“IN THE NEWS”

SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2014

Prepared by
The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY College at Old Westbury
4 Ways Academic Libraries Are Adapting For The Future

AS TECHNOLOGY RENDERED THE LIBRARY OBSOLETE? IT DOESN'T SEEM SO. INSTEAD, CENTERS FOR HIGHER LEARNING ARE FINDING WAYS TO REINVIGORATE THEM.

WRITTEN BY BRAD LUKANIC

For academic institutions seeking to thrive amidst the ever-shifting world of higher education, libraries have moved beyond being places to merely access knowledge to become hubs to truly explore and create. The institutions at the forefront of this change are thinking beyond the days of the library as a collections repository to something much more powerful. At a recent meeting with the University of Virginia Executive Vice President and Provost John Simon, he described the library as the great "Intellectual Convener." Despite all the dire predictions for the future of academic libraries in the digital age, when people believed the digitalization of print and other emerging technologies would make them irrelevant, universities around the country are evolving their libraries and intellectual centers into catalysts for discovery, learning, collaboration, and scholarly breakthroughs.

This evolution keeps academic libraries at the intersection of transdisciplinary learning as institutions transform their pedagogies to meet evolving needs. Each institution requires a unique vision for creating an intellectual center for 21st-century teaching, learning, and collaboration. Moreover, that vision must reflect the institution’s own voice and ask what it means to support the creation of academic scholarship. These are four key areas critical to the changing landscape for academic libraries.

LIBRARIES MUST EMBRACE FLEXIBILITY

The role a library needs to play on an academic campus will continue to evolve over the next two decades just as it has over the previous two. Institutions can’t lose sight of this as they plan for the future of their intellectual facilities. Universities will be most successful in leveraging their libraries if they not only solve for current needs but ensure their facilities can respond to future changes in pedagogy and technology.

SUNY, The College at Old Westbury recognized that its 1980s-built library at the heart of campus no longer adequately met student needs. The state of New York and the school committed to an extensive planning process that led to expanding the range of seating types and creating collaborative study rooms, digital and analog media labs and individual research spaces. Collectively, these renovation efforts prepared the library to accommodate a growing collection for the next 20 years, provide staff with sufficient space for student support, and introduce adaptable and technology-rich environments across the campus experience but is also aiding in student recruitment and retention for the future.
OLD WESTBURY - SUNY schools on Long Island are raising awareness about sexual assault after coming under fire for how they have been addressing it on campus.

Students at SUNY Old Westbury held an event Monday to raise awareness about sexual assault. It coincides with a new national campaign announced by President Barack Obama last week called "It's On Us." The campaign asks all students to take an online pledge to end sexual violence.

Many students who spoke with News 12 Long Island say many sexual assault cases go unreported.

"I think a lot of young women just don't say anything they're afraid to or they don't think they'll be taken seriously," says senior Erika Jaonary.

The U.S. Department of Education has criticized SUNY schools for how they address and prevent cases of sexual violence on campuses across New York. SUNY schools are now required to provide information about how many sexual assaults happen on campus and how the cases are resolved.

School officials at Old Westbury say they are making an effort to be pro-active.
Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Offers Reading at SUNY Old Westbury

mkinane

Event Date(s): 11/13/2014
Venue / Location Information:
Name: SUNY Old Westbury
Address: 223 Store Hill Road
City: Old Westbury
State: New York
Event Time / Additional Information: 3 p.m.
Contact Info: Margaret Torrell, 516-876-3229

Poet, essayist and critic Vijay Seshadri, winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, will give a reading on Thursday, November 13, at 3 p.m. at SUNY College at Old Westbury. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the New Academic Building, Room 1100.

“Bringing leading voices from all walks of life to our campus is a critical element in the academic and personal development of our students,” said College President Calvin O. Butts, III. “Through his poetry, Vijay Seshadri explores the panorama that is the American experience, at times exulting in our collective achievements while at other times exploring the depths of our challenges. I expect that, by looking momentarily through his lens, our students will get a glimpse of the world around them that they had never before considered.”

