

THE MAGAZINE OF FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

SPECIAL EDITION

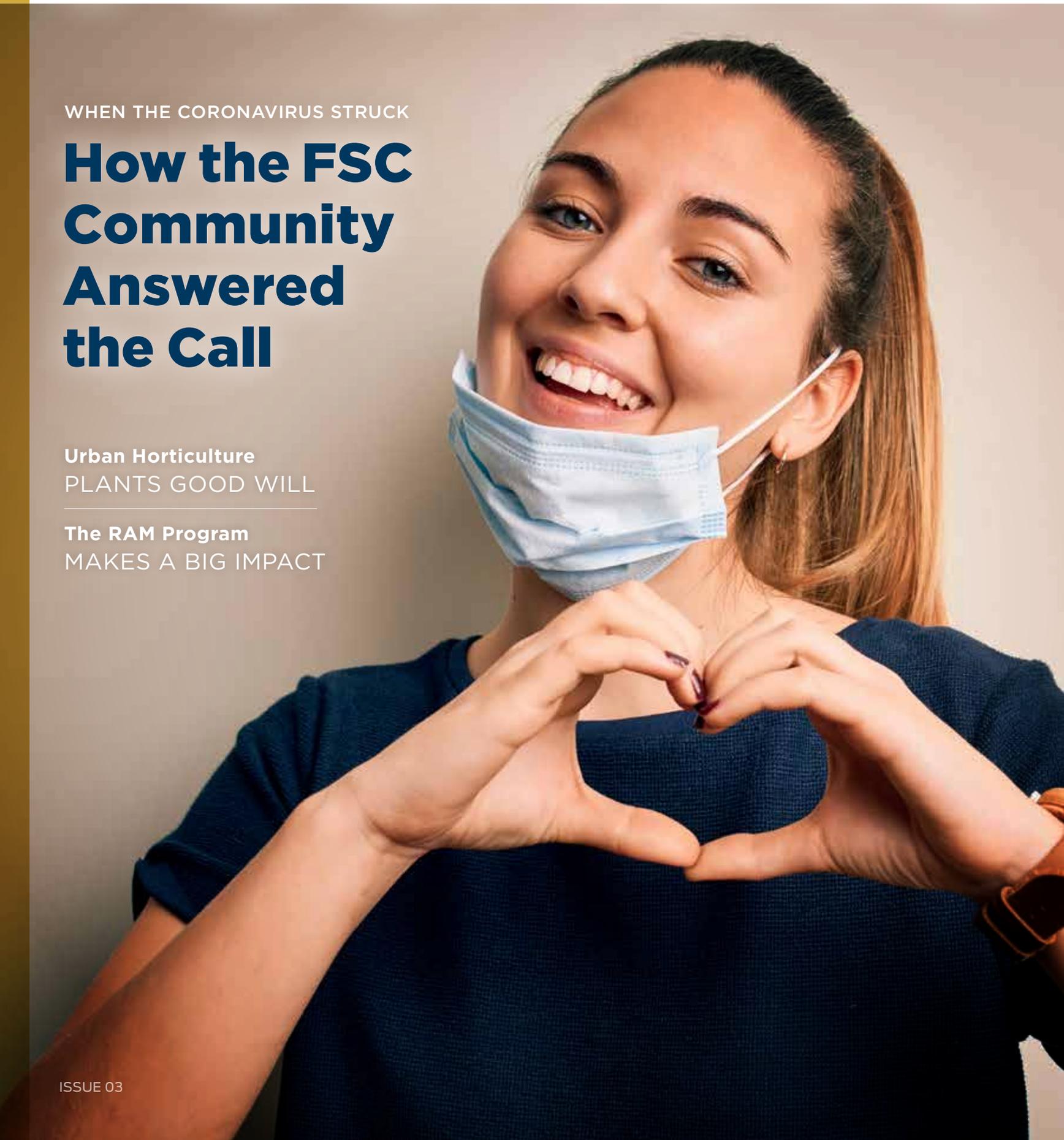
FSC NOW²⁰²⁰

WHEN THE CORONAVIRUS STRUCK

How the FSC Community Answered the Call

Urban Horticulture
PLANTS GOOD WILL

The RAM Program
MAKES A BIG IMPACT





A LETTER FROM
President Nader

This is not the letter I had intended to include in this issue of *FSCNow*.

Shortly before this edition was scheduled for release, the COVID-19 public health emergency struck. Farmingdale State College was one of the very first public colleges in New York to be directly affected by the crisis. We had considered not issuing this third edition of the magazine as the College's students, staff and faculty reeled and worked tirelessly to adapt to the new educational environment caused by the crisis. At nearly the same time, we lost two highly respected members of our campus community, although neither passing was related to the coronavirus.

Upon further reflection, we found many silver linings in these dark clouds, and decided that this may well be the perfect time to read, reflect and, yes, even celebrate the many remarkable ways our College has confronted the coronavirus challenge while helping many others during these difficult days.

As always, you will find many heartening and enjoyable stories about FSC graduates and faculty as well as our student spotlights. Stories like these have already made *FSCNow* an awarding winning publication.

