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Connections is a publication of Herkimer College. It is published once a year and distributed to alumni and friends of the College.

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Think Design



Cover photo: Thank you to all who took part in our Alumni Notes initiative! We received over 60 digital and physical notes to display for our new students during Move-In Weekend. They were a wonderful way to help welcome and inspire our new students. A special shout-out to **Cynthia Gabriel '87** for spearheading this project!

# **Herkimer County Community College**

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Cary Staller

Dear Alumni and Friends,

After several months of remote learning and working, we returned to campus last summer, albeit with some restrictions, but nevertheless the presence and energy of our students, faculty and staff have brought our campus back to life. It is a wonderful feeling to see students and faculty engaged in the classrooms, and our halls and sports facilities alive with activity. The renewed enthusiasm has provided us with the much needed motivation to look forward and be optimistic for the future.

That optimism is translating in very real ways for our campus community. Under the direction of Associate Dean Mary Ann Carroll, the Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Planning Committee, and consultants from the Society of College and University Planning, we are nearing completion of a lengthy process to develop a new strategic plan for Herkimer College.



New mission and vision statements were the first step in the process. With input from faculty, staff and students, the IE Planning Committee crafted new statements, and after significant discussion, tweaking, and vetting, they were approved by the College Board of Trustees. The revised mission and vision statements provide critical guiding principles for our institutional planning.

The IE Planning Committee recently completed a series of listening sessions with multiple stakeholder groups, and the input gleaned from those sessions was organized into themes, which became the basis for our goals. After numerous meetings and versions vetted, we now have draft goals and objectives written. Once approved by the Board, the action items will be identified. Throughout the process, desired outcomes and assessment measures are being identified.

We are very excited to have an updated roadmap to guide our work moving forward. Our vision for Herkimer College is progressive, and I believe it provides us with the inspiration and adaptability for an exciting future.

Sincerely,

Cathleen McColgin, Ph.D.

Cathleen & mc Colgie

President

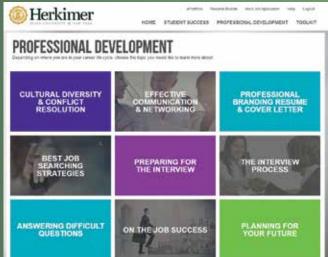
The College Board of Trustees has approved new mission and vision statements, as part of a strategic planning process.

Mission Statement: Herkimer College's mission is to provide dynamic educational programs and services in an inclusive, engaging community where all learners have the opportunity to grow and succeed.

Vision Statement: Herkimer College will be the college of choice, delivering an innovative, transformative student experience inspired by a new generation. by Kira Maddox

# 'HERKIMER EDGE'





While Herkimer College has always been known for student support services, an acceptance into the Community College Research Center's (CCRC) summer institute suggested it was time to rethink what that support looks like, and to implement new best practices to help students prepare for life after graduation.

### THE INSTITUTE

The CCRC is an independent research organization that operates out of Teachers College, Columbia University. The summer institute, titled "Guided Pathways at Rural Colleges: Using Data to Launch Large-Scale Reform," was offered to only 22 community colleges nationwide, chosen after undergoing a rigorous application and interview process.

Committees from each participating college took part in pre-work webinars and data exercises to craft the foundation for their programming. For two weeks last July, college representatives listened to expert speakers, received specialized instruction, and took part in work sessions to determine how they could better support students.

"The institute made us look at many things we do and ideas we've had to help our students, and put it into a formula we can now present to the campus at large," said Provost Michael Oriolo.

Initial assessments were good. Herkimer College had already been rolling out new initiatives that aligned with what the CCRC research encouraged. But there was a large component that had been lost in the shuffle over the years: engaging students early about what they wanted to do after college.

"The idea of using community college as merely a steppingstone to get general education courses out of the way is an outdated mindset," said Oriolo. Instead, community colleges should be working with students early to help them truly determine their career and educational interests. Oriolo said campus representatives previously spent long sessions with prospective students going over available programs before enrolling them in a major, but that the culture shifted as new guidance came out that younger generations preferred things to be quick and digital.

The new programming from the CCRC has been dubbed Herkimer Edge, and will be a long-term cultural shift for the College.



"They start with us, but they don't always continue with us," Oriolo said. "We need to show them how their high school credits can factor into a Herkimer College associate degree and beyond us—how we can help them achieve a bachelor's or master's degree."

# **ASK, CONNECT, INSPIRE, AND PLAN**

The CCRC Institute focused on best practices branded ACIP: Ask, Connect, Inspire, and Plan. At Herkimer, these methods can be put into place before a student even enrolls for their first year by targeting College Now students.

College Now students are those high school students taking Herkimer College credit courses concurrently with their high school courses. On average, about 900 high school students enroll in one or more courses through Herkimer's College Now program each semester. CCRC committee members said they are increasing engagement with these students and their high schools in order to help them plan ahead and potentially earn their degree at Herkimer.

### THE COLLEGE TO CAREER PIPELINE

Another aspect of Herkimer Edge is stressing the college to career pipeline. The percentage of students enrolled in the General Studies program has hovered around 20 percent for the past five years. Suzanne Paddock, director of Career Services, says data collected for the institute showed these students often change majors—somtimes more than once—and are at a high risk for not completing their degrees.

Paddock said her office will offer students career counseling and access to FOCUS 2, a program that aids with career assessment, much earlier in their academic careers. "Until recently, higher education in general has viewed career services as something a student should access in their final year or semester for help getting a job," Paddock said. "Herkimer Edge is focused on front loading services, and in particular, helping students make the connection between their college program of study and their ultimate career path with job obtainment after graduation."

The College has also created a revised academic advisement model. While the new model debuted in 2020, its continued implementation and ongoing adjustments make it a core component of the Herkimer Edge initiative.



Under the new model, called the Total Intake Model, all incoming students have an assigned advisor within the Academic Advisement Center, to aid them with the transition to college, connect them to student resources, and help them navigate program requirements. After they've reached the 30-credit threshold, students will be assigned to a faculty advisor, deepening the connection to their degree program and allowing them to have more specialized career and transfer mentorship.

