

#### LOUGHEED CENTER FOR APPLIED LEARNING

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



## **2021: GETTING CREATIVE**



The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning team, L-R from top, Annette Kelley, Jenica Rogers, Patti Senecal. Dr. Tom Baker, Karen Kus-Misiak, Toby White. Dr. Dave Bugg, Sonny Duquette, Dr. Sharmain van Blommestein

2021 was the year of getting creative. It was a year of hybrid instruction, with some students on campus and others learning remotely. It was a year of quickly establishing virtual internships, and integrating live case studies and microinternships into courses. It was a year of online mentoring between service learning students and middle school students. It was a year of joining into Collaborative **Online** International Learning while we were grounded in the US. It was a year of meeting with students virtually, and holding our high-touch student appointments by video or phone.

We learned from every one of the experiences, and we're taking some of the creativity borne of necessity into 2022. We're celebrating the successes of our applied learning team, our dedicated faculty, and the students who persevered through 2021 and its many challenges.

Watching as our community followed their hearts, fought for their futures, and protected each other from COVID 19 was inspiring. I hope that their stories inspire you, as well.

With heartfelt gratitude to our many supporters,



Dorf Endowed Director or Applied Learning

### Lougheed Center for Applied Learning

## IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD AND JOY DORF '58

The vision and faith of one remarkable couple jump-started the founding of the Center for Applied Learning, and drove forward our impact on the lives of our students. Their groundbreaking \$1M endowment, established in 2015, to support the Dorf Endowed Director for Applied Learning has made so much possible for us. They followed that gift with an additional \$1M to support students and faculty directly - "to help you complete the work you've started". We don't ever expect to be done helping students reach their goals, but the Dorfs made that work easier through their generosity and faith in our work. We owe so much to the trust and vision of Dick and Joy Dorf, and their memory and legacy will live on at Potsdam.



Richard Carl Dorf (Dick) was born in the Bronx, N.Y., on Dec. 27, 1933, the only child of Carl and Marion Dorf (Fraser). He attended The Bronx High School of Science and Clarkson College in upstate New York, where he pursued a degree in electrical engineering.

Joy was attending SUNY Potsdam at the time and the couple met and married. He then received a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder, and a Ph.D. from the Naval Postgraduate School in California in 1961.

The couple spent a year in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh where Dick was a lecturer before returning to sunny California for a position as professor and department chair at Santa Clara University. Dick began his writing career in the early 1960s with one of his most significant textbooks "Modern Control Systems" now in its 12th edition.

Dick was vice president of student affairs, dean of extended learning and a variety of other administrative roles until full retirement in 2012. His life journey was completed on Oct. 22, 2020. Joy Halcyon MacDonald Dorf was born Dec. 9, 1937, in Lawrence in northern New York on a dairy farm, the oldest child of Leonard and Gladys MacDonald.

She attended college at SUNY Potsdam, earned a teaching degree, and met and married Richard "Dick" Dorf. In the first years of their marriage, Joy taught elementary school in various locations. When the couple settled in Los Gatos, she devoted her time to motherhood, raising daughters Christine (born in 1962) and Renee (born in 1964).

Joy enrolled in a master of divinity program at San Francisco Theological Seminary and earned a degree in 1976. She held the position of associate pastor for over 10 years at Davis Community Church.

She then served a variety of churches in Northern California as an interim pastor and held a position at SFTS in Continuing Education. In her retirement, she continued to mentor, serve and contribute to the local community, and together with Dick, contribute to many educational institutions. Her life journey was completed on May 19, 2021.

## **IMPACTS AND INNOVATIONS**

Our generous donor funding literally makes dreams come true. This year we were able to grant more than \$29,000 to support faculty and students. We had plans to spend more than \$30,000 more in endowment income, but the pandemic made many travel and research experiences impractical and unsafe. The significant cognitive load of life and education during a pandemic also caused some of our students to set their dreams aside for a semester. Fortunately, our endowment income remains available to us as we are all refocusing and beginning anew for 2022!

