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SUNY College at Old Westbury
LI public colleges split $1M job training funds

BY JAMES T. MADORE
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Long Island’s public colleges will share more than $1 million to train students for jobs in engineering, information technology, cybersecurity and other high-demand fields, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced Tuesday.

The local grants are part of nearly $7 million awarded competitively through SUNY’s High Needs Program, which seeks to prepare students for the jobs of the future. Thirty-seven campuses in the SUNY system are splitting the money.

On Long Island, the largest amount — more than $754,000 -- was awarded to Stony Brook University. Of that, $180,000 will support a new certificate program in self-management of chronic disease and new online courses in engineering.

In addition, the funding helps six existing programs at Stony Brook in nursing, computer science and civil engineering, among others.

Separately, Stony Brook is working on accounting and finance courses with Farmingdale State College and SUNY Old Westbury; the three were given $100,000 for that initiative.

Cuomo said, “The job training programs we are funding today provide students with the skills they need to succeed in some of the most rapidly expanding parts of the private sector -- which also helps New York businesses find the talent they need to grow.”

The state Labor Department and Empire State Development have determined that New York employers will need 18,550 new doctors and health technicians over the next 10 years, 6,500 community and social service professionals and 2,340 engineers.

The hot fields include renewable clean energy, laboratory work and information technology including cloud computing, smartphones, tablets and software applications, state experts said.

Other local grants include $100,000 for a medical laboratory technician program at Nassau Community College, and $72,083 for a new cybersecurity program at Suffolk County Community College.

Nancy Zimpher, the SUNY chancellor, said Tuesday, “Students who take advantage of these programs are the engineers, clean-energy experts, health care technicians and business leaders of tomorrow.”
"This May I was the subject of multiple selfies — a word that no longer needs quotations as it was added this year to the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary. Students lined up to get their picture taken walking across the stage, where I proudly met them to shake their hand. It was SUNY College at Old Westbury's annual Commencement Ceremony; another step in the relationship building process with our students.

Old Westbury embraces the connectivity and authenticity that social media provides. It has opened doors to start conversations with prospective students and their families. We make a point to respond to each and every question posted to our Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram accounts, which all provide a resource for two-way dialog with the College."

— Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, president, SUNY Old Westbury

The College at Old Westbury State University of New York is a dynamic and diverse public liberal arts college that fosters academic excellence through close interaction among students, faculty and staff. Old Westbury weaves the values of integrity, community engagement, and global citizenship into the fabric of its academic programs and campus life. In an environment that cultivates critical thinking, empathy, creativity and intercultural understanding, Old Westbury endeavors to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world. The College is a community of students, teachers, staff, and alumni bound together in mutual support, respect, and dedication to the Mission.

SUNY College at Old Westbury seeks to become a competitive, comprehensive college offering quality undergraduate and graduate degrees in the arts and sciences and professional areas to 4500 students on an attractive campus conducive to the needs of a growing residential and commuter student body.
College prez advises Viscardi grads
Calvin Butts, III, of SUNY Old Westbury, tells students to keep trained minds and inspired hearts

BY BILL SAN ANTONIO

SUNY College at Old Westbury President Calvin Butts III told Henry Viscardi School students at their June 26 commencement to focus on believing in themselves, others in their lives, and the methods they have used to get them to where they are today.

“Without a trained mind and an inspired heart, you’ll go nowhere,” Butts said.

The 47th commencement ceremony included 18 students from the Henry Viscardi School, which serves children with severe physical disabilities. The school offers a full academic program and a variety of therapies, assistive technology and medical supports to students.

“We are honored that Dr. Butts came and delivered such a powerful message to our graduates, their families and special guests,” said John Kemp, president and CEO of The Viscardi Center. “His overarching message was that nothing is impossible if you have faith.”

Many Viscardi graduates are attending higher education institutions this fall, including Hofstra University, Dowling College, The College of Westchester and local community colleges to pursue coursework in business, graphic design, education and liberal arts.

Butts encouraged several of the graduates to visit him after they enroll as freshmen at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Other Viscardi graduates are pursuing vocational training and participating in community-based programs.

This year’s valedictorian, Ron Kort, plans to study business at Hofstra, where he and a fellow Viscardi graduate will also be living.

During his remarks, Kort spoke about the unique perspective the graduates had on the world and how it would be the simple things about the Viscardi School that he’d miss such as the building’s bricks, eating lunch together and touchdown passes in gym.

Salutatorian Jessica Poche said the Viscardi class of 2014 was known for its loudness, which he said was a “gift” enabling students to speak up for themselves.

Poch described her classmates as “determined, quirky and passionate” and encouraged them to stay motivated and to trust that dreams come true.

Diana DeVivio, Henry Viscardi School superintendent and principal, advised the departing seniors, “Remember not to shrink from a challenge but thrive in it, because your greatest accomplishments will come through those times when you have to work through obstacles and a struggle.

“Rather than resisting or resenting them, seek them out! They will help you grow and continue to learn and enable you to face everything that comes your way! Seek in your future the opportunity to enhance your self-knowledge and pride in your achievements,” DePvivio added.

