

## 4th Annual APPLIED LEARNING CONFERENCE

# Biographies

### Julius Gregg Adams, Ph.D.

*Educational Opportunity Center, Buffalo, Executive Director*

In June 2012 Dr. Adams was appointed as the Executive Director of the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC). The UBEOC provides workforce development and college preparatory experiences for underrepresented adult students. As Executive Director, Dr. Adams provides leadership and vision to faculty and staff by utilizing a thorough grounding in higher education and the workings of the academy, from classes, to research, to service. He uses his experience with workforce development, strong advocacy skills and experience working successfully with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to interact with diverse community constituencies. Dr. Adams began his career as a school psychologist for the Buffalo Public Schools in 1982. Subsequently he accepted a position as a Psychologist II for the Mobile Mental Health Team of the NYS Children's Psychiatric Center. He taught psychological foundations courses at SUNY Fredonia, where he was eventually appointed the Director of the School of Education. In August 2002, Dr. Adams joined the staff at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, as the Associate Dean for Teacher Education in the Graduate School of Education. In August 2010, Dr. Adams joined Daemen College as the Associate Dean for Special Initiatives in Education, Chair of the Education Department and the Director of Accreditation. Dr. Adams has a B.A. degree in Psychology, an M.A. in Educational Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (major in development, minor in learning theory) all from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

### Steven Adelson

*Residence Hall Director, Stony Brook University*

Steven Adelson is a Residence Hall Director at Stony Brook University and a Doctor of Education student in the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University. Steven is a two-time alum of Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (2015) and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration (2017). Steven's most notable work is with the transformation of voter engagement over the past 24 months at Stony Brook University, with the institution recently recognized for having the highest voter turnout at its on-campus polling site of any polling site in the United States during the 2016 Presidential Election. Steven was a recipient of the 2016 Hidden Heroes Award from The Andrew Goodman Foundation for their commitment to advancing college student civic rights and responsibilities. Steven's research interests focus on undocumented immigrant identity development and how it affects this underrepresented population's access to higher education. Beyond the professional realm, Steven enjoys seeing the world first-hand (six continents and counting), assisting with the development of first-year student leadership programs and opportunities, and infusing mentorship as a core element of as many student experiences as possible.

### Meylin Andares

*Director of Enrollment Management & Student Success, SUNY System Administration*

Meylin L. Andares is a native New Yorker from Queens, NY. Prior to joining SUNY, she worked as Assistant Director at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for the University at Albany. During her time at UAlbany, she worked with students and faculty on campus and recruited a competitive incoming freshmen class for both traditional and non-traditional students. One of her main responsibilities were students for the Educational Opportunity Program. Her efforts helped increase the applicant pool of African-Americans, Latinos and other minorities by 45%. In June 2016, Andares started a new position as Director of Enrollment Management and Student Success for SUNY System Administration. This role will create strategic initiatives and develop programs to increase enrollment for targeted groups throughout SUNY. She has created partnerships with organizations such as College Bound Initiative (CBI), Urban Assembly (UA) and New Visions to ensure underrepresented students have access and graduate from a SUNY institution. She is also expanding efforts to incorporate the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC's) as a pipeline for Associate degrees. Her additional duties include working with foster youth, adult learners and undocumented students. Andares holds a B.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and a M.A. in Social Studies.

## Charlie Baxter

*Program Coordinator, University at Buffalo*

Originally from Wisconsin, Charlie Baxter moved to Buffalo in 2014 to pursue a Master's in Higher Education at the University at Buffalo. After getting involved with UB's experiential learning team as a graduate student, he became passionate about and immersed in the projects and systems that would carry the University's experiential learning initiative forward. He now works in the Experiential Learning Network at UB, collaboratively designing hands-on learning experiences for students.

## M. Lee Berg, MS, RNC-MNN

*Associate Professor, Nursing Department, Onondaga Community College*

My career had a slow start. I dropped out of high school to get married and was a mother of two by the time I was 19 years old. I began working on my GED to be a better example to my children. The marriage fell apart, and I was so grateful just to have that GED, which made me employable. I soon learned that minimum wage would not support a family of three, so I began pursuing an old dream to become a registered nurse. St. Joseph's School of Nursing accepted me right away, despite the fact that I was a student at risk who did not meet the chemistry requirement. They liked my admission essay, encouraged me to register for chemistry at Onondaga Community College, and took a chance on me. Now I have my BS from Keuka College, and my MS from SUNYIT. I teach Nursing at Onondaga Community College where I took my very first college course. I still appreciate that St. Joseph's School of Nursing took a chance on me over 26 years ago. It has colored who I am as a nurse and as an educator. All these years later, I am still paying it forward, trying to see the potential in my students, and providing the best opportunities I can for them to learn. Additionally, this year I will teach my fourth international service-learning course that includes a trip to Guatemala. You can read about that in a journal article I wrote that was published last year. Nursing2016: A transformative service learning experience in Guatemala

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Department: LEARNING CURVE

## Alex Bitterman, Ph.D

*Professor and Chair Architecture & Design, Alfred State College*

Dr. Bitterman is a proud alumnus of the SUNY system. He graduated from SUNY Buffalo State with a B.S. in Business and a minor in English. Subsequently, he earned his M.Arch. at the University at Buffalo and later earned his Ph.D. in American Studies also at the University at Buffalo. He is currently the chair of the Department of Architecture & Design and the co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee at Alfred State College.

## Francis Borrego, MBA, MS

*Associate Director, Marketing, Technology, and Assessment, Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development, Binghamton University*

Francis Borrego coordinates strategic marketing initiatives to engage students, assesses programs and student outcomes, and supervises technology use for the Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development, Binghamton University. In this role at the Fleishman Center, he also dedicates time for career advising students through 1:1 counseling sessions, and presents career-related programs. Francis maintains that there should be a clear connection between the education students receive and the direct outcome of that knowledge, as exhibited through obtaining a good job, rewarding career, and interesting and fulfilling life. Prior to his role at Binghamton, Francis served as the Director of Marketing and Communications at Hartwick College. Francis also worked for 10 years in industry as a marketing manager, sales and marketing specialist, and market and research analyst. He earned his MBA in Marketing and MS in Student Affairs Administration from Binghamton University.

## Nicholas J. Bosco

*Associate Professor of Business and Accounting, Suffolk County Community College*

Nick is an Associate Professor of Business and Accounting at Suffolk County Community College and has been in higher education for the past 14 years. The Business and Accounting club that he advises is the largest club on campus with over 125 active members. He focuses on bringing students into out of the classroom environments where students can observe and experience many of the key business points that are discussed in the classroom. He is also part of the college's study abroad program where he brings students to Italy to focus on International Business and the globalization of markets. Nicholas holds the Chair position of the college's Business, Retail and Accounting advisory board and specializes in organizing Bi-Annual symposiums to create a greater networking experience for his students and connect them with mentors and job opportunities. Nicholas is also published for his work that involves social media and marketing focusing on how it is changing the modern day classroom.

## Ed Brodka

*Group Learning Coordinator/Career Counselor, University at Buffalo,*

ESince 2010, Ed has been using the CliftonStrengths assessment (formally known as StrengthsQuest/StrengthsFinder) with

students at the University at Buffalo. He is a frequent presenter to more than 15 University at Buffalo courses, programs and departments in student and academic affairs. He has presented at conferences and other campuses on the topic of Strengths-Based Career Counseling. In 2016, Ed was certified as a Gallup Strengths Coach to work with individuals, managers and teams. He uses the CliftonStrengths for Students assessment in individual appointments with students as well as in classes and campus programs. He helps students to leverage their strengths to prepare for interviews, explore majors/careers and most importantly to this conference, he helps students to reflect on their applied learning experiences. Ed has a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication from the University at Buffalo where he has worked for 30 years in Student Affairs, most recently, in Career Services.

## **Pamela Brown, PhD**

*PE, Associate Provost at the New York City College of Technology*

PAMELA BROWN, PhD, PE, is Associate Provost at New York City College of Technology of The City University of New York (City Tech/CUNY). Prior to this position, Dr. Brown served for six years as dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Brown has a track record of creating initiatives to improve the retention and recruitment of students interested in careers in STEM fields. As dean, she helped obtain and oversee five grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Currently she is co-PI of an NIH bridges to the baccalaureate grant and oversees a NYSED CSTEP grant. She founded the college's Emerging Scholars Program, an undergraduate research program providing undergraduate research opportunities and professional development skills to over 200 students each academic year. She served on the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on, "Barriers and Opportunities in Completing Two- and Four-Year STEM Degrees," which produced a consensus paper. A chemical engineer by training, Dr. Brown is a registered professional engineering in New York State. During the 2011-12 academic year, Dr. Brown served as a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Brown has the distinction of being the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Polytechnic University (now NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering). She also has an SM in Chemical Engineering Practice from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BS in Chemistry from the University at Albany, SUNY.

## **Jennifer Bryer PhD, RN, CNE**

*Acting Assistant Dean, School of Health Sciences, Chair of Applied Learning Review Board*

Dr. Jennifer Bryer is Acting Assistant Dean of the School of Health Science at Farmingdale State College. She was Chairperson of the Department of Nursing for six years and taught a variety of didactic, laboratory, and simulation courses over her 11 years at the college. Dr. Bryer serves on the Education Policy Committee for the American Nurses Association and is a Grant Reviewer for the American Nurses Foundation. She developed and implemented community service programs including the Nursing Student Outreach Program and Nursing Mentoring Program.

Dr. Bryer graduated from Rutgers University with a PhD in nursing research and is a Certified Nurse Educator. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on topics related to quality and safety in nursing, factors affecting attrition and retention of nursing students, and HPV vaccine acceptance. She is a recipient of the Chancellors' Award for Teaching Excellence, and currently, serves as chair of the Applied Learning Review Board at Farmingdale

## **Ashley Bucholtz**

*Budget & Operations Coordinator, University at Buffalo*

Ashley Bucholtz is currently the Budget & Operations Coordinator for Student Engagement at the University at Buffalo. She received her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from SUNY Fredonia in 2013, where she first got involved in student affairs work through Campus Life, Residence Life, and Student Activities. She worked in cinema advertising and economic development programming before finding her way back to the world of student affairs in 2016. The research, ideas, and future implications presented today are especially exciting to her because of her student assistant supervision and special interest in organizational behavior and group dynamics.

## **Wm. David Burns**

*Executive Director Emeritus of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, Stony Brook University*

David Burns is the executive director emeritus of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, founder and principal investigator of SENCER – a National Science Foundation supported faculty empowerment and curricular reform program, and publisher of Science Education and Civic Engagement – An International Journal. He also serves as principal investigator for the National Center's Great Lakes Stewardship Through Education Network (GLISTEN) project, which is supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and directs another NSF-supported initiative to connect formal science education at the college level with informal science educators (museums, aquaria, science journalists, etc.), and the Engaging Mathematics project. Prior to establishing the National Center, David served as senior policy director for the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and was an administrator at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. His publications include the edited volume Learning for Our Common Health, and the article "Knowledge to Make Our Democracy." In 2008, the American Society for Cell Biology honored David and SENCER co-founder Karen Kashmanian Oates with the Bruce Alberts Award for

Excellence in Science Education. At the state level, David serves as a member of the (NJ) Governor's Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. David's undergraduate and graduate work (at Rutgers) was in political science with a concentration on political theory. He was a Woodrow Wilson National Fellow.

## **Matt Byrnes**

*AIC Director, Toronto, GIC Conference Director*

Matt joined the Academic Internship Council in early 2011 to establish the Toronto operations and to manage the Global Internship Conference (GIC) at UC Berkeley in June 2012. By 2021 the Global Internship Conference will have been held in all 6 continents under Matt's leadership; thus fulfilling its mandate to be the industry leader for the international promotion of Academic Internships as an integral part of University education.

