



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2019

Prepared by
The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY Old Westbury

Long Island Business NEWS

SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2019 | OUR 66TH YEAR | NO. 37 | \$2.00 | LIBN.COM

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

CALVIN BUTTS REFLECTS ON ROLE AT SUNY OLD WESTBURY



» 21

LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS | September 20-26, 2019 | LIBN.COM | 21

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Higher calling

The Rev. Calvin Butts III is stepping down as president of SUNY Old Westbury

After 20 years as president of SUNY Old Westbury, the Rev. Calvin D. Butts, III, is retiring from the position. Under his reign, the school grew from a reported enrollment of 2,995 in 2000 to, according to the university, a current total enrollment of 5,128. Recently Butts spoke with LIBN about his ties to Long Island's business community and his friendship with former President Bill Clinton. He spoke about balancing his role as a college president, while also serving as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church (Adem Clayton Powell, Sr., and later, his son Adem Clayton Powell, Jr., served as pastor in Harlem). Butts is also a founder of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, of which he is chairman. The civil rights leader chatted too about what retirement means for him, which includes teaching on campus as a professor in the near future.

Do your retirement plans include writing a book? That's how I came here. People said, "With your experience, when are you going to write a book?" I thought "When would I find the time?" I petitioned SUNY and asked them if they had a spot for a visiting professor. They answered me and said yes. Yeah, "When I can teach some courses, and my lecture could begin a book." I had done some teaching, they asked me where. It came from a big system... They knew I was an activist, and led demonstrations. They said, "You're going to Old Westbury, how would you like to be president?" And I said yes, through the grace of God... Now, maybe I can work on those lectures. I've got to start soon.

This is your last semester. How does it feel? It feels good and sad. Good because we've accomplished a great deal in 20 years. [We've got the college] to a place where it is on par with the best schools in the SUNY system. We've taken away the notion that it's just a school for black people... We provide access and affordability to all people who would not otherwise be able to afford a college education. It's open to all citizens.

Tell us about the school's early years. The school was founded at a time when people were fiercely passionate about social justice. They were demonstrating against the Vietnam War, at a time when the Civil Rights Movement was at its peak, with Dr. King and others. Hubert and Robert Kennedy and even his brother John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the president. It was a time when people were advocating for the locked out and the marginalized. This is still true in our mission... So we are a college for all of the people.

What does the photo in your office of you and Bill Clinton mean to you? William Jefferson Clinton, I consider to be a friend. When he was running for president, he was supposed to make an appearance through Abyssinian. I was ambivalent. I look back, he was coming politically, and we didn't quite see eye to eye. Bill - he's a smooth guy... He's sensitive to the issue of race in America, that he's a political animal. I was a big supporter of Jesse Jackson at the time... I wanted Jesse to be vice president - that's when I approached Ron Perot. It was a political disagreement. I tore into him something awful. It beat him up so bad I thought we'd never have another conversation. Then I got an invitation, the president is having a breakfast and would like to have you. I thought, "I'm going to go, and he'll be sorry he looked me." I got to the White House... He walked through the door and he saw me... and said, "Calvin, I wanted like better. This good. It's the best I've seen."

Tell us about your friendship. I didn't get much support when I first got here... I tried to get Hill or Hillary to come out. HE had just come out from under his heart surgery. I called him, I said, "Bill, can you help a brother out?" He said, "What do you need?"... He was a little great, moving slow, but he came in the Oval Office. It was packed. We raised a quarter of a million dollars. He didn't change in a dime, and paid for his own transportation. It was amazing, in terms of his celebrity... that started on one way. Whoever they say about Hill... when I needed him, he was there and that's what counts.

What's changed at the college? We have built new dormitories, new police headquarters, a new academic complex, an upgrade to the size of the set for all of our technology, introduced graduate courses, a student union that didn't exist when I arrived. We've had the highest enrollment in the history of



Photo by Judy Walker

See BUTTS STEPPING DOWN, Page 25

LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS | Sept

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Butts stepping down from SUNY role

Continued From Page 21

the college for the last three years. **How was this accomplished?** I played a role, but I attribute it to getting the word out, our team working hard in recruitment, the addition of graduate courses, an effort to really put the students first. Some of it I attribute to my notoriety... I already had a presence before I arrived, and I think with the longevity, staying at it, there's a better sense of ownership on Long Island and certainly Brookville and Old Westbury. Now they don't view us as a hostile presence. People wanted us out of here. They wanted it to be a park. They didn't want too many black and brown people. But since my arrival... they've embraced us. We've kept 850 acres of the land forever wild - there's no fear of any exploiting of land by SUNY or private sources.

What about the relationship with local leaders? We've had the opportunity to talk to business leaders in the area via the Long Island Association, and I compliment the association under the leadership of Kevin Law. I've been on great speaking tours with all the Nassau (County) executives from Sweet's... to Mangano to Curran, and Curran has been particularly warm and embracing, knowing what we need and how we can work together.

So you worked with both sides of the aisle? On Long Island, you've got to. There's so much more we can do here. Keep improving on your law improvement. You don't have to be sick to get better.

But why retire now? Many retiring along with me are a little older... We do realize that while you still have vitality and make contributions, there are places and times when people who are younger with greater vitality and sharper skills need to assume the leadership.

Is there a successor yet? His successor yet. I hope it will be someone who will have appreciation for [the college's] mission, its history and its students. I'm at the point now in the last few years where I can really get to know the students. Even if I'm on campus, there are criticisms that I was never here. But I was here in the sense of meeting with the

community, going to high schools, meeting with political leaders and [giving where] I can give an address.

That's how you developed ties to the business community? ACIT [Advancement for Commerce Industry and Technology] was one of the speaking engagements. And then Middle Market Alliance of Long Island, where I was a keynote speaker. The mayor of Patchogue was here to talk about the advances they made in Patchogue. [I've worked with] Vision Long Island and with PG Richards, where business people are learning all about Long Island. It's a wonderful place. It's bullish about open space and great restaurants and shopping opportunities...

Any regrets? One thing I couldn't conquer in the housing crisis. So I'm sad. I want to continue in a way, but I know the vitality and energy to keep this up is waning largely because in the last 20 years, I've been doing three jobs.

How did you manage serving as president at SUNY Old Westbury with your roles Abyssinian Baptist Church and the Abyssinian Development Corporation? I see this as a calling. It's not just a job. [People said] that this would be a "lethal to his political life," that I was using it as a stepping stone. That's not true. I felt a calling... Without a trained mind and an inspired heart you go nowhere. That's my mantra. [I asked] the predecessor at the church [who'd served as a president at two colleges, and as a director of the Peace Corps], a man named Samuel Lewis Proctor... "What does it take to make a good president?" He said, "One word: love. Set the right tone"... We set a tone to speak to each other. Set good meaning. There's diversity in the SUNY system - take advantage of that... Look at the person next to you. They're black and you're white. You talk long enough, you might find out you're related.

Will you be helping your successor? I'll be in the metropolitan area. If someone wants to call and ask me, I'll be available. I'll be a cheerleader for this institution. But I will not get in their way.

- ADINA GEM

The Positive Community

September 2019

thepositivecommunity.com \$2.95

EDUCATION FOCUS

20

EXCLUSIVE:
MEET NEWARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT
ROGER LEÓN

**GUEST
EDITORIAL:**
NYC PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
CHANCELLOR
RICHARD
CARRANZA

**JOURNALIST
T. THOMAS
FORTUNE:**
HIS LEGACY

REFLECTIONS:
Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

**POSITIVE MUSIC
MATTERS!**

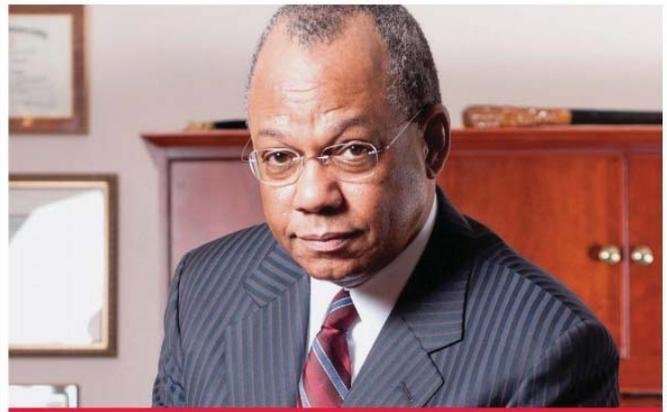


PHOTO: BOB GORE

CALVIN BUTTS

By R.L. Witter

Some people will tell you they were put on this earth to do one thing, and do it well. Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III strives to do all things well, and it shows. It's not surprising once you get to know him a little bit, "I was concerned about getting good grades and pleasing my parents," he reminisced of his adolescent self. "I had wonderful, hardworking parents and together they poured a lot into their only child." Seemingly, the essence they poured into young Calvin not only nourished and nurtured him, but filled and fueled him to affect change and impact thousands of life through his.

In addition to his parents, education and religion played important parts in molding Butts. Both encouraged his curiosity and sense of justice, which would later serve him well as a minister and an educator. As pastor of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, Butts shepherds his

flock from a thorough knowledge of scripture. As president at SUNY at Old Westbury, he advocates for his students, faculty, and community. A humble yet confident man, he encourages congregants and students to ask questions and challenge theories. He welcomes their curiosity. "Ignorance is the biggest impediment to the improvement of our soci-

As pastor of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, Butts shepherds his flock from a thorough knowledge of scripture. As president at SUNY at Old Westbury, he advocates for his students, faculty, and community.

cont'd on next page

www.thepositivecommunity.com

September 2019 The Positive Community 27

CALVIN BUTTS

cont'd from previous page

ety," he says. "So I am encouraging, pressing every day that people strive to get a good education—that's why we work so hard to provide access and accountability."

There's no doubt he works hard. He's done so all of his life. Inspired at the age of 12 by a speech by Morehouse College Alum Rev. Dr. William E. Gardner, Butts set his sights on a Morehouse education and after attaining his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy there, went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry in Church and Public Policy from Drew University. His experience as an Urban Affairs instructor, professor of African American Studies at City College, and teaching Black Church History at Fordham University in addition to his ministerial acumen made him a logical choice to helm Old Westbury back in 1999; or perhaps that was divine intervention. His personal mantra states: "Education and faith are the Tigris and the Euphrates of our liberation; twin rivers at the source of our redemption. Without a trained mind and an inspired heart, you will go nowhere."

Twenty years later as he prepares to retire, Butts reflects fondly on his time and accomplishments at Old Westbury. "Our diversity has brought more opportunity to young men and women," he said fondly. "Now we have a legacy... in some families three generations have attended our school." That's no small feat considering Old Westbury was once one of New

York's best kept secrets. "We were sequestered; people didn't know we were here. But as a result of the cabinet I serve with and the activities I was involved in before I got here, we are now better known across Long Island, the state of New York, and the country... we have a much broader reach."

Butts combined his leadership skills with the school's increased visibility to boost enrollment and diversity. He used those numbers to make a case for more and better facilities and followed through to make incredible improvements to the campus. "We've built a new academic building, new dormitories, a new student union building, and a new police headquarters," he explained. But wait, there's more. "We continue to build; and we're looking now at building a large, \$190 million STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) center for our students." Butts stressed the importance of access for these students especially. "Our students are smart enough to go to Harvard and those other schools, but they can't afford it. So we aim to provide these students with the best opportunities, the best faculty, and the best facilities." He takes education seriously and his passion is fed by the knowledge that education beyond high school is a pathway to better employment and better standards of living. "We need to come together as a poor people in this nation," he said, "and begin to DEMAND that our government provide for its equal opportunities in terms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

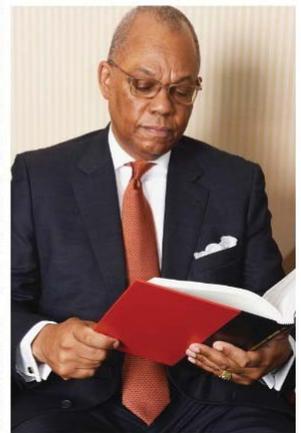
Perhaps one of the major benefits of Butts' leadership at Old Westbury is his religious calling in the church and how he is able to seamlessly combine the two without overstepping the boundaries between a secular education and spiritual guidance. A devout Christian, he encourages others to embrace their own religious beliefs and faith practices and acknowledges the similarities between most major faiths. "I know God through Christ," he explained. "But because a person says, 'I am Muslim and I know God through Allah and the revelation He gave the Prophet Muhammad and I am going to seek peace, love, and justice,' we're the same people... we believe fundamentally in the same thing." Butts supports his congregants' curiosity and thirst for information equally as much as he does his students'. His approach creates space for people to learn, explore, and grow.

Butts also possesses a certain amount of cultural currency among the student body. In addition to being known for his

ministry, teaching, and community building, many of Old Westbury's students know him through some of their favorite music. Butts has been name checked in songs by several major rappers including Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and Ice Cube. He also held his own in a debate with Ice-T regarding the content of hip hop music.