"It's essential that every student make a career and educational plan early on," said Katie Scanlon, director of the Advisement Center. "This helps them see the importance of the courses they're taking and stay on track."

### **LIGHT THE FIRE**

To stay on track, students need to be excited about their futures and what the road ahead of them could look like after college. A new First Year Experience (FYE) program was rolled out earlier this year bringing the new advisement model, new student orientation, online orientation course and revised First Year Student Seminar, with weekly

themes, under its umbrella. The FYE aims to transform first-year students from passive to active in their educational process, and to help them become informed participants in their college experience.

The need for academic enthusiasm does not fall solely on the students. "We know our faculty teach courses toward the end of a program sequence and think to themselves, 'Boy, this would have been great to offer earlier on to really inspire these students," said Steven Boucher, assistant professor of business. Changes to program curricula will be made to ensure students are being exposed to the bread and butter of their academic programs earlier on-programs the CCRC has dubbed "light your fire courses."

The College also plans to expand experiential learning by offering more guest speaker programs and presentations from area experts. The College hopes to become a conduit for early interaction between students and potential employers, not only to help students envision their degree programs in action, but to strengthen its presence in the community.

"The net result is a comprehensive and far-reaching framework for not just our campus, but for the communities in our area," said Associate Dean Bill McDonald. "Having a formalized plan like Herkimer Edge helps us have our own pathway forward and hold ourselves accountable-it's a cultural change."



# Commit<sup>2</sup> Complete

Commit 2 Complete is a recruitment and retention initiative to engage students early, before classes even begin. Commit 2 Complete challenges students to complete their degree programs in two years or less. Students in the program receive a \$1,000 monetary award–funded by the Herkimer County College Foundation—to apply to the cost of on-campus housing. They also report to a specialized academic advisor and participate in extra activities to promote goal setting and personal growth, as well as develop customized graduation success plans.

Comprehensive student support is very important for "both the student and the College," said Director of Admissions Denver Stickrod. "Our students come from many walks of life, and sometimes just having a staff or faculty member demonstrate to them that we care and we are here for them is that extra needed piece."

About 89 students were inducted into the inaugural cohort with a welcome event on Labor Day, the day before classes started. Students met with the directors of advisement and career services; and were shown a presentation about the program and the various support services available to them.



"My experiences so far with Commit 2 Complete are phenomenal..."

Kyle Poulos

Kyle Poulos '23, a criminal justice major from Niagara, NY, said he enrolled in the program to benefit from the individual attention from advisors and a tailored plan to graduate in two years. Poulos said, "My experiences so far with Commit 2 Complete are phenomenal. My advisor is always reaching out and guiding me through all the confusing parts of college and is always making me aware of what workshops and events are occurring on campus to help me excel."

Stickrod said he's eager to grow the cohort in the coming years, with a goal of enrolling 100 students through the program in Fall 2022.

# New Refrigerator for the General's Cupboard

**GENERAL'S** Herkimer College's food pantry, The General's Cupboard, now is providing students with perishable foods. Thanks to funding from SUNY, Swipe Out Hunger, and Chobani, a refrigerator was recently added

from SUNY, Swipe Out Hunger, and Chobani, a refrigerator was recently added to The General's Cupboard. Students now have access to milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, and other perishable foods. "We are very grateful for the generous support of the work we are doing to provide students in need with access to nutritional food. By addressing food insecurity issues, we believe students will have a better chance at achieving academic success and completing their degrees," said Rebecca Ruffing, chair of the General's Cupboard Steering Committee.

The General's Cupboard opened in 2019 and is a free food and personal care source for any Herkimer College student who may be experiencing hunger and/or struggling to attain food due to financial hardship.



Pictured is Herkimer College Human Services student, Kayla Suppa '22, who recently completed an internship in The General's Cupboard.

# A Renewed Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our goal is to empower and educate all members of our community to facilitate a campus culture where diversity, equity, and inclusion are respected and intentionally valued.

hat is the new mission statement of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) pillar committee. The committee is led by co-chairs Dr. Robin Riecker, associate dean of academic affairs; and Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans, assistant professor of biology, and acts as a conduit for equity-related initiatives and events on campus. While the committee has been a part of the College's governance structure for several years, recent national issues and conversations have led to a resurging commitment "to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"We acknowledge that social injustice and inequality exist, and we actively persist in removing barriers."



The DEI Committee is working to establish a stronger presence on the college website; partner with the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement on campus events; provide additional resources to faculty regarding intentional awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom; and generate other initiatives to help support a positive campus climate for all students, faculty and staff.

In addition to the work of the DEI Committee, Herkimer College demonstrates its commitment to creating an inclusive campus and promoting equity in the community through a variety of initiatives and programs.

# **Project SEARCH**

Herkimer College was the first community college in the nation to bring Project SEARCH to its campus. This international internship program for young adults with disabilities focuses on competitive employment and promoting independence. The local program is a collaboration between Herkimer College and Arc Herkimer. Interns take part in daily classroom instruction and gain hands-on work experience by rotating among on-campus internships.

### **PRODIG**

With funding support from a PRODiG grant through SUNY, Herkimer College is able to invest in: recruitment and retention of under-represented minority faculty, establishing a partnership with the Future Professoriate Program at Syracuse University, collaborations with the PTech Academy and BOCES, and initiatives that support a welcome campus environment.

# College in Prison

Herkimer College gives course instruction at both Mid-State Correctional Facility in Marcy, NY, and Mohawk Correctional Facility in Mohawk, NY. This program gives inmates the opportunity to earn an associate degree while incarcerated, increasing their chances of successfully rejoining the workforce upon the end of their sentences.

# Office of International Programming

The Office of International Programming works to encourage international students to earn their education at Herkimer College. The staff work closely with students to ensure they have the proper paperwork completed, and collaborate with international recruitment representatives to spread information worldwide. Herkimer College normally enrolls approximately 80 international students per year from over 20 foreign countries.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

# Creating the Path to STEM Careers

Herkimer College has joined into an alliance with other area colleges and universities to create new pathways for students to more easily continue their education and succeed in the STEM field. The partnership will result in a new student cohort on campus, called the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Scholars program. Developed and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the goal is to bolster the number of underrepresented minorities working in the STEM field.