A proud Torontonian and Canadian, he is eager to share his hometown with international internship students. Hundreds of students, in mainly STEM programs, have done internships in Toronto since 2011.

Matt has lived and worked in the U.K. and Canada and has traveled to five different continents. During the winter months, Matt can be found at the local hockey rink every weekend, coaching his son's and daughter's teams, and serving as a Level 2 Referee.

## **Dr. Erwin Cabrera**

*Associate Director, Research Aligned Mentorship Program, Farmingdale State College*

*PhD in Basic Biomedical Sciences-Neuro Pathology, New York University School of Medicine*

*MS in Basic Biomedical Sciences-Neuro Pathology, New York University School of Medicine*

*BS in Biological Sciences, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)*

Dr. Cabrera finds inspiration in the quote, "To whom much is given, much is required."

As a proud product of the Maryland University system's Upward Bound Math and Science high school program, UMBC's Maximizing Access to Research Careers, HHMI Scholars program and Meyerhoff Scholars Program, Dr. Cabrera is delighted at the opportunity to pursue a career in higher education.

In his current role as Associate Director of the – Research Aligned Mentorship Program, a \$2.9 million grant funded by a U.S. Department of Education's "First in the World" grant competition, Dr. Cabrera places students in mentored research experiences on and off campus in national laboratories, research universities, business accelerators, and other research venues. The program has a goal of improving four-year graduation rates by 20% over the college's baseline for first-year and transfer students ranging all majors.

By melding his passion for students and expertise in science into one, Dr. Cabrera aims to make a broader impact through uplifting and mentoring the next generation of young scholars. Dr. Cabrera is motivated to guide students and be the bridge between the academic-science world and the community, especially for those who are typically underrepresented in these arenas.

Dr. Cabrera will be co-presenting with two students

## **Sam Cardamone**

*Associate Director, Study Abroad, SUNY Geneseo*

Sam Cardamone is the Associate Director of the SUNY Geneseo Study Abroad Office. Sam has worked in the SUNY Geneseo Study Abroad Office since July 2012, and he works closely with all bilateral exchange agreements between SUNY Geneseo and partner universities around the world.

Sam earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. Sam has studied abroad in Australia and lead service learning programs abroad in Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Mexico. He also spent one year teaching abroad at Xavier High School located on the island of Weno in the Federated States of Micronesia.

In addition to overseeing outgoing study abroad students, Sam also oversees all incoming international exchange (J-1) students studying at SUNY Geneseo. Research interests include comprehensive internationalization as well as ethical and sustainable service learning practices.

SUNY Geneseo maintains the highest study abroad participation rate of any SUNY campus and was recently recognized by the IIE Opens Doors Report with the number one participation rate among public, master's degree granting institutions in the country. SUNY Geneseo sustains the most active international exchange program in the SUNY system with the University of Groningen located in the Netherlands.

## Allison Church

*Project Coordinator, SUNY COIL Stevens Initiative*

Allison joined the SUNY COIL Center in March 2016 to provide pedagogical, administrative and logistical management for all areas of the Stevens Initiative. She has been responsible for fostering faculty and institutional partnerships, creating promotional materials, and facilitating professional development between the 27 members of the SUNY COIL Network and 4 institutional partners in Lebanon, Morocco, and Egypt. For the past decade, Allison has championed the international educational experience seeking her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the American University in Cairo, Egypt during one of the most tumultuous political shifts in the region in recent history, the Arab Spring. While there she thrived in education and worked as a language and history teacher in an international college, as an exchange student representative for the American University in Cairo, and Arabic translation specialist for the House of Translation. Over 10 years in international education between the MENA and US, she has developed intercultural faculty training programs, localized curriculum at international k-12 schools, and with the SUNY COIL team she co-designed and managed the implementation of the first intercultural assessment for virtual exchange with over 700 students in 25 higher education institutions.

## Marc J. Cohen

*President, Student Assembly of the State University of New York*

*Trustee, The State University of New York*

Marc J. Cohen was elected President of the Student Assembly in April 2016 and reelected unanimously to a second term in April 2017. In addition to his role as President, Cohen serves as a Trustee of the State University of New York, a Trustee of the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, and a member of the Chancellor's Cabinet.

He first served the SUNY Student Assembly as an Undergraduate Representative before serving as Senior Director of External Relations for one year. Before becoming President, Cohen served as Chief of Staff, advising the President on all organizational matters, overseeing the Executive Cabinet, and acting as the President's liaison to various external organizations.

As an undergraduate, he served the Student Association as a Senator, Legislative Director, Chief of Staff, Vice President, and finally Counselor to the President. He served on numerous governing and advisory bodies at the University at Albany, including the University Council, the University Auxiliary Services Board of Directors, University Senate, Purple and Gold Ambassadors, and the Rockefeller College Dean's Leadership Council.

He has worked in the offices of Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and her predecessor Robert Duffy, and previously served as National Deputy Director of Development and Adviser to the President of the College Democrats of America. Cohen grew up in Amherst, NY, a suburb of Buffalo, and graduated summa cum laude from the University at Albany with a BA in Political Science. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Administration from the University at Albany.

## Mark D. Cornwell

*Department Chair of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Science, SUNY Cobleskill*

Mark Cornwell is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences at SUNY Cobleskill. Mark teaches applied courses in fisheries management, fisheries science, fisheries techniques, fish biology, aquatic & marine ecology, pond management and aquacultural engineering. Mark is a feature writer for PondBoss magazine, an applied magazine devoted to private pond management. Mark and his faculty have developed numerous applied grants, contracts, internships and MOU's with governmental agencies and industry partnerships for the benefit of our students.

## Sheila Cooley

*Associate Director, Center for Experiential Learning, SUNY Oswego*

Sheila has worked in Higher Education for 28 years of which the last 7 years have been directly associated with Applied Learning. She developed and implemented SUNY Oswego's first multi-departmental co-op program and is also co-creator for the SUNY Career Launch Course.

## Anita DeCianni-Brown

*Collegewide Career Development Coordinator, SUNY Empire State College*

Anita DeCianni-Brown holds an M.A. in Adult Learning from SUNY Empire State College. She has worked in higher education career services for over 25 years. In addition to her work at SUNY Empire, she serves on the executive boards for SUNY CDO and NYSCEEA. She is currently the Treasurer for SUNY CDO and is the marketing chair for the 2018 conference; she also serves as the Marketing Chair for NYSCEEA. Anita is a retired school board member, serving for 14 years in Green Island.

## Ann Emo

*Chair and Associate Professor, Theater, Buffalo State College*

Ms. Emo came to Higher Education following a professional career as a costume designer in New York City and Western NY. While she continues her work in Theater, her current focus as Chair of the Theater Department at SUNY Buffalo State, and Chair of the College Senate Curriculum Committee. Ann's specific interests include service-learning and civic engagement, international

study, the intentional connection of interdisciplinary coursework, active learning and the development of “21st Century Skills” through the study of the Arts. She is an active member of the Buffalo State community, sitting on committees including College Senate, General Education Revision, and Applied Learn Task Force.

## **Fairlie Firari, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Communication, Onondaga Community College*

Fairlie Firari is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, New York. Fairlie earned her BS at Syracuse University, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and her doctorate of Philosophy in Education, Training Performance Improvement Specialization at Capella University. She has over 30 years of business experience as a program director, professional speaker and corporate trainer. She brings close to 20 years of public speaking practice to the classroom. Along with Public Speaking, Fairlie also teaches Introduction to Communication both in the classroom and online, Interpersonal, Intercultural and Business Communication, and Speech & Rhetoric, and was part of the first OCC cohort to be awarded a service-learning fellowship. She has a training consulting business called per4mance1 and predominantly conducts comprehensive career-readiness program workshops. In addition to teaching, her passion is to help the hard to employ develop a professional brand and launch their careers. She has written two editions of a Public Speaking manual titled, WORD; Becoming THAT Confident Speaker.

## **Phyllis Floro**

*Director of Student Engagement, University at Buffalo*

Phyllis Floro, currently the Director of Student Engagement at the University at Buffalo, is a veteran Student Affairs professional. During her 18 years in the field, she has worked with student unions, student activities, new student programs, diversity education, and currently leadership, community engagement and experiential learning. A Buffalo native, Phyllis attended Niagara County Community College and the University at Buffalo for her educational career.

## **Candice J. Foley, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Chemistry, Suffolk County Community College*

*NSF S STEM PI/Chair*

With over 30 years of experience in both the research and teaching communities on Long Island, Dr. Candice J. Foley endeavors to bring her perspectives of each of these realms to her STEM students at Suffolk County Community College. As the Principal Investigator for Suffolk County Community College’s three consecutive National Science Foundation S STEM scholarship grants, as well as the National Institute of Health IRACDA grant (Institutional Research and Career Development Award), the Leona and Harry Helmsley Foundation NSF Science Education for New Civic Engagement and Responsibility (SENCER) New York Project, and community college coordinator for the NSF LSAMP grant alliance, Dr. Foley serves as the STEM Coordinator for all SCCC NSF STEM Scholars on three campuses on initiatives that provide community college STEM scholars opportunities to expand their STEM educational goals through scholarships and research internships towards transfer and career.

Dr. Foley has served on national grant projects involving curricular reform for STEM education. Her experience has enabled her to focus upon the adaptation and implementation of these innovations in classroom learning through curricular innovation and technology based software for the community college application, and she has delivered workshops at national meetings on curricular innovation and reform. Dr. Foley served as a delegate to the SUNY Research Foundation Undergraduate Research Steering Committee investigating the persistence of undergraduate students in STEM at the State University of New York (SUNY). She is a charter member of the Empire State STEM Learning Network and the Long Island STEM Hub.

## **Dr. Michele Forte**

*Associate Professor, SUNY Empire State College*

Dr. Forte is an assistant professor at SUNY Empire State College in the area of Human Services. She is a licensed social worker, and for 12 years worked at the Epilepsy Foundation of NENY (Northeastern New York). She also was a faculty member for 12 years at SUNY Albany in an innovative freshman-year experience program.

Dr. Forte was a member of the Global Learning Qualifications Framework (GLQF) team that developed the competencies for the framework. She also currently serves on the Connecting Credentials team (a national initiative sponsored by the Lumina Foundation) which has developed a competency-based framework for assessing and connecting credentials. She has co-developed four Coursera MOOCs, and served as co-PI on a similar number of SUNY grant funded projects. She is currently reassigned to SUNY System to hone student supports initiatives in distance education. Dr. Forte’s interests related to this project include workplace embedded learning and mentoring and the alignment of industry and academic competencies and guidelines to guide degree creation.

## **Rene Gabriel**

*Assistant Professor, Morrisville State College*

René C. Gabriel is an Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management at Morrisville State College. She has over 30 years of experience in education and various sectors of the hospitality and tourism industry. She earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Rochester Institute of Technology. She is a member of CHRIE and serves as the faculty advisor for Morrisville State College's chapter of Eta Sigma Delta International Hospitality Honor Society.

## **Nujim García-Shimanovich**

*Professor, Universidad de Tijuana, Mexico*

Professor of Production of TV and Film Development, Media Analysis, Photography, Visual Education, Audiovisual Projects as well as Video Game Development, he is a member of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Networks, collaborating with SUNY Ulster, New York.