### **Faculty and Student Impact**

#### Problem-based learning in the WISER Center



"Problem-based learning can be an uncomfortable way to teach," said WISER Center coordinator Ray Bowdish, who has worked since 2016 with Dr. Marta Albert, Associate Professor of Advanced Studies in Education. Together, they use project-based learning to merge concepts of sustainable agriculture with the frontiers of pedagogical technique. "Traditionally most of us have wanted to be the sage on the stage telling students what we know. Problembased learning makes you be the guide on the side."

Dr. Albert highlights the utility of the approach - "SUNY Potsdam pre-service secondary educators are learning how to connect the disciplines they are preparing to teach — mathematics, science, history, social sciences — to real-world issues and contexts," she said. "We do it by engaging in hands-on, project-based experiences. We also work together to pose questions and explore problems."

#### Undergraduate research earning scholarships

Aliaksandra Reutovich '22 of Brooklyn, N.Y., has become the first SUNY Potsdam student to be named a Goldwater Scholar, receiving the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in America. A double-major in biochemistry and biology, Reutovich was honored with the 2021-22 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, making her one of just 410 students to receive the award, out of 5,000 nominations from across the country.

"Becoming involved in chemistry research during my freshman year introduced me to the limitless possibilities of science, and how our understanding of diseases truly starts with a great idea at the lab bench. Throughout my time conducting undergraduate research, I have been involved in several research projects in Dr. Fadi Bou-Abdallah's lab, mainly focused on the major iron storage protein in the body, ferritin. We are working on elucidating the structurefunction relationship of heteropolymer ferritins and relating it to explain certain diseases," Reutovich said.



#### <u>Co-ops come</u> to Potsdam



A new long-term co-op internship program being piloted at SUNY Potsdam is covering the cost of in-state tuition. It's also giving focused students a suite of skills, college credits and job experiences in human services work that go well beyond what they would take away from an average internship. The Arc Co-Op Internship Program places students for three years with The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence, where they work with people with disabilities for a minimum of eight hours and up to 29 hours a week in residential, day habilitation and vocational services.

"Students can pay for their six semesters of tuition in this program," said Toby White, SUNY Potsdam's director of experiential education. "We really felt that the time was right to introduce this more involved partnership with The Arc, creating a win-win for their important work and for our students, who will now gain a toolchest that will serve them well in the years ahead of them."

#### **Applied Learning All-Star!**



Ramatu Muhammed '21 was one of 45 students to recently receive the SUNY-wide award for participants of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), recognizing those who thrive despite obstacles to their success. Muhammed also learned last month that she had been accepted into a master's program for international relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies—a top program of its kind in the world.

Both of Muhammed's parents were born in Ghana. She grew up in the Bronx and traveled to West Africa as a child, immersing herself in the swirl of cultures that held both foreign color and a familiar heartbeat. The early experiences abroad fueled her curiosity about the world, an interest in diplomacy and a desire to help.

An international studies and politics major at SUNY Potsdam, Muhammed has helped rebuild schools in Mexico as a volunteer with All Hands and Hearts, restoring structures shattered by a series of 2017 earthquakes (Service Learning). She flavored her education with study abroad in both England and Morocco (International Education), and interned full-time with the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations in New York City (Internships), where the latter experience opened her eyes to the unique challenges facing remote island nations (Which she pursued via Undergraduate Research as a Presidential Scholar!).

#### Local and National Internship Impacts

Alexandra Rivera '22 felt the potential of storytelling when she visited family in Puerto Rico soon after Hurricane Maria in 2017 and interviewed local residents about the devastation. In 2020, Rivera began an internship with North Country Public Radio, adding to her journalism experience gained as editor-in-chief of SUNY Potsdam's student-run newspaper The Racquette. Rivera — an English and environmental studies major from Nyack, N.Y. is the first Korva Coleman intern. SUNY Potsdam welcomed National Public Radio newscaster Korva Coleman to campus last fall to speak to journalism students and give a talk for the public. Coleman requested that her honorarium for visiting campus be used to fund a paid NCPR internship for a student of color. "I can't wait to work with the news team at NCPR. They do amazing work around the North Country area and I am so lucky to begin to be part of that work," Rivera said.