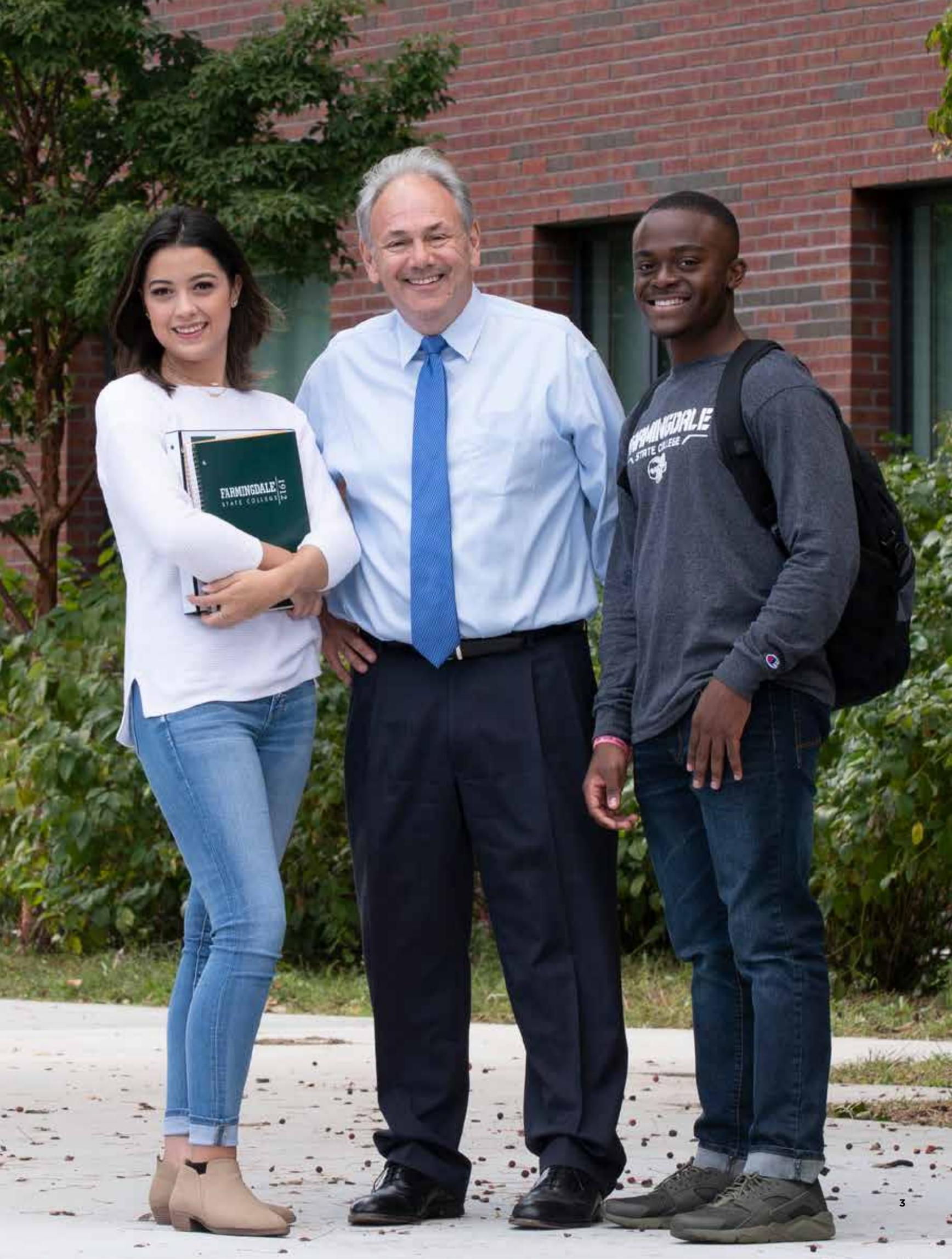
However, in this special edition, you will also read about the many remarkable ways in which the FSC community stepped forward to help at a time of crisis. In the pages that follow, you will learn about campus efforts to provide personal protective equipment to frontline health care workers as well as the inspiring work of Farmingdale students and faculty who placed themselves at risk to deliver medical care to others. Many of these heroic people contracted COVID-19 as a result of their work. Thankfully, all have recovered. You will also read about our outreach to other SUNY campuses and distressed communities to assist them as they cope with the impact of the virus.

More than ever, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I recognize the profound disruption and worry that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing in our daily lives.

More than ever, I am proud to share with you the 2020 edition of *FSCNow*.

John S. Nader, PhD
President, Farmingdale State College

Farmingdale
State College
State University of New York





SPECIAL EDITION

A special issue dedicated to recognizing Farmingdale State College's community service.

10



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▶ When you see this icon, visit fscnow.farmingdale.edu to view additional content and videos.

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FSCNow is published annually by Farmingdale State College's Office for Institutional Advancement. Additional original content is available on our website at fscnow.farmingdale.edu.

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WHEN THE CORONAVIRUS STRUCK, THE FSC COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER

When the call came, Farmingdale State College answered. And kept answering time after time even as the coronavirus outbreak restricted access to the campus to all but a few employees, forced classes into a distance-learning environment, and disrupted the lives and routines of our students. As the COVID-19 outbreak spread, so did the community outreach efforts of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Here are just a few of their stories.

NO DAY AT THE BEACH

Jorge Osorio is a member of FSC's Human Resources staff and a 2018 FSC graduate. He also serves in the U.S. Naval Reserves and volunteered to assist in the coronavirus fight in mid-March. He was sent to a testing site constructed at Jones Beach where he serves as a hospital corpsman in the role of a medic.

"My day basically consists of two shifts—a two-hour shift and a three-hour shift of testing patients for the coronavirus with a nasopharyngeal swab which can be quite uncomfortable for some people. The Navy has done a lot for me, so when the Militia reached out to me seeking Navy Corpsmen for assistance with the COVID-19 pandemic, I felt it was my duty to volunteer for the mission."

The duty is a far cry from his work in Human Resources, where he makes appointments, runs reports, enters directory changes, and assists with time & attendance. Jorge—who goes by George—is now studying for his Master's in Human Resources at Stony Brook University, a pursuit that will have to wait as he serves his country. In the meantime, he has been getting some new-found attention. As a result of his assignment, Jorge has been featured in interviews with national media, including CNN and MSNBC.



I joined the Reserves to take a break from college and to make my parents proud. I've been serving for more than five years now and it's been a great experience.



FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

A number of FSC alumni from Medical Lab Science are frontline workers. They include **Diana Sery** ('16) who works in a local hospital.

"It is a spiritual and physical battle every day to make a difference in other people's lives."

"We have been given new PPEs and social distancing guidelines so we can all stay safe while at work. Working during COVID has been interesting, to say the least."

Jennifer Newins, an MLS 2018 graduate, works in a microbiology lab that is performing tests for the coronavirus.

SERVING THE CAUSE —AND MEALS

Anthony Teets, an adjunct faculty member in both English and Professional Communications, is literally giving us all food for thought. He and his partner Scott Beutel own a delicatessen and have been regularly delivering meals to Huntington Hospital's emergency room, the Northport VA Hospital, and health care facilities within the Northwell Healthcare System, one of the state's largest medical care providers.

