IN THE NEWS

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The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY College at Old Westbury
STIMULATING STEM

BY MARTIN C. EVANS
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Materials physicist Fernando Camino placed a silicon chip onto the stage of a powerful microscope at Brookhaven National Laboratory, then watched as the tiny electrodes of a micro-circuit emerged into focus on an adjoining computer display.

Gushing with the enthusiasm of a teenager activating a brand-new cell phone, Camino explained to a gathering of mostly black and Hispanic young men clustered around him how the equipment was helping to unlock the properties of graphene, a honeycomb layer of carbon atoms less than one-billionth of a meter thick.

“Its properties have thousands of applications,” he said, his eyes darting between the display and the young men, adding that manipulating materials at the scale of single atoms has allowed scientists to pack millions of transistors into a single computer chip.

“These are the kinds of things we do here,” Camino said.

The young men were among 165 area students invited to the Upton laboratory yesterday to commemorate the second anniversary of President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

Yesterday’s event — a collaboration between Brookhaven and The College at Old Westbury — was designed to encourage students to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the so-called STEM subjects. It was a local part of “National Week at the Labs,” with more than 50 research facilities in 20 states welcoming some 5,000 elementary, middle and high school students.

Jourvonn Skenè, 19, an Old Westbury student who is contemplating a medical career, watched as Camino manipulated the silicon wafer using a robotic probe.

Skenè, who grew up in a section of Staten Island where black, Hispanic and Asian students make up more than 60 percent of residents, said having Brookhaven scientists explain their work excited him about the possibility of doing basic science himself.

“It really pushes you in the right direction, especially coming from an area where you don’t see too many African-Americans in the sciences, Skenè said after Camino’s demonstration. “I was already thinking about being pre-med, but this makes me think of doing an M.D./Ph.D.”

Boosting achievement in STEM subjects among the nation’s black and Hispanic students is a key goal of the Obama administration, said Broderick Johnson, the White House coordinator for the My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

Fewer than 4 percent of African-Americans and 9 percent of Hispanic-Americans complete degrees in STEM subjects, Johnson told a gathering of students and Brookhaven staff.

“Every one of us needs to do more to ensure that every American, including those underrepresented in STEM like women and people of color, are exposed to this ecosystem through active and hands-on experience,” Johnson said.

The My Brother’s Keeper initiative is focused on addressing opportunity gaps that face young people of color by connecting them to science-related mentoring and other support networks, which can be conspicuously absent in economically disadvantaged areas.

The daylong event, in which students toured some of Brookhaven’s laboratories and lunched with scientists and engineers on the laboratory’s staff, drew students from Long Island and New York City. Attendees arrived from high schools in Hempstead, Westbury, Wyandanch, Brentwood, Longwood, Southampton and Bridgehampton, among others.

Students got a chance to speak one-on-one with Brookhaven staffers exploring some of science’s most fundamental questions, such as how nature’s first atoms were formed from quark-gluon plasma moments after the Big Bang.

Steven A. Coleman, a former Navy nuclear submariner who now manages the radiological control division at Brookhaven, was one engineer who took part.

An African-American who grew up in Deer Park, Coleman said he once was such a distracted student that he was forced to leave college because of poor grades.

It was the support of mentors in the Navy that encouraged his pursuit of the natural sciences. He earned a Ph.D. at Stony Brook University after being hired at Brookhaven as a nuclear reactor operator in 1991.

“I think they need to hear our stories,” said Coleman, 50, who regularly mentors students interested in science careers. “Even if you fall the first time, you can pick yourself up. There can still be opportunities.”
Westbury students take part in My Brother’s Keeper event

BY BETSY ABRAHAM
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Westbury High School students heard from leaders in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and learned more about how to succeed in the field during a recent visit to Brookhaven National Lab for the My Brother’s Keeper anniversary event.

My Brother’s Keeper, an initiative instituted by President Barack Obama and supported by the White House as well as several government departments, foundations and corporations, connects young male minorities with mentors, support networks and skills to help them reach their full potential.

To celebrate the second year of the initiative, about 45 students from Westbury joined more than 160 peers from New York City and Long Island at Brookhaven Lab for a day of mentorship and engagement in science.

Among the students who attended the event was ninth-grader Joshua Taylor. He said he walked away from the event with a better understanding of the importance of education.

"A lot of people spoke to us about college and coming to the Lab. Taylor said. "Education is key. Everybody there went to college and made progress and that's how they became successful."

Students heard from a variety of leaders in government and STEM, including the speakers were Broderick Johnson, assistant to the president, cabinet secretary, and chair of the My Brother’s Keeper task force, who gave a keynote address on the importance of government, businesses, nonprofits, local education agencies and individuals stepping up and doing their part to ensure all of the nation’s youth have the tools they need to succeed.

"Together we can highlight the importance of inclusive and active STEM engagement here in the United States, and why every one of us needs to do our part."

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more to ensure that every American—including those underrepresented in STEM, like women and people of color—are exposed to this ecosystem through active and hands-on experience,” said Johnson.

LaDoris Harris, Director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity and an engineer by training, urged the students to take advantage of the mentorship and support networks available to them.

“We’re here because our future relies on you,” said Harris. “Whether you want to become STEM leaders or President of the United States, make sure that you do each and every day all you can do, be excellent at what you do, and know that we recognize how important it is for us to do what we can for each of you.”

The morning session kicked off with a panel discussion, and the students were enthralled by the personal and educational journeys of the speakers, which included scientists and staff from the Lab, educators from SUNY Old Westbury (which co-hosted the event), and leaders from public and private sector organizations.

Westbury High School senior Ezra McNell said he was grateful for the opportunity to hear from people like Johnson who were doing great things.

