

# Provost's Corner

Bette S. Bergeron, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

April 12, 2021

## *Notes from Academic Affairs*

I want to first of all acknowledge what I know has been an incredibly difficult and painful week for you, your colleagues, and our students. Our nation's deep roots of social and racial injustice are clearly displayed through the trial of Derek Chauvin; COVID cases and new variants are rising amid what can best be described as pandemic fatigue, which appears to be fueling a fourth surge; and painful and very personal issues here at home related to sexual assault, gender-based violence, microaggressions, and bias have led to critically important discussions and calls for reform.

This Newsletter includes specific resources related to Title IX, gender-based violence, and sexual assault (pages 2-7) that have been gathered by our campus community. And please don't forget about this week's *Days of Reflection* (see page 8 for more details), which includes a specific session today (**April 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm**) on "The Triple Trauma of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Race, Gender, Higher Education" facilitated by Interim Chief Diversity Officer *Claudia Ford*. The full schedule for the Days of Reflection can be found at <https://www.potsdam.edu/daysofreflection>.

As has been emailed recently to campus, we have also seen an increase in COVID positive cases among our students, and therefore have had to reinstate restrictions related to dining, social gatherings, and use of the fitness center. However, it is important to note that face-to-face classes are proceeding as planned, and students do still have access to the Loughheed Learning Commons, rehearsal spaces, studios, and labs. Please keep in mind that, due to the large numbers of students who are now impacted, it is not possible for staff to contact each student's faculty member when a student is required to go into isolation or quarantine. However, if desired, faculty can ask students for their isolation/quarantine orders that they would have received from Public Health. Thank you in advance for being as flexible as possible with our students, many of whom are feeling very isolated by this pandemic. **It is also incredibly important for those who are teaching face-to-face to keep seating charts for every class session.** Without updated seating charts, entire classes are required to be placed in quarantine because accurate contact tracing cannot be completed. We will continue to assess our campus'

cases each week, with the hope that restrictions can again be lifted. As a reminder, updates are provided on our campus' [Potsdam Prepared](#) website.

I also recognize that there is still a lot of uncertainty around our fall schedule. Right now, we are anticipating that we will be following the [academic calendar](#) as published, including planned breaks. Our campus is focused on welcoming students in the fall to as much of a “normal,” face-to-face college experience as possible. However, there are many details that will still need to be worked out—including whether or not the current six-foot social distancing guidelines will still be in effect, which will significantly impact our availability of classroom spaces. The great news is that all adults in New York are now eligible for the vaccine! This allows plenty of time for our students, and our faculty/staff, to become fully vaccinated long before the start of the fall semester. (At this point in time, vaccines are not a requirement for SUNY students or employees, but we are monitoring this closely.) More information on New York's vaccine rollout and eligibility requirements is available online at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

I continue to work closely with the Cabinet, Academic Affairs Continuity Working Group, Faculty Senate leadership, Council of Chairs and Program Directors, and Emergency Resource Response Group to monitor and communicate any changes to policies and guidelines at the state/SUNY level and to gather input, concerns, and suggestions across Academic Affairs. I deeply appreciate your patience, understand your frustration with the reality of our current uncertainties, and look forward to having all of our students and employees back on our vibrant campus as soon as it is safe to do so!

Again, please know that I am thinking of you and your students. Thank you for the support and advocacy that you are providing to each other and our campus community. Also, please don't forget to take care of yourself. Remember, if you need support in these challenging times, don't hesitate to contact the [College Counseling Center](#) (for students) or take advantage of the Mental Health Resources team in Microsoft Teams (for employees). Additional coping resources are available [here](#).

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## ***Title IX Resources***

Over the past week, the campus community has been collecting and sharing a variety of resources related to Title IX, gender-based violence, and sexual assault. If you know of additional resources that you have found to be particularly helpful, please be sure to pass them along for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