As he prepares to close his chapter as president at Old Westbury, Butts reflects upon what he considers one of his greatest accomplishments in his 20 years there. "Revising the spirit and mission of Old Westbury, to treat it like it's a pearl of great value and nourish it so it can speak to the needs of poor people." He recalled an interview upon his arrival at the school when someone commented, "the school is dead." Without missing a beat Butts replied, "Well you have somebody in the right business, resurrection." He leaves the position of president of Old Westbury with the largest enrollment and highest admissions standards in its history, making it more competitive than ever. But in the true fashion of a dedicated educator and activist he said, "I'll never stop working for Old Westbury, or the State University, or the City University; I'll be an advocate for public higher education."

While he is technically retiring, Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III will undoubtedly continue his work as an educator, a minister, a husband, father, and grandfather. He'll continue to touch lives, shepherd souls, improve communities, and spread both knowledge and love. "One of the driving forces in my life has been to make my parents proud and happy with the things I was doing," he explained. "At another point in my life it was elevated to pleasing God." While I can only speak as an earthly being, I think it's safe to say Butts has done exactly that. Well done, Sir; mission accomplished. ■



Dr. Butts greets a student.

28 The Positive Community September 2019

www.thepositivecommunity.com



SUNY—Old Westbury

www.thepositivecommunity.com

September 2019 The Positive Community 29

Twenty years later as he prepares to retire, Butts reflects fondly on his time and accomplishments at Old Westbury. "Our diversity has brought more opportunity to young men and women," he said fondly. "Now we have a legacy... in some families three generations have attended our school." That's no small feat considering Old Westbury was once one of New York's best kept secrets.

LONG ISLAND PRESS

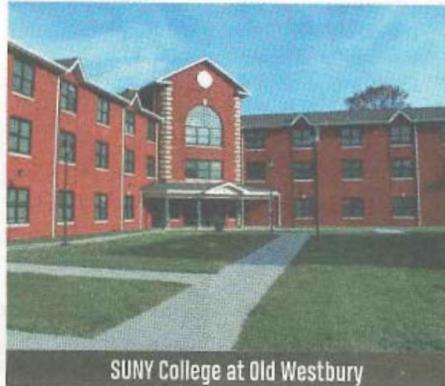
Daily online at LongIslandPress.com

Local college earns national award for commitment to diversity, inclusion

The State University of New York at Old Westbury has been named one of only 94 institutions of higher education across the nation to receive the 2019 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, marking the second year in a row the College has earned the distinctive, national honor.

"As it has been since our founding more than 50 years ago, SUNY Old Westbury's mission continues to include cultivating an inclusive campus environment that fosters diversity in culture, thought and deed," said College President Calvin O. Butts, III. "This recognition highlights the importance of that ever-present goal as we build on our daily efforts to foster a diverse and dynamic community that reflects the world we live in."

The HEED Award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. SUNY Old Westbury will be featured with the other



SUNY College at Old Westbury

award recipients in the magazine's November 2019 issue.

Among only eight universities in New York State to receive the award, SUNY Old Westbury was lauded for its innovative diversity programming, and educational support. Since receiving the 2018 award, Old Westbury opened the Interfaith Center in its Student Union. With the goal of addressing the spiritual and religious needs of the campus community, the Center was designed for diverse student populations.

Additional support programs to be highlighted by the magazine include the College's Leadership Development Certificate Program, its "Culture Cafes" and Lavender Graduation, and month-long dedicated programming such as Latinx Heritage Month, Native American History Month and Black History Month.





News, loose thoughts and opinion
from inside the new economy

Blow me down! The crazy nor'easter gales have abated, dear readers, and we've made it to the precipice of a windblown and well-earned weekend. Nicely done.

It's Friday, Oct. 18, and here's a barroom tale you can raise a glass to: Some say the "cocktail" was [invented on this date](#) in 1776 in Westchester, feathers included.

Persons of interest: For certain, the landmark [Canadian constitutional case](#) determining that women can sit on the Canadian Senate was decided on Oct. 18, 1929, making this Persons Day in the Great White North.

Tie one on: It's also National Tie Day.

BUT FIRST, THIS

Sophomoric strategy: A \$2 million federal grant will bolster both student services and faculty development at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, with a particular focus on second-year students.

The grant, from the U.S. Department of Education's Title III: Strengthening Institutions program, will fund peer tutoring and proactive advising efforts, as well as programs at SUNY Old Westbury's faculty-focused [Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) and student-support initiatives directed specifically at sophomores.

"The sophomore year is a challenging year in college," notes grant projects co-director Barbara Hillery, dean of SUNY Old Westbury's School of Arts and Sciences. "Our campus provides phenomenal support for first-year students, but they often come back the following fall and are left to find their own way. [This] will better position the college to show them the way."

Stop, in the name of the lung: And it was that same date – Oct. 18, 1971 – when the EPA, invoking the Clean Air Act of 1970, petitioned a federal judge for a temporary restraining order to shut down heavy industries in Alabama.

Granted [one month later](#), the TRO marked the agency's first-ever air pollution injunction.

As Goode as it gets: Musical icon Chuck Berry (born Charles Edward Andersen, 1926-2017) – whose guitar-infused transformation of classic rhythm and blues into toe-tapping rock 'n roll still resonates – would be 93 today.

Also born on Oct. 18 were American engineer Robert Livingston Stevens

SUNY Old Westbury launches Justice for Fraud Victims project

By: Adina Genn

September 20, 2019



SUNY Old Westbury is launching a Justice for Fraud Victims project through the college's business school, and Master's in forensic accounting program.

The project will work to assist victims of suspected financial fraud in cases where forensic investigative services are limited or too costly.

The Long Island Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is participating in the program's development.

It aims to leverage higher education, law enforcement, and forensic accountants to form an "effective fraud-fighting unit," providing students with the opportunity to develop practical forensic accounting skills.

"No matter whether you are a student of the liberal arts, business, natural and social sciences, or education, a value we work to instill in each of our students is that they must contribute to the development of a world that is just for all," Calvin Butts, III, the college's president said in a statement.

"The Justice for Fraud Victims Project is an effort that ties directly to that mission while also giving students the skill-building opportunities they need to succeed," he added.

Working with Old Westbury faculty and local mentors from the ACFE community, students will seek to determine if a financial fraud occurred, how it was perpetrated, and an estimate of the financial loss. Without this information, law enforcement cannot prosecute such cases. As a result, students will help both victims of financial fraud and area prosecutors who may prosecute the case.

"Having a fraud examination by a fraud or accounting professional often can be too expensive for many victims, especially small business owners, not-for-profit organizations, and the like," said Associate Professor of Accounting David Glodstein, the lead professor of the college's graduate forensic accounting program.

Glodstein, who is leading the new program, said, "We will be working with our community so that our students can become a force multiplier for victims while gaining valuable experience for themselves."

The college is now reaching out to form partnerships with law enforcement officials, prosecutors, local certified fraud examiners and forensic accountants to develop the network through which cases will be referred.

"We are excited to help bring the Justice for Fraud Victims Project to the public," said Dottie Morelli, president of the Long Island Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. "This is an important initiative that gives fraud victims a way to fight back and an avenue to receive some restitution of financial loss."

No. 435: Kicking Off, Sinking Vs. Swimming And Justice For All (Fraud Victims, That Is)

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

BUT FIRST, THIS

Justice league: The State University of New York at Old Westbury School of Business is gearing up to assist victims of suspected financial fraud who can't find (or afford) the right forensic investigative services.

Part of Old Westbury's innovative **Master's Degree in Forensic Accounting** program, the Justice for Fraud Victims project is being developed in conjunction with the Long Island Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Its primary mission: to assist victims (and, potentially, prosecutors) by molding higher-ed, law enforcement and forensic-accounting resources into an effective fraud-fighting unit that also gives SUNY accounting students hands-on experience.

"A value we work to instill in each of our students is that they must contribute to the development of a world that is just for all," noted SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin Butts III. "The Justice for Fraud Victims Project is an effort that ties directly to that mission, while also giving students the skill-building opportunities they need to succeed."



We'll look into it: Forensic leverage for fraud victims.

THE CPA JOURNAL

THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSION

NEWS & VIEWS | Education

Developing a Student Community of Learning

Expanding Knowledge Using the Technical Committee Model

By Keith E. Arnett, Hugh A. McNeill, Courtney L. Patterson, Nicholas Prabhakr, and Joel Lanz

It is no secret that the accounting profession is experiencing changes, among them a newfound need to understand and use data analytics. Recognizing this reality, five of the authors (two graduate students and two undergraduate students at State University of New York College at Old Westbury [SUNY Old Westbury]), searched for additional opportunities to strengthen their analytical skills. Some sought the knowledge to satisfy their curiosity, and others to enhance their marketability to potential employers. Whether undergraduate or graduate, most wanted to establish a strong foundation for a possible 40-year career that would require new and evolving skills.

Leveraging the concept of professional continuing education, the team selected the first course of the AICPA's data analyst certificate program to begin their journey. With support from the chair of the accounting department, the School

of Business graduate program director, the assistant dean, and the assistant to the dean for impact and instructional design, the authors received competitive scholarships sponsored by the provost and the dean of the School of Business. The students learned the importance of continuing professional education and began to realize the necessity of constant learning.

That was not enough, however; indeed, the students were overwhelmed by how much there was to learn. Using the NYSSCPA's technical committee structure as a model, they formed a community of interest to expand their knowledge. Each member of the community was assigned a business analytics topic to champion, as with society committees, part of this responsibility was to transfer knowledge of their subject to other members of the group. Although the community is in its infancy, other students are beginning to



6

SEPTEMBER 2019 / THE CPA JOURNAL

express interest in joining, and the group is in the process of formalizing its operation by leveraging the NYSSCPA's Committee Operations Manual.

Going Beyond the Classroom

Like other accounting programs, the SUNY Old Westbury program is in the process of enhancing business analytics coverage in its curriculum to reflect evolving professional and industry practices related to analytical thinking and processes. Students in two courses—one at the undergraduate level and another at the graduate level—became particularly interested in how business analytics was affecting their chosen future profession.

After class, the students would meet with the professor (the remaining author) to find out how they could learn more about business analytics. Although the lecture material covered the basics, they were concerned that it was not enough for their career objectives. One undergraduate started to research a new master's program in data analytics that SUNY Old Westbury had just begun to offer. The others were especially interested in how analytics impacted audit and forensic investigations.

An Opportune Conversation

Working various contacts, the professor, also the immediate past chair of the AICPA's Information Management and Technology Assurance Executive Committee and a former chair of the NYSSCPA's Technology Assurance Committee, reached out for guidance on how best to advise his students. One such conversation occurred with the senior manager of academic initiatives for public accounting at the AICPA. This person introduced the professor to the AICPA's emerging technology certificate badge programs and various student discounts and levels of participation meant to facilitate their

use in the academic community. Program availability includes blockchain, data analysis, cybersecurity, and robotics process automation.

As most business analytics tends to not focus on accounting and finance applications, the students were excited to take this approach. The professor presented the idea of awarding potential scholarships for the AICPA digital certificate program to the dean of the School of Business, a strong champion of business analytics. The dean enthusiastically supported the initiative and obtained appropriate approvals and financial support from the provost. The chair of the accounting, taxation, and business law department, the director of graduate business studies, the assistant dean, and the assistant to the dean for impact and instructional design pub-

lic topics, including the role of database applications used in industry and how relational databases and Structured Query Language (SQL) affect business operations. Other topics addressed included data storage tools and programs, document stores, and big data technologies. The last few modules provided students with a toolbox for conducting initial statistical analysis procedures, distinguishing between visualization tools, and understanding the impact of the data life cycle on organizations.

The Need to Learn More

Completing the program enabled the scholarship winners to enhance their network and begin to develop relationships with accounting professors, the dean, and other students, both at the

By learning from each other in a safe environment focused solely on learning, the students began to understand the opportunities provided through continuing professional education and Society committee service.

leverized the competitive scholarship opportunity, which resulted in four winners.

The students used the AICPA's data analysis fundamentals course to obtain an introduction to business analytics from an accountant's perspective. The course consisted of nine modules that the AICPA thought critical for the profession; the first two focused on data practices in the organization—that is, how data can benefit an organization and the roles and responsibilities of professionals in data analysis. The third module identified the barriers of data analysis, both culturally and cross-functionally, and identified the steps of the data-driven decision-making model. The course then introduced more tech-

undergraduate and graduate levels. By learning from each other in a safe environment focused solely on learning, the students began to understand the opportunities provided through continuing professional education and Society committee service, thus enhancing their ability to achieve their desired professional success.