Seshadri is the author of three collections of poetry: 3 Sections, which was awarded the Pulitzer; The Long Meadow, which won the James Laughlin Award; and Wild Kingdom. The Pulitzer committee described 3 Sections as “a compelling collection of poems that examine human consciousness, from birth to dementia, in a voice that is by turns witty and grave, compassionate and remorseless.”

Attachments

Keywords

poetry, colleges, free
Vijay Seshadri, 2014 Pulitzer-Winning Poet, to Visit SUNY Old Westbury

Published: October 28, 2014

Poet, essayist and critic Vijay Seshadri, winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, will give a reading on Thursday, November 13, at SUNY College at Old Westbury. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the New Academic Building, Room 1100.

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He holds an AB from Oberlin College, an MFA from Columbia University, and has received fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation. Seshadri has worked as an editor at The New Yorker and has taught at Bennington College and Sarah Lawrence College, where he currently directs the graduate non-fiction writing program.

Seshadri’s visit to Old Westbury is being sponsored by the College’s Office of the Provost, School of Arts and Sciences, and its English Department.

Researching cities: does Bogotá's transformation hold up to scrutiny?

Western audiences are being sold a shiny new version of the Colombian city – but one academic says his research has uncovered a culture of exclusion and a mirage of social harmony

Kat Martindale

As urban transformations go, Bogotá’s is pretty spectacular. With investment in transport and cultural infrastructure, attention to environmental restoration, coupled with reductions in traffic fatalities (50%) and the murder rate (70%), Bogotá’s star on the ascendency.

This shiny new version of the Colombian city is brought to you by two globetrotting former mayors presenting the new Bogotá to western audiences, keen to learn from the city’s redemption.

Antanas Mockus, the former mathematics professor and presidential hopeful, twice elected to the office of mayor, is noted for appearing spandex-clad as the self-created “Supercitizen”. Credited with the turnaround in crime statistics and women’s nights out, when he suggested to residents that they should pay a further 10% in their taxes voluntarily – 63,000 did so.

José de la Vara’s second mayoral appointment followed in 2006. A journalist and urban transport consultant, he is best known for promoting cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. He believes people should walk more. “Not in order to survive, but to be happy”. Critical of the rich who want roads for the cars only they can afford, keeping poorer residents out of large districts of the city, he suggested that “one symbol of lack of democracy is to have cars parked on sidewalks”.

But this happy egalitarian image is being called into question by Dr Juan Pablo Galvis. An assistant professor at SUNY College at Old Westbury, Galvis’ research looked at public life in public spaces across the city. His most recent article discusses how life is made tougher for some in public spaces by the community-led organisations managing these locations.

Based on his PhD research conducted at the University of Washington, a year of fieldwork in Bogotá and “a lifetime of casual interest, following of the city’s politics as a native” he has criticised this new dialogue. While both former mayors talk of equality and power, presenting their approaches to social inclusion and revitalisation, Galvis thinks this rebranding falls short of its promises and creates a selective view of the city. He offers two case studies to make his point.

Downtown Bogotá, seen from the Candelaria district. Photograph: Jesse Kraft/Alamy

The Asociación Cívica Centro Internacional San Diego (ACCISD) oversees the International Centre, a mainly business district north of Bogota’s colonial centre which saw rapid urban development in the 1960s. Gradual decline in the following
two decades was accompanied by an increase in crime so the ACCISD was established to improve matters. Six to eight ACCISD uniformed staff patrol the district on motorbikes, reporting “aggravating actors” to police.

One ACCISD officer informed Galvis that while homeless people would leave voluntarily or be taken to a shelter, they were “constantly telling [the police] there [were] problems with street vendors in such and such a place.” Essentially a jumped up version of neighbourhhood watch, this is the softly, softly approach compared to the more aggressive stance adopted by the Friends of 93rd Street Park.

After being redeveloped in 1994, the Asociación Amigos del Parque 93 took over all aspects of the park’s management. The Friends published a 20-page manual detailing acceptable behaviour and improper conduct, which included leafleting, selling and broadcasting. The organisation does not defer to social agencies to deal with homelessness or the police to respond to street traders. It is all handled by the group’s own officers.

One officer commented that “the park is self-sufficient … [it] has its own life and its own management, which is private. Public administration has one way of doing things, and private administration another.”