## Quick Links/Numbers

- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-8255 (available 24/7)
- **SUNY Potsdam Counseling Center:** [counseling@potsdam.edu](mailto:counseling@potsdam.edu)
- **SUNY Potsdam Peer Counseling Contact Request Form**
- **SUNY Potsdam LGBTQ+ Support Group:** Every other Wednesday from 7pm-8pm. Weekly Zoom links can be found on the [Campus Counseling Center Get Involved Page](#).
- **Crane School of Music Anxiety Support Group:** Every Tuesday from 1:30pm-2:30pm. Weekly Zoom link can be found on the [Campus Counseling Center Get Involved Page](#).
- **Reachout:** (315) 265 2422 (available 24/7)
- **St. Lawrence County Renewal House:** (315) 379-9845 (available 24/7)
  - Resources include safe housing, transportation, and more.
- **The Trevor Project:** Trevor Lifeline: 1-866-488-7386 or Text “START” to 678-678 (available 24/7)
- **ULifeLine:** Call 1-800-273-8255 or text “START” to 741-741 (available 24/7)
- **NYS/Crisis Text Line Partnership:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text Got5 to 741741 (available 24/7)
- **National Sexual Assault Hotline** at: 1-800-656-4673
- For those who prefer chat support, the **National Sexual Assault Online Chat** is at: <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>
- If it feels hard later, please reach out to friends or you can also text 741741 to get connected with a **Crisis Counselor:** <https://www.crisistextline.org/>
- **Dutchess County Helpline:** Talk or Text to (845) 485-9700 and toll free (877) 485-9700 (available 24/7)
- **SUNY Peer Hotline:** (518) 422-5777 (available 1pm-12am Monday through Thursday and 24hrs/day on Fridays through Sundays; only available during the academic year)
  - **Web version**

## Additional Resources

- UP statistics resource: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/safety/police/annual-reports-statistics>
- Information on Trauma Informed Teaching: <https://library.potsdam.edu/TraumaInformedTeaching>
- Resource for moving forward: [http://www.preventconnect.org/2014/01/beyond\\_bystander/](http://www.preventconnect.org/2014/01/beyond_bystander/)
- Bessel Van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score  
Crumb Library copy: <https://potsdam.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1124969&site=ehost-live&scope=site>  
Also on: <https://www.amazon.com/Body-Keeps-Score-Healing-Trauma/dp/0143127748>
- Resmaa Manekem, My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies <https://www.amazon.com/My-Grandmothers-Hands-Racialized-Pathway/dp/1942094477/ref=nodl>
- Crumb library has My Grandmother's Hands: <https://potsdam.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1700394&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

**Syllabi.** As one means for communicating to students the resources and supports that are available to them, sample wording for course syllabi is provided below (with a huge thanks to those faculty members who made these excerpts available!).

### EXAMPLE 1

#### *Student Support Resources*

If you are struggling with issues outside of the classroom, please know that there are professionals both on and off campus who can assist you. If you need immediate assistance, please contact our campus Counseling Center (with free counseling) at (315) 267-2330 or visit their website (<https://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/wellness/counseling-center>). Below are some other campus resources.

**Accommodative Services:** Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations should contact *Jessica Burnett*, Coordinator of Accommodative Services (267-3267, Sisson 112, [oas@potsdam.edu](mailto:oas@potsdam.edu)) as soon as possible for assistance. All disclosures will remain confidential. If the structure of the course, the discussion Forum, or the assignments are

problematic for you, please let me know so that we can work together to find other solutions that will allow you to be successful in this course.

**Title IX Coordinator** – Katie Agar

[agarke@potsgdam.edu](mailto:agarke@potsgdam.edu)

VanHousen Extension 392

(315) 267-2516

**Bias Incident Reporting-** <http://www.potsgdam.edu/about/diversity/biasincident>

**Center for Diversity**

223 Sisson Hall

(315) 267-2184

**University Police**

Van Housen Extension

(315) 267-2222 (number for non-emergencies; for an emergency please dial 911)

**Student Conduct and Community Standards**

208 Barrington Student Union

**Reachout** (24-hour crisis hotline)

(315) 265-2422

**Renewal House** (for victims of domestic violence)

VanHousen Extension 390 (open Wednesdays 9:00am-5:00pm)

(315) 379-9845 (24-hour crisis hotline)

[Renewalhouse\\_campus@Verizon.net](mailto:Renewalhouse_campus@Verizon.net)

## **EXAMPLE 2**

### ***Student Support***

Every student in this class is a valued individual. If you are struggling with issues outside of the classroom, please know that there are professionals both on and off campus who can assist you. If you need immediate assistance, please contact our campus **Counseling Center** (with free counseling) at (315) 267-2330 or [visit their website](#).

Links to other resources can be found on the [Bear Care](#) website. Some quick links are also below:

- [Student Health Services](#)
- [Title IX Coordinator](#)
- [Bias Incident Reporting](#)
- [University Police](#) (315) 267-2222 (number for non-emergencies; for an emergency please dial 911)
- [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#)

And please: if you see something, say something. If you see that someone that you care about is struggling, please encourage them to seek help. If they are unwilling to do so, Care Enough to

Call has guidelines on whom to contact. Everyone has the responsibility of creating a college climate of compassion.

**LGBTQ+ Resources.** The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion would like to make sure that members of the Potsdam community are aware of campus resources specifically dedicated to LGBTQ+ issues. Please be sure to pass along this information to your students and colleagues.

