

A Vision for the Future

President's Report





A Letter from **Dr. Jon Connolly** President

Dear Friends of Sussex County Community College:

The highlights included in this President's Report have all been guided by the new 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Recently, we have tied all budget items to the Mission and Vision of the College, and to the elements of the Strategic Plan that matter the most for certain departments. Tying our strategic plan, in concrete ways, to the strategic plan means that we are “paying attention” to how all of our work coheres for institutional advancement. Change that is informed by the strategic plan and that is tied to the budget means that we can track what we are doing and determine if things are working or should be decommissioned.

The College continues to be committed to delivering programs that supply local businesses and employers with an educated workforce that helps to grow the local economy. The College believes it is the most explicit engine for economic prosperity in Sussex County. The College also continues to enrich the county with free workshops and educational programs in agriculture, culinary, automotive, poetry, and through our flourishing Center for Lifelong Learning.

As you will see in this year's President's Report, our new Academic Center is under construction and includes classrooms, a lecture hall, an engineering and maker space, meeting rooms, and student gathering areas. New space is necessary as our academic offerings are growing with the addition of new programs, options, and certificates. We also provide opportunities with more than a dozen honors programs and transfer articulation agreements with selective four-year institutions, including Drew University, and Rutgers.

The College is incredibly proud of our championship athletic program. Our sports offerings are expanding with the addition of men's and women's lacrosse, football, wrestling, women's volleyball, and Esports.

Our Campus Life is robust and thriving: we have a new mascot, “Skylor,” who rallies school spirit; we continue to have dynamic student club activities that fill the Student Center Galleria, and our new Campus Store energizes the Student Center with musical performances, and ice cream sold by the College's business club.

Our students are our future and an investment in their education is an investment in the future of Sussex County. We transform lives by providing lifelong learning opportunities through high quality academic, career, and enrichment programs in an accessible and supportive environment to ensure student success.

Sincerely,

Jon H. Connolly, Ph.D.
President

Sussex Administration

Dr. Jon Connolly, President
Ketan Gandhi, CFO and Executive
Vice President of Administrative Services

Dr. Mercedes Acuirre Batty, Chief Academic Officer
and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Kathleen Okay, Vice President of Student Services

Committed to Student Success



**Student Enrollment
& Success**



**Academic
Effectiveness**



**Partnerships &
Relationships**



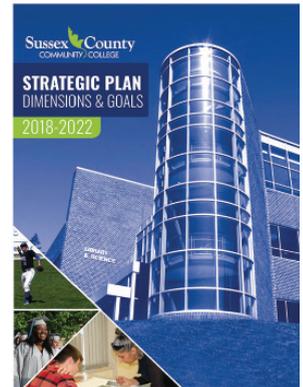
**Campus
Atmosphere**



Innovation

A new Strategic Plan - Dimensions & Goals

Following a year-long development process under the leadership of President Jon Connolly, Sussex proudly launched its next four-year Strategic Plan in July of 2018. Through the development process of the Plan, there were vast amounts of both quantitative and qualitative data that were analyzed by the 19-member committee made up of students, faculty, staff, board members, and community members. The Plan was open for comment for one month by the College community and subsequently voted on, and approved by the College's Board of Trustees in June 2018.



Sussex receives re-accreditation in 2018

As per the re-accreditation guidelines set forth by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the College was required to complete a decennial Self-Study followed by a committee visit in 2018. The Self-Study document is intended to serve as an internal environmental scan and to show how the institution regularly maintains compliance with relevant accreditation, state, and federal requirements. The 2018 Self-Study was completed in January 2018 and a committee site visit ensued in April. The College subsequently received re-accreditation in November 2018.

Sussex County Community College Vision

Sussex County Community College will be a leader in NJ Higher Education as a premier provider of 21st-century learning opportunities, professional training, and skills development to meet the needs of the people of our community in a globally competitive environment.

Sussex County Community College Mission

We transform lives by providing lifelong learning opportunities through high quality academic, career and enrichment programs in an accessible and supportive environment to ensure student success.

Board of Trustees

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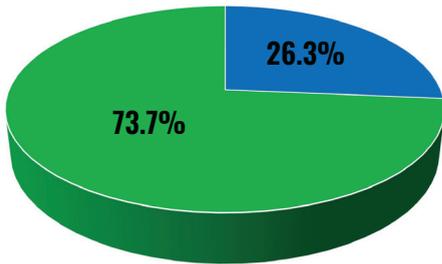
2018-19

