

Student Success: Support, Humanity, and Empathy

Students are craving for support, humanity, and empathy from their professors, an anonymous academic writes in an article for The Guardian. After surveying 1,000 students on campus, the author was troubled by a pervasive theme: the lack of kindness, integrity, and understanding from academic staff. Students indicated that greater kindness from faculty—more empathy, an appreciation of differences, and overall encouragement—would significantly improve their experience. In short, they asked faculty “to treat and talk to me as though I’m a person.” The author proposes creating a more collegiate and caring academic culture, beginning with a self-examination by each faculty member and administrator [[Six roles for faculty in student success](#)].

When students have supportive relationships with faculty and staff, they do better in school and after graduation. Research has connected faculty mentorship to improved retention and reports of greater lifelong fulfillment. Despite the overwhelming evidence for faculty mentorships, colleges and universities struggle to ensure that every student feels engaged, supported, and connected with faculty throughout their career, [writes](#) EAB Practice Manager Colin Koproske.

This Holiday Season I am thankful to serve in a school where faculty and staff are committed to a student-centered Mission that celebrates student success. Read more at

<https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2018/mar/16/students-want-most-treated-with-respect-academics-anonymous>, and <https://eab.com/insights/infographic/academic-affairs/six-roles-for-faculty-in-student-success/>.

Sincerely,

Raj, Devasagayam

Celebrations

- Among mixed emotions, Prof. Rita Buttermilch received a heartfelt token of appreciation. The Accounting Society organized a surprise Retirement Party for a professor, a mentor, a friend named Rita Buttermilch. Prof. Buttermilch gave the students much more than lectures. She gave her dedication, her effort, her enthusiasm, and her personal touch in whatever she did. She was an example of professionalism and she became an inspiration. Have a happy retirement Prof. Rita Buttermilch.



School of Business Faculty Meeting

- The next **School of Business Faculty meeting** will be on Friday, **December 13**, at 10:30 a.m. in NAB1107

School of Business Engagement, Innovation & Impact Forum

- On Friday, **December 13** the **School of Business Engagement, Innovation & Impact Forum** will be presented by Prof. Jason Zhu & Prof. Michael Onorato. The title of the presentation is "**Student Team Leadership Competence Analysis**."

Announcements

- The **SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC)** is a multidisciplinary event hosted each year by different SUNY institutions. It brings together undergraduate student researchers and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system for activities, including sessions devoted to student presentations - oral, performance, artistic displays, and posters presentations - in all academic disciplines. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. **SUNY Old Westbury will co-host SURC 2020** this coming April. By bringing together students and faculty from across the state, SURC helps realize the synergistic power of the SUNY system.
- On Friday, December 13 from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. in the Campus Center Maguire Theater, at SUNY Old Westbury, there will be a celebration about Yalda Night (Winter Solstices – longest night of the year). The event will feature delicious Persian food and music by Amir Vahab and ensemble. The Business and Computer Club and the Persian Cultural Club cosponsor this event.
- The CPD has two assessment related certificate programs starting May 21, 2020. Both programs are online asynchronous in Blackboard, and take about 2-4 hours per week to complete. The programs are Assessment of Learning Outcomes Certificate and Institutional Effectiveness Certificate. The SUNY Old Westbury **Center for Student Leadership and Involvement** recognizes the great work of our students by [nominating](#) them for the "**Panther of the Month**" award. Awardees will win a free shirt courtesy of the Campus Bookstore, be featured on the **Commuter Bulletin Board**, and be featured in the **Student Connections** weekly e- newsletter. The [form](#) takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Let us come together to recognize all the great work our students are doing in and for our community.
- The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) is promoting **The Community Action Poverty Simulation**. This will be a two-day event. [Day 1: Poverty Simulation](#), Thursday, **February 20, 2020**, from 12:45pm to 3:45pm, will be participation in The Poverty Simulation. [Day 2: Poverty Simulation Facilitation Training](#), Friday, **February 21, 2020**, from 9:00am to 3:30pm, will be a training to facilitate The Poverty Simulation. The Poverty Simulation Kit will be available as a campus resource for future simulations and can be used for course work, applied learning opportunities, student events, and professional development. Anyone interested is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and sign up for one or both days at <https://doodle.com/poll/knu2xcftncvg2p38>.
- **SUNY Oswego** will host the next **SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology (CIT 2020)**, May 26 – 29, 2020. Online presentation submission is now open for the **29th Annual SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology (CIT)**, sponsored by **SUNY FACT2 (Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology)**. This year's theme **The Shared University: Working Together to Prepare all Students for a Lifetime of Learning** is supported by the following tracks: **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Emerging Technologies and Digital Strategies; Measuring Effectiveness; Open Education; Pedagogically Speaking**. View [Track Descriptions](#), [Format Descriptions and Ratings](#). Submit your proposal at <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/cit-2020/cit20ab>. **Deadline for abstract submissions is December 31, 2019.**

Designed and edited by Raul Zevallos – Assistant to the Dean for Impact & Instructional Design
Assisted by Denisha Duncan – Business Administration Major, Class 202
if you have any information for future newsletter please send it to zevallosr@oldwestbury.edu

