

THE MAGAZINE OF FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

FSC NOW ²⁰²³



New STORY

Guided by a new strategic plan and clearly defined identity, FSC reimagines what's possible

EIGHT FOR '28
A strategic vision for five years and beyond

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
Collective student support services build inclusivity



Pedal Share is a new on-campus bike share rental program that launched in the spring. This program offers a sustainable transportation option for the campus community while building strong health and wellness habits.

FSCNOW

FSCNow is published annually by Farmingdale State College's Office for Marketing & Communications. Additional content is available on our website at fscnow.farmingdale.edu.

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A LETTER FROM

President Nader

Every issue of *FSCNow* is a new opportunity to tell the stories that bring to life the many ways we celebrate success at Farmingdale State College. We're immensely proud of our commitment to supporting students throughout their college experiences. Our dynamic programs complement the industrious nature of our students and speak volumes about those things that make FSC such a special place.

Many of you have shared that FSC is one of the best stories never told. We're looking to change that with a new brand initiative that clearly defines our identity and a strategic plan that provides measurable goals for the next five years. This helps sharpen our focus and ultimately will better serve our students and ensure their academic success. We've paid particular attention to stories that reflect a more engaging student experience, a more inclusive campus, and a carefully curated program mix that positions the College and the greater FSC community for a very bright future.

In this issue, we share stories that reflect our commitment to accessibility, affordability, and student support, backed by the strong vote of confidence from SUNY and new funding that enables many of our most important initiatives. We offer an affordable SUNY tuition that has remained unchanged for the past several years. We have successfully increased our scholarship fundraising efforts and this year awarded \$1 million in additional scholarship aid, after need-based federal and state financial aid.

It's important to note that our students' success reflects the unrelenting efforts of our faculty and staff. You'll read stories about them, too, and how they work tirelessly to create and sustain the best possible experience for students, during their time on campus and beyond.

The stories in this magazine truly demonstrate all the ways we are reimagining what's possible here at FSC. Thank you for your support and for being a part of our distinct, vibrant, and continuously growing community.



John S. Nader, PhD
President, Farmingdale State College



FSCNOW



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A Brand **New STORY**

Guided by a new strategic plan and clearly defined identity, FSC reimagines what's possible

Whether or not you attended FSC, you have likely experienced our College in some capacity — through our students, alumni, faculty, or staff — or witnessed our institutional impact throughout Long Island. These experiences represent the FSC brand and affect everyone's perception of the College.

Some people think of FSC as a career-track college, others see us as another SUNY school, while a growing number appreciate our real-world academic programs. These perceptions are all influenced by past experiences with the FSC brand, but we Rams know there is much more to our College.

To authentically communicate who FSC is today and who we are growing into, we wanted a cohesive brand story to build on.

And now, we share that brand story with you.

WHAT MAKES A MEANINGFUL BRAND?

When you think of a brand, you may think of a name, a logo, or a particular color scheme. And while all these elements add to an organization's branding, what ultimately defines a brand is how people experience and perceive it.

Why is it important? Serving our community and Long Island in more effective and innovative ways begins with a unified and refined brand. With a sharpened strategic vision, influenced by our brand story, we can better reach prospective students, inspire Ram pride, and strengthen our local economy.

FSC'S BRAND STORY

To better define FSC's brand, we interviewed hundreds of high school counselors, business leaders, and community members and conducted extensive research with prospects, parents, students, faculty, and alumni. All so we can better tell the FSC story. Inspire Ram pride. Strengthen our local economy. And ultimately, have a consistent answer to what every future student wants to know: "Why Farmingdale?"

Dynamic Programs, Elevated Education, Distinctive Community, and Vibrant Culture are FSC's four brand pillars, all working together to support our ultimate brand promise: redefining what's in reach. As the world's changed, we've changed with it, evolving from an agricultural college to a leader in technology programs, continually reaching new heights in what our institution and students can accomplish.

Vice President of Development & Alumni Engagement Matthew Colson says, "Thanks to the extensive interview and survey responses from members of our community, we are able to define Farmingdale's brand story in a way we haven't before. Now we can authentically show Long Island and the greater metropolitan region who we are as a college and continue to meet our strategic growth goals."

MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

This is your reference for what to expect from FSC going forward; use it as a lens through which to view the College. Anticipate even greater things from our campus academically, innovatively, and strategically. Take pride in being a Ram. And stay tuned — because there is so much you don't yet know about FSC, and we can't wait to show you.

REIMAGINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

DYNAMIC PROGRAMS

Distinguished programs in which industry-experienced faculty prepare students with the skills needed to push and evolve to meet the world's demands.

VIBRANT CULTURE

Our culture embraces camaraderie, fueling a campus that exudes enthusiasm for each other's talents, pursuits, and contributions.

ELEVATED EDUCATION

An education that results in more opportunities and fewer obstacles, where individualized support, exceptional value, and relevant degrees drive personal discovery and professional advancement.

DISTINCTIVE COMMUNITY

Our array of identities, life commitments, triumphs, and challenges unites our community: we celebrate our differences and better the industries we serve.





EIGHT FOR '28

A strategic vision for five years and beyond

This spring, Farmingdale State College (FSC) unveiled its “Eight for Twenty-Eight” strategic plan for the next five years and beyond. The result of a year-long inclusive process, the plan identifies eight strategic goals to guide the College from 2023 to 2028. With nearly 40 measurable objectives, the plan offers a vision for better serving current and future students, faculty, staff, and the region. The process, led by FSC’s Committee on Planning and Resource Allocation (CPRA), engaged every level of the College community, from the President’s Cabinet to the faculty, the staff, the student body, and the College Council.

“This plan is both aspirational and assessable. It reflects the many ways Farmingdale is evolving with the rapid growth and development of our distinctive and distinguished student body, while providing a road map for how to best navigate the next five years,” said Dr. John S. Nader, president of Farmingdale State College. “In the past few years we have added new degree programs in emerging fields in business, computer science, health care, and energy; funded honors scholarship programs in all four of our schools; secured funding for a new building devoted to the computer sciences; and received a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. Our progress has been remarkable and we aspire to even greater success.”

FSC’s College-wide goals prioritize its commitment to academic excellence, student success, and fostering a culture of inclusion and civic responsibility. Our plan synthesizes the findings and recommendations from various groups currently working to implement strategies and actions that position Farmingdale for the challenges ahead. The plan reinforces the College’s deep and long-standing dedication to student success, while embracing new goals and a broad vision that reflects the changing and increasingly competitive higher education environment.

“This was an intensive process, as we prioritized gathering, analyzing, and incorporating input from the entire campus community,” said Kathy Machin, senior assistant librarian and chair of the CPRA. “From the feedback we received throughout the process, it became clear that our goals and objectives, and our path forward, would be structured around facilitating and ensuring student success at every stage of their FSC experience.”

Highlighting recent successes, FSC is embracing new opportunities and raising its profile in several emerging areas. Among them are attracting professional staff by actively recruiting FSC alumni and investing in mentorship and advancement opportunities for existing faculty and staff. To further promote the use of renewable energy and sustainable practices, the College is developing new academic programs to serve increasing workforce demands and identifying renewable sources for campus energy needs. In addition, FSC is redefining its core commitment to student success and the student experience by introducing programs that speak to its highly diverse student population, and increasing its focus on non-academic, holistic support services designed to nurture the complete student.

The plan centers on the future while retaining themes that are vital to the sustained success of the College, including recruiting new full-time

faculty and launching new academic programs consistent with the College’s mission.

A highly inclusive process was managed by the CPRA, comprising diverse stakeholders across the campus community. The committee initiated an environmental scan using a SWOT analysis to help the College identify challenges on the horizon. They engaged stakeholder groups and key College-wide committees in the development of broad goals and objectives for the institutional strategic plan and provided feedback to those groups.

To gain feedback and share progress, the CPRA held two campus-wide town hall meetings to establish a dialog and engage the campus community. In addition, two campus-wide surveys were conducted during the process to elicit input on draft plans.

College officials were commended for monitoring progress and addressing the goals of the earlier/previous plan.