FACTS & FIGURES



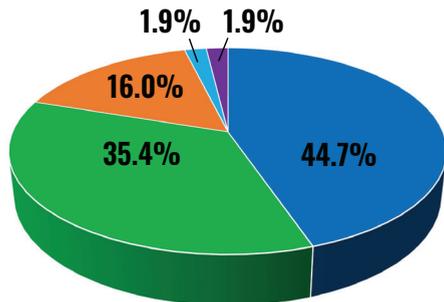
FLAT TUITION, PAST 3 YEARS

ATTENDANCE STATUS



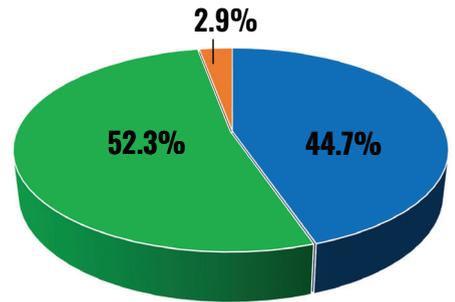
■ Part-Time ■ Full-Time

COMPLETION BY TYPE



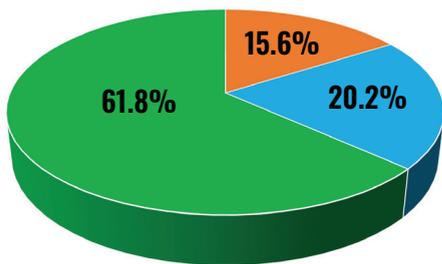
■ AA ■ AS ■ AAS ■ AFA ■ Certificate

ENROLLMENT BY GENDER



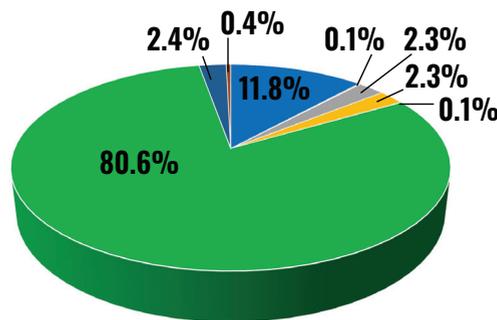
■ Female ■ Male ■ Not Reported

REVENUE SOURCES

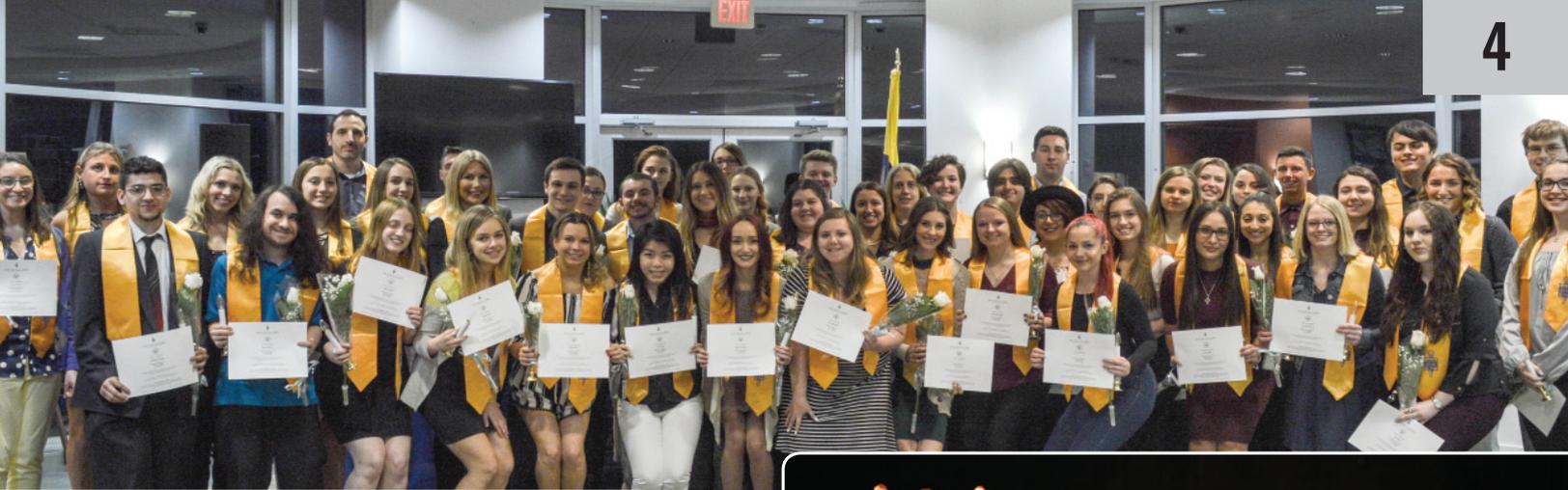


■ Student Charges ■ County ■ State

RACE/ETHNICITY



■ White - 80.6%
 ■ Hispanic/Latino - 11.8%
 ■ Two or More Races - 2.4%
 ■ Black/African American - 2.3 %
 ■ Asian - 2.3%
 ■ Not Reported - 0.4%
 ■ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 0.1%
 ■ American Indian/Alaskan Native - 0.1%



Achievements, Honors, and Awards

Phi Theta Kappa inducts new students

The College is proud to induct a group of outstanding students who have shown academic excellence into the most prestigious honor society for community colleges. Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for two-year colleges boasts members throughout the country. A special ceremony was held at the College to mark this recognition and honor these students. There were 165 students inducted in 2018-19.

Psi Beta recognizes students

History was made as the National Honor Society for Psychology inducted the largest group of students in the College's History into Psi Beta. Psi Beta's mission is to promote the professional development of psychology students in two-year colleges. This accomplishment was achieved through the recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research, and community service.

SALUTE honors student veterans

SALUTE, Veterans National Honor Society, pays tribute to student veterans and military in two- and four-year institutions of higher education. Membership into SALUTE honors the men and women who have served, or are currently serving their country. It also strives to better the academic success of these students.

Top Image: Students receive recognition for being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

Right Image: Psi Beta honorees gather on stage after their ceremony.

Middle Image: Dean John Kuntz, (far left) and Dr. Kathleen Okay, (far right), gather with veteran students after the SALUTE recognition ceremony.

Lower Image: Alumnus, Ryan McManus, shares his accomplishments with a business class at Sussex.



Ryan McManus, 2018 Graduate, Seton Hall Business Major

"Sussex has the most supportive professors and a strong sense of community. I feel proud to walk back on campus as an alumnus and remember my endeavors. I can accomplish whatever I set my mind to thanks to my education at Sussex."

Sussex Honors Program Gains Strength

Honors Program at Sussex offers opportunities for extraordinary students

Students can now join an honors community of scholars to engage with faculty and meet other talented students at Sussex County Community College. With the new Honors Program, students have everything they need to build upon an excellent academic profile.

Honors students will take a broader look and gain a deeper understanding of the world through a challenging blend of course work that emphasizes research, service-learning, and creativity.

Courses in the Honors Program are created by some of the College's most distinguished faculty who create a curriculum that helps students with their analytical, writing, and communication skills. These faculty are leaders in their fields and are committed to helping students succeed.

The Honors Program offers a very high rate of transfer with full junior standing to the college or university of a student's choice.