The scholarships demonstrated to the students that the college believed in their desire to learn beyond the classroom. The awards also provided the opportunity to demonstrate their dedication to learning and hopefully impress and deliver added value to potential employers. Having received the benefits of the scholarships, the students also appreciated the responsibility

SEPTEMBER 2019 / THE CPA JOURNAL

7

Exhibit Applying the Committee Model	
The Advantages of committee service (per NYSSCPA website)	Applicability to the community of learning
Exchange ideas with the top people in your field or area of practice in a low-key setting	Although they might not be able to attract big people to the field of business analytics, the students felt that the community could provide a mechanism to communicate with alumni and pursue mutual projects of interest.
Get on edge on the latest developments important to you	By sharing research and lessons learned, the students believe that they can rapidly expand their knowledge and exposure to business analytics practices that normally they would not be able to access on their own.
Develop technical, management, and presentation skills	The students plan to simulate CPE presentations that will allow them to practice their presentation skills and their ability to think on their feet.
Network with experts and potential leads	The students realized that they had a lot to share and learn from each other and expanded their network by leveraging each other's resources.

of sharing their new knowledge with their peers. They knew that they could also affect other students' careers by somehow sharing and distributing the new knowledge that they obtained.

Modeling the Business Analytics Learning Community after NYSSCPA Technical Committees

The students laid the foundation for their learning community by establishing a vision that would emphasize obtaining and transferring knowledge without the pressure of grades. Because classmates might consider joining the community solely to enhance their resumes, the students tried to organize the community differently in appearance and functionality from traditional college clubs.

The professor (who would eventually become their faculty mentor) had previously chaired two technical committees at the NYSSCPA. Like many accounting professors, he shared with

his classes the vital role played by the technical committees and how NYSSCPA members came together to share experience, knowledge, and discussions relating to the challenges facing the profession. Through further discussions with the professor and a review of relevant information maintained on the NYSSCPA's website, the students analyzed whether their planned activities could leverage the Society committee model. After reviewing the website, the students discussed how being involved with committee service could benefit their cause, as shown in the Exhibit. Although not intended, the students also obtained an appreciation of the importance and benefits of professional society committee involvement.

Championing a Topic

Each student chose a topic to lead, leveraging the society's operations manual and adapting the following

practices to prepare future meetings of the learning community:

- Scheduling and conducting a series of organizational meetings throughout the semester so that the community can welcome new members when the fall semester begins
- Developing an action plan statement
- Designating a member to serve as a champion for subtopics/center of excellence activities
- Considering the development of a periodic newsletter to communicate activities and foster interest on campus
- Considering the needs of new members and how to develop a welcoming learning environment
- Keeping minutes for follow-up actions (this continues to be a challenge)
- Considering how the community can conduct miniature training events or boot camps to further student competency
- Assessing the practicalities of preparing an annual report so that the collective community can celebrate its accomplishments.

Future Plans

The students hope that their endeavor will continue after graduation, and donated their time during the summer to share the community's benefits and opportunities with their peers and friends. They started with a word of mouth and e-mail campaign to influence their friends and generate curiosity. Topic chairpersons are preparing topical presentation topics for other students to introduce them to the knowledge-sharing activities of the community.

The students decided to emphasize quality and focused their initial efforts on a few vital topics, including advanced Excel, Power BI, databases (including SQL and Access), and Tableau. As the community grows, the students hope to expand the available topics. As the landscape of business analytics changes, the students plan to

adapt accordingly. The community meetings will facilitate discussions about future programs and current events, detailing changes in the business environment to better prepare the students for the impact of the "data revolution" in their careers.

The accounting profession is continually changing; the birth and incorporation of technology are one of the most identifiable influences of that change. The learning community will address this concern with the integration of technology and how it can best prepare students for these changes.

Getting Involved

The learning community enables students to go beyond classroom learning and, like the professionals they will one day be, network and learn from their peers and mentors, whether professors or those currently in practice. It provides students with a stress-free opportunity to develop their careers, just as a professional committee enables practitioners to direct their efforts. It enables students to gain confidence in their ability to contribute to a team and develop many soft skills, such as communication and people skills. As with professional committees, students learn that more than one way to solve problems exists and have the opportunity to share their opinions and test-drive their ideas. Having the courage to explain a thought or belief is a crucial skill for all college students, especially future CPAs.

Practitioners—and of course, alumni—can get involved with a college-based community, connect with students, and nurture their development, hopefully resulting in the students becoming active members of the profession by eventually participating in professional association committees such as those offered by the NYSSCPA. One of the undergraduate students summarized it thus: "In my

short time in this program, I have already established connections with accounting professors, our dean, and other graduate students who I would not have met if not for this scholarship. This opportunity showcases students who want to excel and learn outside of the classroom while at the same time developing the skillset to be successful in business."

Keith E. Arnett, Hugh A. McNeill, Courtney L. Patterson, and Nicholas Prabhakr are students at SUNY College at Old Westbury, Old Westbury, N.Y.; Joel Lanz, CPA/CGMA/CITP/CFF, CISA, CISM, CISSP, CFE, is a visiting assistant professor at SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is a member of The CPA Journal Editorial Advisory Board.

OCT 23 2019

4 CPE CREDITS

SAVE \$50
Early Bird Expires 10/2/19

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CONFERENCE

Pick Up the Pace on Diversity and Inclusion

Make plans to attend the highly anticipated, 16th Annual Diversity and Inclusion Conference. Come hear from renowned speakers and experts in the field as they provide insight and strategies on hot-button topics including—

- How to Create a Workplace That Fosters Equality
- Getting a Seat at the Table
- How to Implement Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Managing Unconscious Bias

This half-day conference includes a networking cocktail reception. Space is limited, so register today to secure your spot!

To register, visit nysscpa.org/diversity19 or call 800-537-3635

8

SEPTEMBER 2019 / THE CPA JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2019 / THE CPA JOURNAL

9



INSIDE THE NEW ECONOMY

No. 437: Surviving The 13th, Walking The Path And Watching Your Cholesterol – Plus, The Opioid War Rages

SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

ON THE MOVE

+ SUNY Old Westbury has announced two new hires: **Jerrell Robinson** is now director of the Educational Opportunity Program; he previously worked at Long Island City-based LaGuardia Community College. **Nicole Sasu-Twum** is now sports information director; she previously held an assistant position in the school's Athletics Department, in addition to working at the Martin De Porres Group Home.

A Picture of Hope for Young Immigrants

By Christine Sampson

September 5, 2019

There's much more to Priscila Ortega than simply her status under a federal immigration program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, commonly known as DACA.

Ms. Ortega is an honors student at the State University at Old Westbury, set to graduate in December, a semester early. She's a leader in groups and activities on the campus, and was a member of the Old Westbury team that won a national college competition called Up to Us. She led an effort to expand library hours on campus, is an advocate for immigrant rights, and is a volunteer locally with Organizacion Latino-Americana of Eastern Long Island.

And through it all, she has worked a part-time job to help pay for college.

"I've always liked a tight schedule, so when I have free time I go out of my way to put myself where I need to be," she said. "It would be silly for me not to jump in, into new experiences. I enjoy it and feel my best when I'm doing all these extra-curriculars and helping everybody because it's my passion."

Ms. Ortega's hard work has earned her a prize awarded to just seven SUNY students across the entire state, the Act for Excellence and Student Initiative Scholarship. More than 600,000 students are enrolled in the 64 SUNY colleges and universities. The \$1,000 scholarship is helping her finish her studies at Old Westbury, she said.

In her scholarship essay, Ms. Ortega, a 2016 graduate of East Hampton High School, wrote that "the image of a leader was never with my face. It was never in my favor. It was never in my mind."

But she has become just that, having served as president of the student club Alianza Latina, for which she helped organize a two-day symposium on "Central America in Crisis." She also was a founder of the Undocumented Student Alliance, which assists students with DACA status as well as those who arrived after 2008 and are now not able to access the program because of changes at the federal level.

Calvin O. Butts III, the president of Old Westbury, wrote a letter of support to the SUNY trustees describing Ms. Ortega as "devoted . . . to civil discourse and the educational efforts that inform and provide the intellectual and humanitarian context for the crisis in Latin America."

"Priscila embodies the college's historic social justice mission to 'build a more just and sustainable world,' " Mr. Butts wrote. "Her leadership and scholarly activism on the campus has contributed to intercultural understanding within our campus community."

Ms. Ortega shies away from talking in depth about her own immigration status or her family's story because she — like many — is afraid doing so will have negative implications. But she does talk about some of her own experiences to shed light on a subject she says is frequently misunderstood by the immigrant community — a population that is often vilified by the media and elected officials. She wants to paint a picture of hope for people in similar circumstances.

"When people hear our stories, not just mine but also my peers', it gives kind of a light that you can one day accomplish similar, or more," she said. "We tell our story in the hope that it will alleviate some type of pain or fear. . . . It's hard for young people with that mentality to keep pushing."

Ms. Ortega, a politics, economics, and law major with a minor in public policy, is now studying for the law school entrance exam, the LSAT. She plans to take a year off from school to work on her law school applications and simply "be a 21-year-old," and hopes to find a job in the legal field in the interim.

She said she would continue to advocate for herself, her peers, and the immigrant community at large.

"It's a very uncomfortable situation. I don't choose to live in the shadows. DACA has been a blessing, but it's not enough," Ms. Ortega said. "I could have all the money in the world, but it's not enough if there is no legislation and options for us. I want people to realize that we're not here to steal anything — we're here to work hard, pay bills, pay taxes, and be as American as you can be."



Priscila Ortega, seen here at an Omicron Delta Kappa honor society induction ceremony, has received a prestigious scholarship from the State University of New York. SUNY Old Westbury



LONG ISLAND

2 from LI among scholarship winners

BY ELLEN YAN
ellen.yan@newsday.com

Two Long Island students who overcame hardships will get all their college expenses paid this year in the name of an attorney who rose from public housing to the halls of state government before being fatally shot during the Labor Day weekend four years ago.

Krystal Johnson of Freeport and Venjamin Rivera of Central Islip are among the five recipients chosen across the state to receive the Carey Gabay Scholarship, which will pay not just for room, board and tuition but also transportation, supplies and personal expenses to the State University of New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's office announced Monday.

The winners all come from "disadvantaged backgrounds" and exemplify Gaby's perse-

verance, hard work and public commitment, Cuomo said.

Johnson was 14 when she and her family left Guyana for New York City, and while they were getting used to life here, superstorm Sandy struck and damaged their home, officials said. During the years that their home was being renovated, the family bounced from one temporary housing situation to another, often living without heat, hot water and internet access, Cuomo's office said.

Still, Johnson maintained a "commitment to excellence" in her academic and extracurricular endeavors, according to the award announcement.

Johnson wants to devote her career to expanding access to high-quality medical care and will attend SUNY Buffalo.

Rivera often witnessed abuse as a child and he has been the caretaker of his younger sib-

lings, Cuomo's office said.

Then in 2017, he was diagnosed with leukemia and spent a year in the hospital, missing the entire junior year of high school, officials said.

But he made up for the lost time quickly — he finished two years of studies during his senior year and graduated, the scholarship announcement said.

Rivera received a full scholarship offer from an out-of-state school, but his medical condition requires him to stay in New York, officials said.

He hopes to help victims of abuse by becoming a lawyer and plans to attend SUNY Old Westbury, Cuomo's office said.

The other winners are Bethelihem H. Gebresilasie of the Bronx, Samia Montgomery of upstate Troy and Rifath Siddique of Queens.

Gabay grew up public housing and attended public school

in the Bronx, then graduated from Harvard University and Harvard Law School. In the years before he died, he served as Cuomo's assistant counsel and as first deputy counsel for the Empire State Development Corporation.

He was at the predawn festivities for the West Indian Day Parade on Sept. 7, 2015, when he was caught in the crossfire of a gang-related gun battle and shot in the head. He was 43.

This is fourth year of scholarship awards in his name.

SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson echoed Cuomo's congratulations to the five new recipients: "The recipients of this year's scholarships will carry out Carey Gabay's long-lasting and remarkable legacy through their commitment to their communities, desire to pursue a higher education and passion to make our state and the world a better place."

Troy student earns Carey Gabay Scholarship award

By Record staff Sep 9, 2019 Comments

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the five 2019 winners of the Carey Gabay Scholarship Program.

The scholarship program was created to honor the legacy of Carey Gabay, an attorney, and public servant, who was tragically killed as an innocent victim of gun violence in Sept. 2015 at 43. Each scholarship covers all costs of attendance, including tuition, room and board, college fees, books and supplies, and transportation and personal expenses.

“Carey Gabay dedicated his life to building better communities, and these inspiring young people exemplify his selflessness and commitment to service and social justice,” Cuomo stated. “I applaud this year’s scholarship recipients for all their accomplishments and look forward to seeing them continue Carey’s legacy and help create a better New York.”

Gabay grew up living in public housing and attending public school in the Bronx. After a successful high school career, he went on to graduate from Harvard University and then Harvard Law School. While at Harvard University, he was elected to become the president of the undergraduate student body.