During the commencement ceremony, Kemp presented the first Heartfelt Teacher Appreciation Grant to Joy Krebs, a physical education teacher at the school for 37 years. Krebs was recognized for her love of children, her creative curriculum thinking and her dedication to training future adapted physical education teachers.

The grant, which was made possible by Marianne Dolan Weber and Heartfelt Management, will be used to benefit the schools’ students.
July 6, 2014
WABC-TV – “Here and Now”
Interview with Denton Watson
Assistant Professor, Media & Communications, American Studies Department
Author of The Lion in the Lobby
Profs get SUNY funding for study

BY BILL SAN ANTONIO

Two SUNY College at Old Westbury professors have received state funding to analyze the role race relations plays in the college experiences of female immigrants, school officials said.

American Studies professor Carol Quirke and assistant English professor Jacqueline Emery were awarded $10,000 from the State University of New York Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for “Crossing Borders: New Immigrants and Racial and Gender Inequalities in the 21st Century,” tentatively set to begin during the upcoming fall semester.

Officials said Old Westbury is one of eight campuses within the SUNY system to receive funding as part of the sixth annual Explorations for Diversity and Academic Excellence initiative.

“Old Westbury’s project encapsulated the goals and principles the initiative seeks to promote,” said Carlos Medina, SUNY’s chief diversity officer.

The project will enlist the assistance of several Old Westbury departments, including the Office of First-Year Experience and the Old Westbury Women’s Center, in analyzing the 2011 Julia Otsuka novel, “The Buddha in the Attic,” whose themes include immigration and gender, officials said.

Quirke and Emery’s project will include faculty development workshops, a student symposium based on their research, performance and media projects conducted during the participating Old Westbury departments.

Otsuka will also visit the campus and give a lecture.
Jerilyn Marinan is director of career planning & development at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Marinan assists students, alumni and parents with career and graduate school planning. She guides her office in delivering career counseling, assessments and workshops in order to provide students with essential tips and advice as they transition into the job market.

“The Career Planning & Development office at Old Westbury strives to create compelling and educational programs and services that will resonate with students,” Marinan said. “We recently developed two programs that we feel reach that goal, SCOPE and Backpack 2 Briefcase.”

SCOPE focuses on providing students who are unsure of their major or career plans with an opportunity to get information and support that can help them make an informed-decision, she explained.

“By completing personality and career-based assessments, students learn more about themselves, their leadership capabilities, interests, values, and what type of environment they will be most satisfied in,” Marinan said. “The program also involves students taking part in site visits to area businesses, and gives them the opportunity to meet with current business professionals. We are always looking for Long Island business partners to participate.”

Backpack 2 Briefcase is a program that conducts various career-focused workshops, Marinan noted.

“The series discusses resume and cover letter writing, business etiquette and ‘netiquette,’ and interviewing and networking skills,” she said. “Building netiquette skills is new, but very important in today’s market. It teaches students the proper skills to represent themselves well on the Internet and via email.”

Marinan works with the surrounding business community to plan various career fairs and guest speakers throughout the year. She is a member of the Division of Student Affairs at Old Westbury lending her skills and experience to various committees on campus including orientation, workplace readiness and homecoming.

Prior to joining SUNY Old Westbury, Marinan held a similar position at the Long Island Business Institute in Flushing for five years. Before working in career services, Marinan served as assistant director of admissions at Mercy College in Manhattan.

Marinan is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, National Career Development Association, SUNY Career Development Organization, Western Suffolk Counselors Association and Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society.

Marinan earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Hofstra University and a master’s degree in school counseling from LIU, Brentwood. In her free time, Marinan volunteers as a soccer coach and plays soccer in four leagues.

Located on the historic North Shore of New York’s Long Island, the State University of New York College at Old Westbury is a selective public liberal arts college with more than 4,400 students studying in more than 40 undergraduate degree opportunities in its liberal arts and professional programs and 15 graduate programs in business, education and mental health counseling. On the college’s 604-acre campus, students and faculty participate in an environment that demands academic excellence, fosters intercultural understanding, and endeavors to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world.
Wallkill native earns basketball gold

Pentz victorious at World Deaf Championships

By WILLIAM MONTGOMERY

Raven Pentz came home with some gold after her summer trip to Turkey.

Pentz, a Wallkill native who's about to begin her junior year at SUNY Old Westbury, led team USA to a gold medal at the under-21 World Deaf Basketball Championships in Samsun, Turkey earlier this month.

In kindergarten, Pentz was diagnosed with a hearing impairment, but she wasn't aware she'd be able to play in the World Championships until she was contacted by head coach Laura Edwards.

"To be completely honest, I never knew about this before I was contacted," Pentz said in a recent email interview. "After doing some research, I realized what a big deal this was and was completely honored that I was selected."

Pentz said the talent level wasn't all that different from the Skyline Conference, but a few rule changes forced her to adjust the way she plays. Instead of a 30-second shot clock, the World Championships used a 24-second clock. The backcourt count was eight seconds instead of 10 seconds. And the officiating?

"The game was a lot more physical," Pentz said. "The refs allowed hand checking and bumping a lot more than they do here."