This private way of “doing things” is, Galvis suggests, the problem. “The blatant exclusions resulting from the private administration of this park seem to contradict the stated inclusionary principles of the Public Space Ombudsman, however, still presents this case as a successful example of community governance at work.”

Both managing agents operate under the Public Space Master Plan, a cocktail of constitutional reforms and policies relating to the creation and management of public space. Handing back power to communities, an ever popular political policy, brings with it potential to erode aspects of the mayors’ utopian visions, which in these cases means social stereotyping and exclusion.

Those groups typically expelled include “unruly youths, sex workers of different ages, genders and sexual identities and, in some cases, even poor people in general” but Galvis identifies street traders as being a particular focus for the attention from private security officers or police.

The city authorities “characterised street vendors as ‘mafias’, taking advantage of public assets, harbouring criminals and hurting formal employment in storefront businesses”. While traders had been banned in certain locations and tolerated elsewhere “the official policy is one of ‘recuperation’ of public spaces, where a certain street is cleared and ‘alternatives’ [such as] cityioses are offered to the vendors that used to occupy the space. Once a space is ‘recuperated’ then no more vendors are allowed to relocate there.”

For all of the promotion, investment and best intentions, Bogotá remains a city that has yet to completely challenge the class structure that underpins the social exclusions Galvis discusses. He dismisses the suggestion that the mayors’ approach has been innovative, criticising the policies and the master plan for facilitating the social exclusion they seek to address. They have, in attempting to be inclusive, produced a “mirage of social harmony in public space”. A better understanding of class difference will improve the city’s governance.

Juan Pablo Galvis continues to research the public spaces of Bogotá and other cities in the global south.

Kat Martindale is a researcher, urbanist and founder of Cities Research. Follow her on Twitter at @KatMartindale and @CitiesResearch #ResearchFriday
SUNY Recognizes Diversity Efforts by Campuses, Students, & Faculty

Saturday, October 4, 2014

State University of New York Board of Trustees Chairman H. Carl McCall, Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, and Carlos N. Medina, the system's chief diversity officer and senior associate vice chancellor, recognized campuses, faculty, and students from across SUNY who received awards this year for distinguished efforts to enhance the system's diversity.

This recognition follows an announcement last week of several 2014 awards received throughout SUNY from INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine, the largest and oldest diversity publication in higher education nationally.

Chairman McCall said, "SUNY is consistently recognized as a national leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the campus programs, students, and faculty we honor are the best of the best. The honorees have truly gone above and beyond to help SUNY uphold its promise of diversity, and I thank them for their outstanding leadership."

"As New York's public higher education system, it is imperative that SUNY's student, faculty, and administrative bodies - as well as our academic courses and programs - reflect the diversity of the population we serve," said Chancellor Zimpher. "Enhancing SUNY's diversity is a cornerstone of our strategic plan and a consideration in all that we do. Congratulations to all of the campuses, students, and faculty recognized as well as those who contribute to SUNY's diversity goals year-round."

"SUNY institutions provide exemplary diversity initiatives and programs that improve the campus life for students, faculty, and the curriculum, while serving strategic diversity goals in all areas of University life," said Medina. "Congratulations to all of those whose work has been recognized by SUNY's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion this year."

The following campuses, students, and faculty efforts that are enhancing diversity within SUNY recently received awards from SUNY's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Campus Awards

The SUNY Explorations in Diversity and Academic Excellence Initiative, now in its sixth year, supports innovative approaches that illuminate and strengthen the intersections between diversity and academic excellence at SUNY's state-operated campuses. The following seven projects were selected:

- University at Albany, "Exploring Diversity in New Student Seminars" - This project will bring together faculty from different departments to create and teach new seminars to freshman and transfer students on a variety of topics related to broad themes of diversity. The goal is to introduce new UAlbany students to diversity from a variety of perspectives, disciplines, and backgrounds, thereby cultivating a strong appreciation for the diversity on campus and better preparing them for success as they face the academic challenges of a university setting. It will also forge bonds between faculty and departments that will deepen the campus's commitment to diversity and permeate future teaching, research, and service activities.