During his recent career, he worked tirelessly in public service, first as an Assistant Counsel to Cuomo, and later as First Deputy Counsel for the Empire State Development Corporation. Gabay had a longstanding commitment to public service and giving back to those around him.

The five chosen students exemplify Gabay’s legacy of succeeding academically despite having an economically disadvantaged background, as well as his commitment to social justice, leadership, and mentoring. This is the fourth year of granting the scholarships.

“The recipients of this year’s scholarships will carry out Carey Gabay’s long-lasting and remarkable legacy through their commitment to their communities, desire to pursue a higher education, and passion to make our state and the world a better place. Congratulations to Bethelihem, Krystal, Samia, Venjamin, and Rifath, and I look forward to seeing the great things you all will accomplish as SUNY students and beyond,” SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson said.

The winners of this year’s scholarship are:

Samia Montgomery - Troy

In Samia’s short life, she has experienced homelessness and food insecurity as well as the death of a parent and another parent’s fight against a serious illness. She has overcome these tragedies to excel academically, graduating with a 95 average. She has dedicated her time to tutoring younger students in her community so that they too can excel beyond their situation.

Samia wants to attend law school and fight for those who have been mistreated by the criminal justice system, with a focus on the wrongfully convicted. Samia will attend SUNY Oswego.

Bethelihem H. Gebresilasie - Bronx

Bethelihem’s family moved often during her childhood, living at various times in Eritrea, Sudan, Uganda, and Arlington, Virginia before moving to New York. Her exposure to different countries and cultures, and particularly to various civil conflicts and unrest, has informed her worldview and fostered her commitment to working to combat injustice.

During high school, Bethelihem participated in the Sadie Nash Leadership Program and the Africana Understandings club. She also worked as an intern at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Bethelihem looks forward to exploring her interest in the arts while in college, and hopes to work towards a career that will allow her to give back to her community. Bethelihem will attend SUNY New Paltz.

Krystal Johnson - Freeport

When Krystal was fourteen years old, her family moved from her small hometown in Guyana to New York City. While acclimating to life in the United States, Krystal also had to deal with housing instability challenges due to ongoing renovations to repair damage from Hurricane Sandy.

Despite bouncing between temporary housing situations over the next few years while the rebuilding process was underway, and living at times without amenities such as heat, hot water, and internet access, Krystal maintained her commitment to excellence in both her academic and extra-curricular endeavors. Krystal has an interest in the medical field and hopes to one day devote her career to expanding access to high-quality medical care.

Krystal will attend the University at Buffalo.

Venjamin Rivera - Central Islip

Growing up, Venjamin often witnessed abuse, and he was called on to be the caretaker for his younger siblings. Then, in 2017, he was diagnosed with Leukemia. He was forced to spend a year in the hospital receiving treatment for cancer and missed his entire junior year of high school. He never let this situation prevent him from achieving his goals. He completed two years of coursework in his senior year of high school, graduated, and received a full scholarship offer from a school in another state.

However, his medical condition has required him to stay in New York State. Venjamin is committed to becoming a lawyer so that he is able to help victims of abuse. Venjamin will attend [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

Rifath Siddique - Queens

Rifath moved from the Middle East to Queens two years ago, where he lived in a small basement room with his entire family. He tutored other students five nights a week after school until 9 p.m. to help earn extra money for his family. He was a member of his school’s chapter of the National Honor Society, as well as the varsity Soccer and Volleyball teams.

He also participated in the Peer Pal network, a peer mentoring organization at his high school. Rifath has a passion for helping people and plans to go into medicine so that he can provide assistance to as many people as possible. Rifath will attend Stony Brook University.

MAKEX International Robot Competition New York Open ended success

By Jimmy Young, Neighbor
Oct 15, 2019 6:19 pm ET



The MakeX International Robot Competition is curated by Makeblock, a globally influential Chinese youth STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) teaching equipment development company. Since 2016, it has hosted hundreds of competitions in more than 20 countries around the world. More than 3,500 teams will participate in more than 5,000 competitions in more than 30 countries and regions in 2019. The MakeX International Robotics Competition New York Open Challenge on October 13th was hosted by YCIC Long Island Youth Programming Innovation Club, jointly organized by the [State University of New York at OLD WESTBURY](https://www.oldwestbury.edu/) and the UCDOA American Community Development Association. Co-organized by NAS Plus (<http://www.nepluscorp.com/>), iSchool music & art (<http://ischoolmusicart.com/>), LISMA Language Center (<https://www.lisma.edu>) provides partial funding and awards.

The MakeX International Robotics Competition in New York is also the first time in the United States for the MakeX International Robotics Competition. Nearly 40 pupils and junior high school students from 6 to 13 years old from Nassau County and Suffolk County, Long Island. Students participate in, in addition to Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Italian students participate; the final two teams are composed of Chinese students, who won the 2019 MakeX Robot Challenge on behalf of the United States in Guangzhou, China. Congratulations on the qualifications of the global finals.

The theme of MakeX season in 2019 is "Guardian Home". The game is divided into two parts: automatic control stage and manual control stage. Players need to use Makeblock's mBot robot to complete the specified task in four minutes, combined with sensors, metal parts, etc., and finally use programming. The way to complete the game solution, get the competition score; this challenge has a total of 19 teams, each team has two students and at least one coach.

David Peng, the founder of YCIC, said that when children are exposed to STEAM training and competition, they can develop their intellectual potential, improve their hands-on ability, enhance their creative thinking, and exercise their ability to cope with setbacks and teamwork to solve problems. The robot itself is a combination of computer software programming, electronic components and mechanical components. The robot race requires the team to cooperate to find problems and propose solutions to problems. It can not only cultivate artificial intelligence for the future world. The underlying capabilities of many technologies, such as the Internet of Things, can also explore and develop team communication and necessary leadership skills. We hope that through this activity, we will develop children's interests and abilities in these aspects and prepare them to become the leader in the future of the technology world.

YCIC co-founder Vanna Ye said that the first activity is mainly for primary school students and junior high school students. It requires a lot of collaboration and can increase the interaction between parents and children. It is a good parent-child activity. In addition, it also has a positive impact on our community, unites the unity of the community, and allows other communities to feel the spirit and strength of our community. We not only guide children to learn mathematics science, but we also actively promote compound education in science and technology, and promote cooperation to different ethnic groups, so that the whole society pays more attention to STEM education and promotes cooperation and harmony among various ethnic groups.

Michael Wong, president of UCODA, the exclusive sponsor of the event, said that as an electronic engineer, his advice to the younger generation is to always have a dream, strive to achieve innovation, and never give up even if it fails. Wang Dahai, one of the founders of the event partner UCODA, said that UCDDA was formally established in May this year. As a non-profit organization, UCODA hopes to meet the trend and promote the participation and learning of Chinese children in education, health, culture and sports. leadership.

Representative of the Nassau County Sheriff in New York, the executive director of the Asian Association for Cooperation, Farrah, attended the congratulations on behalf of the county governor and awarded the award to the contestants, SUNY's college volunteers. She said that technology represents the future, the government attaches great importance to education in science and technology, and hopes that everyone will participate in the major activities of the government such as the census. Farrah also recognizes YCIC's contribution to promoting STEM education and enhancing community participation in adolescents, as well as Professor Zhao Lan's contribution to promoting community development.

Ruo Lan, a professor of mathematics and computer science at the [State University of New York at Old Westbury](https://www.oldwestbury.edu), is the referee of the competition. The six college students are judges. Zhao Lan said that parents of Chinese-American students value book education, but their ability to work is weak. Therefore, it is hoped that through this competition, children will love science and cultivate their ability.

After a day of competition, the winners were awarded the "FruityFruit" consisting of Terrence Wang and Jeremy Wang, and the "Instinct Force" composed of Samuel Huang and Ariel Huang. The "Athletic Army 1" consisting of Vincent Lin and Wilbur Wei. "A & Y" consisting of Adrian Jin and Yarabella Yang; "Hills Warrior" composed of Kenneth Tong and Kaylee Kuhr, and "Garfield" composed of Jeffery Tao and Brandon Jiang won the third place.

The champion team "FruityFruit" team members are very excited to win the championship. Coach Andy Wang is also their father. Wang Andi said that he took two children about two months ago to start preparation, although the time is not long, but he worked hard. In particular, one week before the game, the time will be prepared for the game. He also said that the competition is completely different from the usual learning as a hobby. The competition will help them improve their level and cultivate their interest. "This time is to study. The two children are still only the basic level of programming. I believe them. Will continue to improve."

The mother of the third-year student Kenneth Tong, Don Jeanette, said that Kenneth has become more and more fond of programming after joining YCIC about two years ago. Currently, there are very few programming competitions for middle and primary school students. "This competition is very good for him. Exercise opportunities, including pre-preparation and competition, it is very common to encounter small problems in programming. It takes time and energy to solve, exercise your child's patience and problem-solving ability. In the noisy environment of the game, the child can concentrate. In my own task, it is a great improvement."

Martin Barrett, Sales Manager of MakeBlock USA, from Connecticut, specially came from Kangzhou to showcase a large number of MakeBlock products on site, attracting the attention of many parents and students. Many students are playing Liveblock, mRanger, Codey. Rocky and other products. The LISMA Language Center also prepared three gift vouchers for the event, giving the champion team a surprise.

Edward, the chairman of CCLI (Long Island Chinese Center), also attended the ceremony and presented the award for Jenny Lin, who won the Best Coach Award. Professor Zhao Lan also gave a brief introduction to SUNY Old Westbury, and as the representative of the co-organizer, Team Garfield was awarded the Best Team Spirit Award. MakeBlock on behalf of Marting for the team of the best cooperation awards FruityFruit issued a certificate, their tacit cooperation and the ability to operate the fire is a well-deserved choice. Edward presented the award to the winner of the Best Engineering Notes Award, and the engineering notes they made were the fighters in the notes.

Many parents who come here are very excited to inquire about the details of this competition. I hope that I will have the opportunity to participate in the future. There are also many Indian and Hispanic parents who want to introduce different communities and also agree to different communities. Do more promotion.

After four months of hard work, YCIC turned the MakeX Robotics New York Open from an idea into a reality, through promotion, team formation, workshops, ordering, coaching training, Q&A, referee training, stage production, decoration, venue Implementation, sponsor implementation, media promotion, insurance, transportation, catering, etc., the members of the MakeX New York Open Organizing Committee, David Peng, Vanna Ye, Ruo Lan, Janet Tong are all unique, efficient, and finally Guaranteed the success of the event.

We look forward to seeing you next year, and we believe that there will be more communities and different ethnic groups to participate together to promote the rapid development of MAKEX in the United States.

Gandhiji's principles act as a moral compass, says Modi

UNITED NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 22:36 IST

UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 22:36 IST

PM inaugurates Solar Park, Peace Garden at UN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with UN chief Antonio Guterres and other world leaders, inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park and Gandhi Peace Garden at the headquarters of the global body, underlining that his principles act as a moral compass as the world grapples with challenges of climate change, terrorism and corruption.

Mr. Modi was joined by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in remotely inaugurating the 50-kW Gandhi Solar Park and the Gandhi Peace Garden at the UN Headquarters on Tuesday.

The special commemorative event "Leadership matters: relevance of Gandhi in the contemporary world" was hosted by Mr. Modi to mark Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary. A special UN Postage stamp on Gandhiji's 150 birth anniversary was released.

The Gandhi Solar Park is a first of its kind symbolic Indian effort at the U.N. that highlights India's willingness to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action.

At a contribution of about \$1 million, India has gifted solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the U.N. Headquarters here, one panel each for every 193 U.N. member states.

The 'Gandhi Peace Garden' is an innovative initiative under which the Consulate-General of India in New York, Long Island-based NGO Shanti Fund and the [State University of New York-Old Westbury](#) have entered into an agreement to plant 150 trees.

It is a crowd-sourced project, with people adopting trees in the memory of their loved ones. The garden is in an open site within the 600-acre campus of the university.

The solar panels are powered up to reach the maximum 50 kW of generation power.

Energy generated in the park is equivalent to energy that would have been created through the use of 30,000 kg of coal. It also has a carbon sequestration of 1,000 seedlings which will grow into trees over 10 years.

Mr. Modi said the values promoted by Gandhiji served as a moral compass for enlightened leadership.

Addressing the event, Mr. Guterres said, "Gandhiji's vision and philosophy are pillars of the work of the United Nations. Part of his genius lay in his ability to see the inter-connectedness and the unity between all things. His political achievements included leading the movement that ended colonial rule in India."



How Music Is Leading Americans to the Polls



Briana Bonfiglio [Follow](#)
Oct 28 · 6 min read ★

HeadCount makes political participation cool again

“Music and volunteerism” was among Morgan Howard’s first Google searches when she moved to New York City in 2016. The lifelong singer, who grew up doing community service in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, hoped to find fulfilling volunteer work that married her two passions.