The Cabinet and the CPRA will adopt performance indicators and action items linked to each of the strategic goals and the corresponding objectives to document implementation of the plan. A progress review will take place semi-annually.

Visit farmingdale.edu/strategic-plan to learn more.

EIGHT FOR 28 GOALS

ELEVATE OUR DEDICATION TO STUDENT SUCCESS

01

BOLSTER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

02

ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

03

EXPAND THE CULTURE OF INCLUSION

04

BECOME AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

05

PROMOTE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

06

ENHANCE THE COLLEGE’S PROMINENCE BY CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS THAT FOSTER PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

07

POSITION THE COLLEGE FOR GREATER SUCCESS

08

COMMUNITY SERVICE WEAVING ITS WAY INTO FSC'S FABRIC

A new campus initiative focuses on collective engagement

When tapped to oversee the new Nexus Center Office of Community and Civic Engagement (OCCE), Acting Director Yetunde A. Odugbesan-Omede, PhD, decided to take the “If you build it, they will come” approach.

“Students need opportunities to decide what they want to do and find a voice and passion,” Odugbesan-Omede said of the office’s mission.

Farmingdale State College (FSC) community engagement — already a large part of the student experience with initiatives such as clothing collections, blood drives, toiletry collections, food drives, and even a search for potential bone-marrow matches — was formalized with the creation of the OCCE in 2022.

In 2020, FSC received a Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, which recognizes an institution’s dedication to community engagement. The College is committed to institutionalizing public service, making it a hallmark of an FSC education, and maintaining the Carnegie Classification. OCCE is already collecting survey information from faculty, staff, and students as part of FSC’s reclassification application.

In its inaugural year, the OCCE and the Community Engagement Committee built a foundation that they hope will further embed itself in the College’s core. To date, between 25 and 30 students have received community service credit from the office; four FSC students have received \$1,000 scholarships through the Hagedorn Award program, designed to honor students involved with promoting social equity; and the committee has funded two community service projects.

This year, the OCCE also launched FSC’s inaugural Day of Service on April 20, concluding a three-week celebration of National Volunteer Month that included a toiletry drive for five local organizations.

More than 500 pounds of donated items were collected and distributed to the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, The Veterans Project at Long Island Cares, Bethany House, Island Harvest Food Bank, ECLI-VIBES, and the FSC Food Pantry.

As part of the celebration, actor and social justice advocate George Takei addressed the campus community about his experience growing up in an internment camp during World War II and the importance of public service.

“The purpose of creating the Inaugural Day of Service was to put community engagement and public service at the forefront,” Odugbesan-Omede said after the event. “It provided an opportunity, experience, and most importantly a commitment to be of service to the communities that we serve.”

FSC plans to expand on the community connections it has made, said Greenley Library Director Karen Gelles, who also serves as co-chair of the Community Engagement Committee. “We want to be able to build on those [relationships] in the following years and look at ways we serve their communities through volunteerism and applied learning activities.”

Several other departments and organizations on campus share FSC’s passion for community engagement, including its athletic teams and the Phi Sigma Foundation.

“It raises the profile of the institution, educates students on the importance of giving back to the community, and allows students to be well-rounded and prepared for life after college,” said Tom Azzara, director of athletics.

Odugbesan-Omede is anticipating even more in 2023–2024. “We’re building an institutional blueprint; we have a starting point and I think it’s taking hold,” she said.

“The purpose of creating the Inaugural Day of Service was to put community engagement and public service at the forefront,” Odugbesan-Omede said after the event. “It provided an opportunity, experience, and most importantly a commitment to be of service to the communities that we serve.” DR. YETUNDE A. ODUGBESAN-OMEDE



DAY OF SERVICE
WISCONSIN
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
FSC

DAY OF SERVICE
WISCONSIN
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
FSC

DAY OF SERVICE
WISCONSIN
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
FSC



COMPUTING THE FUTURE

\$75 million in state funding bolsters FSC's technology presence

Responding to remarkable growth in computing programs and rising market demand for graduates in the field, Farmingdale State College (FSC) is set to break ground on a new \$75 million academic building that will house the new Center for Computer Science and Information Technology Systems. In just the last three years, Farmingdale has produced more than 500 graduates in the field. More than 600 are currently enrolled at FSC, and the applicants just keep coming.

The building, which will encompass 40,000 square feet and sit adjacent to Sinclair Hall, will integrate seven academic programs in a single site: baccalaureate programs in computer programming and information systems, computer science, computer security technology, geographic information systems and science, and science, technology & society. It will also incorporate the College's technology management graduate program and a host of certificate programs.

By fall 2024, the College will add an artificial intelligence management degree, which has received letters of support from companies including Amazon and IBM.

"This new computer science building will address a vital need for the College and the Long Island region by continuing to deliver talent that can address the growing digital technology needs of our region," said Dr. John Nader, president of Farmingdale State College. "Thanks to Governor Hochul, the Empire State Development Corporation, the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, and the State University of New York, Farmingdale's long-standing vision of a transformative investment in Long Island's digital future will become a reality."

The building's features will include classrooms and labs outfitted with the latest interactive, high-definition, high-speed internet technology and equipment. Spaces designed for collaborative learning, student lounges, and faculty offices will be built upon a robust and scalable technical backbone, providing students with exposure to high-demand and commercially available systems and software.

One of the more exciting elements in the building will be the new Interactive Educational Data Center & Network Lab, where students who are taking classes in networking, infrastructure, and cybersecurity will have access to industry-caliber equipment in a data center/network lab that is custom built for academic learning. This will provide them with educational opportunities and training so that they graduate with market-ready experience in installing, configuring, programming, securing, and maintaining industry-leading technology. In addition, this space will support external industry-authorized certification programs including Microsoft Azure, Cisco Systems, Google Cloud, and Amazon Web Services.

A large portion of the space will be utilized by students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The Division of Computing will integrate seven closely related programs

associated with computing systems within a single facility, thereby fostering collaboration and the sharing of resources.

The Long Island Association has reported that FSC, a recognized engine for economic growth, has had a \$2.51 billion impact on the region.

During nights, weekends, and large portions of the summer, the academic part of the building will be open for use by the local business community. Businesses will also be invited to use the space to foster partnerships, collaborate, and make presentations to broad audiences. Farmingdale recently welcomed The Estee Lauder Companies to campus and is poised to continue to focus on external engagement and partnership. The College is a leader in applied learning and has successfully delivered workforce programs to General Electric, National Grid, Curtiss-Wright, Target Rock, and numerous other firms. The facility will be open to industry partners so they can provide training to current and prospective employees.

The range of programs integrated within the proposed building will better position a broadly diverse cross-section of thousands of Long Islanders to develop and apply the digital technologies that are transforming every sector of the economy and the nature of work itself.



APPLYING CREATIVITY TO DATA

Cecilia Ambros, '04 redefines graphic design in finance

When Cecilia Ambros became interested in art as a teenager, her current profession did not exist.

“I started out playing with colored pencils, markers, and paint, and now I’m making sense of data and observing how customers behave with digital products,” said Ambros, who earned a bachelor of technology in visual communications from Farmingdale State College (FSC).

From those early beginnings she has drawn from her FSC degree, progressing her design career from branding and marketing to digitally engaging bank customers.

“In order to create insightful, delightful, relevant, and personal digital experiences for customers,” Ambros said, “we must understand the underlying data, platforms, and information architecture that sits behind those experiences.”

A self-described “corporate athlete,” Ambros has been the executive director of digital design and customer experience at JPMorgan Chase & Company since January 2023.

“I work on helping customers make smart and healthy financial decisions based on data,” she continued. “Together, the back-end data systems and front-end user experience must be valuable to customers, viable to the business, and feasible to be built.”

Ambros emigrated to the U.S. from Argentina when she was 8 years old. “We came to the U.S. when I was so young. When I look at my upbringing, I was used to moving and new challenges,” she said. “I was always curious, asking questions and building community. It became an adventure. It makes sense in hindsight.”