LSAMP scholars will be supported with STEM career awareness and readiness programs, tutoring, scholarly seminars, and networking activities. Additionally, a select number of LSAMP scholars from Herkimer College will have the opportunity to participate in a paid summer research internship program. Such programming will help prepare students for 21st century STEM careers through strong experiential learning and professional development activities.



Other schools in the coalition, known as the Central New York LSAMP Alliance (CNYLA), are Ithaca College, Utica College, SUNY Cortland, SUNY ESF, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Tompkins Cortland Community College. Herkimer College and TC3 will work to build scholars from the community college level up, acting as feeder schools for the four-year schools in the alliance, said Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Jennifer Adjodha-Evans, the College's campus facilitator for the program. This gives LSAMP scholars a pathway to earn a bachelor's degree, and more advanced degrees in STEM if they choose to continue their education.

# To be eligible for LSAMP, students must:

- Be an underrepresented minority as described by the LSAMP program description (African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Native Pacific Islander)
- Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or permanent resident of the U.S.
- Be enrolled at a participating institution in an undergraduate major in a STEM discipline and/ or an area within the LSAMP CIP Code.

Eligible STEM majors at Herkimer College include: Computer Science A.S., Electrical Technology A.A.S., Engineering Science A.S., and Liberal Arts and Sciences: Science A.S.

LSAMP applications are currently being accepted for Fall 2022. More information and the application is available at herkimer.edu/lsamp.

# ALUMNI MA

# Did you know?

Many Herkimer College alumni have become successful entrepreneurs and business owners. We called out for alumni-owned businesses earlier this year and were amazed at some of the things our former students have been working on!

Here's a selection of Generals-owned businesses.

# Beyond Reality Owners: Steven Shaver '15,

Owners: Steven Snaver '15, Philipo (Blake) Arcuri '16 and James Costello



Beyond Reality utilizes the flexibility and fun of the Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality headsets to bring new and exciting experiences to parties and events. The new business operates as a mobile service, and is working toward a brick and mortar store early in 2022 so they can offer even more fun and entertainment to the central New York area.



# Ceiling & Wall Restorations

Owner: Charles T. Lester '92

Ilion, NY ceilingandwallrestoration.com

Painting and repair services, including drywall crack repair, and fire damage restoration.





# By The Beans Owner: Courtney (Coates) Ross '21

Owner: Courtney (Coates) Ross '21 bythebeans.com

Ground and whole-bean artisanal coffee,



with flavors like pumpkin spice, cheesecake, and pralines and cream. By The Beans carries roasted coffee beans flavored or not, in light, medium and dark roast as well as uncommon exclusive flavored ground coffee, coffee syrup, single serve coffee pods, merchandise, and more! "By The Beans came out when I decided to quit my day job after COVID and start working for myself. I consider myself a coffee 'enthusiast.' By The Beans is special because I take an approach to set myself apart from competitors being personal and engaging with my audience as well as having a unique inventory." — Courtney



# **Couches Creations in Wood**

**Owner: Scott Couch '89** 

Clayton, NY couchescreations.com

Handcrafted and one-of-a-kind wooden furniture, from Adirondack chairs to dining room tables.

Also accepts custom orders.

# RKETPLACE



# **Emergency Preparedness Solutions**

Owner: Timothy Riecker '98 Utica, NY epsllc.biz

Provides comprehensive emergency and disaster preparedness services for

non-profit, government, and private sectors.





# **Hilltop Marketing**

Owner: Leigh Ann (Lowe) Dillon '01 Frankfort, NY hilltopmarketing.biz

Offering website design, graphic design, and other marketing for small businesses throughout Central New York.

# **Emily Lauren Photography**

**Owner: Emily Boyer '14** 

**Tupper Lake, NY** 

#### emily-lauren-photography.mypixieset.com

Taking timeless photos of your most cherished events, from weddings to pregnancy announcements. Emily is also a member of the Professional Photographers of America Association.





# GRAND COLONIAL BY AND MANAGEMENT OF SALE HE

# **Grand Colonial Bed and Breakfast**

Owner: Jason Costanza '01

Herkimer, NY grand-colonial.com

Built as a private residence in the 1890s, this historic bed and breakfast has four guest rooms and offers complimentary chocolates and homemade breakfast.



# **Honey Brook Hobbies**

Owner: Krystin (Farrington) Dedla '10 Herkimer, NY honeybrookhobbies.com

Named after beloved pet bulldog "Bella Honey Brook," this bakery offers a variety of fresh pastries, cannoli, cupcakes, and other sweets. They also offer custom cakes and dessert tables.

# STEPPIN' OUT - Finns Customs

by Kira Maddox

fter graduating from Herkimer College, Julianna Finnerty '19 enrolled at Manhattan College in the Bronx, where she continued playing softball. It was during her first year at MC that she began looking at her shoe hobby as a business.

Finnerty says, "I had seen *Spider-man: Far From Home.* I am a huge Marvel fan, and after seeing that movie I decided that I wanted a pair of shoes with Spider-man and Mysterio on them so I thought, I can probably make myself a pair." She looked up some tutorials and made her first pair of custom shoes. After posting them on social media, she started getting orders from family and friends!

Finns Customs steadily grew, and really took off when Finnerty landed her biggest client, actor and musician Leslie Odom, Jr., best known for his portrayal of Aaron Burr in the popular musical *Hamilton*. During a virtual lecture that Odom gave at her school, Finnerty asked if she could make him a pair of custom shoes and he enthusiastically said yes. She connected with him on social media afterward. Odom's assistant collaborated with Finnerty on the design and style, and later sent a video of Odom opening the shoes, and told Finnerty he wears them around the house all the time.

"That was such a surreal experience for me and I actually still cannot believe it happened. The entire experience was awesome because I am a huge *Hamilton* fan as well as a devoted fan of his music so being able to create a pair of shoes for him that he loved was a dream come true," said Finnerty. The shoes, a pair of Air Force I's, drew inspiration from Odom Jr.'s album "Mr," with nods to some of the more personal lyrics from the record and incorporated hand-painted images of his family and the album cover.