Plenty of results appeared, but one organization called to her: HeadCount. She scrolled through the organization’s bold-yet-sleek website, which is full of information about voter registration, activism, and volunteering at concerts.

“I didn’t know what I would find,” she said. “I never knew anything like this existed, I thought maybe I’d volunteer as a [concert] usher or something. But music is always my number one in life, I just can’t get by without it.”

Steering clear of party lines

When Howard learned that HeadCount is a non-partisan activist organization, “everything added up.” After just a month living in New York City, she was volunteering with HeadCount, approaching strangers at concerts, asking, “Are you registered to vote?”

At a Cage the Elephant gig in August, a HeadCount volunteer approached me and my partner with that same question. Enthusiastically, we both shouted, “Hell yeah!” and went on our way — but not before I caught a glimpse of the woman’s clipboard that bore HeadCount’s logo.

I’d seen people registering voters at concerts before, but I never gave much thought to the organizations that fuel them until that moment. Instantly, I was intrigued because I know music and culture can be integral to social change, and this seemed to be a big part of that.

A couple weeks later, I spoke with HeadCount founder Andy Bernstein. He told me a bit about HeadCount’s roots in live, jam band music and how volunteers feel strongly about remaining non-partisan to foster more excitement in the political process.

I asked the obvious question: How does HeadCount maintain its non-partisanship in such a biting political culture, especially since the 2016 presidential election?

“I get asked that all the time, and I don’t find it difficult because I understand how important it is,” Bernstein said. “So much partisan rhetoric is out there; the world doesn’t need more of it.

“For us, it’s whatever you believe, as long as you believe in something and engage in it.”

The excitement, then, doesn’t come from buzz words or a single issue to rally behind. It comes from the music.

Leading the movement with music

Since forming in 2004, HeadCount has registered more than 600,000 voters. In the beginning, bands such as Phish, Dave Matthews Band, and The Grateful Dead all got behind the effort. Now, the organization partners with musicians of all genres, from Ariana Grande and Rihanna to Paramore and Maggie Rogers.

“Musicians are natural leaders,” Bernstein said. “They are people who drive culture and can drive awareness. They have large social media followings, and their fans are a community. What we do is community organizing, but instead of geographic community, it’s individual fan bases.”

Bernstein noted that, when he started HeadCount, he brought on music groups like Dave Matthews Band that have close-knit fan bases. The fans communicate through online forums and Facebook groups. They meet up at shows. Ultimately, they form a community based on a shared love of the music. HeadCount’s goal was to bring them together around democracy, too.

Bernstein added that this is true especially for bands that tour and emphasize a strong connectedness at live shows. HeadCount registers the most voters at concerts that exhibit this unity. For example, in 2018, HeadCount registered 3,551 voters at the Vans Warped Tour, 1,015 at Panic! At the Disco shows, and 850 on Beyoncé and Jay-Z’s tour — all performances with super-passionate followings.

Researchers of social movements and thought leaders have confirmed the phenomena that musicians help drive social action. I was struck by a recent talk given by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, author of *What Truth Sounds Like*, at [SUNY Old Westbury](#). While he related this to civil rights and black identity in America, it can really relate to any type of movement, even one for exercising the basic right of democracy.

“Social and political responsibility was not [and is not] solely the problem of figures and activists,” he said. “Artists are extremely vital and necessary in communicating the message that the world will listen to.”

Democracy in action

Howard first applied to volunteer at the Roots Picnic in New York with HeadCount. She signed up via the HeadCount website and didn’t think they’d choose her, given there are many applicants. But after another volunteer dropped out, she got a last-minute call to jump in. That call changed her life — she soon became a team leader with the organization and found a dedicated, music-loving community in this new city.

As a team leader, Howard now chooses which events HeadCount will attend in the New York area. She brings on volunteers, makes sure there is a space for them at the venue, and attends as many shows as she can. Plus, when HeadCount travels to festivals, she often goes along. “I’m always jumping at the chance to do everything they need,” she says.

She shares that passion with more than 130 team leaders, who all volunteer their time, across the country. When leaders and teams approach concert-goers, they’re often rejected, but they keep speaking, keep asking, and it’s all worth it when people begin to take the bait.

Once they do get a person registered, they sign that person up for TurboVote. After all, completing a voter registration form is half the work. Now they have to get the people voting. TurboVote is a texting service that reminds voters about local elections and directs them to information about their polling place. (You can text VOTER to 40649 to sign up! It’s that easy.)

In addition, HeadCount has begun hosting activism villages at festivals called “Participation Row.” A bunch of non-profit organizations table at them and share information about their causes. “Beyond voting, there’s a bunch of things you can do to stay active,” Bernstein said. “It’s not just about voting but knowing what’s worth voting for. We give people the opportunity to engage with various organizations and various causes.”

Sometimes artists get involved by signing merchandise that’s auctioned off to raise money, either for HeadCount or another organization. Or, the artist will stand up on stage and encourage people to vote.

“I think there’s always been a level of awareness in the music scene,” Howard said. “It really comes from the artists deciding that they want to use their platform for something that matters to them and their audience.”

HeadCount isn’t the only group doing this type of work — there’s Rock the Vote, which started in 1990 and focuses on mobilizing young voters, and actually powers the voter registration form on HeadCount’s website. There’s websites like [vote.org](#) and [votolatino.org](#), all aimed at educating the public and increasing voter turnout in an unbiased way.

There are also individual efforts by artists. About a year ago, I attended a show by comedian Mike Birbiglia, and the whole line-up centered on getting college students to the polls. It was called “Stand Up and Vote.”

“Research three or four issues that you care about and find out where your local candidates stand on those issues,” he told students that night at Hofstra University. “Health care. National parks. Public schools. Whatever you care about. And pull the lever. That’s enough. I don’t know who you should vote for, but I know this:

“You’re voting for the country you want to live in. Not today or tomorrow or even in the next few months. You will vote for the country you will live in when you’re 40. When you’re my age. I’m writing to you from the future.”

Like live music, comedy shows have a unifying and clever way of getting folks behind participating in democracy. The process begins face-to-face, sharing a love of art and culture with others, and it continues successfully when that large group of individuals show up to the polls in masses, in their respective areas, to cast their ballots for what they believe in.

Revising The Endangered Species Act

By EDITOR • SEP 3, 2019



A pair of red wolves at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, N.C., in May. With fewer than 36 roaming the forests of North Carolina, the red wolf is in the most precarious position of any wolf species in the U.S.

GERRY BROOME/AP

The Trump administration wants to revise federal protections for endangered species by putting a cost on each plant or animal. The White House says the changes will make spending more transparent. Ten state attorneys general have joined conservation groups in challenging an early draft of the changes, saying the revisions put more wildlife at greater risk of extinction and ignore the threat of climate change. How will the changes impact endangered animals in our region? Our guests:

- Karl Grossman, [investigative environmental reporter](#) and professor of journalism, [SUNY Old Westbury](#)
- Mike Bottini, naturalist and [Long Island-based author](#)
- Patrick Comins, executive director, [Connecticut Audubon Society](#)
- Robert DiGiovanni, founder and chief scientist, [Atlantic Marine Conservation Society](#)
- Gregg Dancho, director, [Beardsley Zoo](#)

Listen
48:45

BUSINESS / COLUMNISTS / JAMIE HERZLICH

Even small businesses can profit from data analysis

By Jamie Herzlich

jherzlich@aol.com

Updated September 22, 2019 6:00 AM

Often when small businesses hear the buzzword Big Data they think of large corporations with rich analytics teams.

But there's a vast amount of data that small businesses have within their own organizations that they, too, can harness provided they learn to organize and optimize that data to their advantage, say experts.

"Small and medium-sized enterprises that do more with analytics deliver proportionately better business outcomes," says Alan Duncan, vice president for data and analytics strategy at Stamford, Connecticut-based Gartner Inc., a global research and advisory firm.

Still, small businesses can feel overwhelmed at developing a data strategy.

But they shouldn't, says Duncan, noting it's key to at least get started and "not to get hung up on the phrase 'Big Data.' "

That term's "effectively meaningless," he says, noting that it's more about seeing how you can harness your data using analytics.

To start, businesses should pick a small pilot project in an area where they think "there's an opportunity to do something better," he says.

Think of a question to examine. It might be something like determining the characteristics of a highly profitable customer vs. one that costs you money, he says.

The next step is looking at what data you have that might help answer that question and then finding tools to help collect/optimize that data, says Duncan.

"There's a ton of business intelligence tools out there nowadays," says Manav Bhasin, managing director at SVAM International in Great Neck, an IT services provider.

Many work with existing popular tools like Excel, such as Tableau data visualization software, which takes data from Excel and organizes it into a visual dashboard, he says.

Oftentimes companies may not even realize all the valuable data they have, says Joel Lanz, assistant visiting professor at the School of Business at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and a Jericho-based CPA focusing on information security management.

The data may be used or stored outside of where executives (IT or CFO) thinks it's stored, he says. For example, a marketing executive extracts data from a core system and provides it to an outside consultant for marketing analysis unbeknownst to others, says Lanz.

So they need to take inventory of all data and where it resides – whether inside or outside the company, he says.

They also need to audit their current data resources and capabilities including their team, says John-David McKee, CEO of Greenville, SC-based Ins & Outs, a data-driven strategy and predictive analytics company.

It also helps appointing a project lead -- someone with strategic access, insight and influence, he says.

But first you need to define the key business question and goal of what you're hoping to accomplish, says McKee.

That starts with leadership asking the right questions, he says.

To be sure, "CEO's have a hunch of how they think they're doing," says Bhasin.

"What are the things keeping you up at night and let's build a data strategy around those," he says.

Pinpoint specifically the metrics you want to capture, he says.

For example, a restaurant may ask 'are my customers happy' and the analytical way they may want to determine that is through the percentage of tips over time (i.e. anything 20 percent or above means they had a good experience), says Lanz.

You may or may not have the tools internally to answer that question, says Lanz.

Tyler Royce, CEO of eGifter, a Huntington-based gift card platform and e-commerce company, needed to bring in outside resources to help with their data initiative.

"We needed both internal resources dedicated to it as well as outside consultants," he says.

The firm recently completed an 18-month data project that included putting all its data in an Amazon Cloud-hosted data warehouse so it was centralized and then adding a business intelligence dashboarding tool to get timely insights, generate reports, etc., says Royce.

"The business intelligence not only helps us ensure things are working as expected but also give us insights we use to make adjustments," he says.

Community

Health care and health insurance the subject of next Times Review Talks

by Riverhead News-Review | 10/07/2019 6:00 AM

As our local hospitals settle into new relationships with larger health care systems, North Fork residents have begun to see more medical services available to them closer to home.

But this positive news comes as the public has grown increasingly concerned over the high costs of health care and the insurance options available to them. Many workers find the health insurance provided by their employers to be unaffordable and issues like the Affordable Care Act — and proposals such as a single-payer health system — have become politically charged.

The result is a North Fork health care system with improving infrastructure at a time when it has become more challenging to best utilize and afford the available options.

At the next Times Review Talks panel discussion, health care and health insurance officials will be on hand to answer questions from the public. The event is scheduled for noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at The Vineyards at Aquebogue.

Invited panelists for “The State of Health Care & Health Insurance on the East End” include Peconic Bay Medical Center president and CEO Andrew Mitchell; Eastern Long Island Hospital chief administrative officer Paul J. Connor III; Anthony Cardona, president of Cardona & Company; Dr. Jarid Pachter, vice chair of ELI Leadership Coordinating Council and SBUH Medical Board & MEC member at large, who is also the director of Quannacut Outpatient; Davin Laurina, associate vice president of commercial sales and broker service for Healthfirst; Erica Gerrity, director of management services for Peconic Bay Medical Center; and Martha Livingston, professor and chair of public health at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and vice chair of the New York Metro Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program.

The discussion will be moderated by Times Review Media Group content director Grant Parpan and will include mostly questions from the audience.

Times Review Talks are panel discussions mostly on issues our communities are facing with the people who best understand the concerns and, in some cases, are in a position to make a difference.

The two-hour events are held monthly. The \$30 ticket price (\$20 for Times Review subscribers) includes lunch. Space is limited, so we recommend purchasing your tickets in advance at bit.ly/TRTalks_October.

This month's lead sponsors are Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center and Senior Helpers. Additional sponsors are East End Insurance Agency, Healthfirst, Cardona & Company, Comfort Keepers, Riverhead Ford Lincoln, Riverhead Buick GMC, Suffolk Security Systems and the North Fork Chamber of Commerce.

Path to Citizenship Even Rockier

New 'public charge' ruling spreads fear among those who have ever needed help

By Christine Sampson

October 3, 2019

On a recent Sunday morning, the Rev. Karen Ann Campbell of Sag Harbor's Christ Episcopal Church delivered a sermon reminding her congregation that "we were all once strangers" so "we must therefore always welcome the stranger."