When Ambros was in high school, her family moved to Hauppauge, New York. She attended Smithtown High School, which had a strong art department, and she began spending her lunch periods in the art studio. Every week, a local illustrator demonstrated figure drawing at the school and offered a Sunday art class.

“High school is where you start to build identity,” she said. “I began building my interest in art. It created a community for me.”

Enrolling at FSC turned out to be the best choice for her, Ambros said. “It helped me in many ways, and I still have relationships with the professors,” she said.

Interning with the Office for Marketing & Communications, she gained practical experience, helping to design commencement programs, curriculum guides, and other projects. “I was trying out all the software I was learning about in classes,” she said. “I learned about other departments and events. It gave me visibility behind my own program.”

“I wanted to pay tribute to the College. Farmingdale started my career,” said Ambros, currently serving as an advisor for the College’s design curriculum.

After completing her FSC bachelor’s degree in three years, Ambros started working and earned a master’s degree in design, research, and strategy from the Institute of Design at Illinois Tech and an MBA in innovation and emerging enterprises from Illinois Tech Stuart School of Business.

While teaching an executive-level decision-making course at the Institute of Design, she got to know one of the students who worked for Nike, and this connection led to a job offer as global design studio director for NFL, MLB, Men’s Training and Soccer. After four years at Nike, Ambros was recruited by Amazon to build a high-performing design team in global advertising. She also led research for Alexa Devices and Services and user experience for Amazon Fresh and Whole Foods.

In 2018, Ambros brought the Amazon Design Challenge to the FSC campus, the first time the Design Challenge was offered to undergraduates. During the three-day event, nine Amazon Design Leaders worked with 20 students from eight disciplines in the Schools of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Business, and Engineering Technology.



I WANTED TO PAY
TRIBUTE TO THE COLLEGE.
FARMINGDALE
STARTED MY CAREER.

CECELIA AMBROS, '04

FROM TELESCOPES TO SHUTTLES

Joseph Rothenberg, '64 soared to a lifelong legacy in aerospace starting at FSC

During a storied career in aerospace that spanned nearly six decades, Joseph Rothenberg, '64 impacted almost every aspect of the pioneering, constantly evolving industry.

From the early days of the space program at Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation (now Northrop Grumman), to repairing the Hubble telescope, and finally to the “new” commercial space industry, Rothenberg left his mark, collecting awards and accolades along the way, until his retirement in 2021.

Rothenberg, who earned an associate degree in applied science in electrical technology, credits FSC with helping launch his career.

“My acceptance into Farmingdale, starting with the admissions team’s advice to take bridge courses to prepare me for college, through the mentoring by a number of professors, the job interviews arranged, and of course, the quality of the education, provided me the foundation for continued learning and a career that was beyond anything I ever thought I was capable of pursuing.”

After graduation, Rothenberg started at Grumman, where he worked as an electronics expert with the space program. In this role he managed the development and operations of the aerospace ground equipment for the Orbiting Astronomical Observatory series of Goddard spacecraft, as well as testing and operations for spacecraft, aircraft, and submersible research vehicles. During his time with Grumman, Rothenberg and his family moved to Maryland, where he and his wife still live.

While working, Rothenberg earned a BS in engineering science and an MS in engineering management at Long Island University Post. He later was awarded an honorary doctorate in engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology and an honorary doctorate of science from Long Island University Post.

Rothenberg then landed at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center and was named associate director for flight projects for the Hubble Space Telescope, one of his most challenging and scrutinized projects.

After the \$1.5 billion telescope was completed and launched, blurry images from space began arriving at NASA. The telescope’s primary mirror was found to be faulty. Rothenberg led the team that isolated the problem and designed the repairs, which took almost three years to complete, earning him national and international attention and the top spot at Goddard.

Prior to that, Rothenberg was immersed in NASA’s manned space program, which enabled him to meet one of his icons. While serving in the Navy, he was stationed in Florida near Cape Canaveral (now Cape Kennedy) and tried to attend as many rocket launches as he could. He had hoped to see astronaut John Glenn lift off in 1962 and become the first American to orbit Earth, but the launch was delayed twice and he missed the third and successful attempt. After almost 40 years, Glenn put on a spacesuit again. In 1998, at age 77, he was cleared to fly on the space shuttle Discovery mission. Rothenberg was tapped to participate in NASA’s announcement of Glenn’s return to space. When Glenn landed after the nine-day mission, Rothenberg had the distinct honor of pinning the NASA Space Flight Medal on the space pioneer.

“Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would have a chance to work in the space program, let alone meet John Glenn,” recalled Rothenberg. “I had lunch with Senator Glenn right before the awards ceremony and told him of my attempts to see his first launch, and at the same time realized what I was about to do in placing the medal on him. It was kind of the pinnacle of my career.”

The exceptional people Rothenberg encountered at FSC and throughout his work experience helped him realize his dream, and to go beyond it to imagine an even more elegant reality. “I had the good fortune to work with great people and very challenging programs, starting a few months after I graduated from Farmingdale in 1964,” recalled Rothenberg. “My education at Farmingdale and mentoring by a number of professors played the critical role in enabling what I consider to be a successful and rewarding career.”



1. Space Shuttle cockpit 2. Speaking at NASA 3. Meeting Vice President Al Gore 4. AIAA Robert Goddard Award Ceremony 5. NASA Crew & Team of the Space Shuttle Mission STS-61 6. Speaking with Pilot Scott Kelly and Mission Specialist Jean-François Clervoy of the STS-103 Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission 7. Hubble Telescope Model

SPEAKING UP FOR SILENT VOICES

True-crime producer **Lori Rothschild Ansaldi, '94** investigates wrongful conviction claims

While Lori Rothschild Ansaldi is not a lawyer, you would not know it from how she spends her days.

Ansaldi spends hours on legal research as part of her job as a true-crime TV and podcast reporter and producer. Her work led to her launching a podcast, *The System*, in October 2022 with reality TV personality Kim Kardashian. The show focuses on people who are incarcerated and claim they were wrongly accused. Just days after its debut, *The System* reached number one on Spotify's true-crime podcast chart in the United States and became the number one podcast on Spotify in the U.S., Canada, and several other countries.

Ansaldi's connection with Kardashian was sparked by the story of Kevin Keith, an Ohio man who maintains he did not commit a triple homicide for which he was convicted in 1994. Ansaldi had been investigating the story for seven years and was joined by Kardashian in 2018.

"I thought Kevin was a unicorn — that there were no others like him," Ansaldi said. "Then I realized Kevin is one of thousands. When you wrap your head around this, you start to realize how often this goes on: wrongful convictions, bail [inequities], and innocent people being executed."

When she featured the case on her podcast it gave her a whole new following. Ansaldi received bags of what she called "jail mail" from others who claimed to have been wrongly prosecuted and wanted her to investigate their cases.

In response, Ansaldi founded The Silent Voices, an organization dedicated to freeing the innocent, eliminating wrongful convictions, and working to make the criminal justice system more equitable for everyone. She is currently campaigning for dozens of people who maintain they were wrongly convicted and is working with other advocacy groups to reform the criminal justice system.

"I feel like if you hear about something that is unjust and do nothing about it, then you are complicit," explained Ansaldi. "A lot of people think that they don't have the ability to make

change. But in this media landscape, we all have a megaphone, some are just bigger."

Ansaldi is advocating to have the death penalty repealed to prevent the possibility of innocent people being executed, and she is hopeful the Keith case will be the one that tips the scales. "It's an imperfect system," said Ansaldi, daughter of a police officer and founder of Big City TV, a content production company that specializes in documentaries and true-crime stories. "Being a daughter of a cop, working with them as long as I have, it was extremely difficult," she said.


While at Farmingdale State College (FSC), Ansaldi earned her associate degree in business management and a bachelor's in business management and communications. "My parents couldn't afford to send me to school, but they instilled in me how important degrees are," she noted. "My associate degree was the inspiration to do great things. It was really important for me to get that stepping stone; that's what FSC gave me."

Ansaldi later became interested in law and considered law school, but at the same time liked the creativity of television. One summer she was taking prelaw classes while interning with *The Ricki Lake Show*.