#### <u>GENEROSITY'S LASTING IMPACT</u>

Following in the footsteps of the Dorfs and Lougheeds, alumni are stepping forward to endow new funds for future generations of hands-on learners at SUNY Potsdam.

Eileen Goss Whelley '76 and Lynne Boles '74 have started an Internship Enablement Fund to help SUNY Potsdam students complete internship experiences that will help them find a great job after graduation.

Gail Haynes Stradling '64 and Richard Stradling, Jr. (St. Lawrence University Class of 1964, SUNY Potsdam Honorary Class of 2019) recently established the Gail and Richard Stradling Travel Endowment: Passport to Possibilities, with a \$1.2 million pledge in honor of their shared love of travel and their commitment to student success at SUNY Potsdam. The Passport to Possibilities endowed fund will provide SUNY Potsdam students with international educational and cultural experiences not otherwise covered by tuition and fees. Funds are intended to support both individual student travel and faculty-led travel courses.

We look forward to restarting International Education in SUNY, and our ability to change students' lives with these funds!

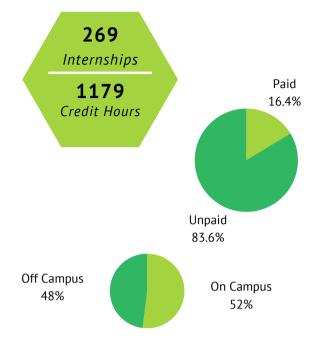








## INTERNSHIPS



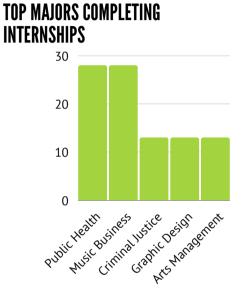
Industry States States

\$487,760 in total labor provided by unpaid academic internships \$376,320 in labor in provided in St. Lawrence County

Toby White, the Director of the Experiential Education Office, implemented a number of new programs and opportunities for students at SUNY Potsdam, which include:

- Awarded \$25,075 in scholarships to support internships in 2020-2021
- Two students were hired for the first SUNY Potsdam/ARC Co-Op Program.
- Created a Zero Credit Co-Op course to allow for this program to be on the Academic Transcript
- Established a strong relationship working with Chris Mazzella and the College For Every Student (CFES) Program
- Participated in CFES Career Readiness Training
- Worked with the SUNY Center for Professional Development committee to create a Career Readiness Champion Certificate Program. This program will start in the spring 2022

Internships are the traditional heart of experiential education and applied learning. Academic internships at SUNY Potsdam allow students to earn up to 12 upper division credits towards the 45 required for a Bachelor's degree. They get great real world experience for their résumés, and can try out their selected career field to see if this is the career path they will take in the future. And finally, they begin to build the network of career professionals in their desired field that will be so critical to their future successes.



- Worked with Julie Johnson (Center for School Partnerships) to create a COVID-19 Applied Learning contract for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters
- Volunteered to assist in student testing for COVID 19 during the spring 2021 semester. Toby White attended every Monday testing session for the spring 2021!





LETI Cadet Class of Spring 2021

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING Institute

Maintaining active and collaborative relationships with regional law enforcement agencies is part of what makes our LETI the strong program it is. In 2020-2021, the LETI hosted:



Federal, State, and local police agencies sent instructors to teach at our academy, exposing our cadets to multijurisdictional instructors.
Stress Vests and Firearms Simulator training with our cadets, SUNY Police, local police agencies, and the National Guard assigned to the COVID 19 Vaccine Clinic in Maxcy Hall.
In-service training in Defensive Tactics, Reality Based Training, Cultural Diversity, Deescalation Techniques, Shoot/Don't Shoot, and Proper Use of Force, for SUNY Potsdam, Malone, Potsdam, and Tupper Lake Police Departments.