## **Robert E. Geer, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Nanoscale Science*

*SUNY Polytechnic Institute*

Robert Geer is a Professor of Nanoscale Science in SUNY Polytechnic Institute's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE). His teaching and research areas focus on integrated circuit (IC) metrology, fabrication, and advanced materials development. Currently Professor Geer is the Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the NSF-funded Northeast Advanced Technological Education Center (NEATEC), which develops and promotes advanced education and training program development for the U.S. semiconductor and nanotechnology manufacturing industries. Current areas of active research include design, development and fabrication of novel 3D integrated circuits for high performance nanoelectronics, development and reliability of integrated photonics circuits for education and workforce training. Past resistive research areas have included reliability of resistive RAM, development of graphene for next-generation interconnects and thermoelectric, Si-based nanowire materials for energy applications and integrated circuits, and development of nanoscale metrology tools for measurement and characterization of nanodevice structures. Professor Geer has also directed R&D programs in nanoparticle-based planarization processing for computer-chip manufacturing. His research has been supported by: NSF, IBM, AMD, ONR, the New York State Office of Academic Research and Technology, International Sematech, AFOSR, DARPA, and SRC. Professor Geer has presented over 75 papers at technical conferences and has published more than 100 articles, book chapters, or proceedings on nanoscale materials, devices, and nanoscale characterization.

## **Debra Gelinis, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Vice Provost for Applied Learning/Director, Institute for Applied Learning, University at Albany*

Debra Gelinis currently serves as Assistant Vice Provost for Applied Learning at the University at Albany, SUNY (UAlbany). As the founding Director of UAlbany's Institute for Applied Learning, Dr. Gelinis focuses much of her time working with faculty and administrators to create new programs, develop policies, refine data collection procedures, and support continued growth of applied learning across campus. Prior to joining the team at UAlbany, Gelinis worked at Berklee College of Music and Northeastern University.

## **Seth F. Gilbertson**

*Associate Counsel for the State University of New York's Office of University Counsel.*

In addition to his general responsibilities as labor and student affairs counsel for SUNY's six Western New York campuses ("Westcam"), Mr. Gilbertson specializes in records management, applied learning, and international programs issues for SUNY on a system-wide basis. Before joining SUNY, Mr. Gilbertson clerked for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department. In a previous life, he was the Mountain Manager of Apple Mountain Resort in Freeland, Michigan. He earned his B.A. from Saginaw Valley State University and his J.D. from Albany Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Albany Law Review. He is active in both the New York State Bar Association and the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

## **Nicholas Gill**

*University of Buffalo Mechanical Engineer Graduate, Career Course Alum*

Nicholas Gill is a 2001 graduate of mechanical engineering from SUNY at Buffalo. Since graduating, he has worked in the Western New York area at Fisher-Price, Northrup-Grumman, Zodiac Aerospace, and Cobham. At each company, Nicholas shares his exuberant personality and creative problem solving skills. While working, he obtained a master's degree in Engineering from SUNY at Buffalo and an MBA from the Simon school at the University of Rochester. For fun, Nicholas likes to go sailing with his wife and two boys.

## Joy A. Guarino

*Faculty Coordinator for Service-Learning and Associate Professor, Dance, Buffalo State College*

Joy Guarino is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Dance program at SUNY Buffalo State teaching a variety of studio technique, choreography, dance history, and dance education courses. Professor Guarino is also the College's Faculty Coordinator for service-learning. Ms. Guarino earned her MFA from Temple University and holds a NYS Teacher's Certification in Dance. She has combined her passion for dance and community welfare to develop courses, conduct research, and present internationally on kinesthetic learning, dance/movement integration, service-learning, and community engagement. As a practitioner and consultant in the arts-in-education profession, both personally and as a mentor for her students, she is committed to finding creative and practical ways of designing and implementing meaningful arts programs for diverse populations. Her artistic scholarship accentuates the use of mixed media and audience participation, and she has presented her choreography internationally. She enjoys working creatively with professionals, students, and community partners all over the world; achieving extensive knowledge and experience in the field.

## Emily Guererri

*Student, University at Albany*

Emily Guererri is from a small town, called Canandaigua, about 45 minutes south of Rochester NY. She is a Junior Accounting student in the School of Business at the University at Albany. Currently Emily serves as the Peer Career Advisor Co-Coordinator for the Peer Career Advisory program through the Office of Career and Professional Development at UAlbany. Outside of that office, she is involved on campus as an Undergraduate Admissions Tour Guide, Member of Beta Alpha Psi the International Accounting Honorary Organization, Emerging Student Leaders Program Graduate and Mentor, Purple and Gold Ambassador for the Alumni Association, Presidential Scholar, Honors College Member, Presidential Honor Society Member, UAlbany President's Advisory Council undergraduate student representative, and is also a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

This past summer she completed an externship with Ernst and Young LLP, the third biggest accounting firm in the world. Emily will be completing a dual degree with her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Accounting from the School of Business at UAlbany. After she finishes her education she aspires to obtain her CPA and work in Advisory, more specifically mergers and acquisitions at Ernst and Young LLP in New York City or Boston.

Emily is an outgoing and passionate person who strives to involve as many students as possible in applied learning opportunities both educationally and professionally. She attributes her successes, professional growth, and leadership experience to her involvement in applied learning throughout the University at Albany's Campus.

## Danielle Haft

*Student, University at Albany*

Danielle Haft, from Long Island, is a senior at the University at Albany working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with minors in Education and Psychology. In high school, Danielle took on leadership roles in various organizations and was an active Girl Scout and earned the Gold Award in her senior year. She strived to keep that same involvement in college and immediately joined a variety of clubs and organizations from her freshman year.

Danielle was chosen to participate in the Emerging Student Leaders Program at the University at Albany during the first semester of her freshman year because of her prior involvement. In her sophomore year, Danielle began working for the Office of Career and Professional Development as a Peer Career Advisor (PCA) in which she and 40 other students work in the office to provide on-site resume and cover letter reviews, as well as guide students in job and internship searches. This year, Danielle has moved up to working as the PCA program coordinator and oversees all PCAs and helps to develop class curriculum. In addition to working in this office, Danielle also works as the undergraduate Student Assistant for Special Events in the Office of Student Activities where she directs many event plans for the University. Danielle also serves as the Chair of the Elections Commission for the Student Association and oversees all internal election operations.

After graduating in May, Danielle plans to attend graduate school and pursue a future in higher education and Student Affairs. She is ecstatic to be in attendance at this conference and expand her knowledge on Applied Learning

## Douglas Hammond

*Department Chair of Agricultural Engineering Technology, SUNY Cobleskill*

Douglas Hammond has a Bachelor of Technology in Ag Equipment Technology from the State University of New York at Cobleskill and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Cornell University. Doug joined the Agricultural Engineering Department at the State University of New York at Cobleskill (SUNY Cobleskill) as a faculty member in 1996.

Doug currently serves as the Agricultural Engineering Technology Department Chair and as an Associate Professor in the department. He has worked to develop industry partnerships such as the nationally recognized John Deere Construction and

Forestry Tech program and formal/informal affiliations such as the partnership with Milton Caterpillar - CAT, Andersen Equipment - Komatsu, Monroe Tractor - Case IH, NYS DOT, and others. Doug serves on the Technical Training Steering Committee for the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) and is an Evaluation Team Leader (ETL) for the AED. He has been the lead ETL on several program site visits evaluating programs for potential accreditation or reaccreditation with the national organization. Doug can be reached at hammonds@cobleskill.edu or at (518) 255-5529.

## **Alison Handy Twang**

*MPA, Assistant Director, Center for Civic Engagement, Binghamton University*

Alison Handy Twang is the assistant director at the Center for Civic Engagement at Binghamton University. In this role, she is broadly responsible for promoting, developing and expanding community engagement opportunities for students. Alison oversees CCE's community-based programming, including Community Schools and Youth Programs and the Bridging the Digital Divide Project, as well as campus-based voter engagement initiatives. Alison also teaches the course Community Engagement: Where It Starts, How It Works, and Where You Fit In as part of the University Scholars program. Before joining CCE, she worked in the nonprofit sector, focusing on philanthropy and student and young adult civic engagement. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in public administration from Binghamton University and is currently pursuing her PhD in community research and action. Alison's research interests are centered on the outcomes of higher education civic engagement from the community perspective. Alison is committed to developing community partnerships that are mutually beneficial and based on democratic practices, and she loves helping students direct their passions in ways that are responsive to community needs and assets. She serves on the board of directors for the YWCA of Binghamton/Broome County, on the Community Impact Council for the United Way of Broome County, and as a member of the advisory committee for the Rural Health Service Corps/AmeriCorps program. In her free time, Alison enjoys practicing yoga and spending time with her chocolate lab, Keene.

## **Christina Heath**

*Assistant Director*

Christina Heath holds a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Administration from Canisius College and has been working in the field of Higher Education for the last 7 years. Her roles have involved academic advising, student activities, coordinating a grant funded Health Careers Opportunity Program, managing a large, scholarly living and learning community, and a wide variety of experiential learning projects and programs. Christina currently serves as Assistant Director of the Experiential Learning Network at the University at Buffalo where she assists faculty with infusing experiential learning into new and existing courses to give students transformative, hands on learning experiences. She facilitates a sophomore living and learning community in which all members are working on yearlong projects aimed to have positive community impacts. Additionally, Christina serves as the University at Buffalo's SUNY COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) campus coordinator, helping faculty connect and co-design course modules with global partners.

## **David A. Heath, OD, EdM, FAO**

*President of the State University of New York College of Optometry*

Dr. Heath has served as president of the State University of New York College of Optometry since 2007. He previously served as vice president and dean of academic affairs at the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Heath received his Doctor of Optometry and completed a residency at The New England College of Optometry and earned his Master in Education from Harvard University. Dr. Heath is active nationally, serving as President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) during the 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 academic years. He has served as a founding member on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Optometry (2009-2015) and is active with both the American Optometric Association and the New York State Optometric Association.

Dr. Heath's work has focused on educational program development and international vision care. In 2010, he was awarded China's highest honor for foreigners, the "China Friendship Award" for his work there. Dr. Heath is also a two-time recipient of the Jack Bennett Innovation in Education Award from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). Dr. Heath is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a Distinguished Scholar of the National Academies of Practice (Optometry).

## **Kamryn Hernandez**

*Student, Farmingdale State College*

Kamryn Hernandez is a sophomore Science, Technology and Society major at Farmingdale State College. Kamryn participated in her applied learning experience this summer in Antigua. Her work focused on lifestyles of hunter-gatherer communities using mapping, surveying, and field conservation techniques along with proper excavation methods.

## **Laura Hill Rao**

*Director, Office of Civic and Community Engagement, Buffalo State College*

Laura Hill Rao is Director of the Civic and Community Engagement Office at SUNY Buffalo State College where she facilitates and

supports students, faculty, and community partners engaged in community-based learning activities including service-learning courses, civic engagement efforts, Alternative Break, and other community partnership programs. In fourteen years, she has grown student community engagement from 575 students to nearly 4,000 students annually. As a result of its deep and broad civic engagement efforts, Buffalo State has recently earned the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification in 2015, was awarded the Washington Center Higher Education Civic Engagement Award in 2016, and has been appointed to the President's Community Service Honor Roll eight times. Rao holds an M.S. in Environmental Education from Lesley University and a B.A. in Psychology from SUNY Buffalo.

## **Jonathan Hilsher**

*Director of the Center for Civic Engagement*

Jonathan is Director of the Center for Civic Engagement at SUNY Alfred State where he provides leadership to community engagement initiatives and teaches the capstone course for the Leadership Minor. Core responsibilities include managing service events, engagement programming, disaster and alternative break trips, community partnerships as well as supporting faculty and co-chairing Leadership Allegany. Jonathan holds a B.A. in Political Science, an M.S. in Non Profit Management, and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador. He worked for 10 years in the non-profit sector focusing on volunteer management and partnership development before transitioning to higher education.