“Seeing a lot of successful people who look just like us, and it gave me motivation and inspiration to go forward and keep on pushing to pursue my dreams,” McNell said, adding that everyone who attended got something out of the event. "I had a great conversation with Broderick Johnson, and he kept telling me to keep moving forward. Listening to someone of that stature is great confirmation of what I'm meant to do in my life."

The day’s program also included a tour of the Lab’s Department of Energy Office of Science User Facilities—the National Synchrotron Light Source II, Center for Functional Nanomaterials, and Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider control room—along with hands-on activities that highlighted the Lab’s current research initiatives and world-class facilities.

Westbury High School assistant principal Reginald Warren accompanied the students on the trip and said it was a great opportunity to hear from people at all levels of government. Students were able to ask questions and network with professionals in STEM fields, as well as participate in problem-solving workshops to see the applications of science.

"The message was that you can achieve any goal you have, but the common denominator is that you have to work hard,” Warren said. “You have to be focused and involved in some type of mentorship with people who are focused on what you want to be.”

A follow-up event will be held in April at SUNY Old Westbury to sustain engagement with the students, and provide an opportunity to meet with recent graduates and faculty from various disciplines.
Last year, President Barack Obama launched the My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Initiative to “address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.”

This month, SUNY at Old Westbury partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Brookhaven Lab to commemorate the second anniversary of MBK and discuss the importance of mentorship, STEM, and continuing education for young men of color.

“Last week at Brookhaven Lab, we came together to encourage more African American and Latino males to study in the STEM areas by showing them what’s possible. We had a panel of men comprised of two professors, one entrepreneur, and one who was working at Brookhaven who talked about how they got started in their various careers and, from a material standpoint, that they were making money. And we are going to have another one similar to it on April 19 on the campus of Old Westbury. That will be a big one to introduce these young men to all of the potential opportunities, to have them experience the labs, talk with professors, and all of those things,” Calvin Butts, president of Old Westbury and Reverend of Abyssinian Baptist Church, told TNJ.com

And according to Butts, there are many challenges keeping these young men from reaching their full potential.

“For starters, they don’t know the opportunities that are available to them in these areas. There’s a lack of knowledge. Secondly, there’s poor preparation. During the high school stages of their lives, they are not getting the kind of exposure to the kind of teachers and materials that would strengthen them in the area of Math, in particular. Third, there is a lack of money for them to study. For example, if a young man comes to our college, he needs to be able to study and do research without interruption, meaning he shouldn’t have to work. He should be able to participate without having to worry about a nine to five job, which many of them do, and without having to be concerned about supporting their families back home and a lot of other pressures. They need to be able to come to school and focus their attention on their studies. We need scholarship dollars to support that,” he says.

Butts added that at Old Westbury, school officials are working on getting more lab facilities and instruments such as microscopes, Bunsen burners and Petri Dishes. They also hope to get more professors.

The event took place at Brookhaven in Upton, New York.

“At the event, young men came to realize that they can be whatever they want to be. They now know that they have the support of the Obama administration as well as the diversity department at the U.S. Department of Energy’s laboratories. Their eyes are now opened up to what is happening at Brookhaven. We also had some of our industry partners from the Minorities in Energy Initiative attend the event. It is focused on STEM education and workforce development opportunities for entrepreneurship. We told them that they can become a scientist, mathematician or engineer and help change the world.” La Doris Harris, director of the DOE’s Office of Diversity, told TNJ.com.
from economically challenged schools, learned about careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics — STEM — officials said in a news release. Students toured lab facilities and took part in activities related to current research projects, with guidance from officials from the lab, SUNY Old Westbury and the president’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

Officials said a program will be held next month in Old Westbury where students can meet faculty and college graduates who work in the sciences.

“As a national laboratory, our greatest asset is our employees and the strengths, skills and creativity they bring to work each day,” lab director Doon Gibbs said in a statement. “Keeping our nation competitive on the global technology stage will require a new generation of scientists and engineers that is truly representative of our nation as a whole, and programs like My Brother’s Keeper can help make that goal a reality.”

— CARL MACGOWAN
Ten Longwood High School Students Chosen to Participate in My Brother’s Keeper Initiative

Posted by SouthShorePress on March 8, 2016

Ten Longwood High School students were chosen to attend a very special event at Brookhaven National Laboratory to celebrate the second anniversary of the My Brother’s Keeper Initiative.

My Brother’s Keeper is a public-private initiative launched by President Barack Obama in February of 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color. Supported by the White House, several departments of government, and many foundations and corporations, this long-term program joins federal, state, and local governmental agencies in concert with businesses, educational institutions, and foundations, who together are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to fulfill a promising future.

Held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory and the State University of New York at Old Westbury hosted a select group of students from across Long Island and the metropolitan area for a special one-day visit to Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Throughout the day, students gained knowledge of the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training and see for themselves the possibilities their futures might hold. Students were also provided with an opportunity to listen to, meet, and speak with several leaders from BNL who are men of color. The program included a tour of the premiere research facility and participation in a hands-on science activity.
Students participate in White House STEM Initiative

Recently, 10 William Floyd High School students were selected to participate in President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program designed to address opportunity gaps faced by young men of color. Supported by the White House, several departments of government, and many foundations and corporations, this long-term program joins federal, state, and local governmental agencies in concert with businesses, educational institutions, and foundations, who together are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks, and the skills they need to fulfill a promising future.

Earlier this month, students from across Long Island and New York City gathered at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) along with officials from SUNY College at Old Westbury to mark the second anniversary of “My Brother’s Keeper,” by participating in activities to help them gain exposure to the skills and tools necessary to advance in postsecondary education or training to see for themselves the possibilities available to them in their lives.

The program, led by Dr. Doon Gibbs, Director, BNL, and Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, President, SUNY Old Westbury, offered students an opportunity to listen to, meet, and speak with several leaders from BNL and SUNY Old Westbury who are men of color, hailing from all walks of life and serving important roles at each institution. The students were also joined by SUNY Old Westbury students, who shared their stories and enthusiasm for their experiences in higher education. The program also included a tour of this premiere research facility and participation in hands-on science activities.

