Welcome to The State University of New York at Potsdam, the oldest campus in the SUNY system and one of the nation’s first fifty colleges.

At SUNY Potsdam, you will create a unique learning experience in collaboration with your fellow students, faculty, and staff. You will cultivate lifelong learning skills, based on a strong liberal arts foundation, that translate directly into a successful career: critical thinking, writing, speaking, scientific reasoning and the application of technology. You will develop long lasting friendships, as you learn to live and work within a diverse community of students, faculty and staff, coming from all over New York State and the world.

We celebrate the campus culture of creativity, knowing the importance of the arts in creating innovative learning environments for every discipline and for every student, whatever their choice of major. At Potsdam, creativity includes not just the amazing work of students and faculty in our renowned Crane School of Music, but also the research that faculty and students conduct together in the science labs or the field and in our brand new Wagner Institute for Sustainability and Ecological Research. Creativity is embodied in our annual LoKo Festival of the Arts, when the campus and community blossom with a diverse array of visual, written, musical, dance and theatrical performances. And creativity comes alive in the classroom, as faculty introduce you to new ideas, new technologies and new ways of approaching problems.

Through all we do, we embrace the diversity of the human experience, challenging individuals to look at life from a variety of perspectives and embody the creative spirit that informs a rich and innovative life. We want you to explore during your time here, whether that means backpacking in the Adirondacks or discovering the great cities of Montreal or Ottawa, just north of the Canadian border. We want you to engage with the campus and the community and to develop your leadership skills, through participation in student organizations and honor societies, sports or student government, and opportunities for service learning and community engagement.

Our aim is for you to apply what you’re learning in the classroom in real-world settings. Whether that means building a dugout canoe in your anthropology class, performing at Carnegie Hall, directing your own play in our award-winning Performing Arts Center, student teaching in Australia or working as a community health intern at the hospital, we want to be sure that you’re ready for the world when you leave us.

Welcome to this warm and vibrant campus community!

Kristin G. Esterberg, President