

News and Notes Fall 2024

SUNY WCC - Where College Dreams Are Made Affordable.

Wherever you want to go in life, SUNY Westchester Community College will help get you there. And we will help prepare you for the next steps in your life's journey at a lower cost than any other college or university in the county. With one of the lowest tuition rates in the entire state of New York, SUNY WCC is the ultimate investment you can make in yourself. Despite our low tuition, we do not skimp on the quality of your education or the services we provide to ensure student success.

If your plan is to earn a bachelor's degree or higher, you can start your higher education career at SUNY WCC and save tens of thousands of dollars before transferring with full junior status to a 4-year institution. Thousands of students have started their higher education journeys at SUNY WCC taking advantage of our many transfer agreements with four-year institutions, our opportunity programs or our many honors programs, before pursuing their academic goals at any of the fine SUNY campuses or such local four-year institutions as Mercy, Lehman, Pace, Purchase, or highly selective universities like Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Smith, NYU, and Sarah Lawrence. 94% of our graduates are satisfied or very satisfied with how SUNY WCC helped them achieve their academic goals.

If you are looking to enter the <u>workforce</u> with the necessary skills as quickly as possible, SUNY WCC is here for you, too! Our graduates work at some of the leading organizations in our region, including PepsiCo, Pfizer, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Westchester Medical Center and the NYPD. 83% of our graduates said their experiences at SUNY WCC prepared them for their current job.

SUNY WCC is a comprehensive educational institution where you can choose from a wide variety of resources and options. SUNY WCC offers <u>65 degree and certificate programs</u>, including innovative programs in high-demand fields including <u>Cybersecurity</u>, <u>Computer Science</u>, <u>Nursing</u>, <u>Health Information Technology</u>, <u>Respiratory Care</u>, and <u>Digital Filmmaking</u>.

Just as important as academics is the <u>sense of community</u> that WCC students join. As the first SUNY campus to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution, the SUNY WCC community reflects the cultural and economic diversity of the region. We are a living, breathing part of Westchester that goes beyond the influence of a typical college and affects the lives of all who enter our doors. We are a showcase for the best of Westchester. When you arrive at Westchester Community College, you will be able to immerse yourself in your passions, or find new ones, with 40+ clubs and organizations, multicultural programs, e-sports and student government. Becoming an active member in clubs/organizations is a great way to meet new friends who share your interests, to learn a new hobby, to expand your understanding of an area of study, to explore new cultures, and to make a positive impact on the community!

SUNY WCC is committed to accessibility, which is why we have many classes and <u>support services</u>, including <u>tutoring</u>, <u>academic advising</u> and <u>personal counseling</u>, offered in person and remotely. Furthermore, the college has <u>five locations around the county</u>, including an expanded <u>Yonkers location in the Cross County Center</u>. In addition to the lowest tuition rates in the tri-state area, the WCC Foundation disperses nearly \$3 million in scholarships annually, which combined with other financial aid available, makes SUNY WCC one of the best decisions you can make!

Are you ready to take that serious look at the best deal in local higher education? Stay near and go far at SUNY Westchester Community College! Submitted by Mark Stollar, Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications SUNY Westchester Community College is pleased to introduce and welcome our New Executive Director of Advising and Accessibility Services Dr. Leidy K. Pichardo, Ed.D.



In this role, Dr. Pichardo will provide administrative leadership to units offering vital support, including academic counseling, career and transfer services, and accessibility services. She will work collaboratively across the college to enhance the student experience by strengthening the college's student advisement system through integrated, structured, and inclusive strategies as outlined in the strategic plan.

Dr. Pichardo brings extensive experience as an administrator of holistic student support services at the postsecondary level and years of teaching experience at the elementary level. Most recently, Dr. Pichardo served as the Director of EOP and Workforce Student Success at SUNY Rockland Community College.

Dr. Pichardo holds an Ed.D. in Leadership in Higher Education from National University, an M.S. in Administration and Supervision from the College of Saint Rose, an M.S. in Elementary Education from Mercy College, and a B.S. in Psychology from Fordham University. She is bilingually fluent in English and Spanish. Her dissertation topic was "The Lived Experiences of First-Generation Latino College Students and Their Use of Academic Support Services."