“This was an invaluable experience for the young men representing the William Floyd School District,” said Dr. Donna Watkins, Director of STEM, William Floyd School District.

“The students had the opportunity to interact with graduate and undergraduate researchers and visit the state-of-the-art research facility, BNL’s National Synchrotron Light Source II. The program concluded with the young men simulating particle collisions with magnets and marbles. These experiences help contribute to the goal of providing more access to the STEM professions.”
Students from Southampton High School were among those who participated in the White House's My Brother's Keeper second anniversary event at Brookhaven National Lab recently. The students learned about careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in the company of mentors from Brookhaven Lab and SUNY Old Westbury and national leaders of the My Brother's Keeper initiative.

Submitted Mar 4
SUNY OLD WESTBURY, BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LAB HOST MORE THAN 150 LOCAL STUDENTS FOR “MY BROTHER’S KEEPER” ANNIVERSARY EVENT

(Long Island, NY) To celebrate the second anniversary of President Barack Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory collaborated with SUNY Old Westbury to bring more than 160 students from New York City and Long Island to the Laboratory on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 for a day of mentorship and engagement in science.

The participating students—most from economically challenged, diverse community high schools—experienced the exciting possibilities offered by careers in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in the company of mentors from Brookhaven Lab and SUNY Old Westbury and national leaders of the My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

Broderick Johnson, Assistant to the President, Cabinet Secretary, and Chair of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force gave a keynote address on the importance of government, businesses, nonprofits, local education agencies, and individuals stepping up and doing their part to ensure all of our nation’s youth have the tools they need to succeed.

“Together we can highlight the importance of inclusive and active STEM engagement here in the United States, and why every one of us needs to do more to ensure that every American—including those underrepresented in STEM, like women and people of color—are exposed to this ecosystem through active and hands-on experience,” said Johnson.

LaDoris Harris, Director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity and an engineer by training, also urged the students to take advantage of the mentorship and support networks available to them.

“We’re here because our future relies on you,” said Harris. “Whether you want to become STEM leaders or President of the United States, make sure that you do each and every day all you can do, be excellent at what you do, and know that we recognize how important it is for us to do what we can for each of you.”

The morning session kicked off with a panel discussion, and the attendees were enthralled by the personal and educational journeys of the speakers, which included scientists and staff from the Lab, educators from Old Westbury, and leaders from public and private sector organizations, including Con Edison.

“By listening to the stories and college experiences that these influential men and women of color shared today, it is my hope that these young people gain a sense of perspective that education and hard work can help change the trajectory of their life, and put them on a path to a productive and successful future,” said SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, who served as panel moderator.

The day’s program included a tour of the Lab’s premiere DOE Office of Science User Facilities—the National Synchrotron Light Source II, Center for Functional Nanomaterials, and Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider control room—and with hands-on activities that highlighted the Lab’s current research initiatives and world-class facilities, organized by the Lab’s Office of Educational Programs. A follow-up event will be held in April at SUNY Old Westbury to sustain engagement with the students, and provide an opportunity to meet with recent graduates and faculty from various disciplines.

“As a national laboratory, our greatest asset is our employees and the strengths, skills, and creativity they bring to work each day,” said Brookhaven Lab Director Doon Gibbs. “Keeping our nation competitive on the global technology stage will require a new generation of scientists and engineers that is truly representative of our nation as a whole—and programs like My Brother’s Keeper can help make that goal a reality.”

My Brother’s Keeper is a public-private initiative launched by President Obama in February 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Supported by the White House, several departments of government, and many foundations and corporations, this long-term program joins federal, state, and local government agencies with businesses, educational institutions, and foundations, who together are taking important steps to connect young people to mentors, support networks, and the skills they need to succeed. Nine DOE national labs are hosting My Brother’s Keeper events this year in partnership with local educational institutions.
STEM Exposure At SUNY Old Westbury
By Westbury Times Staff - April 27, 2016

Westbury High School students headed to the campus of SUNY Old Westbury last week as part of their ongoing participation in President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative.

As part of their mission to advance the My Brother’s Keeper initiative, SUNY Old Westbury and the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory held the Maintaining Momentum: From High School to College event at the College for more than 150 students from Westbury and beyond. The event followed up on a day of mentorship and engagement in science held at Brookhaven Lab last month, and provided an opportunity for the students to meet faculty and student researchers, tour key campus facilities and learn about important programs available to support their future academic interests.

The participating students—most from economically challenged, diverse high schools on Long Island and New York City—were paired with college and career mentors to expose them to the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training, and encourage them to reach for their full potential. At the same time, the Brookhaven Lab and SUNY Old Westbury mentors’ goal was to raise awareness and interest in studies in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“It was imperative for us at the College to sustain the relationships we made with these young men and women at Brookhaven Lab during our first event to create the type of impactful partnership that My Brother’s Keeper inspires,” said SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, who provided the event’s welcoming remarks. “It was an honor to have such eager minds on our campus learning from leaders in the STEM industries, and we hope to welcome them back as students in the years to come.

The day’s program included tours of the SUNY Old Westbury campus, presentations from current student-researchers, and an overview of the College’s Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), the state-funded initiative providing services to historically underrepresented students interested in STEM and licensed professions. Old Westbury’s award-winning CSTEP program provides participants with academic advising, research and internship opportunities, enrichment and developmental workshops, among other benefits.

My Brother’s Keeper is a public-private initiative launched by President Obama in February 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Supported by the White House, several departments of government, and many foundations and corporations, this long-term program joins federal, state and local government agencies with businesses, educational institutions and foundations, who together are taking important steps to connect young people to mentors, support networks and the skills they need to succeed.