- Binghamton University, "Udiversity: A Professional Development Curriculum for Diversity and Inclusion for the 21st Century" - The purpose of this project is to create a professional development curriculum for BU's faculty and staff, which will include 4-day training on the campus in the summer of 2014. Several models for inclusion work will be utilized, along with the campus's own curriculum course materials and instructor training provided by the National Intergroup Dialogue Institute. The train-the-trainer session will certify diversity trainers to follow a curriculum established by SUNY's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

- SUNY Old Westbury, "Crossing Borders, Erasing Inequalities in the 21st Century" - This project will bring together faculty from multiple departments and Old Westbury's Women's Center and First-Year Experience Program to utilize multiple engagements such as author visits and student symposia on the topics of immigration and gender, exploring the difficulties faced by immigrant women as well as persistent inequalities that shape the lives of students.

- SUNY Brockport, "Launched II Program" - The purpose of this program is to continue a mentoring initiative that replicates the academic engagement practices of the Educational Opportunity Program, Delta College, CSTEP/McNair and the Honors programs at the College with a new group of underrepresented first-year students.

- SUNY Buffalo State, "NCBI Exposure Workshop: Bringing Diversity Missions to Life" - This project will provide a one-day workshop that exposes key campus stakeholders from a number of SUNY campuses to National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Interwoven with these experiences will be presentations by the Buffalo State NCBI Team highlighting the successes and challenges it has had with its various initiatives. The workshop will highlight knowledge and skills that enable productive thinking about the complexities of "diversity" and effective processes for bringing a campus diversity mission to life.
Papo Ortega and his Cubanosen Orchestra
at SUNY Old Westbury - Maguire Theater | Thu Oct 30

Location
SUNY Old Westbury - Maguire Theater
223 Store Hill Road
Old Westbury - 11568 (map)
Tel: 510-997-7985
Contact Name: Zenaida Macarika

Date & Time
06:30 PM
Thu, Oct 30, 2014
Cost: 10

Description
Papo Ortega and his Cubanosen Orchestra will bring their own brand of danceable, Cuban music to SUNY College at Old Westbury on October 30, 2014 in an event presented by the College’s Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center.

To be held in the John & Lillian Maguire Theater within the College’s Campus Center, the event is open to the public. General admission tickets are $10 and can be reserved by calling 510-997-7335.

Cubanosen is a traditional 10 piece Cuban Dance Orchestra as created by director Leonel “Papo” Ortega. This musically inspired pianist and composer has enjoyed the privilege of working alongside exceptional musicians, among them, Roberto Rodriguez, Lionel Sanchez, Chocolate Armenteros, Junior Rivera, José Fajardo and Cándido Camero. The orchestra unites two Cuban styles of music: the vocal genre of the Punto Cubano with the upbeat tempo of the Son Montuno.

LOCATION MAP

0 Comments LongIsland.com

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Students Support Breast Cancer Research

Thirty students from the Accounting Society at SUNY College at Old Westbury recently joined together in the fight against breast cancer when they represented the college in “Making Strides Long Island,” an annual walk-a-thon in support of the American Cancer Society, at Jones Beach State Park on Oct. 19.
SCHOOL NEWS

Students step out for cancer research

Thirty students from the Accounting Society at SUNY College at Old Westbury recently joined together in the fight against breast cancer when they represented the College in “Making Strides Long Island,” an annual walk-a-thon in support of the American Cancer Society. The walk took place on October 19, 2014 at Jones Beach State Park.
A Greatest Generation program will be presented during North Colonie School District’s 13th annual Veterans Day Celebration at 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at the high school, 445 Watervliet Shaker Road in Latham.

Frank DeSorbo of Delmar, president of the D-Day Revisited Association and a retired public school administrator, will present a video and program focusing on the Normandy invasion that led to the end of World War II against Germany and the Battle of the Bulge.

Veterans from the school district who served as well as those who now are on active or reserve military duty will be honored, said organizer Daniel Weaver, a social studies teacher.

The D-Day Revisited Association honors veterans of the Normandy landings that began on June 6, 1944. The first Recognition and Remembrance Day was held in Latham in 2011.