"Our business name is Scott's Vernon Valley Deli in East Northport. A few weeks before New York had

reached its peak in cases, several of our employees decided to shelter at home and we supported their decisions. We found various ways to keep them working from home and receiving their pay. From the beginning of this crisis we have been delivering to the elderly in our community, and not just taking them food, but gathering their mail, taking out their trash, and talking to them on the phone when they are lonely."

As with many such efforts, many in the community stepped in to assist. The hospital food was donated by the Beudet family, local patrons of the deli. The VA food was donated by another deli customer, Bren-Tronics Inc. in Commack.

"We know there will be others who are in need and will reach out to us. Sometimes I feel like an octopus with latex gloves and a surgical mask. I only wish I had more hands to help."

A SUPPLY CHAIN REACTION

With his father and three of his cousins, all physicians in New York City hospitals working directly with COVID-19 patients, Science, Technology, & Society student Rohan Gulati felt the calling to help. “I asked my family what I could do and they said that they needed eyewear and mentioned that safety glasses that are used by college students would work.”

So Rohan contacted the Biology Department. He found out there were supplies that were available used such as face shields and disposable surgical gowns. Once he got the supplies he was able to give them directly to doctors at the different hospitals. It turned out that Rohan’s idea was shared by several academic programs at Farmingdale.

The Biology Department contributed 102 goggles and 426 lab coats that Rohan distributed to Coney Island Hospital, North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, and Mount Sinai Hospital West and Mount

Sinai Hospital Morningside in New York City.

The Departments of Nursing, Medical Lab Science and Dental Hygiene, along with the custodial staff and the LIEOC, contributed 720 isolation gowns, 261 boxes of protective gloves, 400 face masks, 275 face shields, 50 face masks, 24 boxes of alcohol wipes, and 47 safety goggles. The items were used by the medical staffs at Northwell Hospitals at Plainview and Syosset. And Athletics donated gloves and masks from its training room stock to University Police.

“When I gave a doctor some PPEs, he said ‘Thank you so much. You’re helping save lives.’ That’s when it really hit me. I want to go into the health care field so I just wanted to do what I could during these times and didn’t think much of it. But when he, as a doctor, said that, it really opened my eyes to the impact of what I was doing and how it was really helping.”



While I am not with these patients all day, I find that I have gotten to know them. Most of the patients I have dealt with are intubated, do not know who I am, but I feel a connection to them. I see the pictures the nurses have placed of them and their families and the cards that were sent to them and really get an insight into their life. I always get a little worried when going into ICU or CCU and do not see the same patients I have been seeing all week. I try to ask the nurses the outcomes of certain patients and sometimes they have been extubated and moved to a lower acuity floor. Seeing so many patients in this condition, seeing the entire hospital turn into an ICU is something I will remember forever.

Catherine Sweeney, Nursing student



PAYING IT FORWARD—11,000 MILES

When the pandemic was declared, the news hit home for Dr. Xu Zhang, chair of the Economics Department. That’s because home is China, where the coronavirus started. “From the heartbreaking stories of death tolls, I learned how serious the pandemic could be and how vital it is to have PPEs, especially for health care workers who are fighting on the front lines.”

A graduate of Xiamen University in Fujian, she joined with the American chapter

of her alumni association to coordinate the distribution of PPE’s to New York Community Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Children’s Hospital, Jamaica Hospital, Flushing Hospital and other hospitals in Brooklyn, Bronx and New Jersey. By reaching out to the hospital employees in charge of donations, she was able to identify other needs as well, coordinating delivery of goggles, isolation gowns and n95 masks. She is also working with nursing homes on Long Island.

“Healthcare professionals take care of the community during this unprecedented pandemic, so what we can do is to take care of them.”

Dr. Xu Zhang

1,500

Medical supplies distributed to hospitals.

700

Laptops and tablets were ordered for students and faculty.

\$75,000

Donated to support students in need.

GOING MOBILE

When the first crisis hit, the campus Emergency Management Team was convened for lengthy twice-daily conference calls to cope with a variety of complicated issues, all the time having to keep the safety of students, faculty, and staff in mind. So while classes moved to a distance learning format, many administrative issues still needed tackling—all with the team working remotely.

The Health and Wellness Center responded with extraordinary patience in answering inquiries.

Institutional Advancement spearheaded communications to the campus and regularly updated the website with critical information.

Intermittent package delivery played havoc with the effort by Information Technology to mail laptops and tablets to students—over 700 were eventually ordered. The Facilities staff vigorously sanitized public spaces and bathrooms to keep the campus safe and even assisted SUNY Purchase with the cleansing of its campus. Everything possible had to

be done, President Nader said, to preserve the academic mission.

“Our campus went to extraordinary lengths to eliminate barriers to student success. These include lending computers to students to allow remote work, expanding and extending the hours of our technology support, housing students with special needs, delivering virtual labs, easing financial burdens, and allowing remote registration. And we did it all within two to three weeks.”

AND THAT’S NOT ALL

In other efforts, the College staff went well beyond the call of duty, delivering food to the residence halls for international students who couldn’t fly home because of airline cancellations.

The College’s award-winning Small Business Development Center is working with more than 200 small business owners to assist them with the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and the Paycheck Protection Program to help them recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. The Helpdesk answered hundreds of requests for technical assistance. Admissions and Transfer Services personnel responded to telephone inquiries around the clock, from their homes.

FSC has granted permission to SUNY College at Old Westbury to use our facilities for the upcoming Fall, Winter and Spring sports seasons as they turned over their campus for use as a mobile hospital. And the College Foundation established an emergency fund to assist FSC students in need. In the first week of the effort, about \$75,000 was raised—including a \$50,000 donation by Tortora-Sillcox Foundation.



I have watched a man take his final breath as we pulled his stretcher in from the hallway after transport from the ED with no way to bring him back. I have helped to treat critically ill patients in their 20s and patients over 100 years of age who barely showed signs of a cough. I have learned from nurses across many different specialties such as critical care and palliative care who came together to treat the same patients and have shown me how to not only treat in order to cure but also to treat in order to comfort, often pointing to specific patients and exclaiming, ‘This is a dying patient, we do not abandon them as a lost cause. We care for them until the end.’