#### In Their Own Words:

One cadet who transferred to Potsdam from another SUNY criminal justice program so that he could attend our academy, said

"This was the best semester of college I ever had. I learned more in 4-months here than in the 4-years before!" In 2020 and 2021, the LETI was on hold we completed our successful 2019 fall academy, but then had to postpone the 2020 fall academy to spring 2021 due to COVID 19 concerns in such a high-focus and high-touch learning environment. The cadet class was limited to 8 due to pandemic-imposed space constraints and social distancing, and 5 students enrolled and completed the academy under unprecedented social and educational conditions. We applaud not only their commitment to their chosen profession, but their dedication, courage, and tenacity during the pandemic.

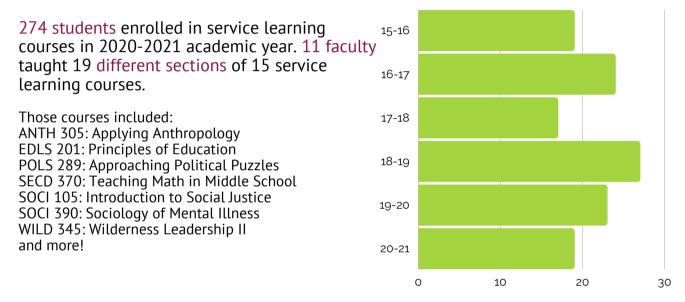
Spring 2021 Cadets:

Lia J. Clemons Seamus D. Honeywell Harshan S. Johal Manuel Ortiz, Jr. Tyler M. Pancotto

## **SERVICE LEARNING**

Service-learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Robert Bringle and Julie Hatcher, The Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning. Fall 1995. 112-122.

### Service Learning Sections Offered



A variety of programs took advantage of virtual service opportunities - with the exception of the Wilderness Education program, which was able to provide in-person socially distanced opportunities due to the outdoor nature of their experience. Virtual service opportunities allowed for students and community partners to accomplish a variety of projects safely without risk of exposing any participating individuals to COVID19, and extended the amount of contact students could get with K-12 partners and work in schools during the pandemic.

While fewer classes were offered overall this year, a greater number of students enrolled in many of the classes that were offered. Even with the barriers of community partners who could not provide a virtual service alternative or who were unable to be open due to the pandemic, high enrollments allowed us to keep the number of students and hours generated by the program at a relatively high rate of impact despite the pandemic.



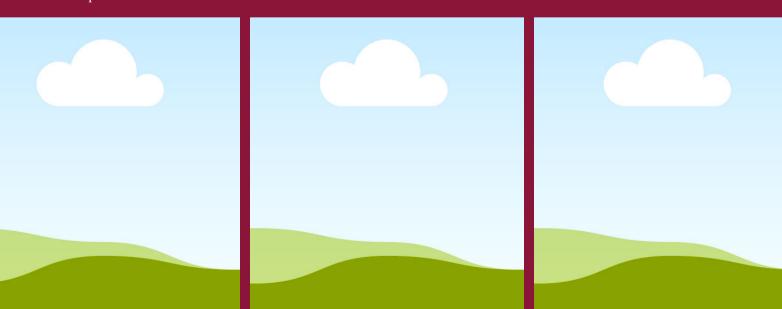
\$46,032 in total labor provided to community partners by service learning courses





This section should be full of 2020's photos of students and faculty in exotic locations, experiencing the beauty and richness of the world first-hand. Instead, we share a triumphant pre-pandemic photo of the 2019 service learning students who went to Puerto Rico to help with hurricane recovery. Because that's what we do, at SUNY Potsdam: We do the hard work, and we help each other to persevere. The frustration and sadness - in our staff, in our students, in our faculty - were palpable as we made the tough decisions to halt international education.







Dr. Tom Baker, Director of the Office for Student Research and Creativity, flanked by the incoming Honors Class of '23

## **OFFICE OF STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY**

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us a lot - both about new opportunities and about systemic challenges. The Office of Student Research and Creativity is taking the opportunity to adapt.