She recalls the day she came into her family's North Babylon home and told her father she was rethinking law school and interested in a career in true crime TV.

"He said, 'You are going to be poor the rest of your life,'" Ansaldi recalled. "I've been trying to prove him wrong the rest of my life." At this point, she has little to prove and is focusing on the changes she hopes she can help make with the tools she has.

"I think about my legacy and what I want to leave my children," she noted. "That is what the power of media can do: expose people to things that happen in the human condition. That creates tolerance, and tolerance creates respect."

A close-up portrait of Lori Rothschild AnsalDI, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a dark blue sleeveless top. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

**I FEEL LIKE IF YOU HEAR
ABOUT SOMETHING
THAT IS UNJUST
AND DO NOTHING
ABOUT IT, THEN
YOU ARE COMPLICIT.**

LORI ROTHSCHILD ANSALDI, '94

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

Inspiring students to reach new heights with FSC's new innovative programs

Farmingdale State College (FSC) is empowering students to reach new heights by bringing innovative and progressive academic programs to students' fingertips. This exciting journey of growth and success will allow individuals to unlock a world of knowledge and pursue their educational goals from anywhere in the world.

FSC is offering a diverse range of new programs tailored to meet the needs of today's ambitious learners, and with its online platform students can pursue a degree or passion, enrich their skills to enhance career prospects, and achieve their academic goals on their own schedules.

2023 is a significant educational planning year for FSC, as the New York State Education Department approved two new online academic programs to launch in 2024: the master of science in nursing administration and the bachelor of science in artificial intelligence management.



Mastering Excellence in Nursing

The new master of science in nursing administration is the second graduate program in FSC's portfolio. This 100 percent online program will prepare registered nurses to assume advanced practice nurse roles as administrators and leaders. The program is designed to fit within today's evolving and global healthcare system.

The program emphasizes the leadership, administrative, and management skills necessary to coordinate comprehensive care, collaborate with an interdisciplinary healthcare team, and implement strategies that improve the healthcare environment.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected growth for nurses with a graduate degree in the United States is substantial, with a significant increase in demand for highly skilled and specialized nursing professionals in the coming years. This growth is fueled by factors such as an aging population, advancements in healthcare technology, and the increasing complexity of patient care, making a graduate degree in nursing a valuable asset for aspiring professionals seeking rewarding and in-demand career opportunities.

With FSC's advanced degree program available online, aspiring nurses gain unparalleled convenience and flexibility to pursue their degrees on their terms. Harnessing the power of online education, students can personalize their learning experience by setting their own pace. Students who choose full-time study can complete the 35-credit program and earn their degree in just a year and a half.

Innovation Powered by Artificial Intelligence

FSC will launch its new bachelor of science degree in artificial intelligence management, the first such degree to be offered in the SUNY system. This is an online, upper-division program geared toward transfer students who have an associate degree in either business or computer science.

Artificial intelligence (AI) mimics human intelligence and learns from an enormous amount of data, allowing AI to unlock remarkable capabilities and redefining what is possible now and in the future. AI is revolutionizing industries, streamlining processes to enable breakthrough scientific discoveries, and reshaping how we live, work, and interact.

FSC's degree program is designed to equip students with machine learning, algorithms, statistical reasoning, ethics, and sustainability knowledge. The program explores the application of AI within the functional areas of business, including marketing, finance, operations management, supply chain management, and project management.

This program is tailored to meet the unique needs of transfer students from Long Island community colleges and the Greater New York region. However, its allure extends far beyond geographical boundaries, attracting working adults from all over the country.

DRIVEN BY SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE

Elena Ortiz, '23 aspires to help others through law enforcement

When introducing Elena Ortiz, a recipient of Farmingdale State College's (FSC) 2022 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, President John S. Nader recalled his initial reaction when reading her catalog of accomplishments. He was "thunderstruck," he said.

Ortiz, an applied psychology major who plans to graduate in December 2023, is a first-generation student, a Sillcox Scholar, and a RAM Scholar. She has conducted sophisticated research, interned at a federal courthouse, tutored her peers, helped start a women's club on campus, and maintained a near-perfect GPA. She also volunteers at her church, helped care for younger siblings, and has a part-time job.

"I have received so much that giving back is the only thing I can do," said Ortiz, who lived in Hempstead and recently moved to Brooklyn. "It wouldn't be right to receive so much and not give back. All my hard work and everything I do is to honor my family, God, and those who have mentored and supported me."

Her family emigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in 2011, when she was nine-years old, Ortiz pushed herself to succeed and was named salutatorian of Hempstead High School's Class of 2020.

"I don't think it's so much that I'm smart," Ortiz said, reflecting on her achievements. "It's the hard work I put in and the consistency."

Now, Ortiz generates advanced research that grabs peoples' attention. Through the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program, Ortiz raised awareness of Latinos' unwillingness to report crimes, revealing that Latino students are less likely to contact the police because they are uncertain how they will be perceived. President Nader invited her to join him in a meeting with Campus Chief of Police Daniel Daugherty and Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence Dr. Kevin Jordan.

"We spoke about my research and everything that they were doing," Ortiz said. "I gave the chief of

police suggestions as to what could be done to make students feel more comfortable while on campus. The chief mentioned that the police are constantly undergoing training to ensure campus safety for the well-being of students, which was a relief to me."

Ortiz's largest undertaking was in the summer of 2022, when she spent 14 weeks on an assignment through the Research Experience for Undergraduates program, one of only nine students selected nationwide. There she explored disparities in the criminal justice system and victim-related factors in prosecutor case summaries.

More recently, Ortiz interned in the United States Pretrial Services Agency, located in the Brooklyn Eastern District federal courthouse, deepening her understanding of the court system.

"Seeing those who were more vulnerable to crimes made me want to help," said Ortiz, who hopes to enter law enforcement and enroll in a graduate program in forensic psychology after graduation.

Leslie Sillcox of the Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation encouraged Ortiz to study applied psychology. "Mrs. Sillcox said it would help me develop a broader perspective," Ortiz said. "I am really enjoying it; I go into the courses with an open mind. I love the professors at FSC, they make learning so much easier."

Last year, Ortiz helped start the Women's Empowerment Club and serves on the club's e-board as vice president.

While she is immersed in her studies and campus life, Ortiz has also found time to volunteer at St. Ladislaus Roman Catholic Church in Hempstead and enjoys relaxing at home with her parents and three brothers.

"They are my 'why,'" she explained. "They work arduously, and I owe it to them to be someone who gives back. Seeing them smile and say they are proud of me is my motivation."



“WE WANT TO HOST ACTIVITIES THAT HELP WOMEN FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES AND FEEL EMPOWERED.” ELENA ORTIZ, '23

STUDENT SUPPLIES MEMORIES

Kenia Sanchez, '25 creates non-profit to help families in need

Even at a young age, Kenia Sanchez was keenly aware that almost all the doctors her family visited were white and male. So, she committed to becoming a doctor herself to do her part to help change the face of medicine.

Her father, who immigrated from El Salvador, initially was skeptical of her ambitions. “He said, ‘That’s not built for you,’” Sanchez recalled. “He hadn’t seen any Hispanic doctors. I was little at the time, but it gave me more of a push, not to prove him wrong, but to prove everyone wrong.”

Sanchez, a science, technology, and society major from Brentwood, aspires to become a pediatric oncologist and, more specifically, a physician who assists people in impoverished countries.

Sanchez founded a non-profit called Changing the Altars of the Heart to raise money and provide food, clothing, toiletries, medical supplies, and even beds to people in other countries. She has delivered many of the supplies herself.

“I always wanted to help others once I became a doctor by providing treatment in other countries, but seeing as I wasn’t a doctor yet, I figured the next best way to give back to those in need was by doing my best to raise money here and distributing it over there,” Sanchez explained. “The goal is to hopefully continue doing it every year to the point where it becomes big enough not for fame, but to one day be able to build houses for families and provide their children with an education.”

Assisted by friends, family members, her own resources, and even her Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program advisor, Dylan Gafarían, she raised money and took supplies to the Dominican Republic in 2021 and to El Salvador in 2022.