Sussex signs Honors Transfer Agreement with Drew University

Honors students graduating from Sussex County Community College will be able to transfer easily to Drew University as a fifth-semester student. This Transfer Agreement will also allow students to take courses at Drew in their second year, at no charge.

The students will earn merit-based scholarships based on their GPAs and additional scholarship money if they are members of Phi Theta Kappa. This agreement will be in effect starting with the initial class entering Drew University in Fall 2021.

TCNJ and Sussex County Community College enter Articulation Agreement

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and Sussex County Community College have entered into an Articulation Agreement, which will enable Sussex Honors Program students to transition to a B.A. or B.S. degree at TCNJ. Students are required to earn their associate degree.

To ensure students from Sussex feel at home on campus, TCNJ plans to conduct a special



Top Image, left to right: Dr. Mercedes Aguirre Batty, Sussex VP of Academic Affairs; MaryAnn Baenninger, Drew University President; Dr. Jon Connolly, Sussex President; Debra Liebowitz, Drew University Provost.

Bottom Image, back row: Dr. Mercedes Aguirre Batty, Sussex VP of Academic Affairs; Lisa Angeloni, VP for Enrollment Management; Bozena Leven, TCNJ Interim Dean of School of Business; Kathryn Foster, TCNJ President; Dr. Jon Connolly, Sussex President; Jeff Osborn, TCNJ Dean of School of Science and Suzanne McCotter, TCNJ Dean of School of Education. Seated: Steve Schreiner, TCNJ Dean of School of Engineering; Dr. Dina Conde, Sussex Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Taras Pavlovsky, TCNJ Dean of R. Barbara Gitenstein Library, and Cory Homer, Sussex Assoc. Dean of Institutional Effectiveness.

orientation session for new transfer students. They will also arrange for students admitted under this agreement to form a cohort with honors transfers from other community colleges. Faculty and staff mentors will guide this cohort during the first transitional semester at TCNJ.

Celebrating Academic Excellence

Students, both current and graduates, make up the fabric of Sussex County Community College. The College is proud of their hard work and dedication, and celebrate their accomplishments at Commencement.



Ben Armstrong 2018 Graduate, attending the University of Connecticut

Ben Armstrong was committed to his academics right from high school. He entered Sussex as an NJ STARS student which helped him with the financial portion of his education.

Ben was able to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and also compete on the Skylanders soccer team. He credits the strong bond he created with the College from his teammates and his coaches.

Ben transferred to the University of Connecticut where he is pursuing a degree in Sports Management.



Sam Vance - Graduated Sussex, then high school, in 2019 through Early College Advantage classes

Sam is one of the most driven and determined graduates at Sussex. She was able to graduate with a Liberal Arts degree in May and a month later graduate from her high school.

Sam began this two-year venture when she was 16 years old. Using the Early College Advantage classes at her high school allowed her to attend high school during the day and college at night, while holding two jobs and participating in sports.

Sam entered Stockton University in the fall of 2019 as a junior.



Mario Umanzor 2018 Graduate, attending Montclair State University

As an International student, Mario's passion to attend college in the U.S. and play soccer led him to Sussex.

Through his time here, Mario was able to meet new friends both in the U.S. and from other countries. Playing on the soccer team allowed Mario to form a great connection with his teammates, coaches, and the community.

Upon graduation, he transferred to Montclair State University where he is earning a bachelor's degree. Before he returns to Costa Rica, Mario hopes to work in the U.S. to gain experience.



Christine O'Brien, Veteran, 2019 Graduate

Coming from a family of veterans, Christine decided to take advantage of the G.I. Bill and pursue her education. She was fortunate enough to utilize the resources available to all veterans while on campus. The Veterans Resource Center gave her a great atmosphere in which to study and relax. Christine was able to connect with great friends on campus and credits her professors for the continued support they gave her. Christine's Information Systems degree will give her the advantage she needs to start a great career.

Josh Felix, 2019 Graduate

Josh graduated with his degree in Liberal Arts in May of 2019. He will be transferring to a four-year college to continue his education. His decision to attend Sussex as he notes "was one of the best decisions of my life." As an involved student, Josh was President of the Multicultural Club on campus. He credits Sussex for the many friendships he has made along the way and the many opportunities available to him.





Illiana Woodhull, Student

Illiana noted "I cried my first day of class. My first thoughts were 'did I make a mistake?'" Fitting in has always been a big part of her life because she is Mexican and feels she doesn't speak fluent English.

Getting herself to the same level as the other college students was frightening to Illiana. She praises her professors who always take the extra time and effort to assist and guide her. Using the College resources for her education is what makes the difference for her.

After graduation, she plans to transfer and become a teacher.



Ricky Marienthal, EOF Student

Ricky did not plan to attend college after high school. He looked to get a job and follow in his brother's footsteps.

Ricky found out about the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program from his high school. He met with advisors from Sussex where they explained the financial and support benefits of the program. Learning about the many services that were offered inspired Ricky to enroll in college and pursue his college education. The support system and staff in the EOF program gave him a new start.



Angel Bernales, Student

Angel started at Sussex in the Psychology program. She shares that her mom is also attending Sussex and being on campus together helps them stay close.

Angel is involved as a Student Ambassador and also works in the Campus Store. By interacting with new people, she feels this helps her stay connected with the College.

Her aspirations are to transfer to a four-year college and hopefully earn her doctorate so she can become a Forensic Psychologist or Child Therapist.



From left to right: Robert Kurland, Assoc. Dean Rutgers Business School; Sue Laurencio, VP of M&T Bank; Sussex business students Kirsten Biemer, Taylor Boyer, Matthew Feeney, Parick Weiss, Brooke Alvarez, Jose Gonzales, and Michael Duffy; Salvatore Paolucci, Instructor of Business and Economics; Beth Billyard, Adjunct Faculty; and Lydia Clark, Asst. Professor of Business.