Elizabeth Brannon, *Nursing student*



EPILOGUE



The pandemic isn’t over. And its effect continues to ripple and disrupt plans—Spring Commencement (postponed), Summer classes (early sessions moved online), and the April Open House to recruit high school and transfer students (transformed into a virtual experience), to name a few. But through it all, the message has remained unchanged for students, faculty, and staff. ▶

Be well. Stay safe.



HOW DID HIS GARDEN GROW?

Horticulture professor goes back to school.

Students at FSC—and, particularly in the Urban Horticulture and Design Department—have always dedicated themselves to community service. Now it's clear that their commitment is, well, growing.

A contingent of 17 students from the department gathered together to work on a literally get-your-hands-dirty project—helping to create a wildlife habitat at Howitt Middle School in the Village of Farmingdale. The concept was developed by associate professor **Michael Veracka**, who wanted his students to benefit from a robust applied learning experience. Professor Veracka had a vision. He wanted to create a project that would benefit his students with a robust applied learning experience.

At Farmingdale, applied learning—real-world, hands-on experience that takes place outside the classroom—has become an essential element of the education students receive at the College. In Veracka's case, applied learning meant gathering 17 students to work on this intriguing project.

The expertise of the FSC volunteers linked nicely with the middle school's desire to develop a sustainable landscape that would be environmentally friendly, and serve as a creative learning space for the Howitt students. It was supported with funding obtained through a grant Veracka wrote himself, and then required countless hours in prep work invested by him and his team.



“Coming up with a concept for the design was the most challenging part,” says Stephen Montgomery, one of the student volunteers; he graduated with a degree in Landscape Development in Spring 2019, shortly after the project was completed. “I wanted to make the space as appealing to the eye as possible, while keeping it a useable space and incorporating multiple sustainable aspects.”

Work at the school began in Fall 2017, when the FSC group conducted field research and created preliminary designs, which were later consolidated into one grand scheme. Howitt staff and students also were personally involved, helping procure plants and learning proper planting techniques. The project was an ambitious one, turning out better than anyone anticipated—except for maybe the irrepressible Veracka and his diligent students.

Once their vision became reality they were ecstatic with the results and so was the middle school. “Michael Veracka’s extensive knowledge, professional guidance, and dedication to seeing this project to fruition have been inspirational to all involved,” says Luis Pena, Howitt’s principal. “He has been an invaluable resource and a friend to all. We have been so fortunate to know him, and feel a very deep sense of gratitude for all he has done for our school community.”

The habitat is an environmentally safe space for native insects, birds, butterflies, pollinators, and small wildlife. The garden includes paths and beds; a seating area where lessons are conducted and students and staff gather to reflect on nature; dogwoods, birch trees, berry bushes, native grasses, perennials such as milkweed and coneflower, and a butterfly bush. No synthetic herbicides, fertilizers or pesticides are used.

“This project aligns with the mission of Farmingdale State College,” Veracka says. “The idea is to promote beyond-the-classroom scholarship, research activities, and services that provide a stimulating environment that enhances student learning and teaching, and benefits the larger society.”



“This is about connecting children to nature and teaching them how to become environmental stewards.”

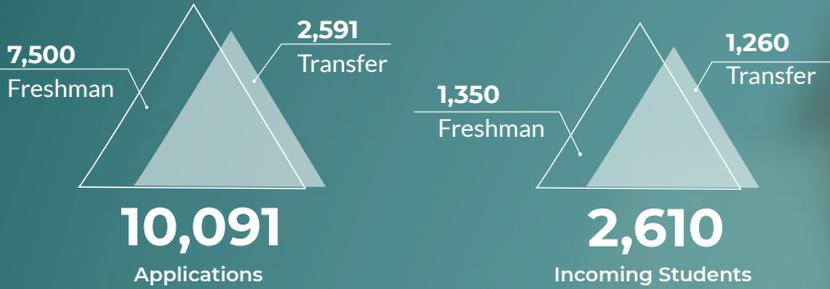
DR. CAROL MCGILL
Howitt Faculty Member



Facts & Figures

STUDENT PROFILE

Students who joined Farmingdale State College community in Fall 2018



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

Masters of Science in Technology Management

STUDENT BODY

9,916

Undergraduate Students

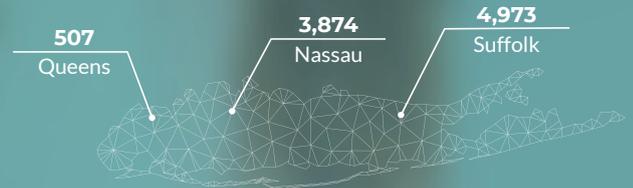
Our student body includes:

- ▶ 45% of students from minority populations
- ▶ 57% of students are awarded financial aid.
- ▶ About 200 active duty or veteran military



57% Men **43%** Women

Our students come from all over Long Island



RETENTION

National average per National Student Clearinghouse is 60.6%



* as of 2018

CURRENT COSTS

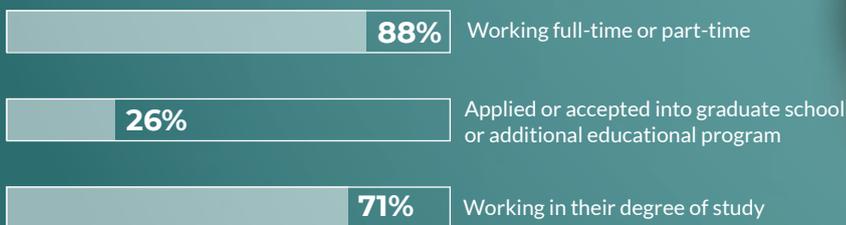


NYS RESIDENTS
\$7,070
year



OUT OF STATE
\$16,980
year

OUTCOMES within six months of graduation



FACULTY & INSTRUCTION



20:1
Student-to-Faculty Ratio



26
Average Class Size

STUDENT LIFE



70+

Student Clubs and Organizations

Academic, Performing Arts, Musical, Cultural, and Greek

5

FRATERNITIES

4

SORORITIES

39 Intramural Teams



ALUMNI



100,000

Members Worldwide

INTERNATIONAL STUDY

79 Students Studied Abroad*

14 Countries Attended



* 2017-2018

1,000+ Programs Offered through SUNY

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

65

Skyline Championships

Presidents' Cup Winner 2016 2017

14

Division III All-Americans



9

Division III Intercollegiate Women's Sports

9

Division III Intercollegiate Men's Sports

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT FARMINGDALE

25th

Safest Campus in the US in 2016*

*universityprimetime.com

Placed Top 25% of Public Colleges & Universities in the US*

*Business First - 2017

Our Nursing Students Had a 100% Pass Rate in the NCLEX-RN Licensing Exam.*

*1st quarter - 2020

Forbes Ranks Farmingdale State College a "Best Value College"*

*Forbes Magazine - 2019

FSC Students Graduate with the Lowest Debt in the SUNY System*

*lendEDU - 2018

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



A Bangladeshi immigrant struggled, but the RAM Program came to her rescue.

