New college master plan addresses classroom, parking constraints

Hudson Valley Community College’s Board of Trustees has approved an ambitious, five-year master plan that will serve as a blueprint for the college’s future and ensure that it can continue to meet the needs of students and the entire Capital Region.

The first phase of the plan, which totals $69.2 million, is designed to address three major issues facing the college:

- The shortage of classroom space and the deteriorating condition of Brahan Hall, a key classroom building that was built in 1965.
- The demand for additional parking, as well as the need for improved traffic circulation across campus and in parking lots. In 2004, the college completed a parking study that showed a shortfall of 800 parking spaces.
- The need for faculty office space. According to a facilities utilization study, the college has an immediate need for 110 faculty office stations for full- and part-time faculty.

“This plan is critical to our ability to serve our students and the community,” Hudson Valley President Andrew J. Matonak said. “We need to ensure that the quality of our academic buildings and our facilities equals the quality of our instruction and sophistication of our technology. This plan will provide the foundation for that to happen.”

The new master plan spans from 2009 to 2013 and totals $199 million. It builds upon the college’s current plan, the final piece of which, a new administration building with seven classrooms, will be completed this spring.

But even with the addition of those classrooms, the college’s current academic spaces are in serious need of an upgrade: the facilities utilization study also showed that the college’s classrooms were utilized at 107 percent of the State University of New York’s standard.

The following work would be done during the first phase of the plan:

- Construction of a 500-car parking deck. These spaces would augment a new, 300-car surface parking lot scheduled to be completed behind the McDonough Sports Complex by the fall 2008 semester.
- Replacement of the existing Brahan Hall with a new Brahan Science Center, which would replace outdated science labs, classrooms and associated office spaces now located in Brahan, Amstuz Hall and the Fitzgibbons Health Technologies Center. Once construction is complete on the new Science Center, the existing building would be demolished.
- Renovation of the spaces vacated in Amstuz Hall and Fitzgibbons Center to serve as new faculty office spaces and classrooms.

During the next several months, college officials will be making the case for support to its sponsor, Rensselaer County. In order for the first phase of the master plan to proceed, the funding must be approved by the county Legislature and County Executive Kathleen M. jimino.

“We are sensitive to the fact that the county continues to face increased demands on its budget,” Matonak said. “However, we must continue to make the case that an investment in Hudson Valley is truly an investment worth making. Each year, the college provides a $350 million return on the county’s annual investment of $3.1 million.”

“This plan is vital,” Matonak added. “It will allow the college to keep its competitive edge and continue providing the quality of education that Rensselaer County residents and residents from throughout the Capital Region have come to expect and deserve.”

—Janine Kava
Manufacturing the Future

As a manufacturer competing in an increasingly global economy, Wynn Kintz realized about a decade ago that he needed to upgrade more than just the lathes and computer numerical controlled (CNC) machines that fill Kintz Plastics to stay competitive.

A call from Hudson Valley Associate Professor Dave Larkin about the school’s Manufacturing Technical Systems associate’s degree program convinced Kintz that enhancing his employees’ education would allow his company to keep its edge. So Kintz sent a couple of employees to Hudson Valley, paying for their tuition while they earned associate degrees part-time, in the evenings.

Impressed with the skills they learned, Kintz paid for others to attend. All told, eight Kintz Plastics employees have earned degrees.

“Our key positions are all filled with Hudson Valley graduates,” Kintz said. “In manufacturing, employees now need math, science and computer skills to operate machines like CNCs. Hudson Valley is one of the only schools that is providing those skills.”

Kintz Plastics has found success in thermoformed plastics, designing and manufacturing products ranging from the tops of Kodak digital photo booths to luxury dog carriers that feature global positioning system technology.

The award-winning company is the largest, private employer in Schoharie County. It employs 360 workers and providing an important economic backbone amid the pastoral hills. Having run his father’s plastic-making company before his own, Kintz knew something important about the region.

“What was so attractive to me was the quality, stable workforce here,” he said. “It’s really a major reason why we’ve been so successful.”