Students check out a 3D printer
6th Start-Up zone

SUNY hopes site will attract tech jobs to Bethpage

BY JAMES T. MADORE
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SUNY Old Westbury has won approval for a Start-Up NY tax-free zone in Bethpage for technology companies, becoming the sixth such zone on Long Island, officials said.

The 4,642-square-foot zone is 5 miles south of the campus, in a former Northrop Grumman Corp. building that is now home to the Morrelly Homeland Security Center.

Supporters hope the zone will eventually encompass 30,000 square feet.

Start-Up NY, which wraps up its second full year next week, was created by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo to attract businesses to the state and help new and expanding companies. Participating firms do not pay state and local taxes for up to 10 years. Their employees don’t pay state income taxes for as long as 10 years.

Calvin O. Butts III, president of Old Westbury, said the college hopes to recruit companies to its tax-free zone that boost the local economy and provide opportunities for young people.

“Whether we find a cutting-edge software developer, a Brilliant Biotechnology concern or an environmental remediation firm with innovative new ideas, our goals will include ensuring these companies are interested in not only their own success, but in creating successful solutions to challenges that face our... metropolitan New York community,” Butts said.

Old Westbury joins other Start-Up NY institutions in Nassau and Suffolk counties: Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, LIU Post, Suffolk County Community College and Republic Airport. Long Island is home to 22 Start-Up NY businesses, most at Stony Brook.

The state’s top Start-Up NY official, Leslie E. Whately, has long championed the Bethpage building at 510 Grumman Rd. West as a tax-free zone because it’s equipped with nearly new workstations and furniture left by Grumman.

“One of the things that has slowed our expansion of Start-Up NY on Long Island is lack of space,” she said. “Old Westbury didn’t have space right on their campus... Here you have a beautiful building that has a lot of empty space in it.”

Old Westbury is using the space under a long-term agreement with the building’s owner, Long Island Forum for Technology.

Whately said she hopes another local university will establish a second Start-Up NY zone in the 90,000-square-foot building.

LIFT leaders said they hope the zone will improve the group’s finances by attracting paying tenants. LIFT, started in the 1970s, was forced to lay off half of its staff of eight recently.

“This fits with our mission of job creation and economic development,” said Barry Shorten, interim chairman of LIFT’s board of directors.

“We see opportunities for these businesses to collaborate with each other and the Morrelly center,” he said. “We also can provide business support to these startups.”
SUNY Old Westbury joins START-UP NY

By: Claude Solnik  March 22, 2016  0

New York State has approved SUNY Old Westbury’s participation in START-UP NY, an economic development initiative that gives companies tax incentives when they launch or expand on and sometimes near state schools.

Empire State Development, the state’s economic development agency, and the State University of New York both signed off on the program.

SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts III, said the school is happy to be “attracting new business and industry to Long Island, creating new jobs and offering our students intimate opportunities to learn and grow.”

Companies approved to participate in the Old Westbury START-UP program will set up shop about five miles from the school at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage.

The school, which doesn’t have existing space on campus to house companies, partnered with the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage, where space is available.

Tagged with: LONG ISLAND  START-UP NY  SUNY OLD WESTBURY
SUNY Old Westbury has been green-lighted for the Island’s sixth Start-Up NY incubator, to be built in LiFT’s Morrelly Center for Homeland Security in Bethpage.

The center will start out at about 4,000 feet but could grow to fill the top floor of the three-story, 90,000-square-foot building — space abandoned by Northrop Grumman in its local downsizing. Old Westbury’s program will be the first to operate off campus. The school, located about five miles away, did not have available space.

“We are excited to be part of this initiative and we look forward to attracting new business and industry to Long Island, creating new jobs and offering our students intimate opportunities to learn and grow,” said college President Calvin O. Butts III.

“Whether we find a cutting edge software developer, a brilliant biotechnology concern, or an environmental remediation firm with innovative new ideas, our goals will include ensuring these companies are interested in not only their own success, but in creating successful solutions to challenges that face our Long Island and metropolitan New York community,” Butts added.

The college expressed interest in a Start-Up NY site last summer, and had hoped to land Mitogenetics, a South Dakota-based biotech, as its first tenant. However, the startup has since moved into space at the bioscience park at Farmingdale State College.

Old Westbury joins Start-Up NY programs at Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, LIU Post and Suffolk County Community College, with a total of about two dozen companies in residence. Hofstra University is also being considered for inclusion in the program.

The Start-Up program could prove to be a financial benefit for LiFT, which has struggled to find tenants for the facility. The organization laid off half of its staff last week.
SUNY Old Westbury Receives Approval For Tax-Free Zone

By JD ALLEN  •  MAR 24, 2016

Gov. Cuomo discusses the Start-Up NY program in 2013.
CREDIT OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

Colleges on Long Island are not just centers of learning; many are taking advantage of statewide programs, such as Start-Up NY, to bolster the economy in their area.

SUNY Old Westbury is the latest school to receive approval to open a Start-Up NY tax-free zone to attract companies to open or expand on Long Island.

As part of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s economic policy, Start-Up NY offers a 10-year tax-free grace period to certain businesses to create jobs and promote innovative work on or near eligible public college or university campuses.

SUNY Old Westbury follows Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, LIU Post, Suffolk Community College and Republic Airport, who have all taken advantage of similar programs.
Jump START At Local College

By Westbury Times Staff  March 29, 2016

SUNY Old Westbury Approved For START-UP NY Program

Empire State Development, the state's economic development agency, and the State University of New York have approved SUNY Old Westbury's plan to take part in START-UP NY, an economic development initiative developed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to establish tax-free areas for start-ups, high technology, and existing businesses looking to expand and help attract new businesses to the State of New York through partnerships with college and university campuses. These partnerships build on the academic strengths and priorities of each campus.