Shaker's Select Choir, directed by Karen Amedio, and Shaker High School Wind Ensemble, conducted by Paul Zuzuki, will entertain.

Shaker’s World of Difference Club and Club M@SH members are helping organize. Weaver is their adviser.

In conjunction with the celebration, both clubs, student government members and others are involved in Operation North Colonie Cares. They are helping the Capital Region 2 Chapter of Blue Star Mothers collect items for Freedom Boxes to be sent to troops from the Capital Region deployed overseas.

Letters of support and encouragement and other items are needed to fill the packages. Donations will be accepted at the celebration. For a list of items needed, visit capitalregion2bsm.org. For information, contact Weaver at dweaver@ncolonie.org or 785-5511, Ext. 3620.

Musical move

Army Spc. Philip D. Tappan, son of David M. Tappan of Scotia and Mary Osuch of Ballston Spa, won an audition in the spring to become an officer with the U.S. Army Band.

He will attend officer candidate school and the Basic Officer Leaders Course in January and assume his new role as an officer and conductor thereafter.

Tappan is a pianist with the 2nd Infantry Division Band, as well as the president of the Camp Red Cloud Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the official "voice" (narrator) of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Tappan, grandson of Rosemary Tappan of Schenectady, is a 2002 graduate of Saratoga Springs High School. He earned a master’s degree in 2010 from SUNY Fredonia.

Other soldiers who earned promotions include:

Sergeant: Christopher Cereo, Troy, Joint Force Headquarters; Steven Munk, Troy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry; Alex Dukharan, Schenectady, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade; Zachary Gallant, Latham, Company B, 642nd Support Battalion; Nicholas Hayes, Albany, Company B, 642nd Support Battalion; and Cody Rogers, Green Island, 827th Engineer Company.

Specialist: Tyler Bruce, South Glens Falls, Company C, 108th Infantry; Michael Davenport, Clifton Park, 827th Engineer Company; Zachery Hart, Bolton Landing, 1427th Transportation Company; Sarah Ronsani, Hudson, 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Security and Support Battalion.

Airmen promoted

Michael Albright of Schoharie was promoted to master sergeant while serving as a supply supervisor with the 109th Airlift Wing’s Logistics Readiness Squadron at the Stratton Air National Guard Base in Scotia.

Samantha Sherman of Galway was promoted to senior airman while assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing’s Logistics Readiness Squadron.

News of your troops and units can be sent to Duty Calls, Terry Brown, Times Union, Box 15000, Albany, NY 12212 or brownt@times.union.com.
Plainedge Grad’s Historic Goal

SUNY College at Old Westbury senior forward Stephanie Maybie made soccer history when she scored a career-high four goals to become the third player in program history to reach 50 career goals.

The Massapequa native led the Old Westbury Panthers to a 12-0 win over John Jay College in their home opener from Panther Park.

The 12 goals were also a program record as the Panthers improved to 2-0 for the first time in the women’s team history.

Maybie added goals at 8:29, 25:05 and 29:23 to make it a 4-0 game, helping to close out the first-half at 5-0. She opened the second-half scoring at 46:10 with her sixth goal of the season to register her 50th career goal.

In the end, Old Westbury held the advantage across the board in shots (38-2), shots on goal (23-1) and corner kicks (9-0), making for a very memorable home opener shutout.
ISLANDWIDE:
Math scholars

Eighty-four Long Island students have been named Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at Old Westbury. About 600 nominated students competed by submitting written statements and taking an exam.