Finns Customs also received a shout-out on a live ESPN broadcasting of the Manhattan vs. Stanford matchup in the 2021 NCAA Division I Softball Championship. Finnerty said, "It felt so amazing to

see a platform as big as ESPN talking about me and my shoes. The overall experience at the NCAA tournament was incredible in its own way and something I will never forget, but to also have all of these people see my business and the things that I create was crazy! I am so grateful. I'm hoping to eventually expand into the athletic realm with my business and hope to someday make cleats for professional athletes—the Yankees would be my dream!"

While she prefers to paint on Converse, Vans, and Nike Air Force I's because of the easily paintable surfaces, Finnerty said she can customize almost any shoe style. Other themes have been popular Disney movies like *Lilo & Stitch*, *Frozen*, and *Moana*, as well as a pair depicting blooming sunflowers and honey bees and shoes depicting a beloved pet.







After graduating from Manhattan College, Finnerty returned upstate for an internship with the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs baseball program, alongside fellow former Generals softball player **Vani Patel '20.** 

While running Finns Customs, she also helps her mom with her small business. Finnerty is considering a master's degree, and her long-term goal is to work in New York City in professional sports or entertainment.

Finnerty says she is grateful for getting her start at Herkimer College. "I wouldn't have known how to balance a lot of the business aspects of this venture with everything else had it not been for my education and softball experience at Herkimer," she said.



# ALUMNI MA

# HUMMEL'S De Office BME Complete Office Solutions Made Simple

# **Hummel's Office Plus**

Chairman: Harrison J. Hummel, III '74

CEO: Justin Hummel '01 CAO: Soláce Hummel '02

Mohawk, NY hummelsop.com

The popular business supply provider is led by Generals! Known for exceptional customer service, Hummel's Office Plus is the largest independent office supply dealer in Upstate New York with three retail locations, convenient online ordering, and 20 delivery trucks providing free, next day delivery. Keep an eye out for further expansions on the horizon from Hummel's!



# IT Room Solutions

Owner: Jarred Cornwell '06
Utica, NY itroomsolutions.com

Working alongside businesses

to implement "purposeful technology," helping them overcome challenges, reach their outcome goals, and power business potential.



J. Hicks, Co.
Owner: Joshua Hicks '06
Sherburne, NY
ihicksco.com



A family-owned-and-operated power washing (both residential and commercial) and sports installation company. Installed safety netting at the Kansas-based Riverfront Stadium, home to minor league baseball team the Wichita Wind Surge, in 2020.

# **JVAN Services**

Owner: Jakia Durham Kelly '11

Syracuse, NY

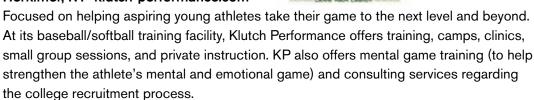
jvanservices.com

Digital online business management, able to oversee customer service, calendar management, web page maintenance, social media, and other services.



# Klutch Performance Owner: PJ Anadio '02

Herkimer, NY klutch-performance.com



# **North Country Tours**

Owner: Tina DeMarsh '80

Lake George, NY

facebook.com/northcountytours

North Country Tours has been bringing people to enjoy the open air of the Adirondack Mountains for more than 30 years. Now offering group tours as well as guided walking group tours.





# **REVAMPFITNESS**

# **Revamp Fitness**

**Owner: Jason Crippen '02** 

Herkimer, NY revamp-fitness.com

Privately owned boutique-style fitness center. Also offers personal training, spin classes, and a protein shake bar.





UTICREWS APPAREL BRAND

# **Uticrews**

Owner: Morgan Mielnicki '13

Utica, NY uticrews.com

Utica-based apparel company promoting local pride. Merchandise includes t-shirts, tanks, hoodies, beanies, and more.

# Utica Coffee Roasting Co.

Owner: Frank Elias '88

Utica, NY uticacoffeeroasting.com

It all began in 2002 with the purchase of their Genesee Street location in Utica. The potential in the area was seen by founder and president Frank Elias and now its "Wake The Hell Up!" branding is a well-known sight around the 315. With cafes in Utica and Clinton and a world-class roasting and education center and production facility in historical downtown Utica, it is safe to say the Utica Coffee brand has grown to be a staple of our community. Utica Coffee stays true to their roots through hiring locally, partnering with local businesses, and providing retail space to a variety of locally sourced products. Utica Coffee products are sold and served throughout Upstate New York and every state of the nation through Amazon and the company's website.

# **CLASS NOTES**

Kimberly Young '79 went on to earn a B.A. from SUNY Oswego, an M.A. from Edinboro University, and is now a Ph.D. Candidate at Duguesne University. She currently



works as a lecturer in the Department of Journalism, Broadcasting, and Public Relations at SUNY Brockport.

Cindy (Disbrow) Ashton '83 retired in 2018 after 31 years as secretary at Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES. She has since traveled extensively and volunteers with the American Red Cross and Volunteer Transportation Corp. Her husband retired in February 2021 and they are both looking forward to traveling again once COVID-19 subsides.



Donna (Mosiurchak) Linton '84 became president of the Virginia Court Reporters Association in 2020. She is also owner and president of Amicus Court Reporting, LLC.

John Fureno '87 was appointed first base and bench coach of the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs for the 2021 season. John previously coached the Dawgs from 2008 to 2011, where he coached former Dawgs player John Means, who went on to play in Major League Baseball.

Cosimo Tangorra, Ed.D. '90 has been named superintendent of the New Hartford Central School District. He was previously the superintendent of schools for the Niskayuna Central School District, Central Valley Central School District, Ilion Central School District, Trumansburg Central School District, and Oppenheim-Ephratah Central School District. He also served as deputy commissioner for P-12 education for the New York State Education Department, administrator and special education teacher in the Little Falls City School District, and as a special education teacher at the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES.