“I really love people, especially children,” Sanchez said. “Seeing them struggle just makes me want to help more. I didn’t have much growing up, but I still had more than these children do.”

In recognition of her efforts, Sanchez was named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact in April 2023. She was one of only 154 students nationwide to receive the distinction for demonstrating leadership and involvement in community service. Over the course of a year, Newman Civic Fellows participate in mentoring, networking with other fellows, and workshops focused on skills development and leadership.

This summer, Sanchez attended a six-week research program at Brown University to study the behavioral neurogenetics of addiction. Students explored the genetic, neural, and molecular mechanisms of memory, reward, and addiction using the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. “It will be good to build interactions with other students and meet people who have the same mindset as I do,” she said.

Sanchez will continue to raise money for families in Honduras and arrange for a friend to deliver funds and supplies. She chooses the areas she supports based on need and the connections to those areas that she has in the U.S. “When you go there, it’s not hard to spot poverty,” she added.

Sanchez continues to stay in contact with the families she has visited, including through video messages from a pastor she met in El Salvador.

The videos are humbling, she said. “All of these people are extremely grateful for what they have. We have a roof over our heads and food and still complain. Some of them don’t have houses; they live under cardboard with blankets, and they still are grateful.”

While the financial assistance is important, Sanchez strives to create memories for families, which can be just as meaningful, she said. “Money is always going to come and go, but the memories we can help these families form — getting their first pair of new shoes, first bookbag, or even their first ice cream — will never leave.”



**“MONEY IS ALWAYS GOING TO COME AND GO,
BUT THE MEMORIES WE CAN HELP THESE
FAMILIES FORM WILL NEVER LEAVE.”** KENIA SANCHEZ, '25

VET FINDS NEW CAREER AT FSC

Deo Singh, '23 digs into nutrition after military and public service

It's never too late to start a second career. Or a third. And a fourth. Even if it takes decades to get it started. Just ask Deo Singh.

The 62-year-old U.S. Army veteran has worked as a youth counselor, a corrections officer, and a delivery person. He is now pursuing a long-held interest, a degree in nutrition science at Farmingdale State College (FSC). He is on track to graduate in winter 2023.

Nutrition sparked Singh's interest because of struggles with his own weight and serving in the military. "I'm interested in helping others understand the link between food and nutrition and the long-term impact of being unhealthy," Singh said. Among many valuable takeaways from his coursework: knowing how to use food as medicine and learning that some bad eating habits can affect people for the rest of their lives.

FSC has all the ingredients to help him achieve his goal. "I love it here, I love the atmosphere and the aura," said Singh, who lives in Queens with his wife and daughter. "Everyone here is willing to work to help you succeed."

His route back to the classroom took decades and wound through New York City, Kuwait, and Iraq, and almost included a detour to his native Trinidad and Tobago. Singh retired after 23 years in the Army and 22 years as a New York City corrections officer. Because he has some disabilities from his time in the Army, he was exploring new options when he learned about the opportunity to attend college as a veteran. He was accepted to FSC after earning his associate degree.

Singh's journey began in 1979 when he traveled to see his mother in New York City but overstayed his tourist visa. To avoid deportation he applied for and received a green card, which allowed him to remain in the U.S. and work.

His first job was delivering breakfasts across New York City, followed by working in a delicatessen

six days a week, 12 hours a day. "I understand the struggles of starting with zero," Singh said. "I identify with a lot of underserved groups, because I went through all those changes."

In the early 1980s, a friend serving in the Army urged him to enlist. Singh was accepted and eagerly took an assignment in the infantry.

His deployments included tours in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I loved it," Singh said of his time in the service. While in the reserves he was activated for the Joint Terrorist Task Force in New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

After leaving active duty, he worked as a youth counselor at his brother's church and took a job as a New York City corrections officer, which brought "the excitement of not knowing what each day was going to be, the challenge of overcoming being locked up with some of the worst criminals in the world, and learning how to de-escalate violent situations," he said. "Also, learning about the criminal justice system."

With his next career on the horizon, Singh is investigating ways to apply his degree. He met with the Small Business Development Center on campus about marketing a business idea that could be an asset to the military, he said.

He is also researching opportunities with the National School Lunch program. "I would like to design a better menu for kids that is more appetizing and more nutritious," he said. "If I can, I'd like to impact future generations and change the concept of what we eat."

Looking ahead, Singh said he would encourage other veterans to enroll in college and broaden their experience. "We have a skill set some people always wanted," he said.



IF I CAN, I'D LIKE TO IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS AND CHANGE THE CONCEPT OF WHAT WE EAT." DEO SINGH, '23



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Collective student support services build inclusivity

A campus with a student body as unique and diverse as Farmingdale State College's (FSC) needs a creative and cooperative approach to support services.

"The heart of FSC's approach to student support services is centered around a collective and collaborative commitment to inclusion and supporting diverse populations with varying needs," said Rena Varghese, executive director of the Nexus Center for Applied Learning and Career Development.

"We provide access to resources, experiential learning opportunities, and a constant source of motivation to build student confidence and commitment to earning a college degree," said Janice Rivera, executive director for academic support and access programs. The Nexus Center partners with multiple offices across campus, including Campus Mental Health Services, Disability Services, the Academic Advisement and Information Center, Pre-Health Professions Advisement, TRIO, and RAM to promote applied learning, co-curricular activities, and recruiting events.

The Academic Support and Access Programs office helps support first-generation college students, a role to which both Rivera and Varghese can relate as first-generation college graduates themselves.

Two critical support programs are TRIO and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). TRIO is a federally funded outreach and student services program designed for low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities. CSTEP is a state-funded program designed to help under-represented groups pursuing professional licensure and/or careers in STEM fields. Students receive counseling, tutoring, financial assistance, and internship and research opportunities.

FSC also is home to a state-funded Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) for educationally and financially disadvantaged students, offering financial assistance as well as academic, pre-professional, and personal counseling, among other support services.

Another important initiative is the Research Aligned Mentorship (RAM) program, for which students qualify as low income, a first-generation college student, or a member of a historically minoritized community. Students receive academic advising, mentoring, and access to on- and off-campus research opportunities.

Available to all students, the Tutoring Center provides in-person and online tutoring, academic success workshops, and academic coaching. The center also works with the campus Writing Center and Math Center for those who need more targeted support.

Campus Mental Health Services offers free in-person and online counseling to help students cope with stress, anxiety, and emotional concerns.

With one of the largest veteran populations in the SUNY system, FSC's Office of Veterans' Services helps veterans with the admissions process, registering for classes, applying for benefits, and finding any other support they need.

The Disability Services Center works with students who have disabilities or a disabling medical condition to find ways for them to fully access all services and programs on campus.

Varghese concluded, "Our academic and student support areas work cooperatively to prepare our students for success in the classroom and outside of the College, where they can engage meaningfully with our communities."



INVEST IN BRIGHT FUTURES

Support FSC students through President's Circle membership

By becoming a member of the President's Circle, Farmingdale's leadership level giving society, you contribute to the experience and success of every student.

"I choose to make gifts at a leadership level because I believe Farmingdale students deserve the best. I am proud to support a college that assures our students have been provided with the academic foundation that enables them to achieve meaningful careers, to lead productive lives, and to become the best in their industries."

VINCENT NAAB, '78
Farmingdale College Foundation
Board Member



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TRACKING THE WIRELESS REVOLUTION

Dr. Ilknur Aydin's research connections provide opportunities for students

For more than two decades, Dr. Ilknur Aydin has been working on wireless and mobile networks. As an associate professor of computer systems at Farmingdale State College (FSC), she was a scholar-in-residence in summer 2020, summer 2021, and fall 2021 during a sabbatical at New York University's (NYU) Faculty Research Network program (FRN), an award-winning professional development consortium that sponsors programs for faculty and administrators from more than 50 colleges and universities nationwide.

Through the FRN, Aydin was matched with a research group overseen by Shivendra Panwar, who serves as her mentor. Panwar is a professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the Tandon School of Engineering (Polytechnic Institute) of NYU and director of the New York State Center for Advanced Technology in Communications.