## **Dr. Mara Huber**

*Associate Dean, Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning & Director of The Academies*

Mara Huber currently serves as Director of the Experiential Learning Network (ELN) and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning at the University at Buffalo. Since completing her PhD in Cognitive Psychology in 2000, she has held a number of innovative leadership positions all focusing on the interfaces between university engagement, student learning and community impacts. Her current work focuses on the design and cultivation of high-impact experiential learning in support of institutional, pedagogical and community-based goals. Since 2009, Mara has led trips to the Mara Region of Tanzania and currently co-leads a short-term study abroad trip that serves as an incubator for new pedagogical innovations and assessments along with community projects and impacts. Mara is currently working to deepen global partnerships through her evolving Global Partners Studio initiative and collaborating on a 1-credit COIL course (Transnational Community Development Lab) with a colleague from San Luis Potosi, Mexico. She is a frequent speaker, mentor, writer and facilitator, and hosts a blogsite <https://marabhuber.com/>.

## **Rauno Joks, MD**

*Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Program Director and Division Chief of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Medicine; Co-Chair Applied Learning Committee, SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

Dr. Joks is Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division Chief and Program Director for the Division of Allergy and Immunology at SUNY Downstate. His education has been largely through the SUNY System, including undergraduate BS in Biology from SUNY Binghamton, MD from SUNY Stony Brook, then Medicine Residency at the Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan, before coming to Downstate for a fellowship in Allergy & Immunology and Rheumatology (1990-93). Recruited in 1993 to faculty from fellowship, he has been triple-board certified in Internal Medicine, Allergy & Immunology, and Rheumatology, and has been Program Director and Chief of Allergy & Immunology since 2004. He is an active inpatient attending physician in the Internal Medicine Department of Kings County Hospital Center, a large municipal hospital in Central Brooklyn. Dr. Joks's research interests include modulation of IgE responses in development of allergies, and use of novel biomarkers to study the development of allergy in immigrants to Brooklyn. Dr. Joks's service to Downstate includes, in addition to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows, current - Presiding Officer of the Centerwide Committee and SUNY Faculty Senator, Campus Governance representative to the Presidential Transition Committee and member of the CAPQ and the Furchgott Award Committee, previous Chair of CAPQ and Presiding Officer of Executive Committee. He currently co-chairs the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Applied Learning Committee with Dr. Ronnie Lichtman.

## **Drew Kahn**

*Professor of Theatre, SUNY Buffalo*

Drew Kahn is Professor of theater at SUNY Buffalo State where he teaches acting (President's Award for Excellence in Teaching/SUNY) and directed over 20 productions (Kennedy Center Award). In addition to his work in higher education, he has taught K-12 populations for over three decades. He is the Founding Director of the Anne Frank Project, a multi-layered social justice program at SUNY Buffalo State that utilizes the wisdom of Anne Frank as a springboard for the examination of oppression through the lenses of story and performance. He presents and teaches internationally on the use of story as a tool for conflict resolution, community building and identity exploration—most recently in Rwanda, Kenya, Switzerland, DR Congo, Burma and Viet Nam (Toby Ticktin Back Award for Holocaust Education and the National Federation for Just Communities-Community Leader Award). Currently, Professor Kahn's work focuses on training teachers in Rwanda, Kenya and the U.S., providing tools to bring the power of Story to classrooms. He has extensive acting experience in regional theatre and off-Broadway, feature film and multiple television credits. Professor Kahn was the host of WKBW-TV's (ABC) AM Buffalo for six years, hosted the WNED (PBS)

documentary Saving a Landmark: The Darwin Martin House (Telly Award) and has numerous local commercial and stage credits (ArtVoice Artie Award). He received his MFA from Southern Methodist University and his BA from San Diego State University. His favorite roles are husband to his wife Maria and dad to his children Sam and Nate.

## **Kristin Kane, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor at Morrisville State College*

Kristen Kane, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Morrisville State College in the Human Performance and Health Promotion A.S. and B.S. programs. She received her B.S. from SUNY Oswego in Psychology, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from Florida State University in Sport and Exercise Psychology. At Morrisville, she teaches courses such as Strength and Conditioning, Introduction to Sport and Exercise Psychology, Cardiopulmonary Assessment, and Fitness Leadership and Administration. Her current research is primarily focused on examining mental toughness within athletics and other performance related domains.

## **Richard Kiely, Ph.D.**

*Senior Fellow, Office of Engagement Initiatives, Cornell University*

Richard Kiely currently serves as Senior Fellow in the Office of Engagement Initiatives as part of Engaged Cornell. He is currently leading an effort to evaluate the impact of Engaged Cornell, a large scale community engagement initiative at Cornell University. From 1993-1998 he taught American Government and ESOL at Tompkins Cortland Community College as well as served as Co-Director the Center for International Business and Education. In 2002, Richard received his PhD from Cornell University, and from 2002-2006, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Lifelong Education, Policy and Administration at the University of Georgia, where he taught courses in community development, qualitative research, (global) service-learning, program planning, and learning theory. In 2005, he was recognized nationally as a John Glenn Scholar in Service-Learning for his longitudinal research that led to the development of a transformative service-learning model. Returning to Cornell in 2006, Richard served as the Faculty Director of the Cornell Urban Scholars Program (CUSP) and the Cornell Urban Mentor Initiative (CUMI), two university-wide, interdisciplinary service-learning programs. Richard has taught, and has served as an advisor to numerous (global) service-learning programs and was the co-founder of a global service-learning partnership in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua which will be entering its 24th year in 2018. Richard continues to be an active scholar in the area of service-learning and regularly conducts seminars and workshops for students, staff and faculty on course design, reflection, experiential learning, service-learning, assessment and program evaluation.

## **Kimberly A. Kline**

*Chair and Professor, Higher Education Administration, Buffalo State College*

Kimberly A. Kline, Ph.D. serves as Professor and Chair of the Higher Education Administration Department at Buffalo State, State University of New York. Her research focuses on professional development, issues of social justice/agency in higher education, well-being and student learning outcomes assessment. She had the privilege of serving as a 2012-2013 Fulbright Scholar at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla in Ukraine, and returned as a 2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar to study the student-initiated protests that led to the Revolution in Ukraine. Kimberly has over 20 years of experience higher education and student affairs, both as a faculty member and a professional. She earned a Ph.D. in higher education from Indiana University, a M.S. in student personnel administration from SUNY Buffalo State and a B.A. in political science from Slippery Rock University. Kimberly most recently published the text Reflection in action: A guidebook for faculty and student affairs professionals for Stylus, and was named a 2015 Diamond Honoree recipient by the Association of College Personnel Administrators Educational Leadership Foundation.

## **Mindy Kole**

*Assistant Professor of Business and Director of the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, SUNY Ulster*

Assistant Professor of Business and Director of the Darlene L. Pfeiffer Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at SUNY Ulster, Mindy has presented her work, including development of a student-run business, at NACCE (National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship), SUNY CIT and COIL. Mindy founded The Marketing Department, LLC, a marketing and advertising company serving businesses throughout the Hudson Valley. Mindy earned her PhD in Organizational Management and Management Education at Capella University in 2016.

## **Nazely Kurkjian**

*Coordinator of Disability, Diversity & Nontraditional Student Services, SUNY Administration*

Nazely Kurkjian is the Coordinator of Disability, Diversity & Nontraditional Student Services within the Office of University Life at SUNY System Administration. Prior to her role at SUNY, Nazely was the Adaptive Technology Specialist in the Services for Students with Disabilities Office at Binghamton University. Nazely serves as the System liaison to the Campus Disability Services Offices across SUNY. She actively participates in state level and system-wide committees and outreach activities to advance equity and inclusion for various student subpopulations. Nazely has presented at numerous conferences including the SUNY Technology Conference, SUNY Diversity Conference, SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology, Eastern New York

Association of College and Research Libraries Conference, and the New York State Disability Services Council Conferences. Nazely earned her Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Binghamton University and Master's degree in Student Affairs Administration at Binghamton University.

## Ronnie Lichtman

*Professor and Program Chair; Co-Chair Applied Learning Committee, SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

Ronnie Lichtman, CNM, PhD, FACNM, is a Professor and Chair of the Midwifery Education Program at the State University of New York (SUNY), Downstate Medical Center, in Brooklyn, New York. Prior to this, she was the midwifery Program Director at SUNY Stony Brook and Columbia University. She received both her MS and PhD degrees from Columbia University. Dr. Lichtman has worked in diverse clinical sites including North Central Bronx Hospital, Harlem Hospital, and Planned Parenthood of New York. She currently maintains a part-time gynecology practice and works at prenatal and family planning clinics in Brooklyn through the New York State Maternal-Infant Care Projects. In addition to teaching and clinical work, Dr. Lichtman has published and presented widely to both professional and consumer groups on a variety of issues relating to women's health, midwifery, and education. Among her publications are the award-winning textbook, *Gynecology: Well-woman Care* and a major revision of a classic pregnancy guide for women, *Dr. Guttmacher's Pregnancy, Birth & Family Planning*. Professionally, Dr. Lichtman is deeply committed to excellence in health care, equity in health care services, diversity and cultural humility and respect within the midwifery profession, alternate routes to midwifery education, and increasing recognition of the Certified Midwife (CM) credential. She currently co-chairs the SUNY Downstate Medical Center Applied Learning Committee with Dr. Rauno Joks.

## Lisa Lopez

*Associate Director of the Student Success Center, SUNY Cobleskill*

Lisa Lopez has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Bard College and a Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology from the New School for Social Research in Manhattan. Lisa joined the Student Success Center at the State University of New York at Cobleskill (SUNY Cobleskill) in 2004.

Lisa currently serves as Associate Director, assisting students with internships and graduate school planning. She works collaboratively with students, faculty and employers to develop new internship and "applied learning" opportunities to assist students in becoming exceptionally prepared as they enter the industry of their choice. Lisa can be reached at [lopezel@cobleskill.edu](mailto:lopezel@cobleskill.edu) or at (518) 255-5624.

## Amanda Lykins-Kanter

*Customer Relations, Training and Application Support Manager, Navistar*

Amanda has been with Navistar, Inc., manufacturer of International Trucks and IC Busses, for over 15 years. Her career with Navistar has spanned over multiple departments including Service, Parts, Human Resources and Information Technology. She currently manages the Customer Training, Customer Support, and Application Support teams for the corporation

## Maureen McCarthy

*Program Director, SUNY Buffalo State Community Academic Center*

Maureen McCarthy joined SUNY Buffalo State in 2010 and currently serves as the Program Director at the Community Academic Center (CAC) where she develops reciprocal learning opportunities for Buffalo State students with children and families on Buffalo's West Side. Ms. McCarthy attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and later received an M.S. Ed. in Art Education from SUNY Buffalo State. Prior to working at Buffalo State she taught middle school art at a Buffalo charter school. Ms. McCarthy is currently a doctoral student in the Educational Culture, Policy, and Society program at the University at Buffalo. Her research interests include access to education and citizenship for youth and adults who have previously held refugee status. She lives in North Buffalo with her husband, daughter, and pets.

## Kyle McGrain

*Student, Morrisville State College*

A senior at Morrisville State College majoring in Computer Information Technology, Bachelors of Technology in End User Support, Kyle has experience with Windows Server technologies and computer maintenance and support. He wanted to know more about wireless technology so that I can use this information toward my degree. When my professor approached me about experimenting with different antenna technologies, to push the limits of what Wi-Fi can do, I was sold. The techniques that I used on these hands-on experiments has bolstered my skills in the End user support market. It has allowed me to understand the science of frequency waves and its behavior relevant to the environment.

