

SPOTLIGHT

ON

ENGAGEMENT ♦ INNOVATION ♦ IMPACT



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DR. TIMOTHY E. SAMS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF SUNY OLD WESTBURY

The [SUNY Old Westbury SOB](#) would like to officially welcome, **Dr. Timothy E. Sams** as the new president of SUNY Old Westbury. Dr. Sams is a veteran administrator with a track record of student-focused leadership and success. He succeeds Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, who retired at the end of August 2020 after nearly 21 years leading the college.

Dr. Sams is from Syracuse, New York. He earned a bachelor's degree in History and Sociology from Union College in Schenectady, New York, a Masters in Africana Studies from the University at Albany, and a Ph.D. in African American Studies from Temple University. He is an MSI Aspiring Leaders Fellow and recipient of the [2020 Champions for Student Success Award from American Campus Communities](#).

"Assuming the presidency of SUNY Old Westbury is an honor and the highlight of my career and I am proud to follow President Emeritus Butts in this capacity," said Dr. Sams. "I have spent three decades seeking to transform students' lives through access, excellence, success and impact. Old Westbury's mission to cultivate critical thinking, empathy, creativity and intercultural understanding, to endeavor to stimulate a passion for learning and commitment to building a more just and sustainable world, is perfectly aligned with my worldview. I can imagine no better place for me to be a president."

Dr. Sams brings 29 years of higher education experience to SUNY Old Westbury, with demonstrated leadership in improving student success, particularly for students from disadvantaged and marginalized communities. He brings to the College an emphasis on institutional excellence, inclusive innovation and strategic change management.

"Dr. Sams has dedicated his adult life to creating dynamic academic and social communities that support the development of college students," said Mili Makhijani, chair of the SUNY Old Westbury College Council. "His career-long commitment to student engagement and advocacy matches strikingly well with Old Westbury's ongoing emphasis on student equity and success, as well as its historic commitment to empowering students, especially those from underserved backgrounds, to excel as leaders both in their careers and in the communities in which they live and work."

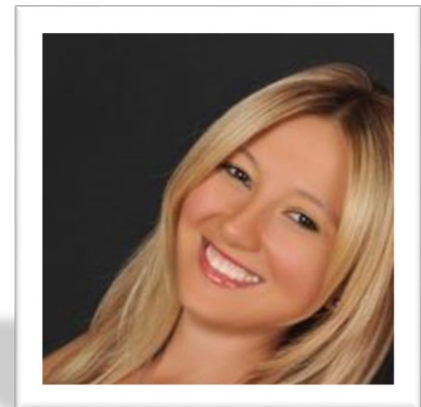


FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Professor Oztimurlenk recently had a research paper accepted for publication.

Oztimurlenk, S. & Yilmaz B. (2020). The Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Information Behavior of Academics in Hacettepe University. *Information Management*, 3(2) (Forthcoming).

The paper looks at how emotions play a crucial role in teaching and learning as it involves continuous human interaction. The results of the study show that EI is a factor affecting information behavior of academics in terms of only information share dimension. This research puts an emphasis on the correlation between academics with high emotional intelligence and the vision of sharing information in the right way and at the right time. As a practical implication, educational institutions may consider different ways to increase their faculties' EI levels by offering more EI training programs or hiring emotionally intelligent academics to have well-organized information flow.



Professor Ebrahimi presented a virtual presentation to at the IEEE ISTAS20 Conference at Arizona State University on November 15, 2020 entitled



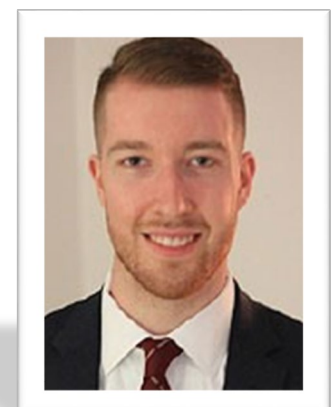
“In Search of a Pattern and Algorithmic Code for COVID-19: A participant self-customized diagnostic awareness system and simulator to comprehend, combat, coexist, cope and trace.”

The aim of this project is to formulate an algorithm to tackle a solution to COVID-19. The implication of this study is to produce a guideline for others to initiate their own participant's system to find a pattern and formulate an algorithm for the pandemic.

Professor O'Brien had an article published in Accounting Perspectives on November 16, 2020.

Bakarich, K.M, Castonguay, J, and O'Brien, P.E. (2020), The Use of Blockchains to Enhance Sustainability Reporting and Assurance*. Account Perspect. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1911-3838.12241>

The article looks at how blockchains can aide companies with their sustainability reporting practices. It also looks at the benefits to companies and assurance professionals in using blockchains to increase trust, transparency, and traceability, which matches stakeholders' demands as it relates to sustainability reporting.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The SUNY Center for Professional Development and the SUNY Council on Assessment have two certificate programs for those new to assessment and a course for those leading assessment initiatives on their campus.



SUNY Council on
Assessment (SCoA)



Assessment of Learning Outcomes Certificate – suny.edu/alocert (Jan 5 - May 10)
Develop learning outcomes, use rubrics and other assessment tools and identify strategies for using results to improve the academic experience



Institutional Effectiveness Certificate – suny.edu/iecert (Jan 5 - May 10)
Contribute to institutional level assessment and accreditation and advise in developing cycles of goal setting, measurement, data collection, process review and evaluation.

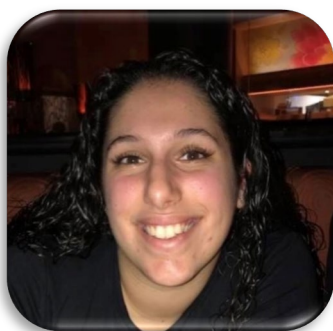


Assessment Leadership Course – <https://sunycpd.eventsair.com/alocert/site> (Jan 5 - Feb 15)
Develop competencies necessary for leading assessment initiatives on your campus whether you are a faculty, staff, or administrator.

All courses are offered online in Blackboard, asynchronous (no real time video conference meetings), and typically require 2-4 hours per week to complete so participants can fit them into their schedule. These programs are all priced well below the national average and CPD points can be used for all. You also can enroll in one course in each Certificate program or register for three to get a discount.

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Toni-Alexis Leone is a transfer student from Nassau Community College and senior accounting honors student at SUNY Old Westbury. She has been on the dean's list from Fall 2019-Spring 2020. Toni-



Alexis enjoys being involved on campus and actively participates in the Student Conduct Board, the Accounting Society, the Business Club, Tau Sigma Honor Society, The Commuter Student Association and The Student Government Association where she is an academic senator. When her and her boyfriend suddenly found themselves both unemployed from the pandemic, they came up with the idea for the food drive to help those in need. She learned a lot

from her personal experience and made her realize that many people are in need of help.

As a result, Toni-Alexis reached out to the leadership of Tau Sigma Honor Society and The Commuter Student Association to implement a food drive and the response was excellent. When asked how it was working out, Toni stated, "Everyone is coming together to help each other and that is truly wonderful."

Please join Toni-Alexis, the Tau Sigma Honor Society and the Commuter Student Association as they continue to collect for the needy in our community.



SPOTLIGHT is a publication of SUNY Old Westbury, School of Business

Louise M Rotchford ♦ Editor ♦ rotchfordl@oldwestbury.edu ♦ November 12, 2020