Nassau County scholars are: Garden City: Emma Rose Nagler, Stewart Elementary School; Aidan Padala, Garden City Middle School; Garden City Park: Ishin Shah, Garden City Park School; Glen Head: Sarah Moughal, North Shore Middle School; Great Neck: Jansen Wong, Lakeville Elementary School; Joshua Cai, Great Neck South Middle School; Bradford Lin, Great Neck North High School; Herricks: Hita Soni, Andrew Tsai and Sahith Vadada, all of Herricks Middle School; Aashna Brahmbhatt and Bangseok Jung, Herricks High School; Hewlett: Max Baum, Woodmere Middle School; Hicksville: Sejal Gupta, Hicksville Middle School; Jericho: Andrew Chen, Catherine Kim, Shrey Shah, Shruthi Shekar and David Xu, all of Jericho Middle School; Aarthi Sridhar, Jericho High School; Levittown: Saajid Chowdhury, Jonas E. Salk Middle School; Valery Marcos, Division Avenue High School; Locust Valley: Alim Merchant, Locust Valley Middle School; Long Beach: Arjun Gupta and Joshua Kapilian, Long Beach Middle School; Manhasset: Gwendolyn Seto, Shelter Rock Elementary School; Ryan Wu, Manhasset High School; Merrick: Thomas Gionnuzzi and Julia Oladipo, Merrick Avenue Middle School; New Hyde Park: Grace Peng, New Hyde Park Road Elementary School; Old Brookville: Justin Lin, The Green Vale School; Old Westbury: Jeehyun Kim and John Li, The Wheatley School; Oyster Bay: James Kamerer, St. Dominic Elementary School; Plainview: Vidushi Dugar, Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School; Roslyn: Victor Li and Termitopo Oshodi, Willets Road Middle School; Edgar Sit and Vicky Zhou, Roslyn High School; Syosset: Ronit Dhulia, Sophia Jang, Trisha Sinha, Muyang Yin and Kevin Zhao, all of H.B. Thompson Middle School; Tom Lam, South Woods Middle School; Mohamed El-Abtah and Scott Feltman, Syosset High School; Rebecca Schaefer, Our Lady of Mercy Academy; Valley Stream: Joe Campbell, South High School; Lance Lampert, Memorial Junior High School.
Roslyn Times

Kim, Li lauded for mathematics skills

The Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury was proud to announce that Ally Kim and John Li, both 9th graders at the Wheatley School, are among the 84 students this year to be named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics and was accepted by the Institute to pursue mathematics and mathematical science applications.

To qualify for this honor, the 84 students who were selected for the Institute's three divisions competed against approximately 600 of the top ranking students nominated from school districts on Long Island. Selection by the Institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of one percent in math of all students on Long Island in his or her grade. Acceptances were based on five criteria: nomination, school transcript, teacher recommendation, a brief statement written by the student and a rigorous entrance exam. Funding for the Institute comes from individual contributors who believe that offering programs tuition free maintains equal accessibility to all students who qualify.

Each student is expected to spend 60 hours in class over the course of 20 Saturday mornings, and on related outside projects. The curriculum covers mathematical topics from algebra, geometry, discrete math and number theory. Topics not included in the standard courses of study, such as problem solving applied to probability, drawing of ocean bottom profile, theory of finite differences, topics in science and mass point geometry will also be presented.

Over the years, many of the Institute graduates have gone on to win prestigious awards, including national and international math, science, and engineering contests. A number of alumni of the Institute have been selected as Intel and Siemens awardees in math, science or technology.

The Director and Founder of the Institute was Dr. Jong Pil Lee, Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY College at Old Westbury and 2005 United States Presidential Awardee for Excellence for Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring who passed away on December 12, 2011. The current director is Mr. Arthur Kalish, a retired math teacher with 44 years of classroom experience.
GC student named scholar of mathematics

The Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury is proud to announce that Aidan Padala, a student at Garden City Middle School, is among the 84 students this year to be named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics and was accepted by the Institute to pursue mathematics and mathematical science applications.

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Parent Workshops are presented on a variety of topics including how to enhance parent/student communications, improve gifted student selfawareness, and how to foster children's interests in mathematics, science, and technology. Workshop presenters include Dr. Marci Lobel, psychology professor at Stony Brook University; Dr. Lisa A. Whitten, Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor of Psychology and Elizabeth Wissner- Gross, educational strategist who helps high school students discover their academic passions, develop inspiring academic goals, and pursue exciting and challenging college experiences.

The institute is supported by SUNY College at Old Westbury, the Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Association, the Suffolk County Mathematics Teachers Association, the Nassau County Interscholastic Mathematics League, the Nassau County Association of Mathematics Supervisors, MoMath and Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools in addition to the advisory board of the recently formed Institute of MERIT.