"We are excited to be part of this initiative and we look forward to attracting new business and industry to Long Island, creating new jobs, and offering our students intimate opportunities to learn and grow," said College President Calvin O. Butts, III.

Old Westbury's campus plan seeks partnerships with businesses that align with the college's mission and that will enrich academic programs. The plan calls for opportunities for faculty and student involvement through enhanced research opportunities and internships, and the likelihood of hiring appropriately educated and qualified Old Westbury graduates. Those companies approved to participate in the Old Westbury START-UP will have the ability to locate nearby, at the Morrelly Homeland Security Center in Bethpage, New York, and take advantage of the opportunity to operate tax-free, spurring regional economic development through job creation and expansion.

"Whether we find a cutting edge software developer, a brilliant biotechnology concern, or an environmental remediation firm with innovative new ideas, our goals will include ensuring these companies are interested in not only their own success, but in creating successful solutions to challenges that face our Long Island and metropolitan New York community," said Butts.

SUNY Old Westbury is the latest institution in the state to receive campus plan approval from the SUNY and ESD and becomes the sixth START-UP zone on Long Island. For more information about the SUNY Old Westbury START-UP NY program, visit www.oldwestbury.edu/start-up-ny.
NORTHWEST HEALTH'S MICHAEL J. DOWLING TO ADDRESS GRADUATES AT SUNY OLD WESTBURY ON MAY 22

(Long Island, NY) Calvin O. Butts, III, president of the State University of New York at Old Westbury, has announced that Michael J. Dowling, president and chief executive officer of Northwell Health, will address the Class of 2016 during the two ceremonies that comprise the College’s 50th Commencement, to be held on May 22, 2016.

“I am pleased and excited to have as our speaker the leader of a team of 54,000 employees who are focused each day on securing the health and well-being of those who live and work in our community and communities across our state,” said Dr. Butts. “Mr. Dowling is a national leader on critical issues in the health care and human service arena and is widely recognized for his professionalism and commitment to serving others. I look forward to hearing the advice and insight he will provide to the Class of 2016.”

Approximately 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students are expected to participate in the commencement ceremonies. Graduates of programs in the School of Arts and Sciences will process at 9 a.m., while graduates of the School of Business and School of Education will process at 3 p.m. Both programs will take place on the College’s Panther Park Athletic Field.

As the leader of the largest integrated healthcare system in New York State, Mr. Dowling guides Northwell as it seeks to deliver world-class clinical care throughout the New York metropolitan area; pioneering research at The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research; a visionary approach to medical education; and healthcare coverage to individuals, families and businesses through the CareConnect Insurance Co., Inc.

Prior to becoming president and CEO in 2002, Mr. Dowling was the health system’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. Before joining Northwell Health in 1995, he was a senior vice president at Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Mr. Dowling also served in New York State government for 12 years, including seven years as state director of Health, Education and Human Services and deputy secretary to the governor. He was also commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Services. Before his public service career, Mr. Dowling was a professor of social policy and assistant dean at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, and director of the Fordham campus in Westchester County.

Mr. Dowling has been honored with many awards over the years. They include the 2012 E’nai Blith National Healthcare Award, the 2011 Gail L. Warden Leadership Excellence Award from the National Center for Healthcare Leadership, the National Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Public Service Award from the State University of New York’s Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, and an Outstanding Public Service Award from both the Mental Health Association of New York State and the Mental Health Association of Nassau County.

Mr. Dowling is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, serves as a board member of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and as a board member and Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. He is also past chairman and current board member of the National Center for Healthcare Leadership, the Greater New York Hospital Association, the Healthcare Association of New York State and the League of Voluntary Hospitals of New York.

SUNY 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, liberal studies and mental health counseling. On the College’s 804-acre campus, students are challenged to take ownership of their futures through 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. For more information on SUNY Old Westbury, visit www.oldwestbury.edu.
College Credit For Life Experience and Military Service

Knowledge and experience from working, raising a family, volunteering in your community or serving in the military can be turned into credit – saving you time and money on the way to a college degree.

The NYU School of Professional Studies, for instance, awards a maximum of 64 credits – including transfer and life experience credits – to students who can document their prior knowledge in a particular area of study.

“We honor the knowledge that students acquire throughout their lives and their work, in the military, volunteering and studying independently,” says Teresa Gargiulo, director of student affairs for the New York University School of Professional Studies Undergraduate Degree Completion Programs.

Students in the NYU program can take a two-credit seminar to develop portfolios, which are documents that demonstrate that certain life experiences are equivalent to college-level study. These experiences can potentially be converted into credits and applied towards your course of study. There is no charge for credits earned this way.

Credit can also be awarded by taking college-level or proficiency exams, and for demonstrating proficiency in a foreign language. NYU tests for proficiency in listening, reading and writing for more than 50 languages.

Credit for Military Service

Life experience can also count for credit at The State University of New York at Old Westbury.

The state college “offers students the opportunity to be awarded credits for college-level learning they might have acquired from their life experiences,” says Michael Kinane, assistant to the president for advancement at SUNY Old Westbury. Kinane adds, “The key here is that the credit is not granted for just having experience, but rather for the college-level learning that is related to that experience.”

To apply for SUNY Old Westbury’s Accreditation Program for Experiential Learning, students need to be registered and have at least 31 credits on their transcript. A portfolio describing and documenting their life college-level learning is submitted for review to a faculty-led committee, which can grant students up to 32 credits.

A separate program awards eight credits for military service, to veterans with a minimum of two years of active duty.

Help for High School Drop-Outs

If you never finished high school but still want to earn a college degree, one option is to combine a General Equivalency Diploma with your associate’s degree.