Matt Alheim '96 holds an associate degree in Radio-Television Broadcasting and a bachelor's in Broadcasting from Ithaca College. After college, Matt moved to Los Angeles to pursue a

career in the entertainment industry, working in technical production management for such companies as Disney, MTV, New Line Cinema and Capitol Records. After a number of years on the west coast, Matt settled in the Washington, DC area and transitioned from production and technical management roles into sales. After completing his MBA from The George Washington University in 2006. Matt moved into executive management, progressing through regional, national, and global sales executive possessions for companies such as Bexel, Quince Imaging, and Argiva. Matt is currently vice president of sales for United Teleports, Inc., providing network origination and transmission services for over 600 broadcast television channels worldwide. He resides in the Washington, DC area with his wife and two children.

Stacey (Lesniak) Day '02 has been appointed as a nursing instructor at Mohawk Valley Community College. She earned a master's degree in nursing education and a bachelor's degree in nursing from SUNY Polytechnic Institute.



Delby Powless '02 has authored a new book, *Medicine Game*, an emotional modern-day story set on the fictional Sparrow Lake Nation. It's a story of a young man's life on the reservation, and how the game of lacrosse helps him

come to terms with his childhood problems and find a way to heal. The book is available on Amazon. Powless is a member of the Mohawk Nation, Turtle Clan and is a child and youth counselor in his home community, Six Nations of the Grand River, in Ontario, Canada. Powless graduated from Bellevue University with a Bachelor of Science in child protection and juvenile justice. He also graduated from the Child and Youth Mental Health Program at Wilfred Laurier University. He also attended Herkimer College and Rutgers University, where he was named to three All-American teams in the sport of lacrosse. He played lacrosse professionally, winning the Champions Cup in 2008 with the Buffalo Bandits of the National Lacrosse League and the Steinfeld Cup in 2009 with Toronto Nationals of Major League Lacrosse. Powless represented the Iroquois Nationals lacrosse team as a player at six world championships, and at the first-ever World Indoor Lacrosse Championships, he was selected to the All-World team.

Also, in 2003, Powless was named the recipient of the Tom Longboat Award as Canada's Top Aboriginal Athlete.

Master Sgt. Tricia (Pierce) Shivers '03 was named Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year by the New York Air National Guard for 2021.

Jennifer House '08 went on to study nursing at St. Joseph's College of Nursing and Roberts Wesleyan College. She now works as a circulating nurse in the St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center operating room.

Blaine McCurry '09 has been appointed director of marketing, sales, and sponsorship for the One World Observatory in Manhattan, New York.

Robert Hardy '14 has been hired as director of player development at Rice University. Originally from Clinton, NY, Hardy holds an associate in applied science degree in Sports & Recreation Management, and was a pitcher for the Generals baseball team in 2013 and 2014. He has been coaching since 2017, when he was a student assistant at Division I Binghamton University. Rob was then a graduate assistant at Bloomsburg University in PA where he helped recruit and develop a conference winning team in 2019 in the highly competitive Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. He spent the last two seasons at Division I Siena College.

Submit your class notes at herkimer.edu/classnotes

# **IN MEMORIAM**

Michael Thomas '13, March 29, 2021, age 32 The Herkimer men's basketball family is heartbroken and said "We want to give condolences to Mike's family. Mike was an impactful student-athlete who helped lead us to a No. 3 National finish in the 2013 NJCAA National Tournament."

Ronald J. Klimacek '73, June 5, 2021, age 75

Larry C. Chamberlain passed away on July 8, 2021. Mr. Chamberlain taught physics at Herkimer College from 1969 until his retirement in 2003. He was subsequently honored by the Board of Trustees

with the title of professor emeritus for his contributions to the College and the science department. Larry was a graduate of Mansfield College and Cornell University before enlisting in the U.S. Army National Guard and serving for several years. He was a member of the Post #1376 American Legion in New Hartford and enjoyed traveling, hunting, fishing, and camping with his family.

Lucy Ann (Palkowski) Helmer '72, July 25, 2021, age 69

Miguel Rivera '07, August 5, 2021, age 39

Michael J. Volo '93, August 12, 2021, age 74



Donald J. Snyder '04 passed away on September 7, 2021. Mr. Snyder was a graduate of Siena College and Albany Law School. He served on the College's Board of Trustees for 22 years (1991 through 2013)

and was chairman from 2003 to 2013. After Mr. Snyder's semi-retirement from his law practice, he enrolled at the College and graduated in 2004 with an associate degree in Fine Arts, earning highest honors, and was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Honor in 2016. Mr. Snyder was instrumental to the College's development by helping to secure its current property on Reservoir Road as it moved from downtown to the hill in its early years, and had a hand in many other projects, such as the construction of the Technology Center building, Wehrum Stadium, Reservoir Run student housing complex, and the renovation and expansion of both the College Center and the Library Building. He was a recipient of the New York Community College Trustees Marvin A. Rapp Award for Distinguished Trustee Service in 2010, the Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement in 2012, and the Herkimer College Torchbearer Award in 2019. In 2013, the College honored Mr. Snyder by dedicating the corridor between the Library Building and Johnson Hall as the Donald J. Snyder Corridor or "Don's Way."

Pamela A. (Heath) VanSlyke '81, December 5, 2021, age 61



# **Exactly Where He Wants To Be**

by Rebecca Ruffing photo by David Silverman, New England Revolution

Kevin Mellon '01, General Studies, A.A.

**Kevin Mellon '01** is exactly where he's always wanted to be—on a soccer field. Two years ago, Mellon was tapped for the job of soccer operations manager for the New England Revolution, a Major League Soccer (MLS) team. Mellon is responsible for planning and executing all aspects of team travel logistics and player/family relocation. It is a demanding job organizing everything from hotels, flights, and ground transportation, but the rewards are well worth it. "I work closely with the players every single day. When the team succeeds, I know I'm doing my job." Since Herkimer, he has had a long career in the sport of soccer from Division III to NJCAA to prep school to Division I to FIFA to MLS. "This career path has brought me all over the world-Japan, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Norway, Chili, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, etc. That part is absolutely fun. But it is still a lot of work."

Mellon remembers his time at Herkimer as one of the greatest times of his life. "My entire experience from start to finish—growing as a person, finding my identity—all the professors were awesome. I found it amazing that I could get the college experience at a community college. Herkimer did that. Herkimer gave everyone the full college experience. A lot of my teammates went to Herkimer for the same reason I did."

