I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire campus community once again for your participation in this spring’s Middle States accreditation review team visit. Without exception, the campus was well prepared and fully engaged with this critically important process.

I also want to thank our MSCHE co-chairs, Gordon Plague and Julie Dold, for their exceptional leadership. Our campus’ preparation, and the smooth organization throughout the visit, were truly a reflection of their leadership. I also want to thank Carrie Bates, our self-study report writer, and our Steering Committee chairs and members, for their outstanding service. Your time and expertise have been invaluable.

As successful as the visit was, we also are very cognizant that our campus needs to continue to improve in key areas, particularly as they relate to assessment and finances. These concerns (and related opportunities) were clearly identified in the team’s draft report. It’s also important to note that these areas of focus are not just specific to Academic Affairs—they are the responsibility of the entire campus. We all play critical roles in ensuring that students are academically successful and fully engaged as learners, which is at the core of any institution’s accreditation.

The process of our accreditation review has not ended with the team’s site visit. The team’s final report will be shared with the administration by May 3rd, at which time it will also be officially submitted to our portal. We will also be working on a response to the report, which will be officially submitted to the MSCHE Commissioners. The Commissioners will meet in June, at which time they will make a final determination regarding any recommendations or requirements for our campus, and will identify concrete next steps in the continuous cycle of review and accreditation.

In the meantime, we will continue to support our students to ensure their academic success, seek ways to increase our enrollments through our recruitment and retention, and identify a path to fiscal balance. I look forward to working with each of you as we address these goals and define our opportunities for the future.
New Faces/New Positions

Academic Affairs.
- Tabitha Brown has joined the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning as a Staff Assistant/Applied Learning Advisor
- Sarah Farnsworth has joined EOP as an Academic Advisor
- Markie Hooper has joined the Center for Creative Instruction as an Instructional Designer

Chief Diversity Officer. As was recently announced, Dr. Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio will soon be joining SUNY Potsdam as our Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Richardson-Melecio has more than 25 years of experience as a diversity consultant and executive-level administrator in the field of human services. She is deeply connected with experts in social work and has taught courses on mental health policy, multilingual counseling, and sociology of minority groups.

I would like to thank Gretchen Galbraith and Deborah Conrad, search committee chairs, and the members of our search committee, for their incredible leadership on this successful search. I would also like to thank Claudia Ford and Willie Williams for their roles as Interim CDO, and for maintaining the momentum of our campus’ many diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Finance and Budget Leadership Changes. As was announced by OIC Neisser in April, changes are in process related to leadership positions in Finance and Budget. In consultation with SUNY System administration, Potsdam has received approval for Nick Laino to join the campus’ leadership as Senior Advisor for Finance and Budget, effective immediately. Nick concurrently serves as the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance at Herkimer County Community College. As the Senior Advisor for Finance and Budget, Nick will provide our campus with fiscal oversight and advice as we begin the transition to permanent campus leadership.

Between now and July 1st, Regional Chief Financial Officer Josee Larochelle and her colleagues Magen Renadette and Sean Dermody will continue to support the College. During this transition, Nick’s role will be to study the campus, get to know and learn from College faculty and staff, and participate in SUNY Potsdam’s FY23 budget process that is being led by Josee. As of July 1st Nick will serve as our budget liaison to SUNY System.

Nick and OIC Neisser are currently working to develop a 2022-2023 staffing plan for the Business Affairs Office. The regional procurement services collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh will continue next year, with Sean Dermody continuing to oversee that operation.
PACES Leadership Changes. The Potsdam Auxiliary and College Educational Services (PACES) Board of Directors has appointed Patrick Gray to the position of Executive Director, effective this month. Pat will succeed Daniel Hayes, who served as the PACES Executive Director since 1982.

In addition, the College Store has undergone management changes. Wannita Richards has assumed responsibilities for Lyndon Lake, who has moved on to new opportunities out of state. Wannita Richards is currently overseeing operations, including textbook requisitions. Wannita can be reached via email at collegestore@potsdam.edu or richarwm@potsdam.edu.

Campus Updates

Retention Steering Committee. A new Retention Steering Committee has been formed this spring, and charged with identifying and coordinating all student retention initiatives (across divisions); assessing the work of student retention task forces, and revisiting the charges for each group to determine if there is overlap and/or for current relevance and priority; and coordinating an annual campus-wide Student Retention Summit involving all stakeholder groups on campus. Initiatives included within the coordination of this Steering Committee include, but are not limited to, the Advising, First Year Experience, Bring Back the Bears, and Student Success Task Forces.