The *Office for Gender and Sexuality* was created to provide services and resources for the LGBTQ+ community as well as educational programming for the broader campus community. These services and resources are designed to improve the experience of members of the LGBTQ+ community at SUNY Potsdam, and to promote a more inclusive campus community for all. To achieve these goals, the Gender and Sexuality Co-Coordinators, *Michael Popović* and *Cailey Underhill*, have designed a number of support services and educational resources such as a series of trainings related to LGBTQ+ topics, an on-campus support group for LGBTQ+ students, and the creation of our annual Lavender Graduation.

The Office for Gender and Sexuality actively collaborates with the Health Center and the Counseling Center, and helped to design the Preferred Name Policy. Student Health Services provides comprehensive transgender healthcare to students. Because the needs of the LGBTQ+ community on campus include more than naming policies and mental and physical health services, the Office for Gender and Sexuality also provides the following resources:

#### *Gender and Sexuality Workshops and Trainings*

The Office has developed a number of presentations and interactive workshops that can be tailored to your group, areas of interest, ages of participants, and desired learning outcomes. Topics that are covered include basic terms and labels, pronouns, models for understanding gender and sexuality, transgender and gender non-conforming identities, LGBTQ+ history, intersectionality, allyship, and more.

#### *LGBTQ+ Support Group*

In response to the unique challenges that members of the LGBTQ+ population face, in addition to the general difficulties presented by the pandemic, the Office has partnered with the Counseling Center to create an LGBTQ+ Support Group. The group is designed by the students who wish to participate in the meetings to ensure that the needs of students are being met most effectively. Any student who identifies as part of the LGBTQ+ community is welcome to attend. Meetings are held twice a month on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Due to restrictions around COVID-19, the meetings are held via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on <https://getinvolved.potsdam.edu/>.

*Coming Soon: LGBTQ+ Webpage*

Later this month, the Office will launch a comprehensive webpage that addresses a wide range of topics related to the LGBTQ+ community. The webpage will provide information about trans resources, physical and mental health, suicide prevention, local and national LGBTQ+ organizations, social services, job market resources, an array of trainings and workshops, legal resources, and frequently asked questions.

This represents only a small sampling of the resources, support services, and educational opportunities available through the Office for Gender and Sexuality. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact *Cailey Underhill* ([underhcc@potsdam.edu](mailto:underhcc@potsdam.edu)) or *Michael Popović* ([popovimj@potsdam.edu](mailto:popovimj@potsdam.edu)).

**New Library Resource.** *Marianne Hebert* has created a selection of E-Book resources that discuss racism, sexism, immigration, policing, gender discrimination, and many other issues of inequality in our society. To learn more about accessing this collection, please see the research guide: <https://library.potsdam.edu/c.php?g=1061471&p=7717193>.

**Counseling Center.** The Counseling Center would like to remind you that they continue to work remotely this semester. If you have concerns about a student during office hours, Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, please call the office. If no one is available to answer immediately, please leave a message; Ellie will return your call as soon as possible. If your need is urgent and you do not get a call back within a couple of minutes, please contact University Police, who can reach the Counseling staff by cell phone. If you have a concern outside these hours, you can encourage the student to use one of the resources below for support or you can contact University Police, who will call or go to the student to check in directly. We appreciate your patience and are grateful for your work to support our students!

*Counseling Center* 315-267-2330

*University Police* 315-267-2222

*Reachout:* 315-265-2422

*Tribal Support:* 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

*The Trevor Project:* 866-488-7386

*Crisis Text Line:* Text GOT5U to 741741

*Suicide Prevention:* 1-800-SUICIDE (2433) or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)



## *Campus Updates*

**Days of Reflection.** SUNY Potsdam's *Spring 2021 Days of Reflection* is taking place this week, from **April 12th to 15th** and offers a variety of virtual sessions on important topics including racial and health inequities, bilingualism, the n-word, racial incidents on campus, student conversations about race, and student activism. I am deeply grateful to the many students, faculty, and staff who will present sessions, and for everyone involved in the planning of this important campus-wide event.

We are excited to host three guest speakers this semester: Ms. Latesha Fussell ('14), whose presentation, "Let's Talk about the N-Word," will be **Wednesday April 14th at 5p.m.** We are also excited to have Shwanda Barnette, J.D. and Dr. Rebecca Dupas, who will be speaking about "Becoming the Change" on **Thursday April 15th, from 5-7 p.m.** As always, all information related to the events, including the schedule, will be posted at <https://www.potsdam.edu/daysofreflection> once all events are finalized. Please encourage your students to attend — your participation is also encouraged!