Bill Miller IV ’98 is one of those employees; he works in the company’s important tooling department, creating the aluminum forms that mold a product’s shape.

“Hudson Valley has a great, well-rounded program,” Miller said. “It’s provided me great opportunities.”

Because Hudson Valley is one of the only institutions in the region to offer such training, the college has similar partnerships with other Capital Region manufacturers. As with the Baby Boom generation heads for retirement, the college and area manufacturers are trying to attract a new generation of workers.

Les Lak, a member of the Chief Executives Network for Manufacturers’ board of directors, agreed. New York has fewer manufacturing jobs than other parts of the country – the state’s estimated 580,000 manufacturing jobs represent just 4.1 percent of the nation’s manufacturing jobs but they are an important part of the state’s economy.

“You need a good balance of manufacturing jobs along with service-sector jobs to have a balanced economy,” Lak said, president of LB Furniture Industries in Hudson.

Part of the Center for Economic Growth, the Chief Executives Network for Manufacturers represents 75 manufacturers, which employ 5,000 workers in the region.

A highly educated workforce – along with a new crop of employees to replace those planning to retire – is crucial to allowing those businesses to continue to thrive. For example, 30 percent of Lak’s employees are 55 years or older.

“What we need to be doing is training, training, training,” he said. “We’re looking for people who graduate from Hudson Valley, they’re ready to come in and work. It’s a highly thought of technical school.”

— Jason McCord

The Manufacturing Technical Systems program prepares students for jobs in high-tech machining and manufacturing industries.

Students gain hands-on experience operating milling machines, lathes and computerized machinery, while also learning computer-aided design (CAD). Graduates receive associate’s degrees and typically find immediate employment with local manufacturers as machinists, starting at $15 to $25 an hour.

The program had 82 students enrolled for Fall 2006. In the past decade, 95 students have graduated from the program.

And since 1997, the Manufacturing Technical Systems graduate with the highest grade-point average has received the $500 Kintz Plastics Award, one of several awards given to high-achieving graduates of the program.
Honor a life by investing in students

When 39-year-old Matthew Hathaway ’98 died in October 2006 after a long battle with esophageal cancer, his family wanted to honor him in a way that reflected the achievements of which he was most proud.

They found the perfect tribute: by asking that contributing to Matthew’s memory be added to the Hudson Valley Community Foundation (HVCF) to establish the Matthew Hathaway Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships to students who have overcome tremendous personal obstacles to continue their education.

“Matthew was proud of his education at Hudson Valley,” said his mom, Sue Tubolino. “He would not and could not have entered school without the help he found there, and the excellent education and training he received at Hudson Valley qualified him for an exceptionally rewarding career.”

A problem-solver by nature and a whiz with computers, Matthew worked as a help desk video conferencing specialist at Cricom Inc., a Maryland-based company that specializes in secure videconferencing, video surveillance systems and networking for business and the military.

“He treasured his Hudson Valley education and loved the career in information technology it allowed him to pursue,” she added.

The Second Chance Scholarship Endowment was established with Sam Tubolino because her son, like many Second Chance Scholarship recipients, didn’t take a traditional path to college and his career.

Matthew enrolled at Hudson Valley nearly a decade after graduating from high school graduating in 1998 with an associate’s degree in electrical engineering technology.

“We want other people in his situation to recognize and avoid themselves of the great opportunities – getting a second chance at the education they missed in the past – and find their life’s work through Hudson Valley’s programs,” she added.

Founded in 1978 by benefactor Angelo Mastrangelo, the Second Chance Scholarship Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 400 Hudson Valley students. Because funds from the Second Chance Scholarship Foundation cannot support all eligible students, the Hudson Valley Community Foundation has established the Second Chance Scholarship Endowment to be able to reach more students in need.

“We are touched that the Hathaway family chose to memorialize Matthew in this way,” said Sarah Beggies, president of the Foundation. “Future students, in perpetuity, will benefit from the generosity of Matthew’s friends and family. Memorial gifts to endowments are such a special way to remember someone, because the gift – and the person’s name – live on forever.”