In May, "A Data Set and Reference Experiments for Multipath Wireless Emulation on Public Testbeds," a paper co-authored by Aydin and NYU researchers Fraida Fund and Panwar, was presented virtually to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference on Computer Communications (IEEE INFOCOMM) Computer and Networking Experimental Research Using Testbeds workshop and has been accepted for publication in *IEEE Xplore*.

Through Aydin's work at NYU, two FSC students from the Research Aligned Mentorship program (RAM) participated in an independent study computer science course in spring 2023 involving industry-level wireless networking research. The students learned how to use public research testbeds such as CloudLab and Fabric in collaboration with NYU.

More specifically, the RAM students performed wireless measurements to understand the quality and relationship of the Wi-Fi and cellular (4G and 5G) links on the FSC campus. Students collected wireless trace pairs that were slated to be added to a public GitHub repository that holds a project's files and each file's revision history. The information for the international wireless

networking research and education community will soon be made available.

Students in Aydin's Computer Science Networking course (CSC 332) are getting practical experience while learning about networking concepts through CloudLab. Aydin also mentors students in FSC's Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and RAM, as well as high school students pursuing technology research.

Among the many projects Farmingdale students are involved with is the use of Arduino boxes and Raspberry Pis in the context of IoT. In an industry that continues to be male dominated, Aydin works with female high school and college students, as well as those from other underrepresented minority groups, to help diversify the ever-growing and evolving industry.

Aydin opened many of her own doors growing up as a first-generation college student in her native Turkey. She focused on computer engineering and discovered she liked networking and protocol design. A professor introduced her to wireless networks, which grabbed her attention. "I don't think anyone foresaw the explosion in wireless," she said.

After graduating from college, she decided to pursue advanced studies in computer science in the U.S., focusing on wireless and mobile networking.

Staying up to date in this field is both challenging and critical. ChatGPT, the natural language, artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, is being followed by many in the industry to assess its potential and its risks. "It is moving very fast," Aydin noted. "Soon, just like Google, it will be part of our lives. Look how quickly cell phones took over in just 20 years."

Despite industry shifts, helping students build solid research experiences remains one of Aydin's goals. Many graduates in FSC's technology degree programs go on to jobs in software engineering, information technology, databases, and web programming.

"I see the growth in the students, and over 10 years, I see the potential in how they grow," she said. "I'm glad I helped them get ahead."



**I SEE THE GROWTH
IN THEM...I SEE
THE POTENTIAL
IN HOW THEY GROW.
I'M GLAD I HELPED
THEM GET AHEAD.**

DR. ILKNUR AYDIN

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL SUCCESS

Dr. Jing Betty Feng focuses on applied learning and cross-cultural collaboration

Business practices and protocols are not what they used to be. Deals and contracts that once were finalized over dinners or on a golf course are now brokered over the internet between companies separated by time zones, cultural, institutional, and economical differences, and geographic distances.

This is the world for which Dr. Jing Betty Feng, Farmingdale State College (FSC) associate professor in the Department of Business Management, is preparing her students. Feng teaches courses in international business, international management, and global strategy, applying her experience from working and living in two countries, not to mention her extensive research, to her lessons.

“We live in a global world, with people moving easily from place to place, and knowledge is constantly changing,” said Feng. “With technology, it is easier for international collaboration. They [students] need the ability to work in different environments and work effectively with people from different backgrounds.”

As part of that preparation, students in Feng’s classes collaborate with students or small businesses located in different countries and act as business consultants. They identify issues and determine how they can support the companies based on class learnings.

“Shipping, logistics procurement, marketing are all part of that,” said Feng in explaining the projects. “The ability to adapt is part of a skill set for working in an international environment. Most will be working in a job function with more international interaction.”

Feng is a big advocate of project-based lessons. “I think I am more of an applied-learning professor,” she said. “I know what happens in the real world. I worked with supply chains in global companies like Dell and Whirlpool before shifting my career to academia. All those experiences made me more interested in international business. I draw on my personal interests and previous industry experience in my teaching practices.”

Feng also continues her own research. Her area of expertise is how culture affects individuals’

decision-making behavior, motivations, and interactions in organizations. “A lot of companies failed in different markets, due to lack of understanding about the culture of the market they were trying to enter,” she noted.

Closer to home, Feng serves as a member of the Tradeable Sectors work group for the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council and sits on several editorial boards, including those of the *Journal of Business Research* and EIX - Entrepreneur & Innovation Exchange.

She also draws on her research and knowledge when she talks to her classes about how global events, political and otherwise, can impact international business dealings and add complexity to global supply chain management. For example, tensions between the U.S. and China are affecting the flow of goods, as is the war in Ukraine, and limiting the availability of certain products.

Extending students’ learning beyond the classroom also is a priority. Feng guided students participating in business competitions and innovation challenges. She was the faculty advisor for the New York State Business Plan Competition, an event at which student entrepreneurs from colleges throughout the state present start-up business ideas and products. Feng also organized Innovation Challenges to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration among students; the first one was in 2018, drawing 22 students from different disciplines who tackled a waste-management problem. Students also learned how to apply the “ideation” process, described as “a fast-paced, hands-on, and minds-on idea generation process.” In 2021, students worked with the Brooklyn Nets, who were brainstorming ways to better engage fans in their games.

Feng’s experience at FSC has helped her realize that everyone learns differently. “Once you understand the practical aspect of learning, you learn better; you can see how to relate it to practice,” she explained. “I tell students to be life-long learners. You can always change your mind about what you want to do. Learning never ends. It becomes more fun as you get older.”

I TELL STUDENTS TO
BE LIFE-LONG
LEARNERS.

DR. JING BETTY FENG



CASTING A WIDER NET

Dr. Peter Park shares his passion for aquatic life

As a child in Sunnyside, Queens, Farmingdale State College's (FSC) Dr. Peter Park would scoop up handfuls of dried anchovies his mother planned to use for dinner, run them outside, and dump them in a storm-drain puddle, hoping that they would recover and swim away.

Park, now a bioscience professor at FSC, has been fascinated by fish for as long as he can remember. He teaches biodiversity and ichthyology at the College, specializing in fish behavior and thought.

While many people put all fish in one generic pool, the varieties, characteristics, abilities, and habits of fish are endless, according to Park.

"If you can come up with a superpower, there's a fish that can do it," he said.

Park's other passion is educating people about fish through community science; he devotes as much time as he can to workshops, public presentations, and classes about fish and fishing. He even takes FSC and other students on fishing trips, as a way for the public to experience on-site biology.

"I enjoy taking students out fishing," Park said. "It gets me out, taps into my childhood, and keeps me grounded."

Community science activities have made him a better educator, Park said. For example, he assists Macaulay Honors College of the City University of New York (CUNY) with its annual BioBlitz, a 24-hour collection and analyzing event involving a New York City body of water. "It provides an opportunity for me to engage in something fish-focused in a brand-new setting with different groups of students each year," according to Park. Students collect fish and other creatures from a body of water, then they identify, count, and analyze them to help assess the biodiversity of different areas of the city.

"I go wherever I am invited," said Park. "I've long been involved with community science as it relates

to fish and surveying fish. I don't think I could ever give it up. I feel like it's a duty, it's one significant way I know how to give back."

Shortly after his parents emigrated from South Korea to Queens in the 1970s, they opened a fish market. Park spent time there learning the names of fish. When an unusual specimen came in, usually inedible, his father would bring it home for Park to study. Not surprisingly, fish regularly appeared on the family menu. "What didn't sell, we ate," Park recalled.

On Sunday mornings, Park and his father often went fishing. "This shows you can grow up in the city and still grow up to be a fish biologist," Park joked. "This is the closest I got to the wild."


Park went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in psychology and biology and a PhD in ecology and evolution.

"My appreciation for fishing has opened many doors for me, social and others," he said. "I've had a pretty good streak."

He considers a fishing rod a scientific tool. "It's a way for me to get an idea of what is underwater," said Park.