Lately, though, Ms. Campbell says, strangers are being vilified — turned away — by the government of the United States, a nation that was first built on immigration, and whose founding values were heavily steeped in Christian tradition. And President Donald Trump's Aug. 14 immigration policy decision, called the "final ruling on public charge," puts legal permanent residency status even further out of the reach of immigrants, local advocates say.

The new ruling is to go into effect on Oct. 15. At its core are tougher restrictions for those who are seeking to enter the U.S. or change their legal immigration status; they can be denied if they currently use, have used in the past, or are deemed likely to use public benefits for 12 months or more in a 36-month period.

"Now, people who are accepting assistance from the U.S. government are not going to be able to proceed toward citizenship," Reverend Campbell said. "There's nothing Christian about any of this."

The age, education, financial assets, family status, and health of someone applying to enter the U.S. will also be taken into consideration, weighted as "heavily negative" to "heavily positive."

Melinda Rubin, an immigration attorney with the Hampton Bays firm Zwaik, Gilbert & Associates, said the public charge ruling will make it a lot harder for people to gain legal residency in the U.S.

"It favors the young, well-educated, rich people," she said, "and I see a racist undertone."

Before the public charge ruling was published, the federal government sought input during an open comment period last year. It received about 216,000 comments, most of them in opposition to the proposed changes. Among those comments were several petitions thousands of names long, dozens of them from residents in the East Hampton area, including Laura Anker.

"I think the public charge law is racist," said Ms. Anker, the distinguished service professor of American studies at the State University at Old Westbury, whose research and writing focus is on immigration, including the changing demographics of East Hampton.

She described herself as the descendant of "immigrants who worked their butts off for their kids and grandkids."

"Their values are the values of community. We depend on them as a nation," Ms. Anker said. "A threat to those values is a threat to what's great in America. We're attacking the very essence of what's great about our country and we're emboldening the sins of our country, which were racism, slavery, genocide against Native Americans, and the hostility that every single immigrant group experienced."

The updated ruling expands the list of public benefits that can disqualify an applicant from entering the U.S. Not only will direct cash benefits like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and supplemental security income count, but Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, federal Section 8 housing benefits, and Medicaid have also been added to the list. That's why experts have described a "chilling effect" on the immigrant community as a result of the new public charge rules.

"It will cause widespread fear or exacerbate the widespread fear in immigrant communities right now that if they accept any kind of government help, or anybody in their family does, that they will be denied permanent residency," Ms. Anker said. "It will stop people from asking for help when they need it . . . and it builds prejudice. It builds division in the nonimmigrant community."

It is unclear whether the public charge ruling will fully take effect, as many advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations are planning to sue the government over it, Ms. Rubin said.

Andrew Strong, the full-time attorney for Organizacion Latino-Americana of Eastern Long Island, called the change "gratuitously cruel."

"It seems like it targets the most vulnerable people in our country. We're not even talking about undocumented people here," Mr. Strong said. "We're talking about people who are trying to adjust their status or come here legally. It also disproportionately affects their children, who are most often American citizens."

He said there is also a lot of confusion over how the rules will be implemented, saying there is some level of subjectivity based on a Department of Homeland Security adjudicator's evaluation of a residency application.

But Manny Vilar, the chairman of the East Hampton Town Republican Committee, disagreed, saying the new public charge rules are clear and objective.

"When someone immigrates to the U.S. legally, they're supposed to have a sponsor, be employed, and not become a charge of the state," Mr. Vilar said. "They shouldn't be on public assistance, they shouldn't be receiving benefits. They're supposed to be here gainfully employed, being productive, and I'm talking right out of the gate."

He compared having open borders to leaving the front door of your house open when you leave "and people can come and go as they like."

Policies like the public charge ruling have the effect of protecting benefits and ensuring their long-term viability for citizens who truly need help, Mr. Vilar said.

"It's more than an obligation. We have a duty to our citizens that we have a social safety net for them to help them, to enable them to get through their time of need," he said. "Right now it sounds like our system is on the verge of collapse financially, and if that's the case, we're not living up to our duty and obligation to citizens."

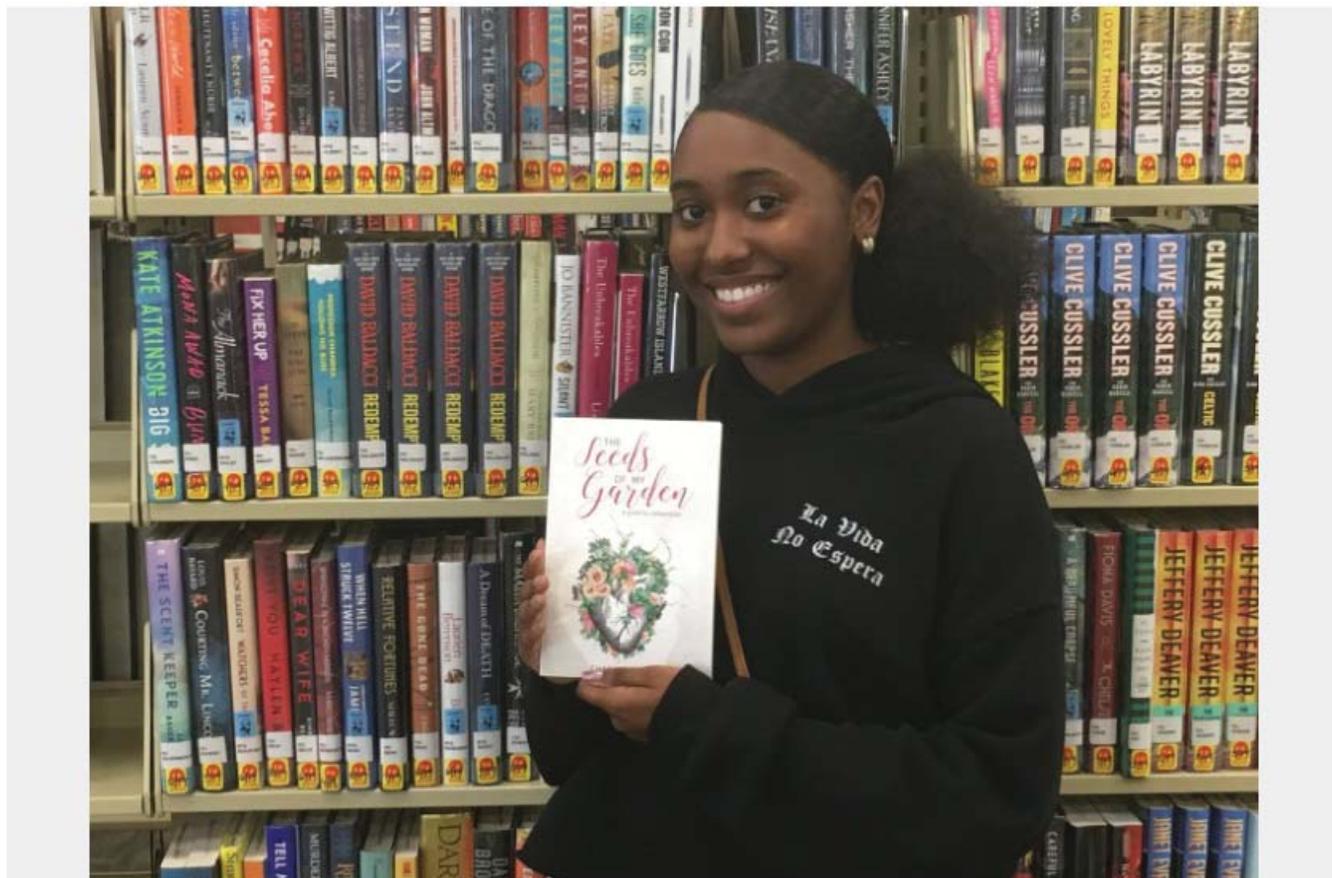
Ms. Campbell called upon local churches and grassroots organizations to "step up and fill the void" left by what could be restricted access to public benefits for many.

"Churches kind of at their inception were the only safety net for people," she said. "That's why churches built hospitals. They were in the business of healing and feeding and caring for people's needs."

Mr. Strong said the issue hits home here on the East End.

"There are so many people who live so close to the wind that work extremely hard. I'm not speaking specifically about the Latino community," he said. "People have chosen professions that don't often pay lots and lots of money. It just feels like there should be a lot of empathy for people who are having these programs taken away from them. I'd like to believe that there is."

Posted October 17, 2019



Freeporter Channie Maria, 27, donated an autographed copy of her collection of poems, "The Seeds of My Garden: A Poetry Collection."
COURTESY FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FREEPORT AUTHOR'S COLLECTION OF POEMS ADDED TO LIBRARY COLLECTION

Channie Maria Williams, 27, from Freeport, recently donated an autographed copy of her debut collection of poems to the Freeport Memorial Library. Williams is a Freeport High School Class of 2010 graduate and presently a junior at [Old Westbury University](#).

Her book, "The Seeds of My Garden: A Poetry Collection" is a collection of 25 poems that explores a range of topics, emotions and moods — including love, heartbreak, self-discovery and healing.

"I want [readers] to remember the light inside of them," Williams said. "Forgive yourself on your journey and embrace growth."

Williams self-published her poetry is available on Amazon. The library has a collection of Freeport authors' signed books in its Long Island room. Williams's books will now be added to that collection.

PRC APPOINTS JENNIFER ALVAREZ WARBURTON

Oct 9, 2019 | News, Post | 0 ●

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) has appointed Jennifer Alvarez Warburton as the agency's director of public affairs and government relations, effective 15 October, 2019.

Ms. Warburton brings more than two decades of postal and legislative expertise to the Commission. In addition to serving as the chief of staff to a member of Congress, Ms. Warburton has extensive experience working at the U.S. Postal Service and subsequently its largest employee organizations, representing their interests before the Congress and collaborating with all postal stakeholders.

Ms. Warburton began her postal career as a government relations representative at the Postal Service, working with members of Congress and their staff to resolve local issues. During the development and passage of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, she served as director of legislative and political affairs for the National Association of Letter Carriers, personally liaising with senators, representatives, and their staff on a broad set of issues affecting the Postal Service, association members, and customers. She was employed as chief of staff to Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, where she developed long-term legislative strategies in conjunction with the congresswoman's senior membership on the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees. Ms. Warburton represented the congresswoman before both the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Blue Dog Coalition.

Ms. Warburton later served as the American Postal Workers Union's lead external liaison to the Postal Service, Commission, employee organizations, and the mailing industry. Most recently, Ms. Warburton has been director of government relations at a women's health organisation. Ms. Warburton is a graduate of [State University of New York - College at Old Westbury](#).

The Commission's Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations serves as the public face of the Commission. The office is the Commission's primary resource in support of public outreach and education; media relations; and liaison with Congress, the Postal Service, and other government agencies.

Executive of the Month: Malcolm Punch, TSC site safety supervisor. All about helping people, by keeping them safe

October 15, 2019 - Design / Build



Malcolm Punch, TSC

New York, NY For Malcolm Punch, site safety supervisor with Total Safety Consulting (TSC), life is all about helping people.

Being the person a friend turns to for advice, the colleague ready to pitch in when a crisis mounts, comes naturally to him. Other values shaping Punch were ingrained in him by his parents: put your trust in education; insist on integrity.

“My parents escaped poverty through education. They lived the American Dream,” said Punch.

His mother was raised in Puerto Rico. She came to the United States alone, studied hard and advanced to NYU graduate school through scholarships, receiving a masters degree in Social Work.

His father spent part of his adolescence in an orphanage in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. He joined the Marines, got a scholarship through the GI Bill, and earned his masters’ in Social Work at Columbia University.

Punch and his sister were raised in the middle-class community of Queens Village. In his teens, he worked as a youth camp counselor during the summer.

“My inclination was to help people,” he said. “I was there for the kids, ready to listen.” Like his parents, he wanted to make a career out of advising others and planned to become a psychiatrist.

After receiving a B.S. in Biological Science at SUNY at Old Westbury, Punch questioned the wisdom of spending years in medical school. When a job for a public health sanitarian with a background in biology came up with the NYC Department of Corrections’ Environmental Health Unit, he took the position and was stationed on Rikers Island. He was in charge of meeting the health codes for all from food to meds to facilities. He evaluated and abated environmental emergencies, gauged air quality, conducted noise audits, and performed quality assurance assessments.

“I thought inmates were forgotten people, but I learned that there are standards that had to be complied with,” he said.

In 2000, Punch became a safety auditor/industrial hygienist overseeing public housing in all five boroughs for the New York Housing Authority (NYHA) and took OSHA 30 site safety classes offered through the New York City Council. He inspected the developments’ fire extinguishers, staircases, lighting, emergency signage, elevators and all safety aspects.

Within a year, he moved to the NYC Department of Design & Construction (NYCDDC) as a site safety and health and safety inspector. On Punch’s day two at the DDC, 9/11 occurred and he immediately became part of the cleanup and recovery effort.