Sussex business students take home second place

Business students from Sussex took home a second-place win at the annual N.J.C.C. Case Competition in April. During the competition, sponsored by Rutgers Business School, students applied academic knowledge to a real-world business case. The team was given the case in February and met weekly to prepare. At the competition, they gave a 20-minute presentation and answered questions from the judges. Teams were evaluated on creativity, strategy, and financial analysis. The Sussex team's creative solution earned them the second place spot out of 11 colleges.



New Spaces Add a Vision for the Future

Technologically-advanced Academic Center breaks ground

Excitement is mounting as fresh and vibrant campus updates are giving Sussex students a new environment in which to learn and socialize. New expansions on campus will improve the student experience across a myriad of disciplines.

The College broke ground this past year for the new Academic

Center, adding on to the current Health Sciences and Performing Arts Center. The new addition will create modern facilities to meet the needs of students.

The 13,000 square foot space includes two stories that will be divided into classrooms, a state-of-the-art lecture hall, meeting rooms, and gathering spaces.

Engineering Science students will have the opportunity to utilize the new robotics engineering space, which will help launch the new Robotics program for the fall of 2020.

Construction is well underway and anticipated to be completed in the spring 2020 semester.

New Machine Tool and Optics Technology programs create a modern career path

Technology-based careers are as in-demand as ever. Sussex is meeting the demand in the community with the launch of two new programs this year to train and sustain a skilled workforce. Machine Tool Technology and Optics Technology programs will help generate such a workforce.

The new Machine Tool and Optics Technology programs were featured at a special career event on July 11 at Thorlabs, Inc., in Newton. Select program classes will be held in the Thorlabs' state-of-the-art facilities an international fiber optic, laser, and technology company that headquarters in Newton. Thorlabs is just one example of local businesses seeking skilled workers in these fields.

Top Left Image: An architectural rendering of the renovation project reflects the expansion of the Performing Arts Center along with images of the some interior spaces.

Top Right Image: The new Academic Center takes shape as construction gets underway.

Bottom Right Image: CFO, Ketan Gandhi, discusses the career programs being offered during the Thorlabs event.



Technical Education Takes Off at a New Location

Sussex students interested in career and technical programs such as Automotive Services, Building Construction, Diesel Technology and Welding will have a place to gain hands-on learning experience.

Named the McGuire Technical Education Center, this expansion project is an essential component of the College's long-term goals. This space creates opportunities for students who are looking to get into targeted trade industries.

The move to the new site allows for more students to study these in-demand trades in a space designed for them. Classes are already underway in the Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, and Welding programs.

Plans for the new location also include additional classroom space and renovation for the front of the building for the Culinary Institute. The College anticipates the complete transition of the building to take 3-5 years.



Top Image: A vision of the McGuire Technical Education Center.
Right Images: Student, Erin Primavera, shows off her skills during her welding class.



Sparks fly in the Welding Program

"I found that my welding classes were my passion and this was the career I wanted to pursue. The College has been a blessing, and my education has been such a wonderful experience. It made me realize I could accomplish anything."

Erin Primavera, 2019 Graduate



New degree programs in Diesel Service Technology, Supply Chain Management, and Optics Technology are gateways to new careers

Three new degree programs at the College give students more ways to kick start a technology career!

Students enrolled in the Diesel Service Technology, Optics Technology, and Supply Chain Management programs will be prepared to join the workforce upon completion of their studies. Successful candidates earn an Associate of Applied Science degree, which provides more advanced skill development after

completing their programs.

Diesel Service Technology students will learn to evaluate, diagnose, and repair various diesel systems; identify specifications related to the inspection, repair, and adjustment of diesel systems; and the use of test equipment.

The Optics Technology program teaches students to understand and interpret technical drawings and turn them into reality. Students learn how to use conventional and

computer numerical controlled machines such as grinding and polishing systems to create optical products.

Supply Chain Management provides students knowledge related to the field, such as accounting, inventory control, logistics and transportation, warehouse management, business law, computer applications, and business and supervision tactics.

Agriculture and Culinary Programs Team Up for a Tasty Combination

In the last year, the College launched programs in Agricultural Business, Horticultural Science, and Culinary. Erin Collins, who has a Master of Science in Horticulture and Martin Kester, a renowned Chef in North Jersey, spearheaded these programs.

It was only a matter of time before the Agriculture and Culinary programs would find common ground. This common ground creates a "recipe" for what is commonly known as farm to table dining, which adds to the expansion of both programs.

The addition of a new greenhouse where students grow fresh vegetables and herbs will support these programs. Currently, the greenhouse produces lettuce, kale, tomatoes, and fresh herbs.

Sussex will look to partner with local farms from the area to supplement recipes. Additionally, there is hope that an organic garden will eventually enter into the mix.

For now, culinary classes are taught at Camp Nejeda in Stillwater. However, the program is looking to relocate and expand into the McGuire location next year when building modifications are complete.

Below Left Image: Erin instructs her class on how to grow fresh produce.
Below Right Image: Martin shows students the proper techniques during his culinary course.



"What we have is cross-learning between these two programs," said Martin Kester. "We aim to use fresh herbs and food in our cooking classes grown from Erin's program."

"What is important about this partnership is that it's not just about food," said Collins, "it's also a prep for being in the restaurant business and emphasizing the aspects of that piece of it and what is involved."

Foodshed Alliance teams up with Sussex

The College opened the doors to the Foodshed Alliance for the use of a cold storage facility by its LocalShare program. The program harvests excess fresh produce from local farms, which would normally go to waste, and delivers it to local food pantries. Martin Kester, Supervisor of Culinary and Hospitality, advocated on the Foodshed Alliance's behalf.

The use of the cold storage facility has increased LocalShare's efficiency and reach, allowing community members struggling to purchase healthy foods to take home farm-fresh fruits and vegetables.