Mellon credits Coach Pepe Aragon with not only being a great coach, but also a positive influence in his life. "Pep made us better every day. He showed us how to succeed. He demanded the best out of us every day. We [the team] pushed each other every day and it showed with our two national championships (Pepe's first two)."

Mellon added, "Coaching at the college level is about managing your players. You recruit good players, but you have to be able to get them to play together for you. That's a hard thing to do. Especially at a two-year institution. In college, you have a lot of big fish from small ponds. Pep knew how to do get us to play together and at the same time represent Herkimer with class."

Mellon says he keeps in touch with Aragon, and tries to get to as many Herkimer soccer games as he can. "Pep was a mentor for me. Over time, as adults we became friends. His door was always open. Still to this day, he impresses me. Twenty-four seasons at a junior college—that's impressive. He loves what he does—coaching and teaching. He has this drive to be better every day."



Recently, Mellon took time out to show some fellow Herkimer alumni around when they attended a Revolution match at Gillette Stadium. "We [Herkimer men's soccer alumni] call each other family. Pepe and his family are part of my family. And I am a part of their family. After many alumni games and meeting many alumni through the years, before and after me, I have seen this to be true with all alumni. We are one big family. So when Pep told me the Snells were coming, of course I'm going to take the opportunity to talk to them."

After winning two NJCAA national soccer championships at Herkimer in 1999 and 2000, Mellon continued his education at SUNY Potsdam where he continued to play soccer. After graduating in 2004 with a B.A. in history, he served as assistant coach for one year at Potsdam, then as athletic facilities manager and women's soccer coach at North Country Community College for four years, and then two years at Bridgton Academy, an all-boys postgraduate prep school in Maine, where he was head coach, dorm parent, and game day operations manager.



Kevin Mellon recently visited with fellow Herkimer College alumni during a Revolution match at Gillette Stadium. Pictured from left: Mellon, Mark Snell, Drew Snell, Emilee Snell '97 and Jake Snell. Mark played soccer and Emilee played field hockey at Herkimer. Photo by David Silverman, New England Revolution

Then in 2010 a call came from St. John's University. "Here was my opportunity to be an assistant coach at the Division I school," said Mellon. After a year with St. John's, he received an offer from UConn. It was another opportunity he could not refuse. "That was a shock. It was a no-brainer," Mellon said of the offer from UConn. He spent five seasons with UConn as director of soccer administration.

In his final year at UConn, Mellon started working part time with the United States Soccer Federation (U.S. Soccer) as a national team coordinator, working mainly with youth national teams, but also with the beach national team and the Paralympic national team. "At the time I wasn't looking for a job, but wanted to learn how they operated from a logistics standpoint. They did some research on me and offered me the opportunity. In June of 2015, I was assigned to my first national team training camp (under-16 boys) in Fort Lauderdale, then from there, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in soccer operations," he said. Mellon describes his first day putting on the U.S. Soccer crest as "the best day of my life."

Working for U.S. Soccer meant very little time at home, so in 2019 Mellon returned to Connecticut to work as director of operations for Hartford Athletic, a new USL Championship franchise. After one season with Hartford, Bruce Arena, head coach for the New England Revolution, offered Mellon his dream job. Arena, the most successful American soccer coach in history, knew of Mellon through his work at U.S. Soccer. For Mellon, this was another no-brainer. "This is where I have always wanted to be. As a kid, I wanted to play soccer, but of course, I wanted to be in Major League Soccer. I got here with hard work, dedication, sacrifice, and being better every day. Even on the worst days here, they are still the greatest, because I actually get to walk out onto a soccer field every day. I look around at these professional athletes and think this is my life. I've done it. I've made it."

Regarding his successful and fulfilling career, Mellon said,

"Overall, I give credit to Herkimer and Pepe for my successful path AND I am not done yet."

"I still get choked up about it at times. It's absolutely amazing."

# **Meet Our New Coaches**

# Golf

**Head Coach: John Campagna** 

Education: B.P.S., Business

Administration, SUNY Polytechnic Institute

Career History: John has been an employee since the early 1990s and is currently the student athlete academic specialist. He developed the College's current athletic academic code and early student -athlete academic tracking and communication strategies. He spent nearly eight years as the head coach of the boys' JV basketball team and assistant coach of the varsity track team at Dolgeville High School. Before that, he coached at Herkimer College, overseeing the women's basketball team from 1990 to 2012, the cross country team from 1992 to 2001, and the softball team from 1999 to 2001.

# Lacrosse

**Head Coach: Bob Leary '85** 

**Education:** A.A., Social Science, Herkimer County Community College

B.S., European History – SUNY Oneonta

Career History: Bob coached men's lacrosse at Wisconsin's Marian University, leading the team to a 21-13 record. Before that, he was head lacrosse coach at SUNY Delhi for more than a decade, as well as head women's soccer coach. He was named the Mountain Valley Conference Coach of the Year four times and was named the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Junior College National Coach of the Year in 2012.

He spent seven years as vice president of the Region III Women's Soccer Coaching Association and was president for the 2013-14 term, and spent five years serving as president of both the Region III Lacrosse Coaches Association and the NJCAA Lacrosse Coaches Association. Bob played a significant role in the establishment of the NJCAA Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the NJCAA Region III All-Star game.

# Swimming & Diving

**Head Coach: Nicholas Lanckton'17** 

Education: A.A., General Studies,

Herkimer County Community College, B.A.,

Communication Arts - Utica College

**Career History:** Nicholas was an accomplished swimmer during his time at Herkimer, setting records for the 1650, 1000, and 800 yard relays. Nicholas has worked as a lifeguard at the House of the Good Shepard and Upstate Cerebral Palsy. He also lifeguarded at the College for two years from 2016 to 2018.

# Women's Basketball

**Head Coach: Matthew Hazzard** 

**Education:** B.S., Business Economics; B.S., Sports Management – SUNY

Cortland. M.S., Organizational Management (Finance)

Colorado State University

Career History: Matthew was assistant coach of both the girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams at Cooperstown Central School, helping lead the girls' program to two NYSPHSAA final fours and a Class C state championship win. He was also an assistant coach for Cooperstown's varsity baseball team, which had two NYSPHSAA final four appearances and won the 2019 state finals. Matthew is an adjunct professor at SUNY Oneonta.