## Merissa McKasty

*Assistant to the Director of Applied Learning, State University of New York*

Merissa joined the SUNY System Team in May of 2016. Before heading to SUNY System, Merissa worked for the Research

Foundation at Buffalo State College. Buffalo State College is also where Merissa completed her Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration. Her current work responsibilities involve supporting the Director of Applied Learning and SUNY Wide's Applied Learning Initiative, SUNY and the Vibrant Community, one of the 6 Big Ideas put forth in the Power of SUNY: Strategic Plan 2010 and Beyond. Merissa is interested in community engagement and advocating for all prospective and current SUNY students across the State.

## **Sue McMillen, Ph.D.**

*PDS Co-Director, SUNY Buffalo State*

Sue McMillen is a professor in the SUNY Buffalo State Mathematics Department and Co-director of the Professional Development Schools Consortium. She is also a past president of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS). Her research focuses on the use of literacy strategies in secondary mathematics instruction, incorporating clinically rich practice experiences, mathematics curriculum development, and children's learning of mathematics.

## **Dr Mark Meirowitz**

*Assistant Professor of Humanities, SUNY Maritime College*

Dr. Meirowitz specializes in Turkish Foreign Policy, U.S.-Turkish relations and Turkish-Israeli relations, as well as American History, American Foreign Policy, and Constitutional Law. Previously, he completed the SUNY Levin Fellowship during which he taught English conversation to Turkish Faculty while in residence at Istanbul Technical University. He teaches American History, American Foreign Policy, Constitutional Law and English, and has developed a graduate course on Ocean Politics and Law. He is writing a book on Turkish Foreign Policy for The Fort Schuyler Press.

## **John M. Meyer**

*Coordinator for the New York Helmsley Project, Stony Brook University*

John M. Meyer is an artist and scholar studying at the University of Texas at Austin, and works as a research coordinator for Wm. David Burns through the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. He earned a three-year graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation for his research on organized violence, and is currently completing his PhD. The larger themes of John's work include ethical and unethical behavior during war, risk-taking in combat, competition within military units, and modern war. In addition to receiving funding from the National Science Foundation, he has received support from the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, the Program in British Studies, and the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies. John also works a playwright-performer in Austin and New York. Much of John's work draws on his experiences as an Airborne Ranger. He served in both Iraq and Afghanistan, and his military awards and badges include the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

## **Dean Millar,**

*Retired, Assistant Dean & Founder of Career Institute, University at Buffalo*

*Author: Ready for Takeoff! (For Engineers)*

*Co-author: Ready to Launch Your Career (For All Majors)*

Dean Millar is a retired Assistant Dean of Engineering from University at Buffalo, SUNY. Following experience as a Naval officer and 28 years in industry, he founded and taught the Engineering Career Institute, a program that complements engineering coursework and gives students applied learning professional skills, including pre-employment classes and credit-worthy employment experience. He is author of the SUNY Engineering companion course textbook: Ready for Takeoff—A Winning Process for Launching Your Engineering Career. He is also co-author of the e-book companion text for SUNY All Majors Professional Skills online course: Ready to Launch Your Career—A Winning Process to Create Your Professional Future.

## **Courtney Mooney**

*Student, Morrisville State College*

Courtney Mooney is a web developer, graphic artist, and active advocate for gender equality. She will be graduating from SUNY Morrisville in December with a bachelor's degree in Website Development, and is pursuing a master's degree in marketing. She's been writing code since she was 12 years old, and received her first paying web job when she was 13. Her main goals include creating improved environments for women, and creating websites and business strategies for small companies. Her skills include programming, graphic and web design, writing for the web, and search engine optimization.

## **Kate Moore, Ed.D.**

*Executive Director, Academic Internship Council and Co-chair*

Kate Moore is an international educator energized by our changing world of work and how we connect campuses, communities, and companies across the globe. She serves as Executive Director of the Academic Internship Council, which partners with more than 50 universities throughout the world to develop and deliver their customized experiential programming in 11 global cities. Kate also serves as co-chair of the WIVRA (Work, Internship, Volunteer, and Research Abroad) Subcommittee for NAFSA

and is content committee co-chair the Global Internship Conference. Previous positions include Director of Internships at American University Washington Semester, Government Relations and Academic Outreach Manager for the Close Up Foundation, and national recruiter at the Fund for Public Interest Research. Kate holds a doctorate in higher education management from University of Pennsylvania, a masters in Nonprofit Management from Eastern University, and a bachelors in International Studies from American University.

## **Gloria Morgan, Ed.D.**

*Director of Academic Affairs at The College at Brockport Rochester Educational Opportunity Center*

Dr. Gloria Morgan has been employed at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center as Director of Academic Affairs for five years. Prior to her current position she was Associate Dean of the Albion Campus Center of Genesee Community College. She was also a Professor at Monroe Community College where she taught for 15 years and served as department chair for five years. She has 36 years of adult and/or higher education teaching experience. She is strongly involved in faculty and student development. She has taught management and computer courses as an adjunct professor in the Schools of Business Administration and Economics at four-year colleges. She values education and believes that knowledge provides opportunity and taking advantage of the opportunity leads to power or the ability to change/improve. She is passionate about faculty development to improve upon the art and science of teaching.

Dr. Morgan earned an associate's degree at Genesee Community College, a B.S. in Business/Economics, and a M.S. in Education at Nazareth College. She completed a Doctorate of Education in Executive Leadership degree at St. John Fisher College. She sits on several non-profit boards and is actively involved in her community.

Dr. Morgan is a 15-year breast cancer survivor. She attributes her work ethic to her southern and Jamaican heritage and values her Christian upbringing. She was raised by a single mother who instilled the importance of education. She is the birth mother of three adult daughters.

## **Dr. Mark Montgomery**

*Associate Dean of Social Sciences & Public Services, Mohawk Valley Community College*

Dr. Mark Montgomery was born and raised in Bridgewater, New York. Dr. Montgomery's dissertation focused on students at risk of academic failure in English language arts. He currently holds a 2nd degree black belt and teaches Tae Kwon Do. In 2009 he was nominated for the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's award for excellence in service. In 2015, he received the Outstanding Community Service award from the Mohawk Valley Frontiers, Contribution to Black History from the NAACP, Contribution to Education and Community Service Award, and on May 26th 2015 he was honored with the Leadership Mohawk Valley Award for Leadership. In 2016, he was named Grand Marshall for the Regional Independence Day Parade. Dr. Montgomery is the Associate Dean of Social Sciences and Public Services at his alma mater Mohawk Valley Community College and is an Education Consultant and Retention Specialist. In October of 2016, Dr. Montgomery provided his first Tedx talk "Retention, The Powerful Hypothetical Construct."

In 2011, with the help of his wife Lisa (a 32 year teacher of history) of 28 years, Dr. Montgomery, a survivor of sarcoidosis [pronounced SAR-COY-DOSIS] (a pulmonary disease and form of Leukemia) founded The Montgomery Experience which has morphed into Joseph's Experience, a not for profit which aims to positively impact people who suffer from diseases such as Cancer and Leukemia. On August 26th of 2017, he completed a bicycle ride to raise awareness for those who suffer, in every county in New York State. He has dedicated his life to God and making a positive influence on the lives of others. His first book, under the theme of student retention, titled Painting the Academic Canvas with Students of Color, assuming you can retain them is was released in the spring of 2017.

## **Lisa Montiel**

*Assistant Provost, SUNY System Administration*

Lisa Montiel is the Assistant Provost in the Office of Institutional Research and Data Analytics at SUNY System Administration. Montiel provides research for the development and implementation of policies and initiatives for SUNY's 64 campuses. She is responsible for expanding OIRDA's role in labor and academic program market analyses to assist campuses and System Administration in decision-making on program development, enrollment expansion, and recruitment targeting efforts. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University at Albany, M.A. in Anthropology from Northern Illinois University, and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## **Troy Morehouse**

*Director of Student Engagement, Alfred State*

Troy is the Director of Student Engagement at SUNY Alfred State, where he also teaches the first two levels of the Leadership Minor- EPLP 1031 Social Change and EPLP 2032 Servant Leadership. Troy has worked in Student Affairs at Alfred State for 6 years, has a background in management, education and workforce development; and has a passion for pushing students to

achieve. His education includes a B.A. in History, a Professional Secondary Teaching Certification, and a M.A. in Organizational Leadership. He uses these varied experiences to provide students with real life examples in the classroom, helping them relate the lessons of Leadership to their future fields of work. Outside of work, Troy is passionate about the outdoors and can often be found skiing, golfing or kayaking.

## Patricia Munsch

*College Assistant Dean for Student Engagement Assessment, Suffolk County Community College*

Patty Munsch has served in various roles within the Division of Student Affairs at Suffolk County Community College for the past 15 years. Currently, she is responsible for supporting assessment and engagement programs for the Division of Student Affairs as the College Assistant Dean for Student Engagement Assessment; in this role she serves as the co-chair for the college applied learning committee. Previously she worked in campus activities, student leadership programming and advisement. Her research interests include undocumented students' success in college, the relationship between support programs and student retention, and understanding implicit bias in student affairs practice. Patricia earned a BA from SUNY Geneseo, a MS in College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from New York University.

## Stephen Murphy

*Director of Academic Affairs, SUNY Student Assembly*

Stephen T. Murphy was appointed to serve as the SUNYSA Director of Academic Affairs in May 2017. Additionally, Director Murphy also serves as a member of the SUNY Open Access Committee, the President of the SUNY Buffalo State Graduate Student Association, and as a Graduate Intern within the SUNY Erie Dean of Students Office.

Prior to joining the Assembly, Director Murphy has held numerous positions in his undergraduate Student Association including Senator and Vice President for Finance. In these roles he also served Plattsburgh State in a variety of boards committees including Intercollegiate Athletics, St Jude Children's Research Hospital's, Up 'til Dawn, President's Council, and held numerous leadership roles within the Sigma Gamma Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. Prior to beginning his graduate coursework, he served as a City Year AmeriCorps Member in Manchester, NH, co-teaching a class of twenty-seven fifth grade students.

Murphy was raised in Newark, NY, a rural suburb of Rochester, and graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with his BA in Political Science. He is currently a second year Candidate for his Masters in Public Administration at SUNY Buffalo State.

## Sean Nixon

*Coordinator, Real World Classroom - Design Program, SUNY Ulster*

Sean Nixon is a Speaker, Associate Professor of Art & Design and Coordinator of the Real World Classroom Design program at SUNY Ulster. The Real World Classroom™ is an Applied Learning Design program anchored in real life experience that better prepares student for employment and transfer.

Over the past twelve years Sean's efforts in managing the program and teaching has expanded to include, on-location instructor lead research, study abroad, blended and online course development as well as COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning). He serves as the SUNY Ulster Applied Learning Liaison and is a SUNY Applied Learning Expert.

He has presented at academic conferences in the US, Mexico, and local business community that include, The Design Colloquium 4.0 SUNY New Paltz, (Cit) SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology and (STC) Successful Teaching Conferences, Co-Presenter and conference mentor, SUNY COIL Latin American Academy 3, Santander Grant Cuernavaca, Mexico.

He is the recipient of two Title III Grants, SUNY Travel COIL Grant Mexico City, Mexico, Santander Grant Cuernavaca, Mexico and SUNY Ulster Strategic Plan Grant.

Sean has been the featured guest on WAMC radio and NPR "Best our Knowledge", local TV, and publications including the Daily Freeman, Business Journal, New Paltz, Woodstock and Kingston Times, and Country Wisdom News.

His professional consultancy & design clients include: Bantam Books, RCA Records, MACY'S, and Smith Barney.