She truly values working with students in the community college sector because she has always felt that they need the most support. As an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, she aspires to make a difference in the lives of the students she services. In her role, she aims to serve students while being a role model who motivates students to keep reaching for their dreams. SUNY WCC is perfectly suited in this regard as it was the first HSI in the SUNY system and is possibly the most diverse campus in the system today, with a student body that is more than 40% Latino/a/x.

This position as Executive Director of Academic Counseling and Accessibility Services provides her with the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who are most vulnerable and who need the care and dedication to achieve a higher education degree. This position gives her the unique opportunity to empower and support all students regardless of their learning ability. Her motto is that all students can learn with the right support. As Executive Director of these two critical areas, her mission is to help build strong systems and structures that will positively affect our students' academic achievement. As an administrator in a Hispanic Serving Institution, her goal is to ensure equitable programming to support the needs of all students of diverse backgrounds who wish to pursue a higher education. Removing barriers to enrollment and retention is at the center of her work as Executive Director. She upholds the principles of diversity and inclusion in her everyday interactions with students, faculty, and staff to make sure she is an active stakeholder in closing the achievement gap.

Submitted by Dr. Leidy K. Pichardo, Executive Director of Advising and Accessibility Services

SAVE THE DATE!

Westchester Community College's FALL 2024 OPEN HOUSE will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.



We invite you to visit our beautiful campus!

Open House will begin in the Hankin Academic Arts Building! Students will receive a warm welcome from the President of the College! Students will get to hear from College officials! Meet our deans, faculty and administrators! Learn more about our programs, support services, student involvement, workforce development and community education programs, and so much more!

demonstrations throughout the event, some of which will include:

- An Admissions Information Session
- A Financial Aid Information Session
- A variety of curriculum related sessions

Parking is available in Lot 4 For more information and to RSVP, visit <u>www.sunywcc.edu/openhouse</u>.

Admissions Counselor Professor Donald H. Whitely Retires

After 35 years of service at SUNY Westchester Community College, Donald H. Whitely has retired. Don or Donnie, as he prefers, began his career in education as the Assistant Director of HEOP at Malcolm-King: Harlem College Extension in NYC. He then became Director of HEOP at the College of Human Services in lower Manhattan prior to coming to SUNY Westchester Community College. In September of 1989, he was hired at WCC as an Admissions Counselor/Instructor, and through several promotions obtained the rank of Full Professor.

Throughout his tenure, Don coordinated the admissions process for the college's Nursing and GED Programs. During his sabbatical in 2011, Don wrote a proposal to create a Black and Hispanic Male Initiative Program (BHMI) that was approved and funded by the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the college. The BHMI program continues today, offering male students of color increased opportunities to graduate and further their education at the four-year level. Don also Co-Directed The Dr. Julius Ford Teaching Fellowship Program. The program was designed to increase the ethnic diversity of faculty at the college by promoting talented, underrepresented groups in their advancement in careers in academia.

Don also taught the college's College Success course within the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences as an Adjunct Professor. Several of Don's students were awarded the Annual College Success Outstanding Student Award. Don has received many college and community service awards which include SUNY's Chancellor Award for Excellence in Professional Service; The Dr. Julius Ford Black History Month Outstanding Service Award; Westchester Community College Service Award; Westchester Putnam, Rockland Counseling Association Award; and a Westchester County Board of Legislators Proclamation, just to name a few.

"I will always cherish the relationships that I established both on and off campus."

We are thankful to Don for his outstanding years of service to the college, to his department, division and to our students. He will be greatly missed!