When **Tonuza Ahmed**'s family moved from Bangladesh to Long Island in 2016, they knew it would be tough getting acclimated to a new culture and setting down roots. What 16-year-old Tonuza didn't know was how rocky her start in high school would be.

Tonuza, a senior Bioscience major who graduates this spring, barely spoke English when she arrived in the U.S. Her family moved in with Tonuza's aunt, and she was enrolled in high school in Melville. Three months later, her family moved to Deer Park, and she had to change schools. It was a difficult time, both for Tonuza and her family.

"In our country we learn English as a second language, but it is very different here," Tonuza says. "I didn't understand the accent at all. That's why I didn't speak a word in school. I would sit in my classes and force myself to give all my attention so I could understand what my teacher was saying."

Tonuza somehow made it through, and began looking for a college, preferably one close to home. That's why she chose Farmingdale. She determined in her heart she would succeed, if only for the sake of her parents, who had money, job, and language challenges.

"Getting a higher education in America is something people in my country dream about. I dreamt of it too, and it was about to come true. I enrolled in Farmingdale with the hope to achieve something in life and make my parents proud."

But much of Tonuza's freshman year was bittersweet. As she described it, she was "not on the right track." Things

began to turn around when she joined the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) Program.

"I personally am not a risk taker. I pretty much stay in my bubble and never get out of my comfort zone. RAM gave me that push so I could get out of my comfort zone. I remember being very upset and thinking about giving up. I have gone to my RAM mentors multiple times, and they helped me get through it by encouraging me."

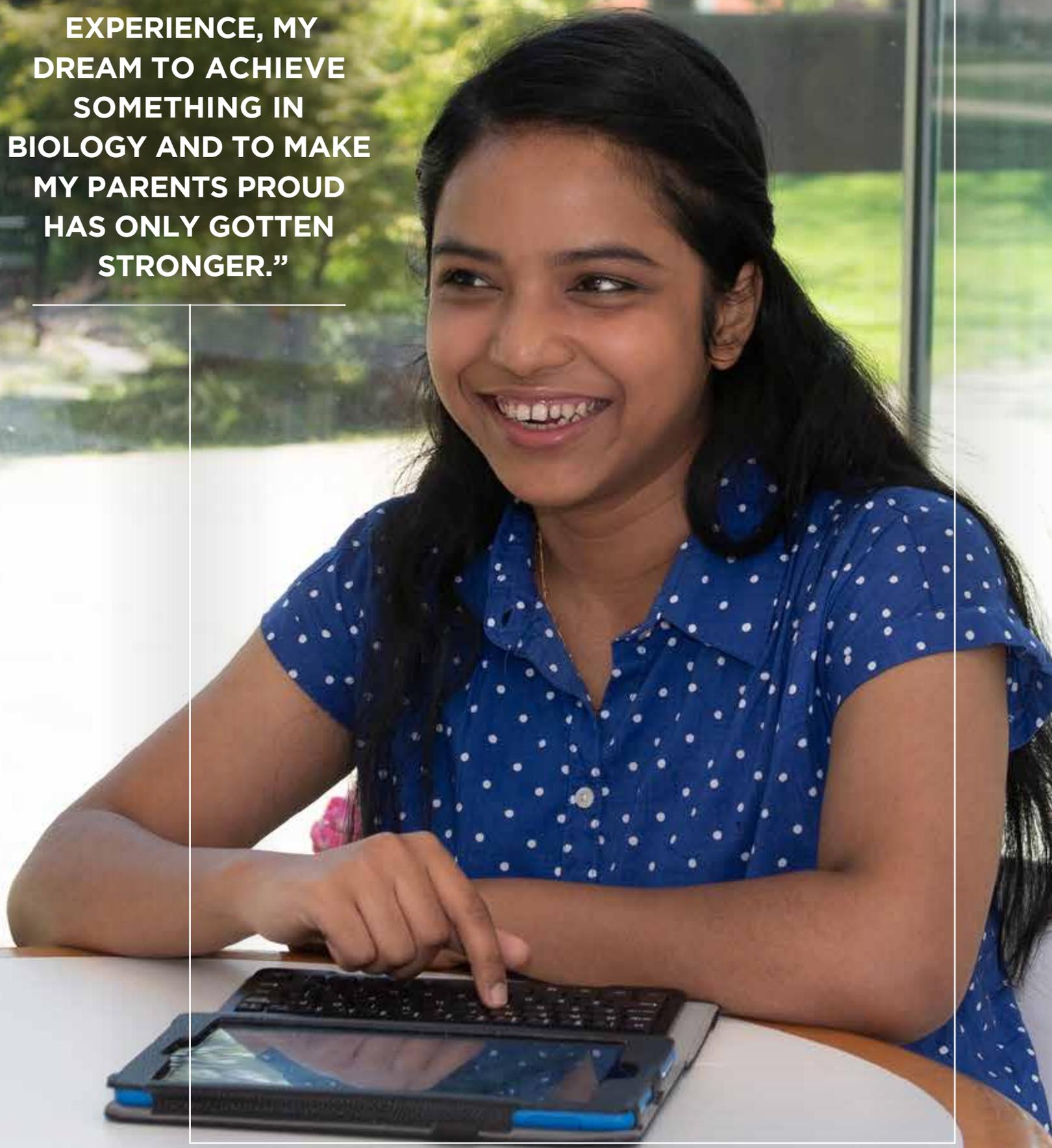
Tonuza changed her major to Bioscience, attended a RAM workshop about summer research opportunities and much to her delight was accepted at the University of Miami. She spent the summer of 2018 conducting research on spinal cord injuries.