Image: Christine Parauda, LocalShare Coordinator, Foodshed Alliance stands with Martin Kester, Culinary Supervisor.





Technology Takes Shape

Students benefit from the Human Performance Lab

The Human Performance Lab, an innovative specialized teaching lab, offers professional-grade fitness equipment dedicated to providing students with hands-on, practical experiences that are present in job tasks in the health and fitness industry.

The lab is equipped to assess various components of physical performance, including anaerobic capacity, muscular strength and endurance, and cardiovascular function.

Overseeing the lab is Exercise Science Coordinator, Nicholas Lionetti. He is working to ensure that the program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in either advancing their exercise

science education or in their health and fitness careers. The Exercise Science Department does this through a hands-on learning approach using top-of-the-line fitness equipment found in professional facilities all over the country. Sussex exercise science students graduate equipped and confident about making an immediate impact on the health and fitness industry.

An Exercise Science Club was also developed to spread awareness and educate the campus and community about the importance of health, fitness, and wellness. The Club is active in health fairs, community service events, developing health and exercise initiatives, and performing health screenings.



Top Left Image: Students in the Exercise Science program utilize the Fitness Center during their class.

Top Right Image: The new Human Performance Lab is put to the test from students and their supervisor.

Interactive TV classroom offers flexibility

The College ITV classroom brings a new element to the learning experience. Students on campus and in area high schools will receive a new educational opportunity from this advanced technology.

This live interactive television video conferencing platform will provide students a convenient and flexible way to participate in classes offered at Sussex.

Faculty are able to capture lectures for asynchronous instructional delivery as well as high-end video conferencing equipment for synchronous delivery to a distant location.



Image Left: The ITV classroom is equipped with the latest technology for students to participate remotely in the class discussion. Professors are able to teach two classes simultaneously.

Upgrades and Improvements

Support Student Success

A year of campus improvements and upgrades shows Sussex County Community College students we share a sense of pride in our surroundings. Among the change are a robotics engineering space, student-run radio station, a writing center, upgrades to classrooms, new ITV classroom, new Campus Store, and technology upgrades campus-wide.



President Connolly discusses the impact the new greenhouse will have on the Agricultural program during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The Greenhouse offers five hydroponic growing systems and provides an excellent space for year-round learning.

The launch of the new Writing Center marks an opportunity for students of varying ability to receive peer-led writing and reading support on academic assignments. The Center offers continued support during the semester.

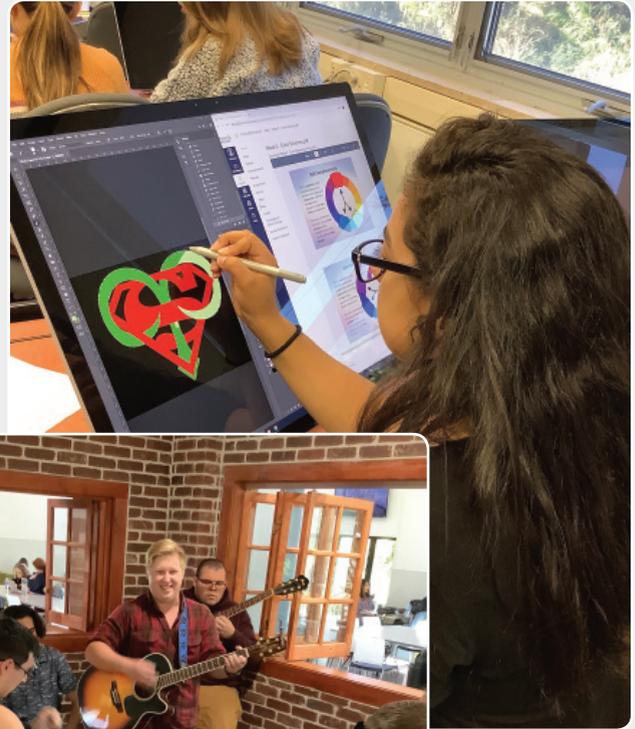
Classroom upgrades throughout campus foster a more productive, cohesive working environment. The new 'pod' furniture allows faculty to provide active learning strategies for their students.



Communication/Broadcasting students are "amped up" for the new Radio Station recently completed. Already live online, WRSK-LP on 97.5 FM, allows students to broadcast shows and music from this campus location. The station will allow students to gain experience in the broadcast field.

Upgrades in the classroom are key to a successful program and for preparing students for future employment. In the Graphic Arts lab, students use the latest creative Surface Studio 2 computers that easily transforms into a digital drafting table.

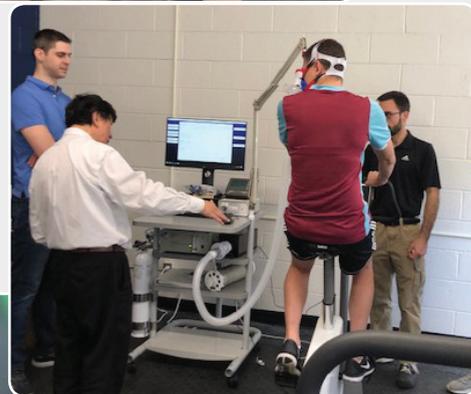
The new Campus Store was a collaboration between students and the College. Design of the space, merchandise purchases, and day-to-day business was all handled by students throughout the summer.



The new Human Performance Lab was added in time for the start of the fall semester. The space was designed as an interactive learning environment for students in the Exercise Science Program. Students have the benefit to learn on the latest equipment for the program.

A new gaming sport began at Sussex with great enthusiasm. Over 70+ students expressed interest to form the new Esports team slated for the fall of 2019. After much research and a student survey, the new Esports team was formed. The College carved out a dynamic space to provide gamers the right atmosphere in which to participate.

As Sussex enters a stage of revitalization, the timing to launch the new College and athletic websites was vital. A new Content Management System improved navigation and a responsive design for both sites.