Biography submitted by Donald H. Whitely

Taking Steps Toward Successful Enrollment

Applying to WCC:

Students are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible at <u>www.sunywcc.edu/apply</u>. We have started to mail Admissions letters to students applying for the Spring 2025 term (which begins in January 2025). Students applying for the Fall 2025 term (which begins in September 2025) will be mailed their Admissions letters as of early February 2025. A series of emails from the college's automated CRM communication system will follow guiding students through their next steps in the onboarding/enrollment process. **Please ask your students to check their emails regularly for updates after they apply.**



How Can Students Waive the \$50 Application Fee? Students who financially qualify for free or reduced-price lunch programs, whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or are from foster families are automatically eligible for an application fee waiver! By completing the SUNY Westchester Community College online application at www.sunywcc.edu/apply and answering the targeted questions to identify in one of the above mentioned categories, the \$50 application fee will automatically be waived upon submission.

Other ways to waive the \$50 application fee include attending one of our Admissions Information Sessions or attending an Application Day hosted by a SUNY WCC Admissions Counselor at the high school! If you are interested in having one of our Admissions Counselors set up an Application Day where all your seniors can get their \$50 application fee waived, please contact us at <u>Admissions@sunywcc.edu</u> and we will have an Admissions Counselor contact you to set it up!

Sending Official HS Transcripts: Official HS transcripts can be sent from the high school to the Office of Admissions by mail or email to <u>HSTranscript@sunywcc.edu</u> or Naviance

<u>Assistance with the Onboarding/Enrollment Process for Accepted Students</u>: To help students with the onboarding and enrollment process, the Office of Enrollment Services offers Getting Started Information Sessions specifically for accepted students. Accepted students will receive details about these sessions after being admitted. Students can also find the steps for onboarding and enrollment at <u>Newly Accepted Student Onboarding & Enrollment - SUNY Westchester Community College</u> (sunywcc.edu).

<u>Resources for High School Counselors Webpage</u>: The SUNY Westchester Community College Resources for School Counselors webpage was created just for you! It gives you easy access to SUNY WCC information all in one place! The webpage is easily accessible by visiting www.sunywcc.edu/school-counselor.

Future Students Webpage: The goal of this webpage is to give prospective students a one stop landing page to explore our academic programs, student guide, financial aid assistance guide, opportunity programs, how to apply to the college and more! Please encourage students to visit our Future Students webpage at <u>www.sunywcc.edu/future-student</u>.

Admissions Virtual & In-Person Events

Throughout the academic year, the Office of Admissions will be hosting Virtual and In-Person Admissions Information Sessions to help students learn more about the college, our programs and services, the admissions/enrollment process and the many opportunities that we offer! These are excellent opportunities for students to chat live with an Admissions Counselor and ask questions.

➢ In addition to our excellent Virtual Campus Tour, in-person Campus Tours are also being offered! By attending one of our Admissions Events, students can obtain an application fee waiver code that will help them to

<u>waive the \$50 application fee</u>! (Please note, the application fee is non-refundable once submitted). To RSVP for our Admissions Events visit <u>https://www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/visit/</u>

Early Admissions Program

Do you have a high school student who is interested in earning college credit to enrich their high school experience? SUNY Westchester Community College offers an Early Admit Student (EAS) Program that allows qualified students to take classes at the college while concurrently completing high school courses.

Application Process

- 1. <u>Apply for Admissions</u>:
 - Students can apply online at <u>www.sunywcc.edu/apply</u>.
 - Students will be processed as PreCollege EAS students, which is under non-matriculated status. Please note, Financial Aid is not available under PreCollege Non-Matriculated status.
- 2. <u>Submit the following documents to the Office of Admissions:</u>
 - > An official current high school transcript.
 - An official letter from your high school counselor stating the reason you are interested in enrolling at the college, the exact course(s) you are interested in taking, and the semester you are interested in applying for.
 - Kindly be advised that if you are planning to take courses at Westchester Community College to meet high school graduation requirements, it is your responsibility to ensure that the course is approved by your high school counselor. This approval should be mentioned in the official letter required from your high school counselor stated above.
 - Your official high school transcript and school counselor letter should be sent to <u>HSTranscript@sunywcc.edu</u>.
- 3. <u>Take the Placement Test</u>:
 - Students must take the Westchester Community College Placement Test and place into college level courses by meeting the minimum score requirements. For testing information, instructions and how to waive the placement requirements please visit:
 - www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/testingcenter/early-admit-student-placement/.
- 4. <u>Submit Immunization Records</u>:
 - An immunization hold is placed on all students accounts. New York State Public Health laws require all students, regardless of age, enrolling in 6 or more credits must be in compliance with the NYS Meningitis Law and all students enrolling in 6 or more credits who were born on or after January 1, 1957 must provide proof of immunity for measles, mumps and rubella. Send immunization records to the Student Health Office. Please visit <u>www.sunywcc.edu/immunizations</u> for all Immunization Requirements. For more information, contact the Health Office at <u>HealthOffice@sunywcc.edu</u>.
- 5. Make an appointment with an Admissions Counselor:
 - Early Admit Students will have a PreCollege Hold placed on their account and will require assistance from an Admissions Counselor with course registration if they meet eligibility requirements.
 - After submitting the above mentioned documents and taking the ACCUPLACER Test or meeting the requirements to waive the placement, you must contact the Office of Admissions at <u>Admissions@sunywcc.edu</u> to make an appointment to meet with an Admissions Counselor to review your test results for a final admissions decision.