I want to extend my thanks to the Days of Reflection Committee for their exceptional service to our students and campus community: *Ariel Adams* (Campus Life), *Rachel Bayliss* (Residence Life), *Libbie Freed* (History), *Cliff Harcum* (Center for Diversity), *Matt LaVine* (Interdisciplinary Studies), *Jennifer Mitchell* (English & Communication), *Michael Popović* (Politics, International Studies), *Sheryl Scales* (Advanced Studies in Education), *Anna Sorenson* (Sociology), and *Sabena Thomas* (Public Health & Human Performance).

**Student Survey Reminder.** I am writing to ask for your assistance in encouraging your students to participate in the *2021 Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS)*. This survey is extremely important to our campus, as it will provide insight into students' experiences at SUNY Potsdam. We will use the results of the survey to highlight our strengths and to identify areas that need improvement or further attention. This is the eleventh System-wide administration of this survey over the past thirty years and all of SUNY's state-operated campuses are participating. On April 12th, students will receive an email from "SUNY Survey <[survey@suny.edu](mailto:survey@suny.edu)>" inviting them to participate in this important survey.

We have always found that we get the best response from the first email request, but students will receive an additional three reminders throughout the month following survey launch. The survey takes approximately 25 minutes to complete. I appreciate your help in informing students of this survey and encouraging their participation.

**Textbook Services.** The College Store has recently announced that significant changes are being introduced related to their textbook business, starting with Summer Session 2021. The College Store has partnered with the largest textbook supplier in the nation, BNC Services. They currently serve the needs of nearly half a million students nationwide, with over 7 million books in their Columbia, Missouri facility. BNC Services was developed to help institutions like ours improve textbook services. The BNC Services program ensures course materials will be available when academic terms begin. This program provides convenient ordering, accurate and timely fulfillment, and better overall services for our students. Additional benefits include:

- BNC Services maintains a current list of our courses and materials, and in the event of any changes, they promptly notify students.
- Students may sell back their textbooks to BNC Services using a convenient online buyback option.
- Students may access the online Virtual Bookstore 24/7 at:  
<https://bncvirtual.com/potsdam>.
- Orders are shipped via UPS from BNC Services within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays).

Please bookmark the URL for future reference: <https://bncvirtual.com/potsdam>.

With this change, the College Store will no longer carry textbooks here on campus. The only course materials that will be carried will be on-campus printing such as lab books. Textbooks must be ordered and will be shipped directly to the student or to the College Store where the student can pick up their order.

A portal will be developed for faculty to use to place their requisitions, which should be available to faculty in the fall for Spring, 2022. Until the portal has been established, requisitions will be submitted by email to *Janet Robbins* at [robbinjl@potsdam.edu](mailto:robbinjl@potsdam.edu) using the spreadsheet provided in a previous email. The College Store will submit the requisitions to BNC Services. All the same versions of textbooks will be available as in the past including new, used, rental, digital, Inclusive Access, and OER.

**Potsdam@RCF.** Potsdam is preparing to welcome its freshmen class of 34 students this fall at Riverview Correctional Facility (RCF) in Ogdensburg. The Bachelor of Arts program at RCF will offer a major in sociology and a minor in human services, completed in four years. The students will be men incarcerated at RCF, a medium-security New York State prison. Students selected for the program will qualify for Second Chance Pell funding. *Potsdam @RCF* is a joint venture with our correctional partner, RCF, and with St. Lawrence University (SLU). Courses will be delivered at RCF by SUNY Potsdam and SLU faculty inside prison classrooms.

We are looking for Potsdam faculty who want to get involved with this program in order to offer courses from across a breadth of disciplines that our campus provides. We are especially interested in faculty who can teach WAYS and Pathways courses.

Please join a Zoom presentation detailing the college in prison program at RCF on **Wednesday, April 14 from 3:30-4:30**, to learn how you can get involved. For further information contact *Nancy Lewis*, Sociology and Criminal Justice Studies ([lewishnl@potsdam.edu](mailto:lewishnl@potsdam.edu)) or *Rivka Rocchio*, Theatre and Dance ([rocchisr@potsdam.edu](mailto:rocchisr@potsdam.edu)).

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://potsdam-edu.zoom.us/j/87916341788?pwd=b21DQ2Y3Y3VvcU52bHJlOVk1HQkxYQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1634 1788

Passcode: 094469

**SUNY Student Emergency Fund (SEF).** The SUNY SEF supports students who experience emergencies that might otherwise cause them to stop out of their degree program. To be eligible, a student must:

- Be an undergraduate enrolled in at least six credits;
- Have a minimum 2.0 GPA and be in otherwise good standing with the College; and
- Hold US citizenship, permanent residency, or DACA status (undocumented students are eligible).