Students Engage in Entrepreneurial Program



The College bookstore supplier moved from Barnes & Noble to eCampus this past summer. After careful consideration, it was decided that the new store would become a student-run business to allow current students to gain experience in start-ups and other business planning aspects.

The College recently signed an agreement with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, which resulted in a big push for entrepreneurial initiatives on campus.

For current student Cheyenne Port, it was an opportunity to translate her classroom knowledge into real-life experience. She was interviewed for the position of Store Manager by CFO, Ketan Gandhi, first as a budget intern, and then as the Store's Manager.

"I was thrilled to be a part of such an amazing opportunity," Cheyenne says. "It serves as a chance for business students like myself to gain true experience."

Throughout the summer, Cheyenne along with Scott

Raghubir, also a student in the program, met and planned how the store would evolve. They discussed and decided on the overall concept of layout, color palette, and a business plan.

The students envisioned the space to serve as a hub of activity where students could socialize. They included a stage for live music, an ice cream stand, and tables for gatherings.

Students on campus are employed at the Campus Store run by Cheyenne and Scott.



Entrepreneurship Agreement leads to opportunities and fosters student engagement

President Connolly becomes the first president in New Jersey to sign the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge through an agreement with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship. This agreement allows students to team up and focus on entrepreneurship while attending college. It encourages discussion with industry professionals and local entrepreneurs who focus on business and job creation, both on and off campus.

Top Left Image: Students Cheyenne Port and Scott Raghubir walk to the Campus Store for its grand opening.

Top Right Image: A Sussex student learns the business aspect of running the Campus Store.

Lower Left Image, pictured left to right: Ketan Gandhi, CFO; students Cheyenne Port and Scott Raghubir; Lydia Clark, Asst. Professor; Rebecca Corbin, NACCE President and CEO; Dr. Jon Connolly, President; William Curcio, Board Chair.



Students Gain Support in All Areas of the College

Writing skills bring added confidence to students

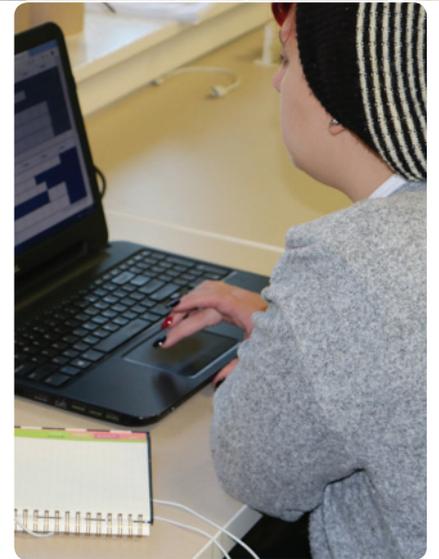
To further help students succeed in every aspect of their education, Sussex has opened a brand new Writing Center in the Student Center. The launch of the Writing Center marks an opportunity for students of varying writing skills to receive peer-led writing and reading support on academic assignments, from brainstorming to editing. Students can participate in workshops led by professors on a variety of topics from MLA documentation to resume writing.

EOF Grant fosters student success

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) is designed to meet both the financial and educational needs of students whose economic backgrounds make it difficult to pursue a college education and who may be ready for college but need assistance boosting their academic grades. Included in the program are workshops for academic reinforcement, career and self-development. The program also aims to boost confidence, develop social skills, and broaden students' horizons by exposing them to academic and co-curricular experiences.

Pathways to Prosperity/NORWESCAP enhances Degree UP

Learning in a relaxed and comfortable space gives the Degree UP program an added advantage. Students create a strong foundation for academic and personal success using Degree UP resources. From computer access to tutoring, Degree UP covers a wide range of support services for students to be successful.



Top Left Image: Student, Erin Primavera, learns writing skills from Professor Maureen Murphy-Smolka.

Top Right Image: Professor Mary Thompson gives her class a lesson in MLA formatting at the Writing Center.

Lower Right Image: Students receive added instruction in the EOF room from Ray Morris, EOF Counselor.



Athletics at Sussex is making great strides in not only their performance on the field but in the many areas surrounding the department. The addition of Men's Lacrosse, Esports and soon-to-be wrestling lend to the excitement of what has been occurring recently. The College opened a new Fitness Center, updated the gym floor and lighting, created a practice field, and developed the new Skylanders mascot, Skylor.

A new mascot debuts bringing college spirit to life

Sussex unveiled their first mascot since opening its doors in 1981. The development process of the mascot took many years of drafting, but on February 1st, the College unveiled a symbolic representation for the Sussex Skylanders. A college mascot is key in creating an emotional connection with the athletic teams as well as the campus community. This symbol will forge a sense of belonging and pride at Sussex. Skylor is an integral part of a unified college experience.



Men's Lacrosse comes to campus

With the rising popularity of lacrosse in local high schools, Sussex is taking the first steps in creating a program of its own. This is the latest move in growing and evolving the College's athletic programs. Additionally, the College will be taking advantage of the wrestling-rich high school athletes in its backyard and will be adding wrestling to its portfolio of sports programs. Lacrosse debuted spring of 2019, wrestling will follow in the winter of 2020.



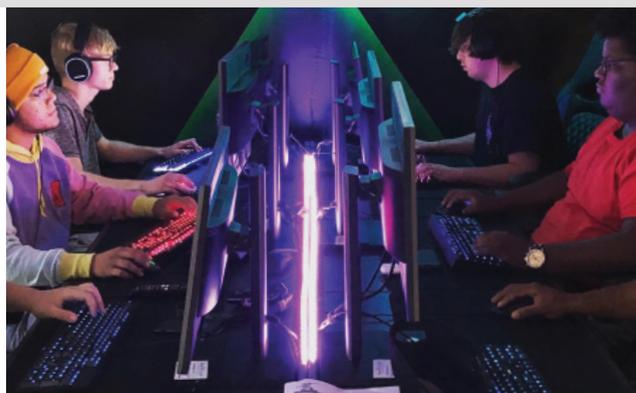
Men's Soccer wins NJCAA Region XIX Championship

The 2018 Skylanders Men's Soccer team won the NJCAA Region XIX Championship Game with a 1-0 win over nationally-ranked Brookdale Community College. This is the first time in the College's history that a men's team advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Men's Soccer National Tournament. The team traveled to Herkimer, NY and played in the National Tournament in November.