For more information about our EAS Program please visit:

www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/admissions-information/ged/early-admissions-program/

Where students explore and prepare for emerging technology careers.

The Interactive Technologies (ITECH) associate program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students in emerging technology careers they are most interested in, digital media. Students will have the opportunity to learn skills and gain experience to design and develop innovative real-world projects. The curriculum is designed for students who seek internship opportunities and/or transfer to a four-year institution. There are three specialized concentrations for students to choose from:

Digital Marketing, Web Design/Development (UX/UI), and Computer Animation and Game Design

1. **Digital Marketing** - The Digital Marketing track is designed for business marketing students who are seeking skills in social media marketing and web design to complement their business studies. Students will learn photography, digital design and web programming skills while completing business courses in the areas of marketing, advertising and management.

2. Web Design and Development (UX/UI) - Web Design and Development track is designed for students interested in developing user-centered experience and user interface skills to build effective web pages. Under the guidance of experienced faculty students will create an e- portfolio that will assist students to seek internships in areas such as web administration, web design UX/UI, and digital design for web development.

3. **Computer Animation and Game Design** - The Computer Animation and Game Design track offers students the opportunity to learn hands-on industry skills in the design and development of computer animation and interactive media. Students will learn how to work collaboratively to develop game narratives and concept art. They will apply code, animation and time-base skills to create 2D/3D animation and interactive media. Graduates can pursue potential internships and career opportunities in computer animation and game design industries.

For more information contact Curriculum Chair Deborah.Krikun@sunywcc.edu Submitted by Curriculum Chair Deborah Krikun and Department Chair Denise Sullivan



Communications, Journalism and Media Arts

The Department of Communications, Journalism, and Media Arts to Unveil its State-of-the-Art Multimedia Center, referred to as "COMM Central": A Cutting-Edge Hub for SUNY Westchester Community College Communications, Journalism, and Media Arts students.







In the ever-evolving landscape of media and communication, the Communications, Journalism, and Media Arts (CJMA) Department stands as a beacon of innovation and excellence at SUNY—Westchester Community College. From human communication, journalism, or media arts, this department is shaping the voices and narratives of tomorrow's communications and media professionals.

One of the most exciting aspects of the CJMA Department is its broad and diverse curriculum. Students can explore traditional journalism, media writing, television production, public relations, advertising, voice and diction, interpersonal communication, and emerging fields like digital storytelling through podcasting and social media strategy. This diversity allows students to tailor their education to match their career goals while gaining a well-rounded understanding of how communication works in today's fast-paced, interconnected world.

In 2023, the full-time faculty of the communications, journalism, and media arts department embarked on a journey to design and rebuild their recently acquired media space located on the second floor of the Hankin Academic Arts Building. This new Multimedia Center, also referred to as COMM Central is a state-of-the-art multifunctional space designed with the latest technology for multimedia production that will serve as the creative gathering hub of creativity, critical thinking, and hands-on learning, preparing students for the ever-evolving world of media and storytelling.