# Women's Soccer

**Head Coach: Damon Neish** 

**Education:** B.S., Sports Coaching & Development – University of Abertay

Dundee, Scotland

Career History: Damon has been director of coaching at Westmoreland's Rising Stars Soccer Academy since 2016 and recently began working at Schuyler Sports as well as Community Athletic Solutions. He previously was head coach of the Forfar Farmington Woman's Football Club, which competed in the Scottish Woman's Premier League. He also spent four years with the Dundee Football Club in their pro-youth academy and was named community development manager.



# Men's Soccer Finishes Stellar Season as National Runner-Up

The men's soccer team completed an outstanding season this past fall with an overall 12-2 record, a regional championship and a second place finish in the NJCAA Division III national tournament.

Ali Somow '23 (Utica, NY), Manabu Takahashi '22 (Osaka, Japan) and Max LaRosa '23 (Spencerport, NY) were named United Soccer Coaches All-Americans. They received their awards at the United Soccer Coaches National Soccer Convention in Kansas City on Saturday, January 22. Somow was also named to the NJCAA, Division III All-American team, along with Ikiel Collins-Brown '22 (Monroe, NY). Additionally Somow earned Regional Player of the Year and LaRosa was named Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year. (Soccer photos by Brian Miller)

# Track and Field Athlete Wins Two National Titles Hunter Logan '21

Logan won national championships in the men's shot put and men's discus at the 2021 NJCAA Division III Track and Field Championships, held at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas in May.

Logan, a freshman from Fort Plain, NY, won the shot put with a throw of 15.47 meters—nearly four meters farther than the second-place finisher. In the discus, he threw the winning distance of 38.42 meters, outperforming second place by 0.74 meters. Logan also earned a second-place national finish in the hammer throw with a distance of 34.58 meters.







# RICARE GRAING CHAMPITHE CALL OF DUTY GITHIUM HERCIES & CONTT COMMUNITY COLLEGIS SOCI

# Esports Duo Brings Home Championship in Inaugural Year

During the 2020-21 academic year, Herkimer College announced it was debuting a new NJCAA team—esports. Ready to prove digital sports have just as much of a place on campus as traditional sports, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare Gunfight duo Christian Mandia '22, of Deerfield, NY, and Jayden Vargas '22, of Bronx,

NY, brought a national championship to the Generals in their inaugural year of play.

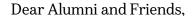
They also had a perfect season, going 9-0. During the tournament, Mandia and Vargas swept the No. 1 seeded University of South Carolina-Sumter by a score of 4-0 in the semifinal matchup before beating Irvine Valley in the championship match 4-1.

"Being a champion student-athlete in my first year was great—I'm still getting recognized for it even into my second year," said Vargas. "I hope I can do it again this year."

"Last season was a success I'm not sure any of us expected," said Head Coach Frank Drapalski. "To have a team win a championship and all others over .500 on the first season of NJCAA competition felt great."

Student-athletes on the esports teams practice for a minimum of eight to 10 hours a week, with Drapalski hosting daily discussions via Discord regarding strategy, play style, and things to learn from previous matches.

"I never believe in setting your expectations too low, so right now the goal for all our teams is to make the playoffs," he said. "Once we get to that point, then we take it match by match." 0



Let me begin by saying how grateful we all are to be back on campus. We are doing all we can to successfully provide a quality education and experience to our students while still managing the effects of a pandemic.

It is wonderful to see students in classrooms, athletes on the field, and our campus feeling vibrant once again.

I want to thank all of you, alumni and friends of Herkimer College, for your continued support through these unprecedented recent times. So many of you stepped up and contributed to the Foundation when we quickly sought to raise funds for our students most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. You continued to give in support of student scholarships, which play such a significant role in our students' ability to persist and attain their degrees. Your support of this institution and its students is remarkable and much appreciated!

The return to campus and the transition back to in-person learning and working does come with some changes. For the Foundation, one of those changes will be in how we go about raising funds to support the College. The Foundation will be seeking to raise money for a wide variety of college-related causes through electronic platforms that allow us to present all the necessary information on the specific projects, while also making it easier than ever to contribute. It's a method we feel will be successful and allow us to be more informative and effective in our fundraising efforts.

I continue to be impressed with the stories you tell of the positive impact Herkimer College has had on your lives. Your generosity and contributions to this institution will help ensure that continues for the next generation of successful graduates.

Sincerely,

Rob Fowler, Executive Director

Rot From

Herkimer County College Foundation

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# **Gifts In-Kind**

Barnes & Noble

If you made a donation from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 and were inadvertently omitted from this list, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Herkimer County College Foundation Office at 315.574.4015 to ensure records are updated.

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Current as of December 31, 2021

To view Herkimer College's financial report for 2020-2021, visit www.herkimer.edu/financial.



# **Employees Recognized For Service**

Congratulations to the following employees for reaching milestones of service!

# 10 YEARS

Cara Boepple '97 Stephanie Conley Richard Dawkins Daniel Elthorp '96 Dr. Nicole McDaniels Rene Roth

# 20 YEARS

Wendy Marchese Erin Bailey '95, '98 Amy Dommer Jennifer Herzog Stacie Shepardson '06

# **40 YEARS**

Michael Oriolo Margaret Schumacher

# Other Awards

- Advisers Josh Belisle and Blake Pitcher '99
  were recognized for 10 years of service to
  Phi Theta Kappa.
- Baseball coach Jason Rathbun '01 earned his 500th career win on April 20, 2021.
- Softball Coach PJ Anadio '02 earned his 400th career win in May 14, 2021.

# CONGRATULATIONS

# **Faculty Promotions**

The following faculty received promotions in rank, effective September 1, 2021. Congratulations!