"The very first reason I wanted to go to summer research was to try something new and different," she says. "Not only the research part but also going out of state for two months was a big deal for me. So, I gathered all my guts and decided to go, and I don't regret any of it."

No one has been closer to Tonuza during her years at FSC than Dr. Erwin Cabrera, director of the RAM Program. He sees something in Tonuza that she never could have imagined of herself just a few years ago.

"Her love for learning is infectious, and her ability to not only persevere but flourish has been amazing to watch," Dr. Cabrera says. "Tonuza tackles school and her life with a passionate but positive viewpoint, and is 100 percent a true definition of what a Farmingdale State College student is."

**“SINCE MY SUMMER
EXPERIENCE, MY
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SOMETHING IN
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**“MOST OFFICERS
HAVE ACCEPTED THIS
PHENOMENON DUE TO
THE IMPACT IT CAN
POSITIVELY HAVE
DURING THEIR CAREER”**



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100%



AUTO

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A Criminal Justice professor takes an innovative approach to instruction.

During a varied career wearing a badge, **Dr. Brian Kelly** dealt with nearly every imaginable crime scenario. But it's in a Lupton Hall classroom where he takes a shot that may matter most.

As one of the first academics in the country to introduce police body cameras as a teaching tool in the classroom, Dr. Kelly has been recognized for his innovative thinking on the nationally syndicated *SciTech Now* on PBS and on WCBS/Channel 2 in New York. Filming imaginary confrontations with his students as actors, Kelly's approach is both daring and compelling.

Kelly, an assistant professor in the Department of Security Systems and Law Enforcement Technology, studies body cameras and their effect on policing—and the perceptions they create. Having once served as both a transit officer and a corrections officer in New Jersey, he was never required to wear camera equipment on the job. Now retired from law enforcement, he clearly sees their value in today's YouTube video environment.

"I wanted to think outside the box," he says. "I brainstormed, and I also discussed the idea with trusted colleagues working in law enforcement. I then formed a list of what falls into the category of applied learning content, as well as what I believed our students would appreciate through instructional engagement."

For many of Kelly's students—a majority of whom plan on law enforcement careers—this pioneering decision to bring the streets into

the classroom has provided an enlightening real-world perspective.

"Body cameras impacted my view of law enforcement by showing that society is leaning toward the direction where technology is heavily used," says former criminal justice student Megan Watson, who is planning a career with the NYPD, or becoming a U.S. Marshall. "I was skeptical at first, but Dr. Kelly said body cameras are about decreasing liability and increasing officer accountability, and my view changed. It made sense, because cameras are about protecting the rights of both parties—officers and civilians—while also showing the community that departments are willing to be transparent to a degree when it comes to police/community interactions."

As part of Dr. Kelly's presentation, staged incidents are filmed and analyzed. The scenarios range from an emotionally disturbed person acting out, to a suspect becoming belligerent with an officer or resisting arrest. Students then engage in discussions on what they saw during the incident—or thought they saw.

"Students often make great decisions," Kelly says. "Then we have times where students say or do things that would not hold up well in court, and we correct those, based on policy that exists in police departments. I also break down the film playback and we timestamp everything that is said and done, and mock testify to it in class."

And thanks to Kelly, fewer police departments are remaining camera-shy.

SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE TREE

Rockefeller Center's celebrated Christmas tree is selected every year by a Farmingdale graduate.

You might say that **Erik Pauze** does a tree-mendous job.

That's because he has one of the most fascinating vocations imaginable—finding the iconic Christmas tree that lights up Rockefeller Center every December, one of America's landmark scenes that has been featured in countless movies and TV shows.

Pauze ('88), is head gardener at 30 Rock and responsible not only for selecting the Christmas tree every year, but also for arranging the delicate process of transporting it to New York City.

"I'm very lucky," he says. "I say that I don't need an alarm clock to get up in the morning to come to work. It's a lot of fun looking for a tree and meeting people and their families. Yeah, it's a fun job."

Pauze has been traveling highways and back roads for a decade now, looking for the perfect tree as each Christmas approaches. He got his job right after earning his Associate degree in Horticulture. While still in school he worked as a gardener's helper at Rockefeller Center, and was hired full time once he graduated. FSC, he says, helped prepare him for what has to be one of the most unique occupations anywhere.

"Everything I needed to go on with my career started there," he says. "I had a lot of good professors who made the classes fun."

Working in a garden became fun for Pauze as a young boy, when he'd plant twigs in his aunt's yard. But things didn't always work out the way he planned.

"I'd go back and couldn't figure out why they'd never grow. Then I figured out that she would rip them out right after I left."

Now Pauze enjoys driving the countryside and scouring private properties looking for trees—not only in New York State, but as far away as Ohio.

"If I'm going to visit somebody I always take a different route to see if I can find anything," he says.

When he does find a tree that meets his standards—a Norway Spruce about 70 feet high and 45 feet wide—a negotiation with the property owner ensues. Pauze says he's never been turned down, but on occasion the owners are skeptical he's who he says he is.

"Sometimes they believe me right away, and sometimes it's like 'Nah, no way. You're not the guy from Rockefeller Center.'"

The process from getting permission to take the tree to erecting it in Manhattan is a long and arduous one. The tree has to be properly watered and fed. There's also climbing into the tree to make sure the wood is healthy. Sometimes he needs permits to move overhead wires along the route back to the city; other times it's a permit to use a particular road. It usually takes four to five months from acquiring a tree to getting it ready for decorating.

"Each tree has its own cool story," says Pauze, who gives us a very special Christmas gift every year.



▶ Additional content and videos are available at fscnow.farmingdale.edu.

**“EACH TREE
HAS ITS OWN
COOL STORY”**



CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT

A GRADUATION CEREMONY THAT ENDED WITH A BANG

From the keynote address by SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, to a fireworks display that ended the evening with a bang—literally—FSC’s Centennial Commencement was all one could have expected from this milestone event.