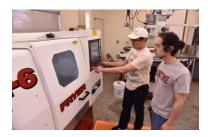
COMM Central will be outfitted with a modernized student-operated television production studio where students will produce original programming and develop valuable industry skills. The TV studio is equipped with three professional-grade cameras and lighting. In November 2024, the CJMA department will reveal a brand-new TV set with a customizable backdrop, that includes interchangeable panels, and a lightbox that allows for different show formats, as well as an anchor set. Adjacent **will be a Green Room** that will serve as the waiting area for guests, performers, or talent before they go on camera.

Serving as the innovative hub for students, the CJMA Multimedia Center also includes a podcast suite where students will be able to record, edit, and produce compelling stories for their own podcasts; and a dedicated editing suite with six highperformance Mac computers loaded with video editing software where students can refine their post-production editing skills with the latest software to produce polished content for social media, web, audio, and television. Students can spend time in the **Public Speaking Lab** where they can practice voice and diction, public speaking, as well as use their talent to create content that prepares them to participate in the National Speech and Debate Association and other national competitions. The Multimedia Center's reception lounge includes collaboration matrix desks where students can charge laptops, and mobile devices while studying, and completing assignments, as well as allow students to meet and connect for informal academic gatherings.

COMM Central will host a full reveal and dedication in spring 2025. Submitted by Professor Rodeena Stephens, Department Co-Chair/Associate Professor, Communications, and Media Arts, and Professor Julio A. Rodriguez-Rentas, Department Co-Chair Department of Communications, Journalism, and Media Arts

Engineering & Technology Programs at WCC

At SUNY Westchester Community College, we are committed to providing top-notch education while keeping the cost affordable, ensuring that every student could pursue their dreams without financial burden. We believe that a first-class experience entails faculty who are experienced professionals and are passionate about developing and teaching cutting edge curriculum.





The School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering at WCC offers associate in science programs and associate in applied sciences in Engineering and Technology. The AS and AAS programs are available in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical disciplines. These programs are led by experts who have real-world experience and teach in demand topics in their respective fields. They bring a wealth of knowledge and practical insight to the classroom, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills needed to excel in their careers. Electrical labs offer circuit analysis and design equipment, such as breadboard, soldier stations, digital multimeters, oscilloscopes, solar panels, energy management and storage controls and wind turbines. Our Manufacturing labs offer manual machining with Lathes and Milling machines, MIG and TIG welding, heat treatment furnaces and a dedicated Advanced Manufacturing CNC Lab with Fryer Mills and Lathes. Through state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment, students gain skills that are applicable to real-life scenarios. These skills prepare our students to get jobs such as designers, installers, technicians and surveyors in the electrical, mechanical, manufacturing, civil and architectural fields.

SMSE has established partnerships with local businesses and industries like Con Edison, IBM, Safe Flight, MicroMold, Fryer Machines to name a few. Our students take advantage of these partnerships via internships and co-op programs. The college has an ongoing Bright Futures program sponsored by Con Edison which provides students opportunities to network with professionals in the Energy sector via tours, campus visits and presentations and special events.

Our Engineering program is designed to fully transfer to all SUNY engineering programs and to most popular private institutions like Manhattan University, City College of New York, SUNY Maritime, SUNY Buffalo, and SUNY Binghamton. Our transfer rate for the Engineering programs is greater than sixty percent for those completing in two years. The level at which they transfer, thanks to our amazing faculty, is at least on par and frequently ahead of their peers at the transfer institutions. This pathway of starting with Suny WCC for your first two years, offers a tremendous benefit of affordability and flexibility while maintaining academic rigor.





The Engineering Department has recently expanded and hired a new Electrical Engineering Faculty, Dr. Youngsik Song, from the City College of NY Engineering Department. Dr. Song has completed his education in Detroit Michigan at Wayne State University and has experience with Nano and micro technologies. We are excited to have him a part of our team and look forward to the future projects and expertise he will bring to the College for our students. In conclusion, your local community college is a one stop shop for a great springboard into engineering and technology that is designed with aspiring students in mind. With experienced faculty, cutting-edge curriculum, industry partnerships, and a supportive environment, students can embark on a journey of growth, knowledge, and success. We believe that education should be accessible to all, and we are committed to providing an exceptional experience that lays the foundation for a prosperous future. *Submitted by Professor Tom Curanovic, Engineering Department Chair & Curriculum Chair for Mechanical Technology & Computer Aided Drafting, and Associate Dean Kalpana Jain of the School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering*

School of Health Sciences and Wellness

Are you interested in healthcare?