An emergency is defined as an unforeseen event or unexpected need for funds, not a chronic problem or anticipated expense. Examples include: homelessness or threat of eviction, medical emergency, natural disaster, domestic violence, theft, or loss of employment. Eligible expenses include (must be paid to a third party): rent, utility bills, clothing, furniture, medical expenses, back-up childcare, back-up transportation, replacement of stolen school supplies. Non-eligible expenses include tuition, textbooks, credit card debt, and legal representation. Information on the application can be accessed at: [Spring 2021 SUNY Student Emergency Fund Application](#).

**Potsdam Student Care Fund (SCF).** The Potsdam SCF supports both undergraduate and graduate students with emergency needs. Funds are intended to support degree completion and helping students avoid stopping out due to issues that could be resolved with a small amount of financial assistance. The application can be found at: [Potsdam Student Care Fund](#).

**Starfish Implementation Update.** A team of campus stakeholders continues to work on the implementation of the Starfish software advising/retention platform with a goal of full campus-

wide functionality for the start of the Fall, 2021 term. Advising for Summer, 2021 Orientation is planned to be the last use of our former system, Navigate. To provide continuity between platforms, the conversion will include the importation of historical Navigate appointment report data and notes into Starfish. Starfish training materials and workshops will be made available in August and September to ensure members of the campus community are prepared to use the new system at the start of the academic year.

A timeline of the implementation process:

<b>April 2021</b>	Upload of student files to Starfish Test Site Campus-wide testing and ongoing site/workflow configuration
<b>May 2021</b>	Training of select staff and summer advisors Ongoing testing and data validation
<b>Summer 2021</b>	Conversion of Test Site settings and student data import to live Starfish site Creation of training materials for campus rollout Import of historical appointment data from Navigate to Starfish
<b>Early Fall 2021</b>	Training of all campus users in Starfish Shut down of Navigate platform
<b>Week 6, Fall 2021</b>	First Early Alert/Progress Report process in Starfish

Faculty and staff with questions about the Starfish rollout should contact *Sean Partridge* ([partrisc@potsgdam.edu](mailto:partrisc@potsgdam.edu)).

**Updates from the Registrar.** The *2021-2022 SUNY Potsdam Academic Catalog* will be published **July 1, 2021**. Given the publication cycle, the Registrar's Office is requiring that all changes to the next catalog (curricular, policy, and other content) be approved through required campus processes and submitted to the Registrar's Office by **April 30th** for publication in next year's academic catalog. An email recently went out from the Registrar to those responsible for editing the catalog. If you have difficulty accessing the catalog, please email *Stephanie Claxton* at [claxtosc@potsgdam.edu](mailto:claxtosc@potsgdam.edu).

**Group Tutoring.** The group tutoring program would like to remind all faculty and staff that every undergraduate student is eligible for these services. Students can submit tutoring requests by logging into Navigate (<https://potsgdam.campus.eab.com>) and clicking on the **Get Assistance** button. Provided that there are at least three students to form a group and a tutor to lead it,

assistance is provided for almost any course on campus. For those courses that cannot be covered, referrals are made to other tutoring programs and academic resources. Please contact *Tim Morse* at [morsets@potsdam.edu](mailto:morsets@potsdam.edu) with any questions or to provide tutor recommendations.

**CCI – Events and Workshops.** Please visit the CCI [Events Calendar](#) page to register for upcoming CCI, SUNY, and SUNY CPD events and workshops. In addition, you will also find links to the most recent CCI presentation recordings. If you would like to share a teaching approach or use of technology with your colleagues, please contact the CCI. We know you are doing great things and hope you will share your expertise!

- **Microsoft Translator (Overview and Discussion)** – 04/13
- **Wow, you can do that in Teams?** – 04/27
- **Tips, Tools and Practices for Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into Business School Classes** – 04/30

**Course Surveys (a.k.a. Course Evaluations).** Course surveys must now be requested through *BearPaws*. For complete guidelines, please visit the [Course Surveys](#) webpage (requests are due *two weeks* before the last day of classes).

**New Website!** Be sure to bookmark the new [CCI Website](#) and check out the **Featured** section weekly for new postings from the CCI.