For more information: [Seannixon.com](http://Seannixon.com)

[Real World Classroom Overview](#)

## Elise Newkirk-Kotfila

*Director of Applied Learning, SUNY System Administration*

Elise joined the State University of New York shortly after receiving her Masters of the Arts Degree from the University at Albany where she studied Women's Studies and Public policy with a research concentration on community-university partnerships. Her current work responsibilities involve directing the SUNY Applied Learning Initiative as well as SUNY and the Vibrant Community,

one of the 6 Big Ideas put forth in *The Power of SUNY: Strategic Plan 2010 & Beyond*. Elise is interested in the best practices associated with coalition building and community engagement, especially the formation of reciprocal and sustainable partnerships. She currently serves as a board members for the National Society for Experiential Education.

## **Dr. Robert K. Nye**

*President, Finger Lakes Community College*

Dr. Robert K. Nye joined Finger Lakes Community College on July 1, 2016, as the institution's fifth president, following a distinguished military and academic career.

Dr. Nye previously served as the vice president for academic affairs at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster, Pa., and deputy provost of the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. He holds a doctorate in public administration from the University of Kansas.

In addition to his academic experience, Dr. Nye served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, starting with a commission as a second lieutenant of infantry. His assignments included postings with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 6th Infantry Division at Fort Richardson, Alaska; the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.; the 3rd Infantry Regiment, the Army's ceremonial unit at Fort Myer, Va.; and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Dr. Nye's academic experience began with teaching ROTC from 1992 to 95 as an assistant professor of military science at Cornell University. In 2007, upon completion of his doctoral studies at the University of Kansas, he joined the faculty at the Army War College, where he taught courses in strategic thinking, strategic leadership, military resourcing and budgeting, and negotiations. As FLCC president, Dr. Nye serves on the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board.

## **Sarah Offenbach**

*Assistant Director, Career and Professional Development, University at Albany*

Sarah Offenbach has always been fascinated by learning and critical thinking, driven to teach college students what they may not get in the classroom or anywhere else before graduation. As an Assistant Director for the University at Albany's Office of Career and Professional Development, she manages the office social media, and teaches crucial life skills in resume and cover letter development, networking, interviewing, job searching, and making major life decisions. She has been at the University since 2013, relocating from WNY to Albany after completing her Masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration from Buffalo State.

Coupled with her background in human services, a knack for marketing and an understanding of the benefits of applied learning, Sarah successfully quadrupled UAlbany's Peer Career Advisor (PCA) program from 12 participants a semester to over 55 students today, in less than four years. Currently, this is the largest program of its kind in the Northeast. Every day, PCAs are developing skills applicable to all careers, building their resumes and ultimately learning by doing. Sarah prides herself in the unique approach she has taken to building the program, its credit-bearing curriculum, and its ability to fulfill requirements toward receiving a minor in Education.

In her free time, Sarah enjoys reading, hiking, photography, exploring Vermont, and being with her dog. She works part-time as a dog trainer, relishing in the adorableness of puppy kindergarten classes. She lives in Voorheesville, NY. Her top five strengths are Input, Intellection, Learner, Developer and Empathy.

## **Andrew Olewnik**

*Director of Experiential Learning, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, University at Buffalo*

Andrew is the Director of Experiential Learning for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University at Buffalo. He works to engage students in practical project-based experiences that help them to better understand their role as engineers in the world. He is motivated to introduce students across UB's eight engineering and applied science departments to the science of design and sees this as a unique platform to explore design education. He also pursues research in areas of design theory and methodology with particular interest in the integration of digital tools, technologies and infrastructures that support design activities, and processing of information and knowledge management as it relates to product realization and systems engineering.

## **Susan Davis-O'Rourke**

*Experiential Learning Coordinator, University at Buffalo*

Susan Davis O'Rourke is the Coordinator for Experiential Learning at the University at Buffalo working on co-curricular Experiential Learning initiatives for the Student Engagement office. She supervises a team of Student Engagement Ambassadors and is piloting a new Experiential Learning certificate and course this year. Susan is a graduate of Siena College where she studied International Business and Political Science and the University at Buffalo where she studied Higher Education, Organization and

Policy. She started in Higher Education 20 years ago and has experience working in Residence Life, Greek Affairs and Leadership Development.

## **Robert Orrange**

*Associate Director, Career Services, University at Buffalo*

Bob Orrange has been the Associate Director of the University at Buffalo (UB) Career Services office since 1999 and has been an educator in the State University of New York system since 1986. He is the point person for the office's internship work. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops and has conducted career/skills training sessions for 30 years for university students as well as such corporate clients. Bob has taught communications courses for UB's MBA and Accounting programs, Cornell University's Supervisory Studies program. Bob has graduate degrees in both English and College Student Personnel and an undergraduate degree in Communications.

## **Penny Orton**

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Nursing, Durban University of Technology*

Penny is a nurse educator specializing in occupational health nursing which she has been facilitating for 12 years at DUT. Penny has an interest in online learning and uses a blended approach in her course. Penny has completed the COIL Course Orientation and would like to help lecturers to develop COIL modules.

## **Bethany Parker**

*Coordinator of International Education and Programs, SUNY Potsdam*

Bethany Parker is the Coordinator of International Education and Programs at SUNY Potsdam, where she also coordinates the College's National Student Exchange (NSE) program and advises international students as a Designated School Official.

## **Morgan Pellerin**

*Career Counselor & Applied Learning Coordinator, SUNY Plattsburgh*

Morgan serves as a Career Counselor and Applied Learning Coordinator at SUNY Plattsburgh. In this role, he conducts general career counseling, develops applied learning opportunities, and counsels students on how to acquire an applied learning experience. His professional experience includes residence life, admissions, and counseling.

## **Nicole Pereira**

*Vice President, SUNY Student Assembly*

*Graduate Student Assistant, SUNY and the Vibrant Community*

Nicole Pereira is a graduate student studying Public Administration at UAlbany. Last year, Nicole served as the State-Operated Campuses Chair and a University Colleges Representative for the SUNY Student Assembly where she advocated for fee transparency and accessibility for all student listservs for Student Government Presidents at a SUNY level. In her pastime, she was a part of the SUNY Oneonta Student Association for three years during her undergraduate career, beginning her career as a senator. Nicole ascended to VP of Central Affairs to serve for the three following semesters and later served as President of Oneonta's SA. Nicole has also served in other leadership roles, most notably as President of the Habitat for Humanity chapter at her university. She truly enjoys helping others and advocating for student rights.

## **Susan C. Perkins, Ph.D.**

*UCAWD Director of Programs and Services, SUNY System Administration*

Dr. Susan Perkins is the Director of Programs and Services for the State University of New York's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (SUNY UCAWD). Reporting directly to the Associate Provost and Director, Ms. Lisa McKay, she is responsible for oversight of the day-to-day administration of ten Educational Opportunity Centers, two Outreach Centers, and thirty-six Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs. UCAWD promotes the socioeconomic well-being of students who typically live in distressed areas (urban and rural) and are educationally underprepared, by developing and maintaining quality educational and workforce development opportunities throughout New York State. Prior to joining SUNY UCAWD, she worked for the New York State Department of Labor as a Rockefeller College CWIG Fellow and Youth Support Specialist. The majority of her tenure prior to joining UCAWD included instruction, curriculum development and administration for the City School District of Albany as an English Teacher, High Schools That Work Coordinator and High School Equivalency Instructor and Coordinator.

Dr. Perkins is a certified NYS School District Administrator. She double-majored in college, earning a B.A. in English and a B.A. in psychology at the University at Stony Brook. She also completed her graduate work at the University at Albany, earning a M.S., in Special Education and a M.S., C.A.S., and Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Policy Studies at the University at Albany.

## **Pixita del Prado Hill**

*PDS Co-Director, SUNY Buffalo State*

Pixita del Prado Hill is a professor in the SUNY Buffalo State Elementary Education and Reading Department and Co-director of the Professional Development Schools Consortium. Her teaching and research interests include school-university partnerships, content area literacy, and international education. Her work in the area of applied learning focuses on clinically rich practice experiences for teacher candidates.

## **Allison Puff**

*Acting Assistant Provost, Chair of Applied Learning Committee*

Allison Puff is an Associate Provost at Farmingdale State College where she heads the Applied Learning initiative and has lead the college to approve an applied learning graduation requirement for all students. Her other responsibilities include new program development, distance learning, digital faculty reporting and oversight of two major grants—a First in the World grant from the US Department of Education for the Research Aligned Mentorship Program (RAM) and an Expanded Investment and Performance Fund grant from SUNY that focuses on increased support for students through mentoring, applied learning and distance learning. A Professor and former Chair of the Visual Communications department at FSC, her teaching has garnered her several awards including the New York State SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Allison is currently serving as a member of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum's Education Board. A member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), she has co-chaired and now serves on the national Design Educators Steering Committee and is a mentor in the AIGA New York City high school mentoring program.

## **Duncan Quarless, Ph.D.**

*Interim Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs*

*State University of New York College at Old Westbury*

Duncan Quarless is a professor in the Department of Chemistry at SUNY Old Westbury and currently serves as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. He obtained a B.S. in Biochemistry from CUNY College of Staten Island, and M.S. and Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Stony Brook University. During the course of his tenure, his work as an academician in the Natural/Physical Sciences has included administering STEM education and research projects funded by federal and state agencies. His current research interests and scholarship include the study of synthetic analogs that model the chemistry of metal/metalloid proteins, bioinorganic approaches to environmental remediation, and the integration of inquiry-based methodology in instruction in natural science. Dr. Quarless has published and presented in regional, national and international venues, where he has also served in an advisory capacity. Among the recognitions he has received are a Research and Scholarship Award from the SUNY Research Foundation, a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and a Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award. Dr. Quarless' commitments to his colleagues and the students of the SUNY Old Westbury campus include a sustained record of service within faculty governance.

## **Cynthia L. Rice, M.S. Ed.**

*Educational Opportunity Center, Buffalo, Faculty*

Cynthia Lisa Rice, began her professional career as a Reading Specialist at Sequoyah Middle School in the Dekalb County School System in 1993. In 2003 she was a 6 – 8 grade reading teacher in the Marietta City Schools in Georgia. From 2012 – 2015 she was a 5th grade teacher. In both roles, she worked with students with a variety of reading deficiencies. She provided targeted and small group instruction in reading for students two or more grade levels below in reading. Ms. Rice is familiar with administering standardized tests, providing remediation and consultation with parents. Her experience with accommodation plans for students with disabilities and Common Core Learning Standards in ELA and mathematics precipitated her movement to working with non-traditional students at the EOC.

As an Assistant Professor for EOC at the University at Buffalo, she teaches Reading Foundations II and HSE Reading which is designed to strengthen reading skills for students wishing to excel and achieve in all aspects of reading. Students receive personalized and differentiated instruction on informational and literary texts and in such subjects as comprehension, vocabulary, finding main ideas, topic sentences; finding meaning, and using supporting details to make inferences. Students also receive assistance in preparing for the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) in order to obtain their NYS High School Equivalency diploma. She also provides instruction in - Writing Foundations II. Adult students detect and correct common errors in edited American English including the content areas of organization, sentence structure, usage and mechanics

## **Gail Robinson**

*Education Consultant, Gail Robinson Consulting*

Gail Robinson is a Maryland-based education consultant who works with college and university faculty, staff, and administrators to develop service learning and community engagement programs. Ms. Robinson was the director of service learning for the American Association of Community Colleges from 1994 to 2012. She consults with individual institutions, Campus Compact

state affiliates, and national nonprofit organizations, and is a member of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification national advisory panel.