Esports, newest sport added to athletic offerings

Esports is becoming a national phenomenon, and it's now part of Sussex Athletics. Esports are all the rage on college campuses, where tech and gaming-minded players tryout, train, and compete in national competitions. Sussex is one of five schools in N.J. to offer the program and is an official member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE). These team-driven, strategy-based games have grown in popularity within the past several years.



Sussex athlete honored as "Woman of the Year"

Amanda Maxwell was not only known as a great athlete at the College, but she was also recognized as an outstanding student. Those two characteristics made Maxwell, Sussex's "Woman of the Year." She represented the College at the National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) Day in February. The College's Athletic Department nominated Maxwell for her excellence in the classroom and ability on the field. She is a star third baseman for the College softball team and graduated with her Liberal Arts degree.



100th Win for Baseball Coach "Rom"

Baseball Coach Ramadan Mehmedi receives the 100th win baseball from Athletic Director, John Kuntz. Rom, who also played for the Sussex Baseball Team, is in his 7th year coaching for Skylanders.



Faculty & Staff

Years of Commitment and dedication



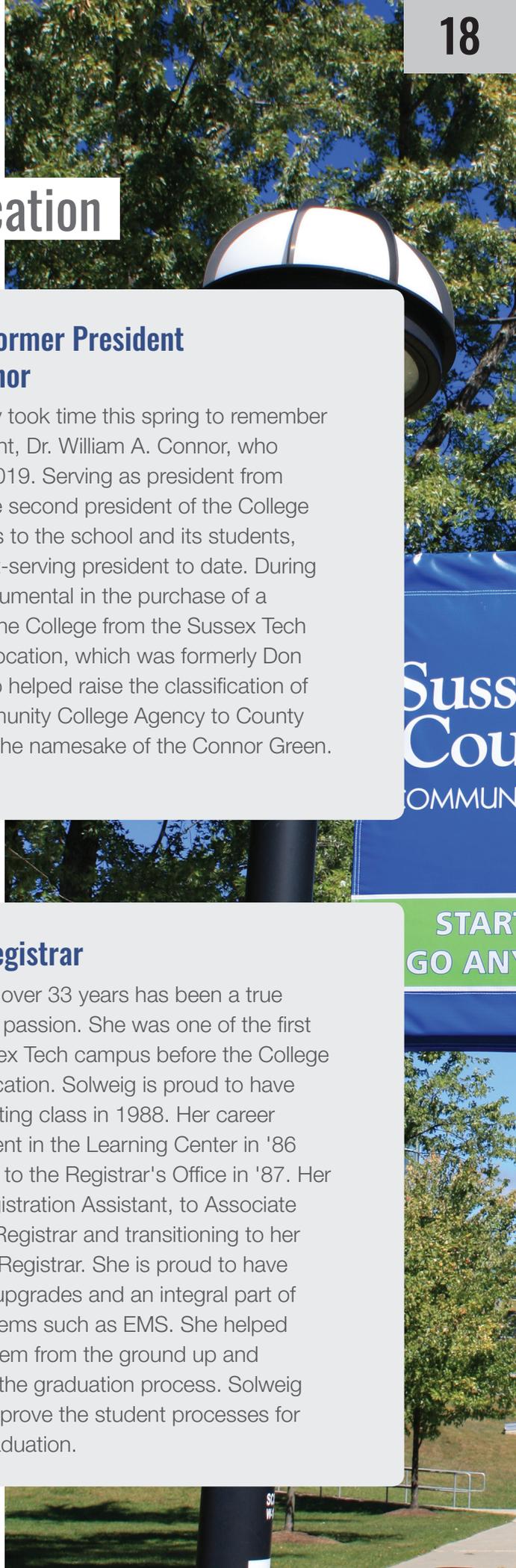
Commemorating Former President Dr. William A. Connor

The Sussex community took time this spring to remember former College President, Dr. William A. Connor, who passed away in April 2019. Serving as president from 1984-2000, he was the second president of the College and dedicated 16 years to the school and its students, making him the longest-serving president to date. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the purchase of a new campus, moving the College from the Sussex Tech grounds to its current location, which was formerly Don Bosco College. He also helped raise the classification of the College from Community College Agency to County College. Dr. Connor is the namesake of the Connor Green.



Solweig Dimino, Registrar

Serving the College for over 33 years has been a true testament to Solweig's passion. She was one of the first employees at the Sussex Tech campus before the College moved to its current location. Solweig is proud to have been in the first graduating class in 1988. Her career started as a work student in the Learning Center in '86 before she moved over to the Registrar's Office in '87. Her jobs have included Registration Assistant, to Associate Registrar, to Assistant Registrar and transitioning to her current position as the Registrar. She is proud to have been a part of system upgrades and an integral part of implementing new systems such as EMS. She helped build the Jenzabar system from the ground up and brought automation to the graduation process. Solweig continually strives to improve the student processes for registration through graduation.



Joanna Reed, Professor

Professor Reed was hired as a full-time faculty member in 1992. She retired in 2016 but remained a senior adjunct faculty member. Joanna teaches interdisciplinary art, music, and literature courses. Reflecting on her teaching materials in the early years Reed said, "I used vinyl records from my personal collection and the Don Bosco record collection which consisted mostly of Gregorian chants. Faculty created all our hand-outs on typewriters. Flash forward again to the present. We have flash drives containing PowerPoint presentations, computers, Elmos and Smartboards in our classrooms. It has been a journey from typewriters to computers. Thirty years later, teaching at Sussex County Community College has been and continues to be a fulfilling and valued part of my life."