To improve the chances of catching fish, he suggests people drag a sinker across the bottom of the lake or ocean while they are fishing, to get an idea of the layout of the underwater terrain. "Write down what you observe, note if you catch or don't catch something with a specific bait, and if you catch, record the species and size."

As Park's knowledge of fish and their worlds continues to evolve, he is more likely to release what he catches and think about their history. "I would catch a striped bass and wonder about how far it traveled," he said. "It was part of a reassuring cycle. Each fish has its own story."

A man with short dark hair, smiling, is standing in a body of water. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and tan waders with the brand name 'HERTERS' visible on the chest. He is holding a yellow-handled net with a white mesh. The net is partially submerged in the water, and two red floats are visible on the right side. The background shows a calm lake and a distant shoreline with some buildings under a clear blue sky.

**I ENJOY TAKING
STUDENTS OUT FISHING.
IT GETS ME OUT,
TAPS INTO MY CHILDHOOD,
AND KEEPS ME
GROUNDED.**

DR. PETER PARK

REMEMBERING A RUNNING LEGACY

Alumnus **Frank Geremia, '62** leaves gift of \$1M to FSC

Frank Geremia had a few passions. One was running, which he did regularly on the Nold Athletic Complex track. Another was the stock market, which he followed vigilantly. The other, for which he harbored a deep devotion, was his alma mater, Farmingdale State College (FSC).

The depth of that devotion became clear in September 2021 when Geremia passed away a month short of his 94th birthday, and it was revealed that he had left \$1 million in his estate to the Farmingdale State College Foundation.

“He had a strong feeling of gratitude and loyalty to the college that enabled him to get an education and have a rewarding career at Grumman,” said his attorney and long-time friend Willis B. Carman, Jr.

“Frank’s long-time relationship with Farmingdale is a reminder that alumni engagement and pride can take many forms. It isn’t always driven by the institution, but rather by the individual’s fond memories and personal passions,” said Matthew Colson, vice president for development & alumni engagement at FSC. “Frank found a way to demonstrate his love for Farmingdale in a very personal way, that will continue to live on in his memory.”

The gift will endow the Frank Geremia '62 Honors Scholarship for Business, in recognition of his interest in the stock market. It will support 20 students in the Honors Program majoring in business. Funds also will help the Alumni Association develop programming to inspire alumni like Geremia to stay connected, informed, and engaged to their alma mater. Finally, to meet

the growing needs of FSC’s student athletes, new men’s and women’s team locker rooms in Nold Athletic Complex will be renovated and bear his name.

“Frank felt a real connection to Farmingdale and sports were a big part of that. He loved the athletes and the coaches. This is where he felt at home,” said Thomas Azzara, director of athletics at FSC. Geremia’s devotion to running, often when the FSC track team was practicing, prompted the student athletes to cheer him on.

“Uncle Frank loved telling us how he continued running track into his 90s — very often at Farmingdale,” according to his niece Barbara Trilling. “The younger runners would say to him, ‘Well done, Grandpa!’”

Geremia served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947 in Germany, according to Trilling. “He loved wearing his World War II veteran cap,” she said. After earning his associate degree in mechanical engineering technology at FSC, he went on to a successful career at Grumman. Friends said he also did some work for NASA and travelled internationally as a consultant.

“We are all so very proud of our Uncle Frank and his legacy to Farmingdale,” said Trilling. “I do know that the time he spent there, both as a student and as an athlete, were the most important moments of his long life.”

Azzara said, “I didn’t realize what we meant to him. He really did love Farmingdale.”

He had a strong feeling of gratitude and loyalty to the college that enabled him to get an education and have a rewarding career at Grumman.

WILLIS B. CARMAN, JR.



MAKING HISTORY

Dr. Thomas J. Ward, Jr., acclaimed historian and author, appointed new dean for arts & sciences

This summer, Dr. Thomas J. Ward, Jr., was appointed the new dean of Farmingdale State College's (FSC) School of Arts & Sciences. Ward first joined FSC as assistant dean of the School of Arts & Sciences in 2019.

A nationally recognized historian and accomplished writer, Ward has received numerous awards for his work, including those from the Association of American Publishers, the Langum Charitable Trusts, the Gulf South Historical Association, the Mississippi Historical Society, and the Virginia Military Institute. Ward is currently working on a book project on healthcare and the civil rights movement.

"Tom's experience, passion for education, and commitment to Farmingdale State College will ensure the success and advancement of the cutting-edge departments at FSC's largest school," said President Nader. "I am delighted that Dr. Ward will lead our School of Arts & Sciences."

Before coming to FSC, Ward was chair of the history department at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He also held previous teaching positions at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri; the Alabama School of Math and Science in Mobile; and University College Cork in Ireland.

"FSC's School of Arts & Sciences students, faculty, and staff will continue to benefit enormously from his academic guidance and esteemed expertise," said Dr. Laura Joseph, senior vice president and provost for FSC. "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Ward into this new position on our leadership team."

Ward succeeds Dr. Charles Adair, who has served as dean of the School of Arts & Sciences since 2016. Adair first joined FSC's faculty in 1975 as a biology professor and soon became a pillar of its academic community, also serving as associate dean and as acting chair of several departments.

"Tom has an excellent understanding of the mission of the school and the potential of each of its departments," said Dr. Adair of his successor. "I have great respect for his judgment and perspective, and I know that he will guide the school skillfully."

Among his published works, Ward has authored numerous articles on African American history and the history of health care in the American South. His first book, *Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South*, was published in 2003. His most recent work, *Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and its War on Poverty*, was released in December 2016 and received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly* and the 2018 Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award. In 2018 he contributed a new foreword to the re-release of Robert Coles' and Al Clayton's *Still Hungry in America*. Ward was also the project historian for the award-winning 1998-1999 public radio series *Mississippi Voices, A Trip Through the Twentieth Century*.

Ward, a native of Annapolis, Maryland, received a BA from Hampden-Sydney College in 1991, an MA from Clemson University in 1993, and a PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1999.



MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Student engagement evolves with changing needs

Farmingdale State College (FSC) has always embraced its unique student body, and has a high percentage of commuter students who work multiple jobs, first-generation students, underserved minorities, recent immigrants, and one of the largest veteran populations in the SUNY system. Today, FSC is home to nearly 10,000 students with new interests, different demands, and changing needs.

Like many colleges and universities, FSC is educating the whole student, acknowledging that it's not only about graduating and getting the job, but also about the difference they can make and their impact on society. In lockstep with the rapid pace of student growth and development, Farmingdale has also evolved to offer new and different experiences for the College's constantly changing student body.

FSC recently tapped Kevin Murphy, RN, MSN, to lead this initiative in the position of executive dean for student engagement. In this newly created role, Murphy is charged with furthering a sense of belonging and community on FSC's highly diverse campus. Working in collaboration with the Division of Academic Affairs and the broader campus community, he is serving as the chief strategist and advocate in shaping and implementing student life initiatives for the College. In this capacity, Murphy will develop and implement services and activities with the specific goal of overall student satisfaction and retention.

Murphy, who joined Farmingdale's Health and Wellness Center in 2013 as a staff registered nurse, was most recently director of the Health and Wellness Center. He is looking to implement a vision of meeting students where they are, to fully engage and support them outside the classroom.

This vision includes a wider variety of programming that is less turnkey and has greater flexibility to mirror the diversity of the FSC student body. The College is creating a new and distinct student experience that is relevant and caters to its unique student body, offering different and memorable experiences so that when they are on campus, students have the most traditional college experience possible. The College is investing in

thought-provoking guest speakers who address timely and topical issues and foster a call to action within the FSC community, such as social justice, advocacy, and improving society as a whole.

In addition to time-honored and popular student-oriented activities and events, like Ramchella, campus life awards, and the multicultural gala, this spring FSC held some new "firsts," such as the Inaugural Day of Service and a Lavender Graduation and Pride Prom to honor and recognize the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Off campus, this includes harnessing the local experience thanks to FSC's central location on Long Island, with trips to Jones Beach State Park, The Paramount in Huntington to see a concert, Citi Field in Queens for a Mets game, or Manhattan for a Broadway show.