Then SUNY Westchester Community College may have something for you at the School of Health Sciences and Wellness.

If you are interested in the field of healthcare, wellness and even veterinary health, SUNY Westchester invites you to see what we have to offer. We have a variety of associate degree and certificate programs related to healthcare.

Whether you are interested to work on the frontlines as a paramedic, registered nurse, radiologic technologist, respiratory therapist, veterinary technician, personal trainer, or behind the scenes in health information technology, medical biller, or medical coder, we have a program for you.

Maybe you are not sure what the future holds but have a general interest in health? We have an associate degree program in health studies and a certificate program in community health and case management which can build a solid foundation to continue your education in health services administration or public health. Or maybe you want to become a physical therapist or occupational therapist? We have an associate degree program in health and human performance that can start you on that specific journey.

Or maybe you are interested in culinary arts, hospitality management and nutrition? Eating well is important for health and healing. You too can play a significant role in healthcare but in a unique way.

What you will learn at our school is how to work as a team. Interprofessional education is the foundation of what we do. Teamwork is important in healthcare, and it is also vital in everyday life. We are extremely fortunate that our students have jobs waiting for them upon graduation. I wish you the best of luck whether you enter the workforce immediately after graduation or your transfer into a four-year college. We look forward to seeing you on campus.

I possess over 30 years in healthcare and education and have served as a hospital administrator, college professor, public health advisor, paramedic, and registered nurse. I am proud to share that my parents came to NYC in the 1960s from Ecuador, and I am a first-generation college graduate. The importance of education was instilled in me at an early age, and I want you to know that I am here to help you succeed.

If you have questions about any of our programs, feel free to email us at schoolofhealth@sunywcc.edu, call us at 914-606-6910. We are happy to collaborate with you and answer your questions. Healthcare is a growing industry and there are so many ways that YOU can be a part of it. Come find out how to do so.

Sincerely,

George W. Contreras, DrPH(c), MEP, MPH, MS, RN, CEM, EMTP Dean, School of Health Sciences and Wellness *Submitted by Dean George W. Contreras*







QUICK BITS:

Spring 2025 Registration begins on October 28, 2024 Fall 2025 Registration is anticipated to begin in March 2025 Please check our Academic Calendar for updates at <u>https://www.sunywcc.edu/academics/academiccalendar</u>

Students benefit from a quality education at the most affordable tuition in Westchester County. For the most up-to-date information on our tuition and fees please visit: **www.sunywcc.edu/tuition**

Financial Aid

Students can access <u>https://www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/finaid/</u> for information regarding workshop dates, priority filing deadlines and to inquire about what financial information is needed to successfully complete the Financial Aid Forms. Students can also contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance at <u>Finaid@sunywcc.edu</u>.

Westchester Community College Foundation Scholarships

Students must file either a FAFSA (US Citizens and Permanent Residents), TAP (US Citizens and Permanent Residents) or the New York State DREAM Act Application (Dreamers, DACA or Undocumented) to be automatically considered for a WCC Foundation Scholarship. International Students will need to fill out a Scholarship Financial Need Application (F-1, Other Visa holders). This process will allow the college to provide students with a comprehensive financial assistance package in a timelier manner.

For more information on SUNY Westchester Community College Scholarships please visit: https://www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/scholarships/

Published by the Office of Admissions

Gloria De La Paz, Director of Admissions Stephanie Annunziata, Admissions Counselor Shaunyce Jones, Admissions Counselor Amina Alam, Admissions Counselor 914-606-6735/Admissions@sunywcc.edu Thank you to the WCC Faculty, Staff and Administration for their contributions to the Newsletter

www.sunywcc.edu