Long Island Business Institute, with locations including Flushing and Commack, offers one such opportunity through its Ability to Benefit program. “Anyone who attended at least the 10th grade and is 18 or older can earn their GED and associate’s degree together,” says Keith Brotherson, director of admissions. The program lasts 16 months and awards an associate’s degree in occupational studies. Brotherson says the program is popular with “working adults who couldn’t continue with their studies, and new immigrants who want to achieve the American dream.”
LONG ISLAND

Minorities, women, vets event

SUNY Old Westbury will host the College Regional Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB) Conference on April 26. It will be held 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Jones Recital Hall in the Campus Center and will feature a keynote address by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Entrepreneurs and business owners will be able to take workshops, network with state officials and learn about procurement opportunities available at SUNY campuses across Long Island. Registration is $40; deadline to register is tomorrow. For more details visit oldwestbury.edu/MWBEconference or call 516-876-3394. — AISHA AL-MUSLIM

NATION

Valiant CEO to be deposed

The chief executive of embattled Valiant Pharmaceuticals has agreed to be deposed by a Senate committee investigating soaring prescription drug prices. The Canadian drugmaker reported Tuesday it received a notice of default from some bondholders because it hasn’t filed its 2015 financial report due in March. Valiant is reviewing company accounting and earlier reports misstating some revenue. It is one of several companies targeted in the Senate probe. CEO Michael Pearson didn’t comply with a congressional subpoena to attend a deposition. The Senate Special Committee on Aging then announced plans to start legal proceedings against Pearson, and Valiant’s board directed him to comply. Yesterday the committee said Pearson has reversed course and will be deposed on April 18.

Retail sales dip in March

U.S. retail sales fell last month as Americans cut back on their car purchases, the latest sign that consumers are reluctant to spend freely. A 2.1 percent plunge in auto sales — the steepest fall in more than a year — accounted for most of last month’s drop. But sales were also weak in clothing, restaurants, and at online and catalog stores. Overall retail sales fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.3 percent in March, the Commerce Department said yesterday, after a

Email-access bill advances

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bipartisan bill yesterday making it harder for government agencies to get their hands on Americans’ older emails and other electronic data. The measure would require federal agencies to obtain a warrant before they can force an email service provider, such as Google, to give them access to communications data, including videos, texts and documents, more than 180 days old. The measure updates the 30-year-old Electronic Communications Privacy Act, written when email use was rare. Under that law, old emails are considered abandoned and government access is allowed without a warrant. The bill has over 300 co-sponsors, and the panel approved it by 28-0.

Businesses trim inventories

Businesses reduced their stockpiles for a second straight month in February, while sales fell for a seventh month. Business inventories dropped 0.1 percent, matching the decline in January, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. Sales fell 0.4 percent in February after a 0.8 percent decline in January. Sales have been heading south since August. The weakness in inventory building has been holding back overall growth. It trimmed growth by 0.2 percentage point in the fourth quarter, and economists expect the slowdown in stockpiling to subtract an even larger 0.6 percentage point from first-quarter growth. The overall economy, as measured by GDP, grew by just 1.4 percent in the fourth quarter. Economists are forecasting growth to come in below 1 percent in the first quarter. U.S. manufacturers have seen exports fall as weakness in overseas markets cuts into sales. American factories have also been hit
The Disappearing Post Offices of the Rural South

By David Rosenberg

When she needs a break from photography or from teaching art at Lincoln Memorial University, Rachel Boillot hangs out with an older crowd.

“I spend Saturday nights with 95-year-old women,” she said.

Part of that has to do with another job Boillot has: She’s the assistant producer at a record label that represents old-time folk musicians. It’s also a photography project, “Silent Ballad,” about traditional musicians from the Tennessee Cumberland Mountains. She finds it refreshing to be a part of such an interesting circle of people.

“They have great stories to tell,” she said. “I’m learning so much and being shaped by tough people who grew up during the depression in Appalachia and they’ve let me into their homes and shared their most intimate stories with me. It has been a powerful experience.”

It’s fair to say Boillot is interested in traditions, regardless of their genre, and she has an affinity for history even as she watches it become outdated. During her four years of undergraduate study at Tufts University’s Museum School, Boillot said she spent countless hours training to be a darkroom printer; as she was working on her senior thesis, the printer was discontinued. When she headed to Duke University in 2012 to begin her MFA, Boillot, a film shooter, read an article about a number of post offices that were closing.

“I was kind of shocked,” she said. “I never thought about it growing up; they’re ubiquitous in our landscape and I never thought about them not existing.”

Boillot’s work will be shown at SUNY Old Westbury in Long Island from April 4 through May 5 and at the Half King Gallery in New York starting July 19.
Reprising Postminimalism in 4 New York Shows: Gego, Nasreen Mohamedi, Ruth Hardinger and Kara Rooney

Four New York shows during the 2015-16 season that reprise either the history or the practice of Postminimalist aesthetics. Top left: Gego’s Chorros installation from 1971 re-installed at Dominique Levy gallery in September-October. Top right: Drawings by Nasreen Mohamedi at the new Met Breuer that opened March 18, 2016. Bottom left: Kara Rooney’s hydrocal sculpture shown in November 2015 at Five Myles Gallery. Bottom right: Ruth Hardinger’s field installation, The Basement Rocks: LOUDER at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY Old Westbury. Photo: Robert Lowell. (See all four images in higher resolution below.)

In between these two historical shows, a small but impacting two-person exhibit by Ruth Hardinger and Kara Rooney was hosted by the Five Myles Gallery, situated in the vicinity of The Brooklyn Museum, and curated by The Brooklyn’s former chief curator, Charlotte Kotik. Kotik had assembled numerous shows by Postminimalists and Conceptualists since the late 1970s, when she then was a curator at the Albright-Knox in Buffalo. The Five Myles’ pithy show title, Trace Matter, could have complimented any showcases known for promoting Postminimalist and Conceptualist exhibitions in the 1970s. But it’s timing being concurrent with the first recent American exhibition of Gego’s sculpture at Dominique Levy was fortunate, as is the concurrency of Ruth Hardinger’s solo exhibition in March and April at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Old Westbury with the Nasreen Mohamedi show at the new Met Breuer for reprising postminimalist and conceptual issues not engaged with such enthusiastic zeal and theoretical acumen for decades.
Valley Streamer gets high SUNY honor

Jawad Chaudhry, of Valley Stream, a senior at SUNY Old Westbury, received the 2016 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence on April 6. He was one of 248 students from the system's 64 campuses to receive it.