- In 2021-2022, OSRC will begin a Kilmer Labs funding pilot project aimed at increasing numbers of student researchers on campus. Administrative approval gained in spring 2021 has authorized us to work with select faculty researchers (PIs) to establish proof of concept. The initial round of funded projects will help us "workshop" the Kilmer Labs format to create a viable alternative to individual student Kilmer Fellows projects.
- Our changing student population, key faculty retirements, and the ongoing implementation of the Potsdam Pathways curriculum have highlighted the need to re-structure and re-invent the Honors Program for our current student body, and current curriculum. The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning team will develop a new model for Honors study in the coming year.
- While we continued to wish we could hold an in-person Learning and Research Fair, to give our students that face-to-face experience of talking about their research, we noted the real benefits of our online events. In 2021 we improved on the L&RF online based on the lessons of 2020, and really leaned into the positives. Students produced strong short videos, interviews with judges were focused and engaging, and our award winners were well-publicized. As we move to a hoped-for face-to-face event in 2022, we will be maintaining some of these improved online features!



## **PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS**

Through the Presidential Scholars Program, motivated & talented SUNY Potsdam students are given the opportunity to create their own independent project and to more fully develop their interests and intellect. The Presidential Scholars program links students who wish to explore possibilities beyond the limits of traditional classroom experiences with faculty mentors who help them develop and complete their independent research. A fund administered by the College Foundation provides funding for both the student scholar and the faculty mentor, and supports celebratory events to recognize the remarkable achievements of these Scholars.

Our Presidential Scholars traditionally present their research to their peers and faculty guests at annual Colloquia. In 2020, half of our graduating scholars were able to present this way in the fall of 2019. The remaining graduates presented in May 2020 as expected, but presented via Zoom instead of in Thatcher Hall. They were brave and eloquent, and our audiences of fellow Scholars, faculty, friends, and family members were engaged and active on chat and during Q&A!

### **GRADUATING SCHOLARS, 2019-2020**

Amell Marie Cullum Isaiah Darlak Jennifer Dudley Chanell Herne Karson Jackson Sarahanne James Madison Massa Emily



## **KILMER GRANTS**

Kilmer grants provide funding for our undergraduate researchers and creative artists to engage in independent student/faculty collaborations. Kilmer grants fund research and creative projects across the campus in all academic fields of study. Kilmer grantees active in the 2019-2020 academic year are listed below, along with their project title.

### KILMER GRANTEES, 2020-2021

Allen Pina, Marriah Anthropology Significance of Hand-Shaped Glyphs in Mayan Hieroglyphic Script Lydia Rodriguez Bracero, Yadriel Biochemistry Does Rad53 affect the 3'-end process Fathima Nazeer Callan, Conor Political Science The Millennial Political Mind: A Revolutionary Generation or an Uninterested Cohort Robert Hinckley Dorman, Philip Chemistry Assembly of Gold Nanoparticles Induced by Chromium Maria Hepel Hart, Alis Biochemistry Cloning the MTP1 gene from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii David Gingrich Johnson, Donald Physics Study of electrical conductivity of bio-polymer nanocomposites Ananta Adhikari Laguda, Aisha Biochemistry Does a Protein Degradation Factor Regulate mRNA Maturation? Fathima Nazeer Lucia, Isabella Petrologic, geochemical, structural analysis of the Popple hill Gneiss (PHG) in the northwest Adirondacks Sara Bier Martin, Jaelyn Psychology Does Self-Compassion moderate the relationship Internalized Homonegativity and Symptoms of Distress? Claire Starrs McEwen, Andrew Physics Biomedical Application of Polyethylene Oxide (PEO) Nanocomposites Ananta Adhikari Michaux, Ja'liza Psychology Minority Stress, Microaggressions and Distress in Gender and Sexual Minorities of Color Claire Starrs Reichard, Ruth Biochemistry Use of Gold Nanoparticles to Detect and Quantify Lead in Water Fadi Bou-Abdallah Renaud, Megan Archaeology Cross Cultural Comparision of Child Mortuary Practices Nasser Malit Savoie, Rachael Geology Testing the marine influence at Joggins, Nova Scotia Michael Rygel Small, Gemma History A Look at "The Blue Lotus" through the language comparison and Historial Setting Imai Shiho/Lora Lunt Tasber, Kellin Biology Identifying the Role of Elc1 Regulating mRNA Processing Factors Fathima Nazeer Welsh, Cassidy Psychology Purification and Characterization of Human Isoferritins Fadi Bou-Abdallah Wright, Lauren Anthropology/Archaeological Studies Analysis of Dental Traits/from Revolutionary War Era Dentition Jaimin Weets



L: Aliaksandra Reutovich R, upper: Dr. Starrs' lab students, R, lower, Dr. Claire Starrs

## **LEARNING & RESEARCH FAIR**

The Office of Student Research and Creativity hosted our second all-online presentation for the 2021 Learning & Research Fair.

### **PROVOST'S AWARD WINNERS**

Provost's Award for Excellence in Student Research

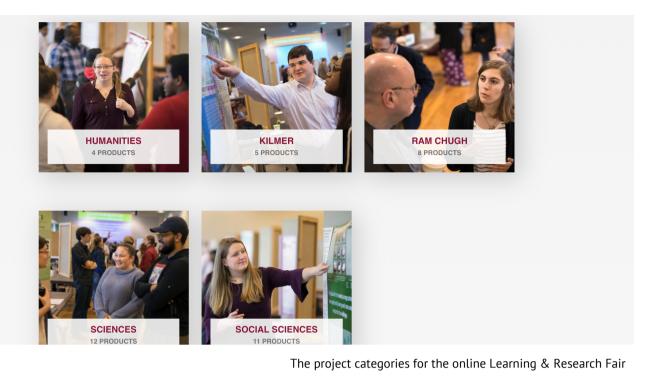
Brianna Gerhardt

"Can Music Change Mood? An Experimental Affect Priming Study" Faculty Mentor: Claire Starrs

#### **Aliaksandra Reutovich**

"The effect of physiological phosphate concentrations on iron mineralization and mobilization in ferritin" Faculty Mentor: Fadi Bou-Abdallah

Outstanding Faculty Mentorship of Undergraduate Research Dr. Claire Starrs (Psychology)



### FREDERICK B. KILMER RESEARCH AWARDS

#### Science Ruth Reichard

"Rapid and Sensitive Colorimetric Method for Detection of Several Toxic Heavy Metals" Eaculty Mentor: Eadi Bou-Abdallab

Faculty Mentor: Fadi Bou-Abdallah

#### Social Sciences

#### Lauren Wright

Analysis of Dental Traits from Revolutionary War Dentition Faculty Mentor: Jaimin Weets

#### Humanities & Arts Gemma Small

"A Look at 'The Blue Lotus' Through Language, Imagery, and Historical Setting"

Faculty Mentors: Shiho Imai, Laura Lunt

### RAM CHUGH NORTH COUNTRY Research & Public Service Awards

#### 1st Place

Awehiawaks Herne "ICINA: Indigenous Cultural Identity Narrative Assessment" Faculty Mentor: Claire Starrs

#### 2nd Place

Rachel Grohbrugge "Bear Carebook: Development of a Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Assessment" Faculty Mentor: Claire Starrs



## **CAREER SERVICES**

In Fall 2019, students and alumni had a chance to connect at our first (and we hope, annual!) Alumni Networking Event. Members of the College's Foundation and Alumni Boards took time from their busy meeting weekend to connect with students in the Lougheed Learning Commons. The event was a smashing success, and showed us the genuine desire our students and alumni have for connection with each other.

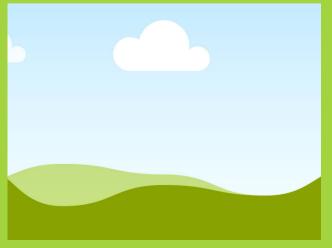


Students and alumni connect at the Alumni Networking Event, October 2019

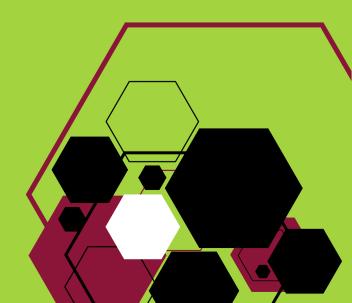
With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, Career Services continued providing all the critical services our students and alumni rely on - just moved to Zoom. Workshops, resumé reviews, networking with local employers, panel discussions with alumni - they all happened as usual, just online, hosted by our full-time staff and Peer Advisers. Student attendance was excellent, and we quickly learned that there are distinct advantages to virtual connections for both students and community partners.