Members of the Retention Steering Committee include: Patrick Quinn (Enrollment Management/co-facilitator), Bette Bergeron (Academic Affairs/ co-facilitator), Stephanie Claxton (Registrar/Academic Student Services), Gretchen Galbraith (Arts & Sciences), William Gibbons (Crane), Victoria Klawitter (Mathematics), Sergio Lopez (Modern Languages/Exploratory Programs), Matt LeBire (Institutional Research), Sean Partridge (Student Success Center), and Lisa Stewart (SOEPS).

Language Consortium. Our Department of Modern Languages is part of a new Language Consortium developed through the SUNY comprehensive colleges. Interested in learning more? Check out the new website: https://online.suny.edu/languagesconsortium/. If you have questions about this exciting cross-institutional partnership, contact Gretchen Galbraith (galbragr@potsdam.edu).

Updates from the Registrar. As a quick reminder, final grades are due Wednesday, May 25th, by 10:00am.
FERPA. As a reminder, FERPA prohibits instructors from disclosing academic information about a student without their written consent. This includes disclosure of a student’s Potsdam ID#. Helpful hints:

- Potsdam ID’s (P#’s and SSNs) are both FERPA protected and should not be released.
- Never email information contained in a student’s educational record to a non-Potsdam email account.
- Be sure not to copy more than one student in an email (example: do not send grades of multiple students to multiple students in the same email).
- Never post grades in hallways or leave graded material outside of your office door.

The Registrar’s Office is available to discuss any FERPA situation that you have concerns or questions about. Always check when in doubt!

Racquette’s Newest Staff Writers. The Racquette is proud to introduce their newest staff writers and their first — of hopefully many — feature publications. Students from the Riverview Correctional Facility campus, with the help of Nancy Lewis (Sociology & Criminal Justice) have met with student writers on the Potsdam campus, via Webex, to share what it is like to work at a student newspaper and how to publish their own creative works. For the remainder of the semester, students at RCF will be learning the basics of journalism and will have their own works featured in the Racquette. The Racquette is thrilled to give our fellow campus community members a platform for their own experiences.

Zoom/Teams. In 2020, as our campus shifted to remote course delivery in response to the pandemic, Computing & Technology Services purchased a Zoom contract to help facilitate instruction. Given the shift back to in-person instruction and the significant improvements to Office 365 tools, coupled with the need to reduce campus budgetary expenses, the campus can no longer support the use of Zoom after the conclusion of the Spring, 2022 semester.

While campus users may choose to use Zoom through free or subscription-based personal accounts, CTS strongly encourages campus users to take advantage of the full conferencing features available through Microsoft Teams. Creating and scheduling meetings is seamless in Teams/Outlook. Additionally, users outside of SUNY Potsdam are still able to join Teams meetings.

Interested in learning more? Please visit the Teams section of CCI’s Tech Tools website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the IT Service Desk by email at itservicedesk@potsdam.edu.
**Updates from the CCI**

**Knowmia and Zoom.** As you prepare for Fall, 2022, two significant changes are ahead. Both the Knowmia and Zoom contracts end this summer and will be replaced by O365 tools. Please refer to the CTS posting on the Zoom webpage and use Tech Tools for resources to help you transition to Teams. In addition, a Q&A Zoom to Teams Transition session will be offered (see below).

The Knowmia transition will be a heavier lift. User videos on Knowmia must be manually downloaded and uploaded to OneDrive. In addition, if those videos are to be used in Brightspace, they will also need to be added to the specific course.

**IMPORTANT:** You must take action to transfer Knowmia videos by **August 22, 2022.**

**How to transfer videos from Knowmia to OneDrive**
- Log in to potsdam.techsmithrelay.com.
- Identify videos you want/need to keep (up-to-date lectures and tutorials, assignments, committee meetings, etc.).
  - **Note:** Video assignments must be kept (archived) for a full year after a course has ended.
- Select a video to open the view page.
- Select the **More** button and **Download**.
- Create a folder in OneDrive and upload the video ([video tutorial]).

As part of the migration to Brightspace, O365 integration will eventually be added. This will allow OneDrive files to be added directly to your courses from OneDrive.

**Brightspace.** If you are teaching an approved online course, you are expected to have completed Brightspace (LMS) training before your next online course begins. All other faculty are strongly encouraged to complete Brightspace training; evidence of completion can be used as an example of continuing growth and professional development.