April Harris, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity

Karen Jones '93, PT, DPT, Associate Professor to Professor of Physical Therapy

# **Appointments & Promotions**

Sara Gegler '12, Office Assistant II

Hector Alarcon '19, Math Tutor (P/T)

Kasper Cuda, Science Tutor (P/T)

James Hunt '12, '13, Math Tutor (P/T)

Elizabeth Pogonowski, Assistant Professor,

PTA Program and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education

Matthew Hazzard, Women's Basketball Coach

Justin Phillips '15, Campus Peace Officer

Nicholas Lanckton '17, Men's and Women's

Swimming/Diving Coach

Aaron Alford '93, Bursar

Jaclyn Harrington '95, Registrar

Joshua Parkinson, Director of Instructional Design

Amanda Talaba, Technical Assistant, Math/ Science/Technology

Maureen Boufas '07, Director of Financial Aid

Rebecca Lesniak '07, Learning Management

System (LMS) Administrator

David Hermann, Technical Assistant, International Programs

Damon Neish, Women's Soccer Coach

Matthew Babula, Advisement Center Specialist

Charlotte Whitney, Advisement Center Specialist

Paige Crittela '17, Admissions Assistant Robert Leary '85, Admissions Assistant

Title I Della Dell

Bill Nudo, Building Maintenance Helper

Miranda Maldonado '16 and '20, Campus Peace Officer

Elaha Noori '19, Acting Assistant Network Administrator

Kaitlyn Adsitt '18, Technical Assistant, Athletics (PT)

Isabella Fasolo '19, '20, Technical Assistant, Athletics (PT)

Brian Reile, Life Guard (PT)

Jason Korniat, Assistant Director of Facilities
Edward Lynch, Assistant Director of Facilities
John Campagna, Men's and Women's Golf Coach
Jody Edick, Academic Support Center
Specialist/Academic Coach

# **Best Wishes To Our Retirees**

Teresa Shepard, Administrative Assistant to the Foundation

John Lasher, Registrar

Debra Sutliff, Bursar

Susan Tripp, Director of Financial Aid

Jan Fuhrer '99, Foundation Development

Program Specialist

James Charzuk '92, IT

Clifford Flamm, Professor, Math

Eileen Hart, Assistant Professor, English

Pat Miller '79, Senior Financial Aid Assistant

# **EMERITUS STATUS**

is an honor granted by the Board of Trustees to retired professional, academic, and administrative staff members who have demonstrated excellence and commitment to making Herkimer College the exceptional institution it is today. The Board of Trustees granted emeritus status to three retiring employees, effective September 1, 2021.



John Lasher retired from the position of registrar with 24 years of service to Herkimer College. He had served several years as a lab technician and an instructor prior to joining the administration. He also served as the Veterans benefits coordinator and was a member of the SUNY Registrar's Association.



Debra Sutliff served as the bursar for more than 30 years. Sutliff received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 1996 and was named a "campus angel" by On Point for College in 2010.



Susan Tripp worked in the Financial Aid department for nearly 40 years, and served as director of financial aid since 2003. Tripp received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 2011. She was an executive council member of the SUNY Financial Aid Professionals, Inc. and a member of the New York State Financial Aid Administrator Association.

# 2021 SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

**Nicole McDaniels,** Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service

**Robin Riecker,** Ed.D., Associate Dean of Academic Affairs – Humanities/Social Science SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service

### **Robert Paul**

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

# **FACTS & FIGURES**

Š	Enrollment (Fall 2020):		
ď	Total Headcount	2,436	
'n	Full-Time	48%	
É	Part-Time	52%	
	Campus:		
	Herkimer campus	36%	
1	Internet Academy (100% online)	23%	
	College Now (Concurrent Enrollment)	37%	
	P-TECH (Early College High School)	2%	
	College In Prison	2%	
ξ			
	Gender: Female	600/-	
S	Male	60%	
Ä	Iviale	40%	
	Age:		
	24 and under	77%	
K	Over 24	21%	
	Unknown	2%	
Z	Residency:		
	In-state	96.3%	
	Out-of-state	1.8%	
	International (15 countries)	1.7%	
ŝ	Military	0.2%	
	Race/Ethnicity:		
ľ	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	
9	Asian	1.8%	
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	
w	Black or African American	11.2%	
ì	Hispanic/Latino	5.7%	
3	Non-Resident Alien	1.8%	
	Two or More Races	1.5%	
	Unreported	5.0%	
	White	72.4%	
ĸ		72.170	
	Faculty & Staff (Fall 2020):		
	Full-Time	161	
÷	Part-Time (excluding College Now)	93	
	Student-to-Faculty Ratio:	19:1	
	2020-21 Graduates:	TASI	
	Degrees	283	
	Certificates	81	
	9006		
		_ 11	4

of first-time, full-time students (Fall 2019) received some form of **financial aid** (Source: IPEDS)

# **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

#### ATT

Art Studio A.S.

#### Business

Accounting A.A.S. \*

Accounting A.S. 7

Business Administration A.A.S. \*

Business Administration A.S. 7

Fashion Buying & Merchandising A.A.S.

Human Resource Management A.A.S. \*

Marketing A.A.S. \*

Quality Assurance - Business A.S. \*

Small Business Management A.A.S. \*

Small Business Management Certificate \*

Sports & Recreation Management A.A.S.

Supply Chain Management A.A.S. \*

Travel & Events Management A.A.S. \*

# **Communication Arts**

Communication and Media A.S.

Music Industry A.S.

# **Criminal Justice & Law**

Crime & Intelligence Analysis A.A.S.

Criminal Justice A.A.S. 3

Criminal Justice A.S. \*

Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics A.S.

Forensic Investigations A.A.S.

Legal Studies A.A.S. \*

Paralegal Studies Certificate \*

Pre-Employment Corrections Basic Training Certificate

Pre-Employment Police Academy

### **Education**

Childhood Education A.S.

Early Childhood A.A.S.

Physical Education A.S.

# **Healthcare & Service**

Health Professions A.S.

Health Services Management Technology A.A.S.

Human Services A.A.S. \*

Medical Coding / Transcriptionist Certificate \*

Physical Therapist Assistant A.A.S.

# **Liberal Arts & Sciences**

General Studies A.A. \*

Humanities A.A. \*

Psychology A.A. \*

Science A.S.

Social Science A.A.

# Science and Technology

Computer and Network Security A.A.S.

Computer Science A.S.

Electrical Technology A.A.S.

Engineering Science A.S.

Quality Assurance - Science A.S. \*

Science A.S.



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