"Our programming is designed to draw on the strengths of our students and to connect with them both on and off campus," said Murphy. "We want our students to feel a strong sense of belonging so that, when they go home to their families, their jobs, and other commitments, their time on campus has been welcoming and fulfilling, both inside and outside the classroom."



Kevin Murphy (R), with FSC Students

April 28, 2023

TERRY CREWS **JOURNEY TO TRUE POWER**

When it comes to battling inner demons, Terry Crews has the scars to prove it. The famed actor, author, activist, and former pro football player shared how he addressed his own mental health issues and advocates for others.

➕ Visit fscnow.farmingdale.edu to view additional photos.



March 22, 2023

BETHENNY FRANKEL **RAW & REAL**

Best known as the founder of Skinnygirl and her role in *Real Housewives of New York City*, Bethenny Frankel was raw and real as she discussed her journey to become an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, and a woman making history.

➕ Visit fscnow.farmingdale.edu to view additional photos.



April 20, 2023

GEORGE TAKEI **EMBRACE ADVOCACY**

Star Trek actor and social justice and LGBTQ+ advocate George Takei was among more than 120,000 Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II. He urged students to embrace advocacy and not be intimidated by the magnitude of issues the world is facing.

➕ Visit fscnow.farmingdale.edu to view additional photos.



DEEPENING CULTURES AND PERSPECTIVES

Federal designations support student programs and retention

The FSC campus has always reflected the evolving demographics of Long Island, responding to students and being mindful of their desire to find commonality with their classmates. Now the College has taken two huge steps forward to turn that welcoming posture into real benefits for students.

FSC has received two federal designations from the U.S. Department of Education for higher education institutions enrolling populations with significant percentages of undergraduate minority students.

The College has been designated a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), having achieved a full-time undergraduate enrollment of Hispanic students that is more than 25 percent of the student body. FSC has also been designated an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), with an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander.

Having achieved both designations, Farmingdale now becomes eligible for federal funds to support these growing populations and assist them from admission to graduation.

“This couples with our designation as a Higher Education Excellence and Diversity (HEED) campus, which we received in summer 2022,” said Dr. John Nader, president of Farmingdale State College (FSC). “The diversity of our student body is a point of pride for all of us at FSC. It’s not just the color of people’s skin, but about who feels included in our institution and receives access to the opportunities that we offer. It makes us stronger and deepens our breadth of cultures and perspectives in our programs.”

The percentage of students at Farmingdale State College who identify as Hispanic or Latino has more than doubled over the past 10 years

from 1,100 in 2012 to 2,542 in 2022. As the fastest-growing population of any racial or ethnic group at FSC, students identifying as Hispanic or Latino now comprise 27 percent of the student population, up from 14 percent in 2012. Similarly, the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders population at FSC has risen from 560 in 2012 to 1,119 in 2022, with the sharpest increase among Asian students at 111 percent.

“Dedication to student success is the core of the Farmingdale State College mission,” said Kevin Jordan, PhD, vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence. “The opportunity for students to be in a diverse and inclusive environment where a support system abounds, working together is the norm, and differences are cherished is the seedbed for success. At FSC, diversity is a fact, and inclusion is the choice we practice. These designations are clear indications of FSC’s embrace of the strength in honoring differences!”

The designations were welcome news to students who have experienced the increased diversity on campus.

“In my high school I was the only Hispanic student in my [advanced placement] classes, and being a commuter student sometimes makes it hard to connect with people on campus,” said Catherine Arevalo, a junior from Huntington, New York, who is studying computer science. “Having a sense of a community of people from our shared backgrounds makes the environment one that I look forward to being in every day. You can see this especially with the incoming freshmen. They have a real sense of the diversity and inclusion on the campus.”

The designations are the result of years of intentional and devoted work toward making FSC reflective of the Long Island communities it serves, which are made up of a variety of young and old populations who have different takes on what FSC means to them.

TELLING THE FSC STORY

FSC taps communications veteran **Chris Maio** for chief communications officer

This spring Farmingdale State College (FSC) welcomed Chris Maio as chief communications officer (CCO) to lead FSC's award-winning Marketing and Communications (MarComm) team. She will oversee integrated communications and brand strategy across all levels of internal and external messaging, while developing brand-specific communications among FSC's target audiences.

Maio joins FSC from Stony Brook University, where she was head of communications and marketing for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. While there, she built the communications structure from the ground up, establishing and managing web, content, and social media strategies, working with the College's nine departments. She fostered an interdisciplinary approach with medicine, the sciences, the humanities, and the arts, in collaboration with the University's umbrella brand. She was also an instructor and student advisor in the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Honors program.

"I am elated that Chris Maio will lead the College's marketing and communications efforts. Her experience and record of accomplishment make her the ideal person to help raise the profile and prominence of Farmingdale's programs and people," said Dr. John Nader, president of Farmingdale State College. "Chris really understands our mission and will help build a public appreciation of the College's leading place in Long Island's success. We are thrilled to welcome a communicator as experienced and savvy as she is to our leadership team."

"Chris comes to FSC at a critical time in our history, as the school enjoys an incredible trajectory as the fastest-growing school in the SUNY System over the course of the last decade," said Matthew Colson, vice president for development & alumni engagement for Farmingdale State College. "With a new strategic plan in development and a refreshed brand platform to be unveiled, her expertise and skill set will lead a talented MarComm team to elevate the profile of the institution into its rightful place. I'm excited to work with her."

Specializing in the innovation and STEM fields, Maio helps organizations share their stories through audience-specific integrated communications, consistent with a unified brand message. Prior to Stony Brook, Maio worked in the tech industry, where she developed and launched a major brand campaign for Arrow Electronics, collaborated with industry and government partners on thought leadership programs at NXP Semiconductor, and managed press relations in a post-9/11 environment at Air France. Her earlier experience includes account management roles at public relations agencies, representing major brands and corporations such as Delta Air Lines and the SkyTeam Airline Alliance, Visa, Dupont Textiles and Interiors, and multiple consumer products.

Maio received her MS degree in technology and society from Stony Brook University and a BA in communication arts from Marist College.





HEARTBEATS OF SUPPORT

Sponsor a Personalized Stethoscope

The stethoscope is a prized possession and iconic symbol of one of the most powerful industries in the world — nursing.

The FSC Alumni Association welcomes future nurses by presenting each incoming nursing student with their very first personalized stethoscope, gifted to them by an alumnus, parent, colleague, or friend of the College like you. Your gift of \$175 will sponsor the purchase of one 3M™ Littmann® Classic III™ stethoscope for a first-year student.

Show first-year nursing students that the circle of alumni support surrounding them is strong and that we welcome them into our FSC nursing family.

Learn what the stethoscope means to FSC nursing student
KILLIAN DREISBACH, '24
at farmingdale.edu/stethoscope.



The Farmingdale Alumni Association is an independent, non-profit organization that cultivates mutually beneficial relationships between Farmingdale State College and a growing community of 100,000 alumni. The Association provides programs and services, facilitates communication with alumni, and seeks to strengthen alumni bonds of friendship, scholarship, and community.

Contact the Farmingdale State College Alumni Office at 934-420-5218 or email alumni@farmingdale.edu.



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.

Administration

John S. Nader, PhD, *President*

Laura Joseph, EdD, *Senior Vice President and Provost*

Greg O'Connor, MBA, *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*

Kevin Jordan, EdD, *Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence and Chief Diversity Officer*

Kevin Murphy, RN, MSN, *Executive Dean of Student Engagement*

Matthew Colson, MS, *Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement*

Chris Maio, MS, *Chief Communications Officer*

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Jacob P. Iaccino, *Student Representative (2022)*

Destini Buchanan, *Student Representative (2023)*

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We are Farmingdale State College. We set the pace. We drive our communities and industries forward, applying solutions for tomorrow's challenges. We lead by example, and our distinct identities unite us in our never-ending desire to be better. Our ambitions are grounded in the real-world. We elevate each other, knowing success doesn't happen on its own.

WE ARE FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE, AND TOGETHER, WE REIMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE.