CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of North Country Community College

April 2018



Sen. Betty Little secures \$1.1 million for SL campus



The college has been awarded \$1.1 million to renovate its science lab classrooms and expand the fitness center in the Sparks Athletic Complex — key facility upgrades that will augment instruction and enhance student life at the Saranac Lake campus.

The funding, provided by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, was secured for the college by State Senator Betty Little.

"This college is a place of enrichment and growth, a tremendous asset that broadens horizons and helps open doors to new opportunities," she said. "It is an asset well worth investing in because it is a pathway to a better future for so many."

The college will work with the Dormitory Authority to determine the details and scope of the science lab project, but it could include critical equipment upgrades, heating and ventilation improvements, new windows and interior remodeling.

The college's current fitness center is not adequate to serve the number of students who would like to use it, as well as faculty, staff and community residents. In addition to a larger fitness center, the expansion could also provide more locker room and equipment storage space.

"These renovations will enhance the learning environment for the students, and will provide much needed improvements to the Saranac Lake campus," said Franklin County Legislator Barbara Rice. "We are very appreciative of Senator Little's efforts on behalf of the college."



The college anticipates that the planning process for these projects will begin in early June. Construction could take place in the summer of 2019.

NCCC News Briefs

Enrollment update: With spring numbers now in, the college's enrollment for 2017-18 is expected to land near 1,012 fulltime equivalent students. That's well above the 975 FTEs the college budgeted for this year, and an increase from the 985 projected FTEs in the fall semester.

"This is great news for the college community," said NCCC President Dr. Steve Tyrell. "It is a reflection of the solid planning process we have established over the past few years between administration and governance. It is also a reflection of the hard work done by our college community in both recruiting and retaining students."

Malone programs planned: This spring, the college Board of Trustees approved submission of two program proposals at the Malone campus. A.S. Business: Sports and Events Management is offered to students interested in the business side of sports and event management and includes a formal applied learning experience. A.A.S. Entrepreneurship Management is geared toward small business entrepreneurs, with an emphasis on management skills. Both proposals now go to SUNY and the state Education Department for approval.

A great, two-year education at an affordable price

\$3,185 Average total out-of-pocket cost of tuition and fees for a non-dorm, full-time NCCC student who finishes a degree in 2 years, after financial aid is applied

vs. **Solution** Vs. Average total out-of-pocket cost of tuition and fees for an in-state full-time student at a public **four-year college** for **2** years according to 2017 10 C // C = 5 public four-year college for 2 years, according to 2017-18 College Board data



Faculty Q &A: Stacey Mascia-Susice, Ph.D



Title: Professor of English, Humanities Department, NCCC Malone

Education: Ph.D, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; M.A. The College of St. Rose; B.A. The College of St. Rose; A.A.S. North Country Community College

Interests: Music, theater, cooking, reading and writing. Stacey's first book, *Looking Through and Beyond Gaze Constructs: Representations of Performance and (Dis)Ability*, was published last year.

Who were some of your mentors when you were a student at NCCC? One professor who really moved me was Bob Brown. I remember going to his Sociology 101 lectures, and just so much laughter and learning. Claire Doyle was my connection to children's literature. I learned to love it as a genre and now I teach it regularly. Howard Mott and Ken Youngblood were both big influences and the reason why I chose to go into English as my career.

What was it like to go from being a student to a professor at the college? It was surreal because I was still pretty young (late 20s), and we had a lot of nontraditional students who were older than me. I think one of the comments that first semester was, 'Wait. You're our teacher?' Now I'd love to hear that. But I found my groove, it kicked in pretty quickly and it just felt like home.

What's your approach to instruction in the classroom? Education doesn't have to be dull. It can be invigorating. It can be insightful. It can be really challenging and outside the box. I bring guest speakers in, have students read texts

that are against the grain and try to expand their working knowledge of literature. I do a lot of discussion-based teaching and mix it up so I'm hitting all the different learners – the auditory, the visual, the kinesthetic.

Your book is focused on how sideshow performers with bodies of difference have used their conditions to educate the public. Why did you choose that subject? It grew out of my doctoral dissertation. I had presented quite a few of the chapters at conferences and it was received well so I thought, 'This needs to be a book.' I just wanted their stories to be told. I wanted people to see that these performers who were born with bodies of difference have overcome those challenges and used entertainment and education to express how they're comfortable in their own skin. I think that's a message that's lacking today.



Two NCCC students win 2018 Chancellor's Awards



North Country Community College Students Chloe Nott, left, and Victoria Smith, right, have been named recipients of the 2018 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Chloe, who hails from New South Wales, Australia, and Victoria, of Massena, traveled to the award ceremony in Albany April 10 with their parents, college President Dr. Steve Tyrell and a contingent of college faculty and staff.

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recognizes students for accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement.

Chloe is a second-year student in the college's Sports and Events Management program. She has excelled in the classroom, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, and has been an outstanding soccer and lacrosse player at the college. She was named a 2017 Scholar All-American by United Soccer Coaches. In addition, Chloe is an accomplished banjo player.

Victoria is in her third year at the college. She graduated from the Licensed Practical Nursing program last year and is now working on her RN and Health Sciences degrees. In addition to her studies at the college, Victoria has volunteered on mission trips to Uganda and India, and participated in a medical brigade to Honduras in March.



"The college is proud to celebrate Chloe's and Victoria's accomplishments and congratulates them on being recognized with their peers as the best students in the SUNY system," said Dr. Tyrell.