Second Chance scholarship providers include HVCC alumni who have entered their programs, friends and family. The awards vary based on a student’s final grades for the semester.

This year, Mastrangelo’s Second Chance Scholarship Foundation will pass the $1-million giving mark in support of the scholarships.

To recognize Mastrangelo’s commitment to students, the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation will host a reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, in the Guenther Enrollment Services Center.

For more information or to attend the event, contact the Foundation at (518) 629-8012.

—Janine Kawa

Athletic Hall of Fame’s Class of 2007 Announced

Hudson Valley will induct seven individuals into its Athletic Hall of Fame in April.

Five former student-athletes – football notables (Bowles) Roach ’94 and (Bowles) Wood ’94, tennis star Matthew Finn ’90, basketball player Amy (Barnhart) Red Wolf ’90 and Turkey and Hebrew.

The induction ceremony is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, in the McCown Gymnasium Complex. For more information or to attend, call (518) 629-7376 or send an e-mail to foundation@hvcc.edu.

Nominations sought for 2007 Distinguished Service Awards

The Hudson Valley Community College Humanitarian Service Award recognizes an alumni/alia who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in their career.

The Otto V. Guenther Career Achievement Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated significant accomplishments in their career.

The 1953 Award for Distinguished Service to Hudson Valley Community College – Alumni recognizes alumni who have contributed significantly toward advancing the college’s mission.

The 1953 Award for Distinguished Service to Hudson Valley Community College – Non-Alumni recognizes non-alumni who have contributed significantly toward advancing the college’s mission.

Nominations are due Monday, April 30.

The 2007 Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, for more details on the nomination form, call (518) 629-7376 or send an e-mail to foundation@hvcc.edu.

Dr. Robert H. Hill II, chairman of the board, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees.

A Hudson Valley alumnus, Colloton joined the college’s Board of Trustees in 1998, just after graduating from the college and Albany Medical College. Colloton also volunteered with the YMCA on the local, national and international level.

“An accomplished business leader and dedicated community volunteer, Ken Colloton brings a wealth of business and governance experience to the Board of Trustees,” said Dr. Robert H. Hill II, chairman of the board.

“We are fortunate that he has graciously agreed to serve on our Board and share with us his insights and expertise.”

Alumnus named to Board of Trustees

Kenneth B. Colloton ’74 of East Greenwich, a director and senior vice president of New York State Financial Services, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees.

Colloton has more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry both locally and internationally. He is also an active community volunteer, serving on the board and executive committee of the Center for Economic Growth; the finance and audit committees of Albany Medical Center and Albany Medical College. Colloton also volunteers with the YMCA on the local, national and international level.

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2007 Distinguished Service Award winners

The Humanitarian Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the board of trustees, the college’s mission.

The William McCall Tunstall Humanitarian Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the board of trustees, the college’s mission.

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Digital technology has enhanced foreign language instruction in the college’s newly updated, 24-station language laboratory. Instructors in the lab use digital technology and the Internet to enhance teaching, and new consoles allow them to track and archive students’ work and better facilitate group study. Students can study eight languages—Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish—in addition to American Sign Language—at Hudson Valley. A Title III grant from the federal Department of Education funded the improvements, which cost $269,500. Located in Graham Hall, the lab is officially named the Walter D. Karpiak International Language Laboratory in honor of Professor Karpiak’s 18-year career as a professor of languages at the college.

In 2003, Mary Karpiak Foster, Walter’s sister, made a significant charitable gift to the college in his honor. In addition to donating the language lab, Foster’s gift established the Walter D. Karpiak Endowed Fund for Language Studies to support programming and professional development needs for language study faculty.

Philanthropic support to the college and the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation totaled more than $54 million in 2006—$4 million in unrestricted gifts from individuals and corporations, faculty, staff, alumni and charitable foundations, and benefited a variety of the college’s academic programs, including high-impact programs in the allied health and technology.