“I was there when the rubble was analyzed. I stayed until the last piece of steel came out,” he said.

Through site safety classes at what was then the TSC training center, now expanded into the TSC Training Academy (TSCTA), he met a TSC instructor, the late Albert Rivera, who became his mentor and is a man Punch called “a legend at TSC.” Rivera encouraged Punch to join TSC, telling him that every employee is treated like family.

After gaining his Site Safety Manager (SSM) license, he was hired by TSC managing principal James Bifulco who welcomed him into “a growing company that I could become a part of.” As an SSM and loss consultant, he supervised compliance with all rules and regulations at projects in the five boroughs. Punch conducted regular safety audits, ensured that site safety plans are present, and maintained daily logs to ensure that any violations such as unlicensed equipment operators, missing permits, and unsafe sidewalk sheds and standpipes were corrected immediately.

“I saw right away that at TSC integrity is paramount,” he said.

His years with public agencies helped him interact with the NYC Department of Buildings (NYCDOB), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and OSHA. He was eager to show workers the value of safety as he always remembers an experience seeing a worker crushed to death when a piece of machinery fell on him.

“It could have been prevented. He didn’t follow the safety plan,” said Punch. “I tell workers: We’re not in a war zone. We’re building buildings. Time is money and millions are at stake, but no building is worth a life.”

He said, “Life takes you 360 degrees. At TSC, I ended up doing what I always wanted to do: help people. I instruct. I remind. I govern.”

He once insisted that a worker tie-off despite the man’s resistance. The worker did fall and ended up dangling in the air from a harness: The safety protocol saved his life.

“When you fall there’s no time to think. You hit the ground,” said Punch.

Since joining TSC, he has been encouraged to continue his education and training. He obtained multiple certifications including one as an OSHA trainer and earned a masters’ degree in Occupational Health and Safety Engineering through night classes at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).

In 2014, he was promoted to TSC site safety supervisor. He “manages the managers” with 20 SSMs reporting to him throughout the boroughs in many of the city’s major buildings. When a complex code question or a situation of imminent danger arises, Punch deals directly and candidly with the contractor.

“We call the balls and strikes,” he said.

The immensity of the responsibility never daunts him. “I want to expand my career and grow,” he said.

He works from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, covering nights and weekends when needed. He drives from site-to-site, visiting two to three each day and is in constant contact with all SSMs. He carefully follows TSC record-keeping of daily logs and detailed protocols which, he notes, “go above and beyond the requirements for reports, checklists and accident investigations. We are extremely thorough in finding the root cause.”

Punch has developed a deep respect for construction. “I like to see an empty lot, then a 60-story tower and know I was a part of the process,” he says.

The WTC site is special as he played a role in the cleanup and saw it being rebuilt.

“I saw the anguish, the loss of life, the work of the NYPD and NYFD. Now the towers are stronger and better than before,” he says.

As a Yankee fan, Punch was proud to be part of the demolition of the old stadium and the construction of the new one.

Punch is glad to be part of a one-stop safety company that continues to grow through enhanced medical services, training and supplies. He appreciates being able to secure needed equipment quickly through TSC’s Safety Supplies Unlimited (SSU) division. “A wide array of services is available,” he said.

He foresees TSC branching out along the eastern seaboard. “As we learn more about safety as a society, we learn the best ways to implement rules and regulations. Safety isn’t going away. TSC is a growing company and, as an integral part of the management team, I’m growing with it,” said Punch.

Mexican community in Nassau celebrates the Independence of Mexico

By Sandra Torres | on September 23, 2019



Police officer María Vázquez with Amy Flores, director of Hispanic Affairs of Nassau County. (Photo: News)

With music, food, traditional dances and much joy, the Independence of Mexico was celebrated in the ceremonial hall of the Nassau County government, where four Mexicans were honored and the Mexican Consul in New York, Alexia Nuñez, was responsible for making the symbolic cry of Independence, also asking its nationals residing abroad to “stay together”.

“We thank the Nassau County executive Laura Curran for allowing us this celebration and the Office of Hispanic Affairs,” said Dolores Medina, in charge of preparing and developing the September 17 event that extolled Mexican culture and the achievements of the Mexicans on Long Island.

The Independence of Mexico was the consequence of a political and social process resolved with arms, which put an end to Spanish rule. The independence war extended from the Grito de Dolores, on September 16, 1810, to the entrance of the Trigarant Army to Mexico City, on September 27, 1821.

Although Mexican music and traditional dances were the protagonists of this celebration, four Mexicans residing in Nassau County were recognized for their service to the community and personal achievements.

Mexican Honored

Honorio Morales , received recognition for his service to the community, coordinating the Community of the Guadalupanos, from where he has helped his countrymen for the past 14 years and for 19 years the Hispanics who are part of the church to which he belongs.

Miguel Gutiérrez , arrived at the United States at the age of 18, using his childhood knowledge, began caring for horses and ended up training horses, for 31 years he became a high-profile horse escort and leads a team of 8 escorts in all New York racetracks.

Isabel Martínez , an outstanding student, dedicated to music, who is in her second year of high school, was chosen to be the voice of the students and wants to be a nurse and have a positive impact on her community.

Police officer María Vázquez, at the age of 27, was a single mother of two daughters, with her degree in cosmetics, began to help women in a domestic violence center and was motivated to study.

In 2004 she obtained her degree in criminology from [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and graduated with honors. In 2007 he obtained a paralegal certificate and began working for the Nassau district attorney’s office.

The message of the celebration was left by the Mexican consul Alexia Nuñez who urged his countrymen to stay together.

“Together and under one voice it is easier to convey our interests, work in tune for our wellbeing, this will allow us to continue to exalt our community and reflect our demographic, economic, social, cultural and political strength. Thank you very much and may Viva México!” He emphasized.

West Hempstead's Barbara Hafner set to challenge Vincent Muscarella in county's District 8 race

Posted September 12, 2019

By *Nakeem Grant*



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: Barbara Hafner

Hometown: West Hempstead

Family: Married with two children.

Education: Bachelor's in education from SUNY Old Westbury; master's in reading from Adelphi University.

Professional experience: Corporate buyer, R.H. Macy Corporate Buying; sales supervisor, Utility Clothing Company; administrator and teacher, Garden City Nursery School; fifth- and sixth-grade teacher, West Hempstead School District.

Volunteer work: West Hempstead Chamber of Commerce board member; National Women's Political Caucus training; Long Island Federation of Labor executive board and Women's Committee member; New York State United Teachers Women's Committee; NYSUT board of directors, 18th E.D.; NYSUT Pension and Retirement Committee chairwoman; NYSUT and West Hempstead Education Association president; NYSUT and American Federation of Teachers delegate.

Longtime teacher and West Hempstead resident Barbara Hafner said that when she ambled through the teachers' section at Dollar Tree last month, she got teary-eyed. She realized that after 25 years of teaching fifth and sixth grade in the West Hempstead School District, she would no longer need to buy supplies for a classroom. She was moving on to a new chapter in her life.

Whether it was a result of her career as a sales supervisor or her years as an educator, Hafner said, she long had a passion for helping others. Now retired, she hopes to continue to do so: She is gearing up to challenge Republican County Legislator Vincent Muscarella for the Legislature's 8th District seat in November. The district encompasses West Hempstead, Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.

Calls to Muscarella's office requesting comment were not returned by press time.

"My number one job was always what I did in my classroom," said Hafner, a West Hempstead resident for 38 years. "I loved teaching, but now that it's behind me, I can focus on representing the people in the 8th L.D."

Hafner, who declined to give her age, has held several leadership roles during her career. She is the director of the New York State United Teachers union for the 18th Election District, and was president of the West Hempstead Education Association for 19 years.

"Ever since I started, it was all about helping people," she said. "It was all about focusing on how we can make things better for our school district and make things better for the employees in the school district. Every step of the way, I wanted to do something to help the people that I worked with."

One of the biggest issues she would like to address if elected, Hafner said, is the county's tax-assessment system. She added that while she was happy to see that it has been brought to the forefront, it needs careful examination.

"I definitely want more transparency with the assessment, and I'm hoping that it would iron out the problems that we have," she said. "Every community member, and every resident of Nassau County, needs to be very clear on how their home is reassessed. If you challenge the assessments, it should be with the town itself."

As leader of the teachers union, Hafner said, she has a strong understanding of the issues that are important to employees in Nassau County. "We have to make it so that everyone is paid fairly, everybody's getting the benefits and the pensions that they kept in reserve," she said, "because I think public employees are very important to the help of our community, county and state."

Asked about running against Muscarella, she said she understands that winning this race won't be easy. Muscarella, who also lives in West Hempstead, has led District 8 since 1995. "I know this is a very tough district to win," Hafner said, "but when I make a decision to do something, I stick with it."

She met Muscarella in 1995, when he visited her fifth-grade American history class as a guest speaker. At one point, they lived on the same block in West Hempstead. The last time she saw him, at the West Hempstead Community Scholarship Fund's annual dinner in May, she said they agreed that their race would be more a matter of politics than one-against-another.

"It wasn't about being against Vinny," Hafner said. "It was about, what can I do to make this area better? When I go up to people and ask them who their county legislator is and they say they don't know, I tell them, 'Well now you know me.'"

West Hempstead School District welcomes new teachers for 2019-20 school year

Posted September 19, 2019



The district welcomed 15 new teachers for the 2019-20 school year with a new teacher orientation on Aug. 27.
COURTESY WEST HEMPSTEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

The West Hempstead School District is excited to welcome 15 teachers for the 2019-20 school year.

Susan Abbott joins George Washington School after spending the past three school years in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District. In spring, she completed her student teaching in a fifth grade self-contained classroom. Abbott spent the previous 13 years at St. John's University and Stony Brook University as a professional in athletic special events. She earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from St. John's in 1999 followed by a master's degree in marketing in 2001.

Chestnut Street and Cornwell Avenue welcome Jarrod Alexander as a social worker for the new school year. Alexander joins the Rams from the United Federation of Teachers where he was a social worker since 2015. He previously spent three years as a senior social worker at the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services.

Nicole Cohen started in West Hempstead in 2018 as an itinerant therapist at George Washington and Cornwell Avenue schools and returns this year as a speech teacher for George Washington. She spent the first part of the 2017-18 school year as a speech language pathologist at the Brookville Center for Children's Services in New Hyde Park. Cohen earned her bachelor's degree in speech and language disabilities from SUNY Cortland before completing her master's in communication sciences and disorders with a speech language pathology concentration from Adelphi University.

Tracy Cousins transitions into a reading teacher role at Cornwell following eight years at Camp Avenue School in the North Merrick School District, where she was a guided reading teacher. She previously worked as a literacy diagnostician at St. John's for eight years as well as a reading specialist at the Newbridge Road School in the North Bellmore School District. She holds three degrees from St. John's that include a bachelor's in history and pair of master's degrees in childhood education and literacy.

Marissa Evola studied abroad during the course of two summers to help solidify her fluency in both Italian and Spanish. Evola joins the district as a Spanish teacher at the middle school and high school.

Sara Fine returns to West Hempstead after spending last school year as a leave replacement at George Washington and Cornwell Avenue schools. During the 2017-18 school year, Fine was a teaching assistant at Glenwood Landing School in the North Shore School District after spending four years in the Syosset Central School District.

The high school welcomes Al Fixl as the technology teacher for the 2019-20 school year. Fixl joins the district after two years at White Plains High School as a computer science teacher and robotics club adviser. He previously worked throughout the New York City Public Schools system since 2009, stationed at the High School of Arts and Technology in New York City, South Bronx Academy for Applied Media, Jonas Bronck Academy and High School for Medical Science. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Lehigh University in addition to a master's degree in semiconductor physics.

Andrew Hochler is set to join the music department at the middle school and high school after graduating from The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in music education and a performance certificate in trumpet. Hochler has musical experience with Royal Caribbean International and the Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island.

Robyn Linn brings nearly 20 years of experience to George Washington School as she assumes the role of an occupational therapist. Linn spent the past nine years as an occupational therapist at the Shelter Rock Elementary School in Manhasset where she was responsible for the evaluation, coordination and administration of occupational therapy services.

Nicole Mellone embraces her first teaching job as a Spanish teacher in the middle school and high school. Mellone completed her bachelor's degree in Spanish language and literature from Binghamton University in 2018 followed by a master's degree in teaching Spanish adolescence education in May. While earning her post-graduate degree, she worked as an adjunct lecturer.

A recent graduate of The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, Diana Minerva earned a bachelor's degree in music education with a minor in design and technical theater. She gained teaching experience as a volunteer teacher at COLTS Day in April where she created and presented workshops for 60 students from the Colton-Pierrepont Central School.