Most importantly, May 21, 2019 will be remembered as one of the most important events in the College’s long and rich history as Long Island’s first public college. Among the highlights were the awarding of degrees and certificates to more than 1,000 graduates; the presence of relatives of members of the original graduating Class of 1919; a fly-over by the Flying Rams flight instructors from the Professional Pilot program; inspiring remarks by President Nader, Chancellor Johnson, and Valedictorian Jamie Jones; and, yes, that spectacular 20-minute fireworks show.

In his remarks, Dr. Nader told the assembled graduates there has never been a better time to be an FSC student, and that the 2019 class was the College’s most impressive.

Chancellor Johnson spoke of three crucial values: optimism, kindness, and community.

About social responsibility, she explained: “Each of us can make a difference within our own arm-span, by deciding to do the right thing every day. And the cumulative effects of such disciplined citizenship can turn a community around.”

Jones, who earned a degree in Architectural Engineering Technology and was a member of the golf team, said, “My message to you is to use this experience as a catalyst for your future, to continue to remain committed, to work hard, to push yourselves, and to strive for perfection. Farmingdale State College sets the perfect example of how to develop, to grow, and to always seek improvement.”



▶ Additional content and videos are available at fscnow.farmingdale.edu.





GOING GREEN IN DIFFERENT COLORS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEVIE FAMILARI'S SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS ARE EXHIBITED IN THE SMITHSONIAN.

When Urban Horticulture and Design assistant professor **Stevie Famulari** pitched the Halcyon 2019 Art Festival last year to exhibit her “Green Designs,” she hoped to be invited to showcase her unique interpretations of indoor/outdoor green lifestyles and environments.

Instead, her work was exhibited at the Smithsonian, where she was commissioned to expand her vision, and create more than 2,000 artfully crafted pieces of multi-colored sustainable construction paper, embedded with wildflower seeds. Overnight, Famulari went from landscape designer to artist, joyfully exhibiting her work at the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building as part of the “By the People” arts festival.

“It was an awe-inspiring experience,” Famulari says. “To have an installation of my work in the Smithsonian is wonderfully mind-boggling.”

To Famulari’s delight, not only were her creations displayed on a long, winding stairway at the

festival, they were also distributed to visitors to the show. Pieces made their way from New York to California, South Korea to India, and Australia to England.

“To have had hundreds of seeded papers go around the world because people wanted to participate in green design. It brings an instant smile just to think about it. People have sent me photos of their plantings of the seeded paper. And I am in awe of the participation. The experience is barely describable.

“I knew I wanted it to be interactive with people. I didn’t want it to be static.”

Thanks to the hordes of plant lovers who enjoyed the sight and smell of the wildflowers she distributed, the show helped Famulari’s and FSC’s reputation grow.

“IT WAS AN AWE-INSPIRING EXPERIENCE”

THE STARS CAME OUT FOR A GALA EVENING

New York State Senator John Brooks isn't just a legislator whose district happens to include the campus. In fact, he is a staunch advocate for the College, a frequent visitor, a champion of FSC causes and, it so happens, a proud alumnus—Class of '74.

For those reasons, and more, Brooks was honored at the annual President's Gala in November with the President's Award for Alumni Leadership, appropriate recognition for someone who has witnessed and praised Farmingdale's transition from agriculture to technology. His vivid memories of his time at the College (then known as SUNY Farmingdale) include a dairy, barns, and a menagerie of farm animals.

"I always talk about the pigs and the cows," Brooks says. "That's what I remember about the old days."

Of course, there was no Campus Center at the time. No gleaming School of Business building. No first-rate athletic facilities with artificial turf and lights. In fact, the campus bears little resemblance to the one he knew when starting his coursework in Business Administration.

But Brooks doesn't cling to FSC's past. Instead, he continues to help the College continue its push as the leading College of Technology in SUNY in terms of enrollment, academic programs, and student outcomes. And he has led the drumbeat along with Assembly members Steve Stern and Kimberly Jean-Pierre for state support for a new academic building that would allow FSC to expand its capacity.

"Farmingdale is a success story," he says. "What has happened to the campus, the institution it has become, is amazing."

Of course, much of FSC's progress can be attributed to the dedication of its faculty and staff. So **Dr. Charles Adair** received the President's Award for Faculty Leadership for his long-standing contributions to the College beginning as a professor and chair of the Biology Department in 1988. He is currently Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and a member of the board of the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park. He was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003 and a campus CARES Award in 2010.

The President's Award for Student Leadership was presented to **Sonia Y. Chemerisov** (Bioscience '21), a native of the Dominican Republic who is an orientation leader, resident assistant, a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, and a volunteer in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The Ram's Horn Award for Corporate Leadership was given to **Barnes & Noble College**, FSC's bookstore partner for over 25 years, for its service to the campus and its philanthropic support. B&N has also demonstrated its commitment to FSC by implementing changes and introducing new technologies to support faculty and students.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Celebrate Three Distinguished Individuals



AWARD FOR
STUDENT LEADERSHIP
Sonia Y. Chemerisov '21



AWARD FOR
FACULTY LEADERSHIP
Charles Adair



RAM'S HORN AWARD FOR
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP
Barnes & Noble College



New York State Senator John Brooks



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Graduation is hardly the end of your Farmingdale State College connection. It's the kickoff to lifetime membership in a community of more than 100,000 alumni. On campus or on the other side of the globe, in person or online, you can always connect with Farmingdale.

The dedicated staff and volunteers from the Alumni Association will help you get all the benefits of being a Farmingdale alum. No need to sign up. You are already a member for life.

Plus, the Alumni Association offers unlimited opportunities to build your career connections and skills, find friends old and new, attend special events, take classes, and give back to the Farmingdale community. Farmingdale alumni even get special discounts at local restaurants, athletic events, the campus bookstore, and much more.

Visit farmingdale.edu/alumni to update your alumni information.

We are eager to catch up and connect you with the College and with each other.



For more information about the Alumni Association, please contact:
Michelle Johnson, *Director of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship*
at Michelle.Johnson@farmingdale.edu or call 934-420-2369.

BRAGGING POINTS



The **Carnegie Foundation** announced that **FSC is one of 119 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification**, an elective designation indicating institutional commitment to community engagement. Farmingdale is the only SUNY school on Long Island to be honored in the Class of 2020.



Six teams won **Skyline Championships** in 2019-20—baseball, softball, men's and women's outdoor track, women's soccer, and women's tennis. Two coaches were named **Skyline Coach of the Year—Keith Osik** for baseball and **Adam Waterhouse** twice for both men's and women's tennis.



