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@potdam.edu.