## **Anna Rozenboym**

*Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Kingsborough Community College*

Anna Rozenboym, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Kingsborough Community College where she teaches Human Anatomy and Physiology courses geared towards students aspiring to enter allied health fields. Her educational background is in Psychology and Neuroscience with experience in both basic science and applied translational research. At this time in her career, she is focused on researching innovative pedagogy practices, student learning, engagement and motivation. Through incorporating Civic Engagement into curriculum of science courses, she hopes to make material learned in class relevant and useful to students with a goal to equip and empower them to become educated consumers of the healthcare industry as well as compassionate and expert health care providers.

## **Verdis Robinson**

*National Director for The Democracy Commitment (TDC)*

Verdis Robinson is the National Director for The Democracy Commitment (TDC). Before his career at TDC, Robinson was a tenured Assistant Professor at Monroe Community College where he taught writing-intensive, web-enhanced, service-learning courses in the fields of history and African-American Studies. During his time as a professor, Robinson served on the TDC National Steering Committee, as MCC's TDC Campus Coordinator, as co-advisor for Damon City Campus' Black Student Union, as well as the Governance Advisor for the student government on campus. Professionally, Robinson is the founder of Rochester Neighborhood Oral History Project and received a B.M. in Voice Performance from Boston University, as well as a B.S. and M.A. in History from SUNY College at Brockport and an M.A. in African-American Studies from the University at Buffalo.

## **Lauren Romer**

*Assistant College Registrar, Farmingdale State College*

Lauren Romer is the Assistant College Registrar at Farmingdale State College. She is primarily responsible for the college-wide scheduling of classes and serves as the School Certifying Official for the Veteran student population on campus. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and is pursuing a master's degree from Stony Brook University.

## **Patricia Rouzeau**

*Student, Farmingdale State College*

Patricia is a junior Aviation Administration major at Farmingdale State College. Patricia's applied learning experience focused on the effect of flight simulation experiences on student interests in Aviation.

## **Mark R. Sanders Jr.**

*Assistant Director of Enrollment Management and Student Success, SUNY System Administration*

Mark was born in small town of Auburn, outside of Syracuse, NY, but was raised in NYC. He identifies Brooklyn, NY as his home, but has lived in every borough except Staten Island. Mark is an EOP alumni that graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh as a triple business major. Although business was his field of study, giving back to his communities has shaped his college career. At SUNY Plattsburgh, Mark served as a Resident Assistant, Co-Founder of his chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a student recruiter for admissions. With encouragement from mentors and faculty, Mark deviated from his plan to enter corporate-America and followed his passion for higher education. Since completing his B.A, Mark has increased SUNY Plattsburgh's enrollment numbers for traditional and non-traditional students from NYC. In addition, he has implemented marketing and recruitment strategies such as college fairs and information sessions to over 10,000 high school students and families in NYC and NJ for all 64 SUNY institutions. Currently, Mark holds the position of Assistant Director for Enrollment Management and Student Success at SUNY. Within this new role, his purposes and passion continues to thrive. He focuses his efforts to build relationships with community based organizations (CBO's) and the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC's) to provide college access and success tools to underrepresented student and family communities.

## **Manar Sabry, PhD**

*Assistant Director, Strategic Analysis, Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development, Binghamton University*

Manar Sabry is the Assistant Director of Strategic Analysis at Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development, Binghamton University. She oversees the development and establishment of multi-dimensional data and assessment process. She manages the development of a variety of tools and techniques using current and historical data to analyze student outcomes, and track success measures such as post-graduation destinations, internship placements, and career readiness as well as the impact of high impact learning experiences on students' career pathway. She coordinates and conducts studies in support of Fleishman's leadership team as well as for campus decision-making related to student success. Manar earned a BA in Economics

of Foreign Trade from Helwan University in Egypt, Postgraduate Diploma in African Political and Economic Systems from Cairo University in Egypt, an MA in Economics, and PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University at Buffalo.

## **Kate Sarata**

*Executive Director, The Service Collaborative of WNY*

Kate Sarata has been leading the Buffalo, NY, agency since 2011. Prior to being named Executive Director of the \$5.5 million agency, Kate was the Program Director of their education program, AmeriCorps Builds Lives through Education (ABLE). Kate has extensive experience operating National Service programs (AmeriCorps State and VISTA). She began her National Service experience as an AmeriCorps VISTA member in El Paso, TX. Moving back to the Buffalo area after her first year of National Service, Kate continued as an AmeriCorps VISTA Leader for two additional years, leading first year VISTA members through their service. Immediately following her service in 2006, Kate was hired by the agency she leads today.

Kate holds a Masters of Education degree from the University at Buffalo and Bachelors of Arts in Political Science/International Studies from SUNY Brockport. Kate is a graduate of both Leadership Niagara (LN '14) and Leadership Buffalo (Rising Leaders '11). She is currently in Cohort 7 of the WNY and Central New York Health Foundation's Health Leadership Fellows program.

When not at work, Kate enjoys spending time with her family (an Urban Planner husband and a 3 year old daughter). She is part of two book clubs (where the focus is usually more on food and wine than the books!). She is a Polly Project mentor, a program of Buffalo, NY organization Jericho Road that connects mentors to Polly Girls, pregnant/new moms who are in need of extra encouragement and support.

## **Mark S. Savage**

*Career & Academic Advising Coordinator, College of Southern Maryland*

Co-author: Ready to Launch Your Career (For all Majors). Mark Savage directed and expanded the Engineering Co-op & Career Services Office at Cornell University for 30 years. He contributed on the SUNY Career Launch Course Team and co-authored the All Majors version course e-Text. Last year he developed a career services marketing plan for Gettysburg College and currently serves as a Coordinator for Career and Academic Advising at the College of Southern Maryland.

## **Dr. Peter Sawyer**

*Department Chair and the Director of the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement  
Hudson Valley Community College*

Dr. Peter Sawyer is a Department Chair and the Director of the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement at Hudson Valley Community College. He has worked in in both student and academic affairs since 1988. He is a political sociologist and published, through SUNY Press, *Socialization to Civil Society: A Life History Study of Community Leaders*. He has an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from Hudson Valley Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies from American University, a Master's Degree in Student Development and Higher Education Administration from the University of Vermont, and both a Master's Degree in Sociology and a Doctorate in Social Science from Syracuse University.

## **Marianna Savoca PhD,**

*Director, Career Center, Stony Brook University*

Marianna Savoca, PhD directs the Stony Brook University Career Center, a centralized and comprehensive center serving students & alumni from all majors, classes, and career intentions. The Center oversees career development, experiential education, student employment, corporate outreach and diversity recruitment and is well integrated into the student academic experience.

Dr. Savoca has consulted for career centers and internship providers domestically and abroad. She received a Fulbright Award for Administrators in International Education, NSEE Dissertation of the Year, Outstanding Service Awards from EACE and SUNY CDO, and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. As a member of the board of directors for the National Society for Experiential Education, Marianna leads NSEE's Experiential Education Academy, the nation's premier professional development program for experiential educators.

Dr. Savoca is also an adjunct faculty member in the HEA program at Stony Brook. Her first book, co-authored with George S. McClellan and Kristina Creager, *A Good Job: Campus Employment as a High Impact Practice*, is in press, due out in 2018.

A first-generation college student, Marianna hails from Brooklyn, NY. She earned her bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton, a master's degree from Indiana University, and in 2016 she earned a PhD in Higher Education Leadership from Colorado State University.

## Susan Scheckel

*Associate Professor of English, Stony Brook University*

Susan Scheckel has been deeply committed to both Graduate and Undergraduate education at Stony Brook University since her arrival in Fall 2000. She has served as the Associate Provost for the Integration of Research, Education, and Professional Development and as Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Within the English Department, she has served terms as both Director of Undergraduate Studies and Graduate Studies (for which she received the Dean's Commendation for Excellence in Service). In 2010 she won the Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring by a Faculty Member. She currently co-chairs the Provost's Task Force on Applied Learning and the Stony Brook Experiential Learning Working Group, spearheading efforts to expand and improve opportunities for experiential learning at Stony Brook across all disciplines. In 2008 she won the President's and Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Faculty Service.

Dr. Scheckel earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of California-Berkeley. She began her teaching career at The University of Memphis, where she won the university-wide teaching award. Her scholarship focuses on medical, legal and popular discourses on race in nineteenth-century American culture. Her first book, *The Insistence of the Indian: Race and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (Princeton University Press), won the South Central MLA Award for Best Book of the Year. Her most recent article, "Home-Sickness, Nostalgia and Therapeutic Narrative in 'The Fall of the House of Usher,'" will be published in *Poe Studies: History, Theory, Interpretation*, Fall 2017.

## Mary Schlarb

*Director, Study Abroad, SUNY Cortland*

As director of SUNY Cortland's International Programs Office and senior international officer, Mary Schlarb leads international partnership development, education abroad programs, and international student and scholars services, with the aim of facilitating student, faculty, and staff intercultural exchange and campus internationalization.

Mary started her career in international education in 1992, working for the intercultural education organization VIA Programs in California and in Indonesia. As an undergraduate in International Relations at Stanford, she studied abroad in France, and served as a graduate research fellow in the Philippines while completing her Master's in International Agriculture and Rural Development at Cornell. She has served as a community development consultant in Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, and for the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Comparative International Development Education through the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, with a focus on leadership in intercultural and international education.

## Alissa Shugats-Cummings

*Program Administrator, Student Development, Niagara County Community College*

Alissa Cummings is the Student Development Program Administrator at Niagara County Community College, currently coordinating Accessibility Services and Career Services, and has been in various student services roles for 15 years. She also oversees 6 internship courses and is the campus Applied Learning Committee Chair. Alissa's professional philosophy is grounded in approaching every endeavor with the student experience in mind. A fourth-year doctoral student at University at Buffalo in the Higher Education Administration program, she holds a Master of Education degree in the same, in addition to Bachelor degrees in English and Linguistics, and an Associate degree in Liberal Arts.

## Jack Simonson

*Assistant Professor, Physics and Member of Applied Learning Review Board*

Jack is a member of the Department of Physics at Farmingdale State College, where he studies new quantum and functional materials with energy applications. He is committed to mentoring undergraduate and high school students as they learn to produce high impact research. He is particularly passionate about working with students from economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented populations and is grateful to have a close relationship with the NYS STEP and CSTEP programs.

## Anne Smith

*Professor, Glasgow Caledonia University, Scotland*

Since 1995 Professor Smith has lectured in entrepreneurship and innovation at Glasgow Caledonian University and during this period has been involved in the design and delivery of several industry-based entrepreneurship programs and global management education initiatives. Her signature, in terms of teaching and learning, is through delivery of entrepreneurship and employability programs using innovative, experimental learning designs and global/business partnerships.

## Dudu Gloria Sokhela

*Senior Lecturer for Primary Health Care in the Department of Nursing, Durban University of Technology,*

Dudu Gloria Sokhela is a Senior Lecturer for Primary Health Care in the Department of Nursing, with interest in Community nursing. This is Dudu Gloria Sokhela's first collaboration with SUNY Ulster. Dr Dudu Sokhela is a B Tech Degree Nursing

(Primary Health Care - PHC) senior lecturer at Durban University of Technology (DUT) Department of Nursing, South Africa, and has a special interest in community research. Dudu Gloria Sokhela has published in accredited journals, supervises Masters and Doctoral students, and has recently taken up COIL programme in the department.

## **Lisa Strahley**

*Coordinator of the Civic Engagement Center and Chair of Early Childhood & Teacher Education at SUNY Broome Community College*

Professor Lisa Strahley, Coordinator of the Civic Engagement Center and Chair of Early Childhood & Teacher Education at SUNY Broome Community College, has dedicated her career to exposing students to experiential learning as a means of educating and empowering students to be active participants in a democratic society. As civic engagement coordinator, Lisa has been involved in multiple civic roles and initiatives including: serving on the National Issues Forum Institute Board of Directors, chairing the SUNY Broome Civic Engagement Board, acting as the campus Democracy Commitment coordinator, serving on a national steering committee BIOGRAPHIES for Teacher Education and Civic Engagement, developing a Public Achievement program with local school districts, and facilitating National Issues Forums deliberations both on campus and in the local community.

## **John Suarez**

*Director, Institute for Civic Engagement, SUNY Cortland*

John Suarez has incorporated reflective listening skills in his English Composition classes and in workshops. These empathy-building skills are important as he works with SGA clubs to conduct student-only “campus political atmosphere” deliberative dialogue for the 2017-2018 year. Empathy is also an important component of SUNY Cortland’s risk-management approach to the college’s Civic Action Plan. His most recent publication is “Promoting Civic Engagement in a Required General Education Course,” a chapter in Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines in the Twenty-First Century. Published by the American Political Science Association, 2017.

## **Debra E. J. Thompson, M.S. Ed.**

*Educational Opportunity Center, Buffalo, Associate Executive Director and Director of Instructional Services*

Ms. Thompson started her career as an educator in 1979 - 1990 teaching pre-kindergarten students at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Buffalo. In 1986 - 1990 she was a kindergarten teacher for an Early Childhood program. As a faculty member for the University at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (UBEOC), she taught students who needed to acquire high school diplomas. During her tenure she became the first ATTAIN Lab Coordinator (Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking) of the statewide digital literacy project. During her tenure as an Associate Professor for UBEOC since 1994, she has received several awards and recognitions throughout her career including recognition by the Southern Christian Leadership for community service.

In 2004, Ms. Thompson became the Director of Instructional Services, and in her new role she is responsible for the development and implementation of academic and vocational programming. She provides supervision and oversight for the academic department, Career Services, Community College Connections and the Academic Counseling units of the UBEOC. In February 2017, Ms. Thompson became the Associate Executive Director. She is a graduate of Medialle College with a B.S. in Science Education and graduated summa cum laude from Buffalo State College, with an M.S.Ed. in Adult Education. Ms. Thompson is currently working on her doctorate at the University at Buffalo in Educational Leadership and Policy.

Ms. Thompson is an educator, administrator and leader. Her passion is to provide support to adults who are returning to school with opportunities for “Lifelong Learning” that can lead them to self-sufficiency.

## **Dr. Julie Thomson**

*Lecturer, Department of Business Management, Glasgow School for Business & Society, Glasgow Caledonian University*

Lecturer in Business Management subjects including entrepreneurship and innovation. Julie is module leader for Operations Management and Management of Innovation and Creativity and brings her direct industry experience to this course, which enables her to provide her students with real-world examples. Julie’s research interests lie within Innovation Management and in particular Open Innovation, which was the subject of her doctoral thesis (gained in 2012).

## **Stephen Tippett**

*COIL Course Development Coordinator, Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), The State University of New York (SUNY)*

Stephen is a teacher and an education professional. He has taught in elementary, middle, and high school, and at the university level, and at the SUNY COIL Center his work focuses at the intersection of instructional design, technology, and international education project management. He has just completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Delaware on the instructional design of short term ‘embedded’ study abroad courses. His interest in applied learning pedagogy stems from an undergraduate

seminar course on Civic Hacking that he taught in 2014 and his related interests in technologies that are used for civic and democratic participation. He worked for several years in South America, first in Ecuador with an Education Development NGO called WorldTeach, and then in Chile in an international volunteer program through the United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Education. During this time, he learned Spanish and traveled to many beautiful places in South America.

## **Dr. Nan L Travers**

*Director of the Center for Leadership for Credentialing Learning, SUNY Empire State College*

The Center for Leadership for Credentialing provides national leadership in the areas of prior learning assessment, professional learning evaluations, competency-based education and other related practices that support the credentialing of pathways to enhance students' economic opportunities, social mobility and talent development within workplace and educational settings. Dr. Travers focuses on research, policies and practices of prior learning assessment and competency-based education and is widely published nationally and internationally. She led the development of the Global Learning Qualifications Framework to assess college-level learning acquired outside of the traditional academic setting. She serves on the board for the Prior Learning International Research Consortium and is a member of the national Connecting Credentials Initiative sponsored by the Lumina Foundation and led by the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce. She serves as co-editor for the journal: PLA Inside Out: An International Journal on the Theory, Research, and Practice in Prior Learning Assessment ([www.plaio.org](http://www.plaio.org)). Prior to SUNY Empire State College, Dr. Travers has served in various administrative roles at community colleges in VT and NH.

## **Laura Trottier**

*Program Assistant for Applied Learning, State University of New York*

Laura Trottier's current work involves supporting all aspects of the Applied Learning initiative. She joined SUNY in 2013, bringing with her over nine years of experience working for educational organizations, including Dartmouth College, Albany Law School, and the Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls. She earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Keene (N.H.) State College. While she enjoys living and working in New York State, she considers New Hampshire her home.

## **Rena Varghese, Esq.**

*Executive Director of the Nexus Center for Applied Learning and Career Development*

Rena is the Executive Director of the Nexus Center for Applied Learning & Career Development at Farmingdale State College. The Nexus Center aims to synthesize the applied learning and internship initiatives of the College's four schools, to increase and track student engagement with applied learning opportunities, and to connect these efforts to the advancement of career development and employment objectives. Rena received her Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School and is an attorney admitted in New York. She practiced commercial real estate and structured finance, and has over 11 years of experience in higher education administration. She also serves as a law school adjunct professor of Legal Writing.

## **William G. Veit**

*Risk Management Officer, SUNY Cortland*

William Veit has served as Risk Management Officer for SUNY Cortland, directing risk management for the past two years. A couple of Bill's accomplishments since being named Risk Management Officer for Cortland:

- Formed and chairs the College's first Enterprise Risk Management Steering Committee, together they work to draft the College's Annual Risk Management Plan
- Initiated and continues to evolve the College's Enterprise Risk Management Internship Program

Upon graduating from LeMoyne College Bill began his career with KPMG. Prior to transitioning to higher education, Bill worked in the media industry for Badoud Enterprises, Inc., serving as CEO and President for 3 years, Vice President of Sales for 2 years and CFO for 19 years. Bill earned an MBA from Le Moyne College where he has served as an Adjunct Professor for Business Policy and Strategy.

## **Tania Velazquez**

*College Director of Career Services, Suffolk County Community College*

Tania Velazquez is a dedicated student affairs professional who has worked in both a large public university and community college. She is currently the College Director for Career Services at Suffolk County Community College. As a licensed Social Worker, Tania has functioned in various capacities in higher education ranging from working with at-risk student populations, Veterans, mental health, and career development. Tania is a published author and experienced presenter having presented at several local, regional and national conferences. Her research interest is on Latina and women leadership empowerment and within the community college sector. Tania earned her AA in Liberal Arts at Suffolk County Community College, BS at SUNY at Geneseo, and an MSW with a specialization in Student Community Development at Stony Brook University.

## **Jamal Verity**

*Assistant Professor, SUNY Morrisville*

Assistant Professor James Verity is a member of the CIT (Computer Information and Technology) department at SUNY Morrisville State College. His research interest include wireless security, network security and information assurance. He received his MS in Telecommunications from University of Maryland University College and his BS at SUNY College at Cortland in Secondary Education. His career experience includes software development for Xerox Corporation, Webster NY, Telecom Specialist with Continuum Voice and Data, Syracuse, NY, and consulting in the IT industry for over 16 years. He currently holds certification in CompTIA A+, Net+, Security+ and earned his CCNA in August 2010.

## **Julia West**

*Intern, Risk Management Office, SUNY Cortland*

Julia West was born in Brazil, adopted by an American at a young age, and didn't speak English until after coming to the US. She has held a job since the age of fourteen. West has worked for the non-profit organization, Broome Tioga Achieve, for the past ten years. She graduated in 2016 with her AS in Business Administration from Broome Community College, and is currently majoring in Business Economics at SUNY Cortland, while still working full-time for Achieve. She is also interning with SUNY Cortland's Risk Management Officer by participating with the college's Campus Food Pantry team.

## **Daniel D. White, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, SUNY Polytechnic Institute*

Daniel D. White, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and Director of Applied Learning at the SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Albany New York. Dr. White is a biological anthropologist who graduated from the University at Albany. Since joining the Colleges of Nanoscale Science and Engineering in 2010, Dr. White has served as the Director of Academic Advisement and was formerly Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. In 2015, Dr. White co-authored a proposal to develop a High Impact Learning and Teaching (HILT) Hub that was funded through the SUNY Expanded Investment program. The HILT Hub is a collaborative effort to establish and build a cadre of teaching innovation fellows and provide pilot funding for these fellows to develop, test, and share innovative practices in pedagogy at the post-secondary level. Dr. White has also been an instructional designer and internship coordinator for the Northeast Advanced Technological Education Center based at SUNY Poly in Albany.

Dr. White's current educational research focuses on applied learning as it relates to undergraduate research and the acquisition of career skills in science. He also conducts research on human biology and human evolution. Dr. White teaches human biology and evolution courses in both the nanoscale science and community and behavioral health programs at SUNY Poly. In June 2017, Dr. White gave three public lectures at the Museo del Banco Nacional, Museo del Jade, and the Museo Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica about brain evolution.

## **Austin Whittico**

*Student, Morrisville State College*

Austin Whittico is a senior in Morrisville State College's Web development and Management program and completed an Associate's Degree in Applied Science at Onondaga Community College in 2016, where he studied Computer Information Systems. Before that he studied software engineering at R.I.T. He has a preference for back end development over front end development.

## **Hope Windle**

*Instructional Designer and COIL Network Coordinator, SUNY Ulster*

Hope Windle has been the Instructional Designer and COIL Nodal Network Administrator, at SUNY Ulster, for the last 12 years. She has been organizing COIL as an applied learning approach on her campus, involving 867+ students, 22 faculty, with 2 COIL related student global scholar trips. Under Hope's guidance, COIL has been embedded into SUNY Ulster's Strategic Plan and noted as an integral part of the school's brand.

## **Laurie A. Zbock, MS, LMT**

*Department Chair, Massage Therapy, Morrisville State College*

Laurie Zbock is an Associate Professor and Department Chair of Massage Therapy at Morrisville State College. She holds a Master's Degree from Utica College and a New York State Massage Therapy License. Currently Laurie serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Children's Center at Morrisville State College and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the Morrisville Auxiliary Corporation. She has over a decade of teaching experience and also maintains a private massage therapy practice.

## Zvi Szafran

*President, SUNY Canton*

Dr. Zvi Szafran was appointed as SUNY Canton's fourth president on April 3, 2014. His focus is on continuing the College's remarkable academic and enrollment growth, its tradition of being an indispensable element in the economic growth of the North Country region, and its ethos of welcome and support for the entire campus community.

Dr. Szafran previously served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU), a technology-focused university in Georgia, from 2005 to 2014. Working closely with deans, chairs, and faculty, his efforts at expanding academic offerings and boosting enrollment met with tremendous success during his eight years at SPSU. The University added 22 new academic programs of study, and enrollment nearly doubled.

Dr. Szafran served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at New England College in New Hampshire from 1998-2005. Previously, he held several positions at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, including Dean of Science and Engineering, Chair of the Chemistry Department, and Professor. He earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His research on microscale chemistry and higher education has been extensively published.

A former resident of Syracuse, Dr. Szafran is also an avid jazz enthusiast and comic book collector. He and his wife, Jill, have one son, Mark.