John O'Dwyer joins Cornwell as a special education teacher with a degree in childhood education from **SUNY Old Westbury**. He spent last school year as a leave replacement at Howard B. Mattlin Middle School in Plainview. O'Dwyer also taught for a year at P.S. 186 Dr. Irving Gladstone Elementary School in Brooklyn.

Konstantino Papakonstantis continues his tenure at West Hempstead following a leave replacement position he held last year. During the year, he developed and implemented lesson plans in U.S. History for seventh- and eighth-grade students. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics with a history minor from SUNY Cortland in addition to a master's degree in teaching Social Studies from Stony Brook.

Jillian Sarro completed her master's degree in education from Queens College in May in addition with a bachelor's degree in early childhood/childhood education and a minor in geological science from SUNY Potsdam. While earning her master's degree, she spent last school year as a special education teacher at the Center for Developmental Disabilities in Woodbury. Sarro also worked for three years at the James A. Dever Elementary School in Valley Stream as a leave replacement and a permanent substitute.

Leah Zimmerman worked as a psychological intern at Hewlett High School and Glen Cove's Robert M. Finley Middle School last year before joining George Washington as a psychologist this year. During that time, she completed her master's degree in school psychology from Queens College. Leah also earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from Yeshiva University.

Berkshire Workforce Board Hires Second Career Readiness Coordinator

01:38PM / Tuesday, October 29, 2019

[Print Story](#) | [Email Story](#)

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass. — Responsible for overseeing employment and training services in the region, the MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board recently hired a South County career readiness coordinator; a position that is funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Ruthann Eagen will be responsible for assisting the Berkshire Workforce Board youth director with coordinating strategies to further enhance career readiness systems and programming within the public school systems in Southern Berkshire County. She will also assist with the development of a South County College and Career Advisory Team and individual school district teams with the goal for every student to graduate with a completed college and career plan.

As a youth, Eagen was a member of the Nassau County Law Enforcement Career Exploring Program through the Nassau County Police Department in Long Island, N.Y., and as an adult volunteered for the same program. She looks forward to bringing her career exploring experience to her new role.

Eagen was previously the senior district executive for the Appalachian Trail District of the Western Massachusetts Council, Boy Scouts of America. She received her masters of science in human services and leadership in 2017 from Saint Joseph's College, Patchogue, N.Y., and her bachelor's of science in criminology in 2014 from [State University of New York \(SUNY\) Old Westbury](#). She also holds a business administration certificate from Nassau Community College, Garden City, N.Y.



Sports

Huntington Man's NCAA Game-Winning Goal Makes SportsCenter Top-10

His goal propelled SUNY Old Westbury over Yeshiva University in their NCAA DIII men's soccer match-up.

By Michael DeSantis, Patch Staff
Sep 26, 2019 11:07 am ET



Grixon Moreira, of Huntington, with SUNY Old Westbury. He scored a goal that made ESPN's SportCenter top-10. (Dave Anderson (www.davidthomasphotography.com))

OLD WESTBURY, NY — Each day, ESPN's SportsCenter looks at the top-10 highlights from sports around the world. While most of the clips are professional sports, a college or high school clip occasionally surfaces.

That was the case for Grixon Moreira, a Huntington native whose goal carried SUNY Old Westbury to victory over Yeshiva University in a NCAA DIII men's soccer match-up. Senior midfielder Moreira's shot came from 50 yards out at a conference game on Sept. 20. The goal broke the ice in a game Old Westbury went on to win 2-0.

Old Westbury Panthers
@OW_Panthers

🏆🏆 @SUNYOldWestbury Men's ⚽ Grixon Moreira "Hail Mary" goal made @espn @SportsCenter Top 10 plays last night at the #9 slot 🏆🏆 #OWmade #PawsUp #SkylineMSoc

TOP 10 9 NINE

39 10:59 AM - Sep 21, 2019

Umanzor Named Skyline Conf. Defender Of The Week

By **sleterfc** - September 26, 2019



Yakeline Umanzor. Photo: SUNY Old Westbury.

SUNY Old Westbury goalkeeper Yakeline Umanzor was named the [Skyline Conference Defensive Player of the Week](#).

The freshman from Brentwood had a strong week between the woodwork for the Panthers. She posted a 0.46 goals-against average over the past week.

Umanzor played 93:04 minutes and made six saves in [Old Westbury's](#) 1-0 overtime home defeat against Rutgers-Newark on September 17. She concluded the week with a two-save performance in 45 minutes of action to preserve the Panthers' 7-0 combined clean sheet road win over Yeshiva University on September 22.



WOMEN'S SPORTS

MEN'S SPORTS

INSIDE THE SKYLINE

CHAMPIONSHIPS



SOFTBALL

More



9/6/2019 6:22:00 PM

Tom Pennino Named Head Softball Coach at Old Westbury

OLD WESTBURY, N.Y. - SUNY Old Westbury director of athletics Lenore Walsh announced Friday the hiring of Tom Pennino as the new head softball coach.

Pennino arrives to Old Westbury with five years coaching experience in collegiate softball.

"I am thrilled to welcome coach Pennino to the Panther family," Walsh exclaimed. She continued, "with his familiarity of the Skyline Conference and his ability to recruit, we believe that this will create a winning combination for our softball program and the athletic department as a whole."

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Pennino will assist sports information director Nicole Sasu-Twum with game day promotions and halftime events during intercollegiate contests.

"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to continue my coaching career at SUNY Old Westbury," commented Pennino. "I look forward to bringing my fun and competitive coaching style to the Panthers softball team."

Pennino spent the last five seasons as the assistant softball coach at fellow conference member Farmingdale State College in Farmingdale, New York, where he helped guide the team to two conference championships and two NCAA Division III Regional appearances.

Prior to Farmingdale State, Pennino played professional baseball for five years (2006-11). He started his career with the Evansville Otters of the Frontier League in Evansville, Indiana (2006-09), where he was part of the 2006 championship team. Pennino moved on to play in the Atlantic League for the Newark Bears in Newark, New Jersey (2010), Bridgeport Bluefish in Bridgeport, Connecticut (2010) and the Long Island Ducks in Long Island, New York (2010-11). During his tenure in the Atlantic League, Pennino was fortunate to play under Kevin Baez, Willie Upshaw and Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum.

As a former NCAA Division I student-athlete at Stony Brook University, Pennino appeared in 102 games as a two-year (2005-06) member of the Seawolves' baseball team under the leadership of head coach Matt Senk. As a senior, Pennino batted .310 with 30 RBI and three home runs. He would graduate in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

Before becoming a Seawolf, Pennino also played two seasons at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Florida under legendary head coach Mike Easom and was teammate with Major League Baseball (MLB) World Series champion and Most Valuable Player Steve Pearce.

Pennino played for former major league pitcher and Long Island native John Habyan at Saint John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip, New York, where the team won the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) Long Island Championship and was ranked 25th in the nation by Baseball America.

Coaching runs in the Pennino family. Pennino's father, Tom Pennino Sr. is a retired math teacher and lifelong high school coach at Comsewogue High School and Bellport High School, where he coached football, baseball and softball throughout his 35-year tenure. Pennino's sister, Elizabeth, was recently appointed the new head softball coach at Farmingdale State.

In his spare time, Pennino enjoys being on his boat fishing and wakeboarding. He is also a huge dog lover and over the last few years, he has been a dock jumping handler for his late chocolate Labrador "Kaia".

Pennino currently resides in East Northport, New York with his one year old black Labrador "Koda".

Courtesy Old Westbury sports information



by Christian Tessitore

(Editor's Note: Christian Tessitore is a 2019 graduate of **SUNY Old Westbury**, he signed with the Empire Pro League shortly after. He has a great story of grit and perseverance.)

Patience.

The capacity to except or tolerate delay without getting angry or upset. Not just a word or a mindset, but a lifestyle so very important in achieving what we want. My professional career may have officially began this year however, my professional mindset has been cultivated by some of the best baseball minds on Long Island for many years.

If it wasn't for people like Glenn Mitchell I would not be anywhere near the position I have put myself in the last few months. Talking pitching within what is our circle of guys including names such as Justin Dunn and Alex Vargas has allowed me to really understand how to be a professional. My pitching coach, Glenn Mitchell, has been training me in both physical and mental aspects since the age of 10. If it wasn't for him, I never would've played for Tom Caputo at Dowling. I would have never began training at Athletic Movement Protocol. If I never trained at AMP, I never would have met Mike Stella, arguably the best Manual Therapist I've ever been with. If I never met Mike, I never would have been on a field consistently, let alone come back from Tommy John surgery in the way that I did. Without meeting Mike and adopting the methods of he and his team I would've never been convinced to follow him to East Coast S&P.

East Coast S&P, and the team of Warren, Billy, Leah, has had a massive role in really giving me everything I needed to be successful this past college and pro season. The culture in that facility is unmatched. Tyler Levine who works within the facility taught me how to be my own agent, how to market myself and gave me a place to throw during the Northeast winters. As a Division III guy who had two official collegiate baseball offers out of high school, Tyler's teachings were crucial in helping me just get a shot somewhere.

Three of my coaches during my life saw that I had something within me. Coach Mitchell was one of the first. The late Rob Oliveri, coach and founder of the Long Island Royals, was the second. He gave me the opportunity to be great and continually told me that if I wanted this I could do it. Using baseball as an outlet was something he preached to me and I understand it now more than ever. Gabby LeBron was another coach that I played for during a short span of about a month as a fill in one summer. The killer competitive mentality was always there but he helped bring it out of me. He always preached that if we played this game with no fear that it would be good to us and I am extremely appreciative of that time spent playing with him.

Once I got my first opportunity in the Empire Pro League, my goal was to listen more than I spoke and learn as much as I could. I've never given up nine runs (on my birthday) and felt like it was a successful day. That debut game was crucial in allowing me to find out who I was and what kind of pitcher I was. Having a short term memory and working extremely hard in between starts is what keeps one bad start from turning into a bad month and so on. Understanding what I was and what I do well allowed me to make the most of the rest of my time there and go on to win the championship game and be the Finals MVP.

Unsatisfied and wanting more I continued reaching out to teams and finally got a response from the Jackals. From there, I threw a bullpen for the team and got signed the next day. With the same simple mindset, I just wanted to learn as much as I could and do my job when my number got called. After not giving up a run my first seven innings, our manager had the trust in me to start me in a series deciding game 5 semifinal. When we won I was just happy to be there but still hungry for more. Unsure of my role in the championship series, I did my best to stay ready and I got the call to start what ended up being the clinching game of the championship series. As much as I am a perfectionist, when your team puts up eight runs, giving up four of my own was a lot easier to deal with especially when we come out with what was my 2nd Championship in one summer.

One of my teammates on the Jackals told me that I really didn't understand what I had accomplished especially being a rookie. I faced a lineup filled with an ex-big leaguer, a few ex-AAA guys and quite a few AA and single A guys and got the job done. They took me in two days before the transaction deadline and made me feel at home. I am forever grateful for the teammates and coaches I played amongst this year with the Jackals and in the Empire Pro League. I went from being a guy struggling to find a job to pitching in 2 championship clinching games. I cannot wait to use what I've learned this summer to become a better player and a man.

Prior to this summer, I worked two jobs for a majority of my senior year. I still found a way to get money to pay for gas and gym memberships, car insurance, etc. I got through my practices at **SUNY Old Westbury**, got in the gym to lift, and also educated myself more and more on the in and outs of pitching on a daily basis. So chances are your excuses are just that. Excuses. The people who want "it" will most likely always be left wanting whatever "it" may be in life. But those who can't live without it and are inseparable from their dreams are the ones who will run through a brick wall just to get a shot and leave the "Wanters" sitting on their couch wondering where time has gone.

This brings us back to Patience. No matter how discouraged I was with my name or number not being called I kept working. Eager to get better every day, I started to and continue to see results. When my number got called, I kept my mouth shut and my ears open eager to learn as much as I could. I waited and waited all while improving upon what I already had and trying to be the best I could be. When you get your shot be ready to run with it.

This article is less about me but more about the next guy who gets a shot somewhere. Use your time on the roster to find yourself amongst others, don't be afraid to ask questions, and most importantly never forget who you are and be professional in all aspects of life.

Sure I was the one who worked those jobs, got in the gym on days that nobody wanted to, threw against a brick wall when nobody wanted to throw, but without the people I have mentioned, my small circle of friends, and my family I would never have gotten to this point and I would have never become the man I am becoming.

It doesn't really matter who you are or where are you come from. What matters is your willingness to cut off the negative people in your life and listen to yourself rather than those who want to speak on your behalf. Let your hard work throughout your life and your respect for the game do the talking.

Mistakes will happen, bad days will come but how you learn from adversity and bounce back from it is the truest test a man can face. Never be content with being good enough, and try to get better every single day. I am not a finished product by any means, but what I have learned throughout the course of my first professional season will stay with me for the rest of my life

Thank you to those who continue to believe and me and thank you to those who doubt me. Every day I am driven to be better and it all helps.