## *Potsdam Pathways*

**Potsdam Pathways Curriculum Committee (PPCC).** Elections for positions on the Potsdam Pathways Curriculum Committee (PPCC) are coming up soon. PPCC positions are for a three-year term to run from August, 2021 to May, 2024. Interested faculty may nominate or self-nominate, although the Pathways Director will confirm with nominees before including those names on the ballot. Responsibilities as designator liaison include reviewing syllabi for your designator as well as working as a secondary reviewer on another designator. Reviewed syllabi are then presented by liaisons to the PPCC as a whole for voting/approval. PPCC meetings are generally every other week, on Wednesday afternoons. We are especially looking for a liaison for Thinking Scientifically—Social World (SW). Nominations should be submitted to *Christine Doran*, Interim Director of Pathways ([dorancm@potsdam.edu](mailto:dorancm@potsdam.edu)) or to *Kailey Mahar*, Assistant Director of Pathways ([maharks@potsdam.edu](mailto:maharks@potsdam.edu)). Questions should also be directed to Christine or Kailey.

**Summer Updates.** Assistant Director *Kailey Mahar* has sent out the first 200 surveys for incoming first-year students, with more going out regularly as students deposit. These surveys ask students to select their preferred WAYS 101 course and are an important part of the summer on-boarding process. Almost 25 students instantly responded, eager to begin their careers at SUNY Potsdam. There are 43 sections of WAYS courses planned for the fall with 36 faculty from across SUNY Potsdam who are participating. Arts and Sciences is most heavily represented, and our thanks go out to those faculty for their continued investment in WAYS. However, we are also very pleased to report that we have an increased number of faculty from the other Schools than ever, and the breadth of offerings is fabulous. A huge thank you to all faculty members who are supporting our WAYS courses!

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### *Around SUNY and the State*

**SUNY OER Resources.** Faculty who are interested in using and/or creating an OER textbook for their class can learn more about available SUNY OER material at SUNY OER Services <https://oer.suny.edu/> and through the SUNY OER Workplace Site: <https://sunyedu.workplace.com/groups/sunyoer>.

**Health & Wellness in the Age of COVID.** The *SUNY Distinguished Academy Inaugural Webinar*, titled “Health and Wellness in the Age of COVID: A Call to Action for Higher Education,” will be held on **Thursday, April 15, from 3:00-5:00pm**. Everyone is invited to attend.

This webinar will showcase how wellness and lifestyle medicine can promote the sustainability of SUNY students, staff, faculty, and community especially when external challenges, like COVID-19, have had a disproportionate impact on people of color, and individuals with chronic, underlying disease. Presenters will identify the components of lifestyle medicine that contribute to healthy longevity, namely healthy eating, physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, positive social connections, and avoidance of risky substances. Presenters will also examine how SUNY can promote wellness and healthy longevity, and address health disparities, through proactive student and faculty efforts in partnership with national and local organizations.

**Register here:** <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/suny-da-2021/registration/Site/Register>.

For any questions, please contact [DistinguishedAcademy@suny.edu](mailto:DistinguishedAcademy@suny.edu).

**SUNY Student Success Summit 2021: Embracing Equity and Building Inclusive Excellence.**

As SUNY is building capacity and best practices for supporting all students during these challenging times with evidence- and results-based campus and student leadership models, SUNY's Communities of Practice have again joined together in order to facilitate collaboration, networking, and sharing of ideas to improve offerings for all students across the state. This virtual summit, to be held on **April 22-23, 2021**, will bring together three Communities of Practice: Student Success, Applied Learning, and Advising.

Visit the event website for registration link and program details:

<https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/2021summit/info>.

**SUNY DEI Forums.** All SUNY staff and faculty are invited to participate in the *SUNY Virtual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Discussion Forum*. The goal of the program is to give the SUNY community an opportunity to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in higher education in a supportive environment to help them create the inclusive mindset they need to learn the competencies necessary to serve a diverse population of students and others on their campus. The program will include a mix of asynchronous (not in real time) online discussions in Workplace as well as meetings in Zoom.

Upcoming sessions are planned for April and May (days/times TBD). Interested individuals can sign up for the sessions as well as for the Workplace group at <https://sunyedu.workplace.com/groups/discussDEI> using your SUNY campus ID and password. If you have any questions, contact *Chris Price*, Academic Programs Manager, SUNY Center for Professional Development ([chris.price@suny.edu](mailto:chris.price@suny.edu)).

**SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC).** SUNY Old Westbury will serve as host for the *2021 SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC)* to be held on **Friday, April 16, 2021**. Due to COVID, this year's SURC will be a virtual conference. For more SURC resources and information on registration, please visit [www.SUNY.edu/SURC](http://www.SUNY.edu/SURC).