As a result of these successful events, virtual and F2F, both local businesses and far-flung alumni will have new opportunities to connect with our students in 2021!

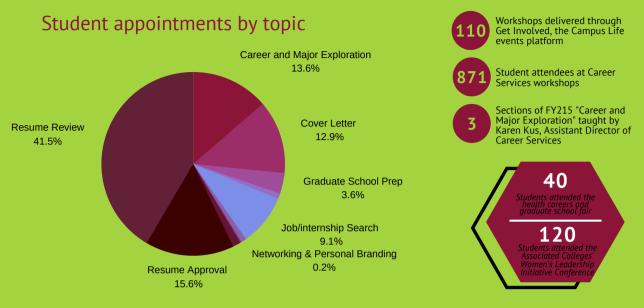
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Social media publicity for a Zoom event with alumni



## **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITH CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

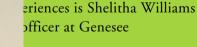


### **CONNECTING ALUMNI AND STUDENTS FOR CAREER SUCCESS**

SUNY Potsdam alumni are stepping up to mentor the next generation, offering field-tested insight on how to effectively navigate the workforce, break glass ceilings and thrive in the workplace. They'll lead a virtual alumni panel titled "Industry Insight and Career Advice," on Feb. 11, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The public is also invited to attend the free event.

The discussions and breakout mentoring sessions will help SUNY Potsdam students draw from the perspectives of those who have built success using the College as their foundation. They'll hear about the bumps, reality checks and inspiring and unexpected turns, and tips for navigating the way to rewarding work in higher education, social work, health communications, investment management and much more. The mentoring sessions—where participants are assigned to virtual breakout rooms from 7 to 7:30 p.m.—are geared mainly to SUNY Potsdam students. Early registration is strongly encouraged through the following registration link.

Panelists represent SUNY Potsdam's diverse alumni, including Dr. Tesfa Alexander '02, director of the Division of Research and Evaluation, Health Communication, of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and a member of the SUNY Potsdam Foundation Board of Trustees from 2014 to 2020. Panelist Evril Clayton Jr. '05 is the deputy director of global equity for the New York State



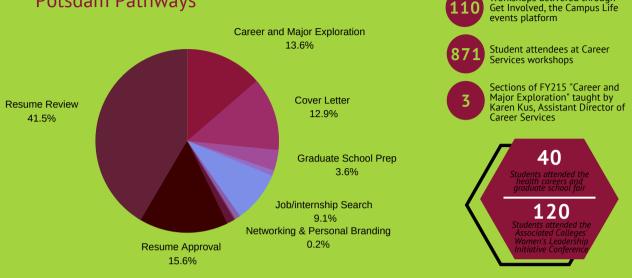


20 meeting with Assemblyman Mark Walczyk (top) and working at a Career Services event (bottom)

## **APPLIED LEARNING: UNIFYING CAREER SKILLS AND** CLASSROOM KNOWLEDGE

Workshops delivered through

**Potsdam Pathways** 



### WORKSHOPS, CO-OPS, AND GOING VIRTUAL

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## **THANK YOU!**

The Lougheed Center for Applied Learning team is grateful to all who help us meet SUNY Potsdam's goal of ensuring that every student has access to high-impact applied learning experiences.

We cannot do this work without our partners in the faculty, our staff colleagues who make things run smoothly behind-the-scenes, the academic leadership of Provost Bette S. Bergeron, and all the alumni and friends who help our students afford the cost of higher education.

Your generosity with your time, expertise, and money is so valued, and we thank you.

### **CONTACT US**

Center for Applied Learning

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Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lougheed Learning Commons Suite 107