LendEDU identified **FSC as #1 among SUNY schools**, in its fifth annual College Risk-Reward Indicator study. The College is also the top-rated New York public school on the list.



The American Society for Engineering Education identified the **School of Engineering Technology as fourth in the nation in granting Engineering Technology undergraduate degrees**. The School placed **fifth in the U.S. for both undergraduate enrollment and undergraduate enrollment of women**.



SUNY's Chancellor's Awards for Excellence were awarded to faculty members **Dr. Jill O'Sullivan, Dr. Maureen Tsokris, Dr. Lori Goodstone, Professor Lou Scala**, and adjuncts **Kim Wild** and **Kathleen Hecht**. Professional staff winners included **Darleyne Mayers, Lauren Romer**, and **Cynthia Thomas**, and University Police **Officer Luis Llano**.



The **Renewable Energy & Sustainability Center (RESC)** won the **2019 Organization of the Year Award** from the IEEE Long Island Section. The award was given for the outstanding seminars, conferences, and lectures presented by the RESC.



The Skyline Conference women's soccer champions.

Director of RESC, **Professor Marjaneh Issapour**, also won an award: the **2019 Excellence for Women in Technology Award**, from **Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering**.



Dr. Cristina Casa-Levine, associate professor in the Dental Hygiene Department, was named **American Dental Hygienists Educator of the Year**. The award honors faculty members who provide high-quality education to dental hygiene students.



Farmingdale State College was honored for its commitment to effective urban forest management, with the **2019 Tree Campus USA® award**, sponsored by the **Arbor Day Foundation**. The Tree Campus USA program honors colleges and universities for effective campus forest management, and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.



CARES Awards—Commendation and Recognition for Exceptional Service—are presented annually, for exemplary work on behalf of the campus community. The most recent winners were **Jon Goldstein**, Director of Marketing and Chief Branding Officer,

Office for Institutional Advancement; **Frank Rampello**, Assistant Dean of Students & Title IX Coordinator; **Karen Gelles**, Library Director, Greenley Library; and **Barbara Kaplan**, Payroll Assistant, Payroll Department.



FSC was named **one of country's top "green" colleges** by **The Princeton Review Guide** to Green Colleges: 2019 Edition. Farmingdale was among 413 colleges chosen out of nearly 700 schools surveyed.



Forbes "Best Value Colleges" poll placed Farmingdale State College in the top 24% of the nearly 700 colleges and universities reviewed. Only 300 schools qualified to be ranked.



CollegeFactual.com, in its "**Best Colleges for the Money**" category, ranked FSC in the Top 20 out of 115 schools in New York State.



FSC Applied Mathematics students **Anthony Ercolano, Anthony Porras**, and **Henry Zaradich**, took the **first prize at the SCUDEM IV** (SIMIODE Challenge Using Differential Equations Modeling) competition held at CUNY City Tech.

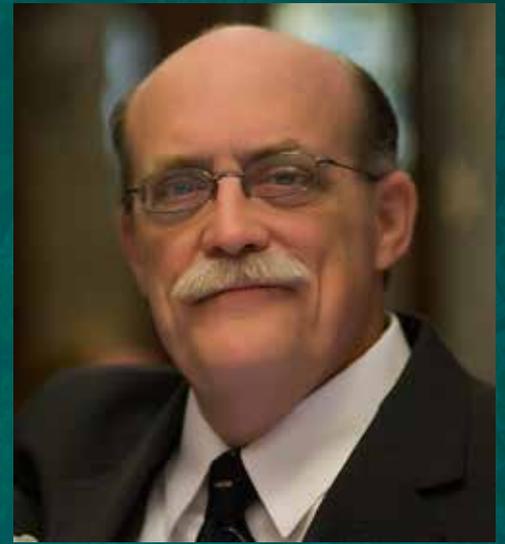
IN MEMORIAM

*In remembrance of their
extraordinary contributions to
our Farmingdale State College
community.*



DR. MIRIAM DEITSCH

A beloved 43-year faculty member, Miriam (known as Mimi) served as chair of the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology, College Studies/ Pathways, and Undeclared Major. She also was founding director of the Social Sciences Institute and was awarded the College's Distinguished Service Award, the first woman and only the seventh person to receive the honor in FSC's 108-year history. She received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997 and in 2002 was the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor. Miriam organized Social Justice/ Diversity Summits in 2013 and 2016. She also received the SUNY Exploration in Diversity Grant and served as co-chair of the President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council. She represented the College by serving on the boards of the American Heart Association, the LIEOC, and ERASE Racism. Her exemplary work was recognized by the American Heart Association when she received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2000.



JOE EGAN

A past President of the Alumni Association, Joe was generous in his support of FSC. A 1970 graduate of the Food Processing Technology program, he was one of six members of his family to attend what was then known as SUNY Farmingdale in its era as a primarily agricultural institution. After earning his Associate degree at Farmingdale, Joe continued his education at Cornell University where he studied Agricultural Economics, majoring in Food Distribution. He would go on to senior positions with leading food processing firms, including Boar's Head and Otto Roth & Company, and in 2000 began his own business. Egan Consulting Co. maintains sales and service locations in Tucson, Arizona and Denver, Colorado and supports a customer base in the continental USA, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. In his alumni role at FSC, Joe was instrumental in rebuilding the Alumni Association and organizing—and financially supporting—the annual Alumni Dinner. He also was a member of the College Foundation board.



MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to student success, Farmingdale State College delivers exceptional academic and applied learning outcomes through scholarship, research, and student engagement for Long Island and beyond. FSC's commitment to student-centered learning and inclusiveness prepares graduates to be exemplary citizens equipped to excel in a competitive, diverse, and technologically dynamic society.

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Erica Chase-Gregory, MS, *Development and Alumni Engagement*

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State University of New York

2350 Broadhollow Road
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Office of Admissions
2350 Broadhollow Road
Laffin Hall, Second Floor
Farmingdale, NY 11735
934-420-2200



This special issue on FSC's community service is dedicated to those members of the campus who worked on the frontlines or volunteered in the fight against the pandemic. A grateful college applauds you.