Todd Poltersdorf, Admissions Director

In his 25 years of service, Todd Poltersdorf has been an instrumental part of the growth at the College. His career began in 1993 as the baseball coach. His responsibilities would evolve, and in 2001 he was hired as the Coordinator of Campus Recruitment. To accommodate incoming students, Todd, along with his assistant, began to build a physical location for the Admissions Office. Over the next eight years, the College grew from 1500 students to 4200, becoming one of the fastest-growing community colleges under 5000 students. Under Todd's leadership, Sussex developed, executed, and evaluated team-based recruitment strategies; utilized technology and innovation to enhance enrollment, and recruitment processes. He delivers enrollment and registration services in a manner that reinforces efforts to recruit and retain students and established a rapport with high school guidance counselors.





Student Scholarships - Center of the Foundation Mission

Sussex County Community College Foundation raises funds for student scholarships and important College programs. The College is proud and grateful for our strong relationships and community ties. The Foundation enjoyed a successful year and was generously supported by over 100 individual donors, many corporate donors, and organizations, some of whom are highlighted below.

- **Atlantic Health - Newton Medical Center: \$25,000 for the Culinary Institute Partnership**
- **First Energy Foundation: \$5,000 for 100 Women Speaker Series**
- **Franklin Mutual Insurance: \$6,000 for student scholarships**
- **JG Petrucci: \$12,500 to support student veterans**
- **Justin R. Christian Trust Endowed Scholarship: \$10,000**
- **Lakeland Bank Community Impact Grant: \$15,000 for technical career programs**
- **Rodney Sidney Needham Foundation: \$15,000 for student scholarships**
- **SB One Bank: \$5,400 for student scholarships**
- **Thorlabs: \$75,000 for the McGuire Technical Education Center and technical careers**
- **United Way of Northern NJ, ALICE Workforce Training Scholarships: \$5,000**
- **USDA - NJ: \$50,000 for culinary equipment**

The highlight of the Foundation's fundraising activities was Funding Their Future. This premier event raised over \$45,000 in a festive evening at Perona Farms with over 180 guests and community members gathered. The Foundation also saw success again this year in the 100 Women Project, founded and chaired by Judge Lorraine C. Parker.

Top Left Image: Funding Their Future gathering.

Top Right Image: Speaker Francis E. Blanco, Director of Women's Empowerment Initiatives of NJ, discusses women's contributions in NJ.

Middle Right Image: Jim Caristia, CPA; Monica Lemperle, Foundation Director, and Dr. Connolly, President convene at Funding Their Future.

Bottom Right Image: JG Petrucci gifts \$12,500 to support student veterans scholarships.

The 100 Women Project gains strength

The 100 Women Project brings women together for networking and important topics. The project seeks to grow its membership to help more women in Sussex County gain skills through education.

The mission of the 100 Women Project is to raise funds for scholarships for nontraditional female students attending Sussex. These are women who may have had an interruption in their studies for various reasons, such as, to raise a family, serve the military, career change, or hardship.

Special events such as the 100 Women Breakfast series and luncheon bring awareness for the importance of this project.

CKW Charitable Foundation establishes generous gift

The Foundation received a generous scholarship donation from the Matthew B. Hakoun Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established by a \$100,000 gift from parents Mitchell and Barbara Hakoun in honor of their son Matthew B. Hakoun.

The CKW Charitable Foundation will administer the underlying investments and distribute up to \$7000 in scholarship funds to eligible Sussex students annually and in perpetuity.

The CKW Charitable Foundation was created in 2005 by the Partners of CKW, LLC, an accounting firm in Sparta, NJ to give back to the communities it serves in Northwest New Jersey.



Pictured from left to right: Tyler Simpson, Sussex student and scholarship recipient; William Curcio, Chair, Board of Trustees; Tara Hakoun Rodriguez; Monica Lemperle, Director, Foundation; Dr. Jon Connolly, President; Michael Steiglitz and Andrew J. Grant, CKW Charitable Foundation.



"I thought Sussex would be a great start since both my siblings began here. I am in a perfect learning environment. Everyone at the College is amazing, from my professors to the staff. It's was an easy transition to come to Sussex right after high school."

Tyler Simpson, Scholarship recipient



Lakeland Bank awards College \$15,000

A \$15,000 grant was awarded by Lakeland Bank to support the advancement of the College's technical career programs. The grant was used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment and materials, and to hire quality instructors for these programs.

Sussex was chosen, in part, because Lakeland Bank strongly believes that affordable, local higher education leads to strong, vibrant communities. Specifically, representatives of the Bank lauded Sussex's role as a bridge connecting local employers

seeking skilled workers with students seeking meaningful employment and reliable income upon graduation.

The award was granted to the College Foundation, Sussex's fundraising arm, through the Bank's Community Impact Grant Program. These grants are invested in nonprofit organizations that provide services that impact the well-being of those within the Bank's assessment area.



Top Left Image, left to right: Jessica Beutel, SCCC Foundation; Deb Zimmerly and Ellen Lalawani of Lakeland Bank; William Curcio, SCCC Board Chair; Ray Cordts, Lakeland Bank; and Dr. Jon Connolly, President; Monica Lemperle, Foundation Director; Mercedes Aguirre Batty, VP of Academic Affairs; and Sherry Fitzgerald, Dean of Applied Arts and Sciences – all of Sussex.

Middle Left Image: Student Ambassadors are a key reinforcement for College functions. Seen posing during in the Funding Their Future event.

Bottom Left Images: Students are proud to show their scholarship certificates at the recent Scholarship Ceremony.



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