**Supporting Families through COVID.** *Julie Johnson* (Center for School Partnerships & Teacher Certification) and *Sarah Solley* (Elementary Education) have been working on an initiative to help support faculty, staff, and their families during the COVID pandemic. With the support of the NYSUT, AFT and the People Project, Julie and Sarah co-chair the *Buddy Project of St. Lawrence County* with Ashlee Downing-Duke of SLU. Through this new initiative, three specific needs of the community have been identified:

1. Tutoring/Mentoring Support
2. Family Support Groups

### 3. Project in a Box: Promoting off-screen time

Currently, the Buddy Project is ready to offer tutoring and mentoring support. If you have a child in your household that could benefit from extra tutoring or mentoring support, please sign up here: [Buddy Project Tutoring/Mentoring Form](#). Please feel free to reach out to *Julie Johnson* ([johnsojl@potsdam.edu](mailto:johnsojl@potsdam.edu)) or *Sarah Solley* ([solleysa@potsdam.edu](mailto:solleysa@potsdam.edu)) with any questions.

Planning teams are underway to begin family support groups and the Project in a Box. Stay Tuned!

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### *Coming Due*

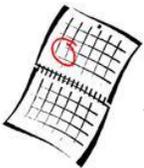
**PACES Student Awards.** The PACES Student Award Committee is accepting nominations for the annual *PACES Student Awards*. These awards recognize graduating seniors who have excelled academically while providing exceptional service in college and student life activities. Nominees must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher and demonstrated noteworthy, productive participation in college and student life activities. Nomination packets must include a letter of nomination, two additional letters of support, and the resume of the nominee.

Please send complete nomination packets to: PACES Student Award Committee, PACES Marketing Office, 125 Merritt Hall or [leead@potsdam.edu](mailto:leead@potsdam.edu). As adequate time is needed to evaluate and interview final candidates, no nominations will be accepted after **April 23, 2021**.

**Lougheed Applied Learning Grants: Summer Application.** I am very excited to announce that, for this year only, a summer application cycle will be added for applications to the Lougheed Applied Learning Grants. The summer application portal will be open **June 1 to July 16, 2021**. More information will be forthcoming; watch your email (and the Newsletter) for updates!

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### *Mark Your Calendars*



**SUNY Potsdam Learning and Research Fair 2021.** The annual *Learning and Research Fair* will be held (virtually) during the week of **Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7, 2021**. On behalf of the Office for Student Research and Creativity, you and your students are encouraged to

participate. Student presenters at the Fair are eligible to compete for awards administered by the Loughheed Center for Applied Learning.

**Art Attack.** The annual all-student art exhibition at SUNY Potsdam will take place this year **May 7<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>**. *Art Attack* will be an all-virtual exhibition with no juror. Each artist may submit up to five works of art in any medium for inclusion. The art must have been created within the last 12 months and the students must be current SUNY Potsdam students. The exhibition is part of the LoKo Festival.

**BFA Exhibition.** This year's *BFA Exhibition* will run from **April 16<sup>th</sup> - May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The exhibition will be installed in the Gibson Gallery and available for viewing on the Museum's website [www.potsdam.edu/museum](http://www.potsdam.edu/museum). Starting at **5:00pm on April 16<sup>th</sup>** there will be a video walk-through with the BFA artists. Each artist will talk the viewer through their art and installations. On **May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm** there will be a live Q & A with the artists on Zoom. This event is part of the LoKo Festival.

**Global Literacy Talks.** As we work to prepare students to be informed and engaged global citizens, AASCU is proud to announce the launch of *Global Literacy Talks* in partnership with The New York Times and World101 from the Council on Foreign Relations. The final session on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be focused on Climate Change.

Register for the final Session:

[Thursday, April 22 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET: Climate Change on Earth Day.](#)

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## *In Case You Missed It*

**Spring, 2021 COVID Updates.** Thank you for all that you continue to do to support our students through this ongoing health pandemic. The close collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs has allowed our campus to successfully implement face-to-face academic opportunities. However, we need your continued assistance.

- **Contact Information-** When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, Student Health Services immediately initiates contact tracing to identify individuals who may be at risk. It is important to note that the name of the positive individual cannot be disclosed to instructors for privacy reasons. In order to facilitate the contract tracing process, **we ask**

**that you please update your contact information with Human Resources as soon as possible.** We are finding that records are outdated or do not have complete information.