Complete Brightspace details are managed through the SUNY [dle.suny.edu](http://dle.suny.edu) website. However, the on-campus implementation team will highlight project timeline events and upcoming training opportunities using the CCI Brightspace – News and Notes page. As we gear up for the transition, the CCI invites you to join the new **Creative Instructors Community** team to participate in discussions in the Brightspace channel (watch [Joining a Microsoft Teams with a code](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01:16, code n9v5whd)).
CCI – Summer Support. With the many transitions happening this summer, the CCI would like to remind you that you can always contact cci@potsdam.edu for support. We plan to deliver several sessions this summer to help you transition to Brightspace, Teams, and OneDrive (for Knowmia Videos). If you want to be notified about these sessions, submit a Keep Me in the Loop form.

CCI – Events and Workshops. Please visit the CCI Events Calendar page to register for upcoming CCI*, SUNY, and SUNY CPD events and workshops. Also, review the Training Programs section for various multi-day learning opportunities this semester. Here are a few upcoming sessions:

- Q&A Zoom to Teams Transition* – 05/03
- 2022 Student Success Summit: Holistic Approaches to Student Success – 05/04-05/06
- Integrating Students in Research * – 05/06
- Accessibility Awareness Lab- 05/18
- Fundamentals Bootcamp on Accessibility- 05/19
- Mental Health Strategies to Support Faculty and Staff Wellbeing – 05/19
- Implementing an Online Course Quality Review & Refresh Process with OSCQR – 05/23
- CIT 2022 – Sustaining the Momentum: Building on What We’ve Learned – 05/31-06/03

Course Surveys (a.k.a. Course Evaluations). The 04/22/22 deadline for Course surveys has passed. Survey requests submitted in BearPAWS will be processed at the discretion of the CES Administrators. Go to the Course Surveys webpage for general guidelines.

Potsdam Pathways

Interested in Teaching a Potsdam Pathways Course? Pathways is in its second year of full roll-out (the first full year with Crane students), and we are so grateful for everyone’s continued work and support. We have 153 courses that have been approved for Pathways designators! We ran 67 WAYS sections this year and continue to welcome new faculty from departments across campus. A complete list of approved courses can be found at the bottom of the Pathways Faculty information page: (https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/programs-study/potsdam-pathways-general-education/information-faculty).

As we hope to see increased enrollment, our need for new faculty to develop and teach WAYS courses continues. If you are interested, please reach out to Christine Doran
WAYS Coordinators. We are seeking applicants for coordinators for WAYS 101 and 103. Please check your email for more information (an email came from Ada Law on April 20, 2022). We are welcoming Laura Brown as the new WAYS 102 coordinator over the summer. Sheila McIntyre, whose work on the GESC and Pathways leadership team goes back to the very beginning, has finished her term as WAYS 102 coordinator. Our gratitude for her hard work, clear thinking, and general awesomeness is unbounded and she will be greatly missed. Hopefully, once she returns from her well-earned sabbatical, she will be persuaded to continue with Pathways in another capacity.

Around SUNY & the State

SUNY General Education Framework. As SUNY prepares to launch the new General Education Framework for Fall 2023, I want to bring to your attention the following opportunities that are made available through the SUNY OER Services and SUNY Center for Professional Development.

Through SUNY’s partnership with Lumen Learning, SUNY faculty and staff have access to two professional development opportunities that support diversity, equity, and inclusion, at no cost to faculty or their campus. Additionally, SUNY Center for Professional Development offers a more extensive certification program for a deeper dive into inclusive teaching practices.

Professional development options:

1. In the nine-week Lumen Circles’ Belonging & Inclusive Teaching Fundamentals fellowships, faculty explore teaching strategies and learn to facilitate inclusive environments where all students feel they belong and thrive personally and academically. This program is appropriate for faculty currently teaching and will help them expand their skills in support of the SUNY Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice GE Framework.

2. Lumen’s self-paced workshop, Exploration of Belonging for Educators: Creating a Sense of Belonging to Support Student Success and Well-Being, aligns with SUNY’s commitment to building a more inclusive community for all SUNY students. The self-paced virtual...
professional development experience consists of four modules (~5 hours effort per module). Participants work at their own pace until July 31, 2022 (when the workshop closes). This program is appropriate for all SUNY faculty and staff who engage with students, including instructors, librarians, instructional designers, advisors, and student success staff.

Mark Your Calendars

SUNY Potsdam Learning and Research Fair 2022. The annual Learning and Research Fair will be held in-person on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. in the Multipurpose Room, Barrington Student Union. On behalf of the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning, you and your students are encouraged to participate.

Since its inception over two decades ago, the Learning and Research Fair has been a wonderful opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to share their research, teaching/learning innovations, creative efforts, and scholarly achievements. Visit the Fair to get to know your colleagues and students better, learn about and celebrate their scholarly contributions and accomplishments, share your knowledge and expertise, and suggest possible new projects and future collaborations. Student presenters at the Fair are eligible to compete for awards administered by the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning.

A note on format: Learning and Research Fair 2022 will be delivered in a hybrid format (mostly in person, with optional virtual judging sessions).

The Learning and Research Fair 2022 Digital Registration Form and important deadline dates are posted here. The link is also located on the LoCAL home page.

In Case You Missed It

Bear Care Advisory Group. Recent updates have been made to the Bear Care website, which includes resources on a variety of topics related to students’ mental health and advocacy services: https://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/wellness/bear-care. If you have questions or ideas for the Bear Care Advisory Group to consider, contact Bobbi Madderra at madderbc@potsdam.edu.
Linkr Communities of Practice. The Associated Colleges has partnered with https://www.lovelearning.org to develop a community hub, our own "Linkr," where we can share our intellectual, professional, and personal interests in order to create connection, develop belonging, and foster collaboration and belonging. All faculty and staff are encouraged to consider joining, creating a profile, and connecting with your peers.

When you follow the link below, you'll be asked to create an account. Please use whatever email you would like (it is recommended that you use your institutional email) but be sure to select "teacher" as your role (even if you are not teaching). Once your membership is approved, you can create your profile, join groups, suggest new groups, etc. If you have questions or ideas regarding the creation of Linkr groups, please don't hesitate to reach out to Peter Anderson at acslv@potsdam.edu.

The link to join is provided here: https://app.linkreducation.com/associatedcolleges.

Kudos

NSF Grant Award. Linghong Li (Physics) has been awarded a $50,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for her work on “I-Corps: Noninvasive Wound Healing using Pulsating Electromagnetic Fields.” Congratulations, Lily!

University Faculty Senate. In April, the SUNY University Faculty Senate elected Jan Trybula (Biology) as the incoming the Vice-President/Secretary of the UFS. Jan’s term starts officially on July 1, 2022.

Notable Publications. Jessica Rogers (Environmental Studies), Kamal Humagain (GIS), and Adam Pearson (Geology) have co-authored "Mapping the Purple Menace: Spatiotemporal Distribution of Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum Salicaria) Along Roadsides in Northern New York State” in Scientific Reports on Nature. Kerri Canedy (Theatre & Dance) recently had her first book review article published, in the Journal of Dance Education. The book she reviewed is entitled: “Rooted Jazz Dance: Africanist Aesthetics and Equity in the Twenty-First Century.”

2022 PRIDE Awards. The SUNY Potsdam PRIDE Appreciation program is a campus-wide initiative designed to recognize numerous aspects of Potsdam pride based on the mission and values of the Emerging Leaders student group. Through the Potsdam PRIDE appreciation effort, Emerging Leaders hope that the SUNY Potsdam community can go deeper in supporting
one another, advocating for positive change, and providing inspiration and creativity to help us be our best.

Please join me in congratulating the Spring, 2022 awardees:

**Category P-Promoting Community**
- Student: Queen De La Cruz Bueno
- Student Organization: Spanish Club
- Faculty/Staff Member: Colleen Skull
- Department/Office: Admissions Office

**Category R- Recognizing Creativity**
- Student: Kylie Wilkins
- Student Organization: Madstop Records
- Faculty/Staff Member: Jason Howald
- Department/Office: Community Performance Series

**Category I- Inspiring Inclusion**
- Student: Zoey Fiber
- Student Organization: SAGE
- Faculty/Staff Member: Clifton Harcum
- Department/Office: Food Pantry

**Category D- Demonstrating Leadership**
- Student: Donna Zarrabi
- Student Organization: It’s On Us
- Faculty/Staff Member: Jennifer Mitchell
- Department/Office: Psychology Department

**Category E- Excellence**
- Student: Gracey Sutton
- Student Organization: Gaming Club
- Faculty/Staff Member: Sheila McIntyre
- Department/Office: Elementary Education Department