Communication with teammates was also a major hurdle for Pentz.

"In the beginning, getting to know my teammates was difficult," Pentz said. "I was the only player who did not know sign language, so it was hard to communicate with them. Luckily, I did have some teammates who were able to speak and sign, so they helped translate and teach me a few things."

After arriving in Turkey, Pentz and her teammates had five practices over three days to sort things out before the tournament began.

"Our communication was based on strictly eye contact and physical contact. The practices definitely helped us get all on the same page for our success," she said. "We all realized how hard everyone was working and that we all wanted one thing, to win the gold. It didn't matter where we came from or who we are, we simply were there to represent our country and make them proud. We spent a lot of time together off the court which definitely helped our chemistry on the court. Everyone was always encouraging. If someone messed up, someone else would be there to make sure everyone stayed positive."

The hard work paid off. Team USA beat Lithuania in the opening round, 60-31. Pentz and her teammates followed that with lopsided wins against Mexico, Turkey and Russia to earn a berth in the semifinals, a rematch against Lithuania. Team USA won that game, 59-34, and topped Turkey in the finals, 62-48, to capture the gold medal.

Pentz, a point guard, was the runner-up in tournament MVP voting.

Now, the mathematics education major shifts her focus to the upcoming Old Westbury season. As a sophomore, Pentz averaged 9.2 points and 4.0 assists and shot a Skyline Conference-best 40.2 percent (45-for-112) from behind the 3-point arc.

Time will tell what the future has in store for Pentz, but her brief introduction to international basketball has opened her eyes to a potential career opportunity after college.

"Whenever Turkey played, the gym would be a lot more packed than it was when other countries played," Pentz said. "There were also people in the gymnasium stopping players to take pictures with them, asking if they could have a shirt or their jersey. I definitely have thought about playing basketball overseas, and if given the opportunity, I definitely would do it. I would love to be able to travel."
Great Neck native and SUNY Old Westbury guard Nat Vaughan was recently named to the 2013-2014 National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court for his performance both on and off the court.

Vaughan, a senior Marketing major, played 24 games for the Panthers during the 2013-2014 season. As a junior, Vaughan averaged 3.0 points and 1.8 assists per game, playing a total of 299 minutes for an average 12.5 minutes per game. He also recorded 12 rebounds and 11 steals. Vaughan poured in a career-high of 12 points on 6-of-12 shooting from the field during Old Westbury’s 91-49 victory over NYU-Poly last January, and later recorded a career-best with six assists in conference victories against NYU-Poly and Sage in February.

Vaughan joins Joe Henain of Mount Saint Mary as the lone Skyline Conference student-athlete to achieve NABC Honors Court laurels.

Each season the NABC Honors Court recognizes the talents and gifts of student-athletes both on the court and in the classroom. A record 895 student-athletes from 335 colleges earned NABC Honors Court distinction this year.
Old Westbury picked to finish sixth in poll

The SUNY College at Old Westbury men’s soccer team was picked to finish tied for sixth with 25 points in the Skyline Conference Preseason Coaches’ Poll released Tuesday afternoon.

The Panthers open their 18-game regular season schedule Aug. 30 on the home pitch against New Paltz. Old Westbury then hits the road for four of the next five matches, including its conference opener at Yeshiva on September 14. Old Westbury’s road conference matches include dates with Sarah Lawrence (Sept. 20), Mount Saint Mary (Sept. 27) and Maritime (Oct. 18) while establishing home field advantage against the likes of conference foes Sage (Oct. 4), St. Joseph’s (L.I.) (Oct. 9), Farmingdale State (Oct. 14), Mount Saint Vincent (Oct. 22) and Purchase (Oct. 25).

Defending Skyline Conference champion, Mount Saint Mary, has been picked to finish second while Purchase was voted as the favorite to claim the 2014 championship. Sage was selected third, followed by Farmingdale State and St. Joseph’s (L.I.) to round out the top-five. Mount Saint Vincent was tied with Old Westbury in sixth and Maritime and Yeshiva finished in eighth and ninth-place, respectively.

The opening round of the six-team 2014 Skyline Conference Championship Tournament will be held on Nov. 1, with semifinal action slated for Nov. 5. The title match will be played on Nov. 8, at Purchase College in conjunction with the Skyline Conference Fall Festival.

The conference also welcomes its newest member, Sarah Lawrence College, to the conference this season. Sarah Lawrence will play every member institution in 2014 but will not be eligible for Skyline and NCAA Championship participation as it completes its finals year of NCAA Division III provisional membership.

For the latest news on the Panthers, log on to www.oldwestburypanthers.com – the official site of Old Westbury athletics. Also, become a follower of the Panthers on Twitter (@OW_Panthers) and Instagram (OW_Panthers) and “LIKE” Us on Facebook (Old Westbury Panthers Athletics / Old Westbury Athletics Alumni).

As seen at http://www.theislandnow.com/manhasset/sports/old-westbury-picked-to-finish-sixth-in-poll/article_4ae8444c-2950-11e4-96ed-001a4bcf887a.html?mode=image&photo=0