To ensure that your contact information is correct, follow these steps:

- Log in to the SUNY HR portal at <https://www.suny.edu/time>.
  - Go to "SUNY HR Self-Service."
  - Click on "Phone."
  - If your information is incorrect, click "Select" next to the incorrect phone number, then click "Update."
  - If your information is not in the system, click "Select" next to the correct blank field (cell phone, home phone or another phone), then click "Add."
  - Fill out the form and submit.
  - If you are having trouble, simply contact Human Resources at (315) 267-4816.
- ***Rave Alert-*** Please also check your emergency contact information in the College's emergency alert system, [Potsdam Rave Alert](#). This system is used to notify campus quickly of weather emergencies, as well as important alerts related to the pandemic:
    - Go to <https://rave.potsdam.edu>.
    - Log in with your SUNY Potsdam email account and password.
    - Confirm your contact information.
    - You can add up to two additional email addresses, three cell phone numbers, and three landline phone numbers (**Tip:** Try using one of your additional phone numbers to add contact information for a close family member, so that they can be aware of campus alerts as well!).
  - ***Answering Your Phone-*** We know that spam calls are on the rise, but if you unexpectedly receive a call from a campus number (315-267-xxxx) or a 518-area code number, please answer, as this could be a contact tracer trying to get in touch with you. Student Health Services will reach out to you first to gather information and then will share it with Public Health. The 518-area code number is most likely someone from Department of Public Health, as they will also reach out to individuals.
  - ***Information for Contact Tracing-*** For faculty members who are teaching a face-to-face course (including labs) or a small group vocal or instrument instruction, review sessions, etc., it is critically important to have the following information readily available. Not having this information readily available delays the contract tracing process and could cause further spread of COVID-19.
    - Take attendance for every face-to-face interaction.

- Create a seating chart to include the following information:
  - Room location (name of building and room number);
  - Location of individuals in room (it is helpful to keep individuals in a consistent place each time you meet); and
  - Distance between individuals.
- Make a note of the activities that occurred.
- Ensure date, start time, and end time are listed on the documentation.
- Keep the above information readily available to ensure you can quickly email it to Student Health Services if contacted by a contact tracer.

Please note: *When a class seating chart is not provided to Health Services, it results in requiring that ALL students in that class go into quarantine, which is extremely disruptive to our students' academic progress.* Thank you in advance for having the information above available, including updated seating charts, if/when contact tracing is necessitated.

**Accommodative Services Test/Quiz Scheduling.** As a reminder, any instructor who has a student wishing to take a paper quiz/test in the Accommodative Service Office should encourage that student to complete the online request form at least two days before the scheduled quiz/test. The instructor will then receive an email regarding that student's scheduling information and a link to an online form requiring instructor approval. Please complete this electronic exam scheduling form as quickly as possible.

If your quizzes/tests are administered on Moodle, there is no reason for the student to schedule their exam with the Accommodative Services Office. Questions? Contact [aso@potdam.edu](mailto:aso@potdam.edu).

**Helios (Personal Shares) Migrations to OneDrive.** CTS is currently working on migrating all personal shares from our legacy file server Helios to Microsoft OneDrive. **This project will not affect any department shares.** Department shares are stored on Helios3, which is a separate server.

You will receive notification when the migration begins as well as when the migration process has been completed. Once the migration has been completed, access will be removed from your personal share on Helios. If you find that something has not migrated to OneDrive correctly, please let us know as soon as possible. We do not expect this to be an issue, however it is still best that you verify that all your files have been transferred correctly.

## *Kudos*

**SOEPS National Distinction.** The strength of SUNY Potsdam's legacy in training teachers has earned the School of Education and Professional Studies (SOEPS) the distinction of being in the top 20 in the nation among institutions offering a bachelor's degree in teacher education, according to a [new ranking](#) released by Study.com. The company considered hundreds of universities and ranked SUNY Potsdam based on academic and career resources, the quality of education, faculty, cost, graduation rates, student retention, job placement, and other factors.

The [School of Education and Professional Studies](#) is well known for supporting its undergraduates with small classes, intensive field experiences, and applied learning opportunities. Through relationships with area school districts and BOCES, undergraduates gain experience as student teachers in North Country classrooms. These connections to the community also extend to graduate programs and advanced certificates that prepare students for teaching and other work in a wide range of fields, including adolescent and childhood education, educational technology, curriculum and instruction, and school/district leadership.

**Chancellor's Awards.** *Haven Gotham, Jennifer Darlak, and Monica Mack* have received *Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence*. Congratulations to these amazing students and their faculty mentors!

**Goldwater Scholarship Award.** SUNY Potsdam student *Aliaksandra Reutovich* is the recipient of the *2021 Goldwater Scholarship Award*, the "Most Prestigious Undergraduate Scholarship in the Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering in America." The official announcement can be accessed at: <https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/>. This is the first ever Goldwater scholarship for a SUNY Potsdam student!

*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@potsgdam.edu](mailto:bergerbs@potsgdam.edu).*