“The 248 students we honor with this year's award have excelled academically, become role models on campus and established themselves as leaders in the community,” said Chancellor Nancy Zimpher.

Chaudhry is set to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration while following a pre-med track. He is president of the Old Westbury Honors College and is a research intern at North Shore University Hospital, where he is working on a research project with a cardiologist. He plans to work in a clinical research position after graduation.
Months after signing pledges to apply to college, Roosevelt High School’s senior class gathered Friday to share good news with their classmates at the school’s first annual college signing day.

“College can be for anyone,” senior Kaela King told her classmates after announcing she would attend SUNY Old Westbury. “You don’t have to work for minimum wage.”

Graduating students came up to the microphone in the auditorium one by one and announced their school of choice and intended major as 11th and 12th grade students cheered. Each student who participated signed a class banner and received a certificate.

The event was part of Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative, which seeks to inspire students to continue their education after graduating high school.

Not all students had made a decision yet, but about 100 announced plans to attend a variety of colleges, including the University of Albany, New York Institute of Technology, Penn State and Howard University.

Interim Superintendent Marnie Hazelton said that while she was happy to see the seniors moving on, Roosevelt would always welcome them back with open arms.

“We are proud of you and we support you. We know you are going to go onto great things,” she told the students. “And we are here with you until the end.”
Women have been trying to win the presidency for 144 years

Historians tell us why we never had a female comedian, stockbroker, lawyer, senator, or congresswoman in the White House

by Jaime Fuller  4/14/2016

It’s been 144 years since the first woman ran for president in the U.S. — which, if you’re doing the math in your head right now, was a while before women gained the right to vote in 1920. Since then, many more have run, and every single campaign reached the same fate.

Victoria Woodhull was the first, in 1872. Belva Ann Lockwood became the second person to run, in 1884. Two decades after the 19th Amendment was ratified, America got its first female joke presidential candidate, when Gracie Allen, of the comedy duo Burns and Allen, decided to run. In 1964, Maine senator Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. In 1972, already an election year crammed with historical highlights, Representative Shirley Chisholm became the first woman and African-American to run for the Democratic nomination.

We talked to Amanda Frisken, an associate professor at SUNY Old Westbury and author of Victoria Woodhull’s Sexual Revolution; Jill Norgren, author of Belva Lockwood: The Woman Who Would Be President; broadcast radio historian Elizabeth McLeod; Margaret Chase Smith Library director Dr. David Richards; and Shola Lynch, who made the film Chisholm ’72: Unbought & Unbossed, about these campaigns at this moment, when no woman has ever been so close to a presidential nomination. Discussing these races, it’s easy to remember why some moments in history never feel too far away — because, in many cases, we’re still grappling with their echoes.

How do you decide to run for president when no one has done it before?

Amanda Frisken on Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run

Woodhull nominated herself by letter to the New York Herald, with the backing of some friends and people she worked with. She was known at the time as the first woman, with her sister, to open a brokerage firm. She was only 34, and so in fact ineligible to run. It was clear that many people just assumed she was a crackpot. Also, there were plenty of people who thought women working on Wall Street was unsavory. So she already had a very public reputation.

How did the media treat them?

Frisken, on Woodhull

The most famous cartoon was the one where Woodhull was depicted as Mrs. Satan. If you google it, you see that she had big black wings with spikes on them, and horns on her head. There was a woman behind her, carrying a drunken husband and all their belongings, and she said, “I’d rather travel the hardest path of matrimony than follow your footsteps.” That’s because Woodhull was an advocate of social freedom, or as it was called by its critics, free love. She criticized marriage, she was as advocate of divorce — in those days, women couldn’t get a divorce in New York unless they had been abandoned.

What were their campaigns like?

Frisken, on Woodhull

She liked to lead by example. I don’t think you can call it a campaign. Running for president was one of the many things she was doing. She was the head of a section of First International, which was a labor movement, she was still running her brokerage firm, and for a time, she had a very successful radical newspaper. She wasn’t doing things that we think of as campaigning. She was more interested in taking a dramatic stand to show what women could do. I don’t think she thought in a million years she could be president.

And how did their campaigns end?

Frisken, on Woodhull

This is one of the dramatic things Woodhull did. It’s very complicated. She found out a piece of information about one of the nation’s most famous Protestant ministers. He was the head of the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn. Henry Ward Beecher was a household name. In a lecture before the Spiritualists, she accused him of committing adultery. A couple months later she published that story in print. And that got her in trouble. Not for libel. A man named Anthony Comstock, you may have heard of him as the man who banned any conversation about women’s reproductive systems, anything that described what women’s bodies were like inside, for about 40 years, he had her arrested for obscenity. On Election Day in 1872, she was imprisoned.

What was the legacy of their campaigns?

Frisken, on Woodhull

She did not talk very much about her presidential campaign afterward. She became an icon of free speech. Her lecture tour in the mid-1870s was all about saying there was a conspiracy afoot to keep them from talking about powerful men. She must have talked in 400 little towns over four years about inequality, free love, marriage, and about Beecher, but not about her presidential campaign. She was the first woman who ever appeared before the House Judiciary Committee. In January 1871, she presented a theory of suffrage for women, the “New Departure” theory, which involved the 14th Amendment.

These interviews have been condensed and edited.

UPDATE (4/16/16, 12:15 p.m. ET): This post has been edited since publication to clarify the story of Victoria Woodhull.

CORRECTION (4/17/16 9:15 p.m. ET): Victoria Woodhull spoke before the House Judiciary Committee in 1871. An earlier version of this item misstated this date.
International News

Aid Agencies Find Different Ways to Help Staff Cope With Disaster Stress

Who cares for the caregivers?

That’s the question organizations that provide medical or mental health care for survivors of war and disaster around the world have been working to answer in recent years.

The doctors, nurses, and logistics personnel who care for victims of epidemics, natural disasters, and armed conflicts accumulate their own stresses, too, yet the organizations that employ them manage those stresses in different ways.

“Workers in these organizations are dealing with refugees, terror victims, or disaster relief somewhere in the world every day,” said John Ehrenreich, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at SUNY Old Westbury, N.Y., and an international associate with Antares, an Amsterdam-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) that focuses on the care of staff working for humanitarian organizations.

“These positions are extremely stressful,” said Ehrenreich in an interview. “People are working hard, and there are high rates of depression, posttraumatic syndromes, and burnout that can lead to a loss of skilled people.”

International organizations need to provide for two sets of health workers. One group includes staff members from the country where the disaster has occurred—“nationals” in the jargon of the field. The other group is the “internationals” or “expats,” professionals from Europe, the United States, or other developed countries who arrive on the scene to help for weeks or months.

“There’s a tendency for many international NGOs to develop programs for international staff while nationals get neglected,” said Ehrenreich. “Yet the majority of staff in disasters are local people.”
Evening of poetry with Louise V. Gray This noted poet and graduate of the State University of New York at Old Westbury and Columbia University reads to an audience of all ages. 6 p.m. Capitol View Library, 5001 Central Ave. SE. capitolviewlibrary@dc.gov. 202-645-0755. Free.
Rahman Syed was waiting for his daughter by the sign for Jamaica Estates, the Queens neighborhood where Donald Trump grew up, so the two could vote together in New York’s primary on Tuesday.

He would not be choosing Trump. “I’m going to go for Hillary,” said Syed, 61. “My senator.”

A registered Democrat, he still had questions about New York’s former senator, Hillary Clinton, especially her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state. And Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont stood for bettering the lives of the working class, which Syed considered himself. But he was not sure Sanders would be able to work with others to accomplish his goals.

“She has the most experience,” said Syed, a taxi driver who also owns one of New York City’s taxi medallions.

Ted Cruz Says Young Heckler Deserves a Spanking

His daughter, a business student at Baruch College and a first-time voter, had tried to convince him to vote for Sanders even as he was hoping to change her mind — a generational gap that has been obvious throughout the primary season.

“We talk a lot,” he said.

Trump and Clinton cruised to victory in New York, where for the first time in decades both the Republican and Democratic primaries were competitive. In the days leading up to the vote, the candidates had been emphasizing their ties to New York: Trump his real estate empire, started by his father and now encompassing Trump Tower, where he lives in Manhattan; Clinton her time as senator; Sanders his childhood home in Brooklyn’s Midwood section.

Trump’s boyhood neighborhood along Midland Parkway, a once mostly white area with large brick houses, is now surrounded by a more diverse community scornful of his talk of expelling immigrants, building a wall on the border with Mexico and keeping Muslims out.

Syed said he thought Trump, whom he called a good businessman, was trying to rally the masses with his most extreme positions, which legally he would be unable to carry out.

“I’m not that worried about him,” Syed said.

David Barrios, a 20-year-old student at New York City of Technology, said he disliked the way Trump targeted particular ethnic groups.

“The way he talks he sounds very ignorant,” Barrios said.

And he and Karmini Nakoo, 24 and a student at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, liked Sanders’ position on making tuition affordable.

“Bernie Sanders is looking out for the people,” Nakoo said.

But whether they would vote on Tuesday was unclear. Barrios was not sure he was registered in a party, which would make him ineligible in New York’s closed primaries. The large number of young people without a party affiliation was expected to be a particular problem for Sanders’ campaign, leaving aside the large number of voting problems reported around the city.
SUNY Old Westbury baseball shortstop Tommy Ziegen of Glen Cove and classmate, junior right-hander Daniel Aguilo, earned Skyline Conference Weekly Honor Roll and Pitcher of the Week laurels, respectively, released by league officials in last week’s report for games played March 21-27.

Ziegen batted .500 (6-for-12) with four RBI, three runs scored and eight stolen bases in a 2-1 week for the Panthers. He opened the week with three stolen bases versus Baruch (March 22), then tallied his fourth three-hit game of the season in game one versus St. Joseph’s, going 3-for-5 with two runs scored, one RBI and two stolen bases. Playing in his 100th career game, Ziegen had his hand in all four runs to lead the Panthers to the conference opening sweep of St. Joseph’s by scoring the game-winning run in the first inning and used a two-run single in the second inning to collect his 100th career hit. Ziegen finished game two 2-for-4 with three RBI, one run scored and three stolen bases to register his 10th multi-hit game of the season.

On the season, Ziegen is batting a career-best .390 (30-for-77) to lead the conference in hits (30), runs scored (21), triples (5), total bases (53) and stolen bases (16) while ranking second in RBI (22) and doubles (7).

Aguilo, of Elmont, won his fourth-straight start Saturday, March 26, to secure Old Westbury’s Skyline sweep of St. Joseph’s in game two’s 4-0 win. Aguilo scattered four hits while walking one and striking out three to earn the complete game shutout. He set a season high with seven innings of work as Old Westbury posted its fourth shutout of the season.

On the season, Aguilo is 4-1 on the mound with a 2.86 ERA. He has 34 strikeouts to nine walks in 28.1 innings while holding the opposition to a team-leading .188 batting average. He ranks among the conference leaders in wins (1st) strikeouts (2nd), innings pitched (T-2nd) and opponent batting average (5th).