Donations also funded more than $289,000 in scholarships, ranging from $200 to full tuition, to more than 530 students. Corporate gifts totaled $533,000, which is nearly 40 percent of all charitable support to the college; that mirrors giving to community colleges and public institutions nationwide.

Unrestricted gifts from individuals and corporations to the college’s Annual Fund totaled $229,461, the most successful year ever for the fund, which allows the college to fund urgent needs and seize unexpected opportunities to support academic programs and services for students.

Building upon its successful Fine Arts program, Hudson Valley now offers an associate’s degree in Gallery Management. The program is designed to prepare students to transfer to four-year degree programs in gallery management, arts management, museum studies or art history.

“It is ideal for students who have a keen interest in art, but not necessarily a desire to be an artist,” said Dorothy Reynolds, chair of the Fine Arts, Theater Arts and Broadcast Communications Department. “Hudson Valley is one of very few two-year colleges offering such a program and we are extremely excited to be able to reach out and serve a new population of students.”

Other new academic offerings for Fall 2007 include:

- Criminal Investigation. This associate’s degree program provides a strong academic background in investigative techniques, forensic science, evidence collection and analysis.

- Redemptive Studies. This program is designed for language study faculty. New consoles allow them to track and receive feedback from students.

- The college’s new language lab, while Mr. Karpiak’s wife, Arlene, and Mr. Karpiak’s 18-year career as a professor of languages at the college.

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Formed Hudson Valley President John Buono ’58 recalled receiving a phone call from Dr. Morgan when the college needed a new president in 1993. Dr. Morgan insisted he consider the position—and Buono knew he had little choice but to listen to the dear friend who had such a profound impact on his life.

“He was a great mentor, a great friend and someone who gave me great guidance not only as a student but as a president,” Buono said. Back in 1966, when Buono was a student at Hudson Valley, he was unsure if he could succeed in college. Returning from a four-year tour with the Air Force, he was older than most students and felt out of place. Dr. Morgan’s support gave Buono the self-confidence to succeed in college, just as he had done for so many other students.

“Dr. Morgan was always there to be helpful and give you encouragement,” Buono said. “He was always there to provide an ear or a hand when you needed it. He helped more lives than he ever knew.”

New York State Assembly Member Royal McDonald ’67 tells a similar story, saying it was Dr. Morgan’s compassionate advice that showed him the importance of education and later helped him get into the SUNY College at Oneonta.

“Dr. Morgan was one of the most influential people in my life. He was a such a decent man, who took a personal interest in you and cared about you, not just in school but in life.”

For all those who Dr. Morgan touched personally, his work has helped students who now never knew him. During his time at Hudson Valley, he worked tirelessly with four-year colleges and universities to create the transfer opportunities that students take advantage of to this day.

Mrs. Morgan recalled that in the 1960s, many four-year institutions were skeptical about establishing transfer agreements with community colleges. But Dr. Morgan won over college administrator by college administrator, convincing them that Hudson Valley students would succeed if they transferred to their four-year institutions.

He would even call for specific students trying to help them get into the right college. Such compassion came naturally, an extension of technology, he said. “Frank was a man of very great faith,” Mrs. Morgan explained. “He believed that the most important thing in life was to serve other people.”

— Jason McCord

Point, click and give online.

The Foundation provides donors with a safe, secure way to make their Annual Fund gifts online. Annual Fund gifts provide scholarships, classroom technology, equipment upgrades, curriculum development, funding for new academic initiatives, campus beautification projects and more. Visit www.hvcc.edu/foundation and click on “Ways to Give” to find out more or make your gift today.

Anne Morgan, in partnership with The Friends of the College, an associate of the college’s retired faculty, administration, and staff members, and the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation, is leading fund raising efforts toward the college’s purchase of a new placement.

To honor Dr. Morgan’s memory by making a gift toward this project, visit www.hvcc.edu/foundation and click on “Dr. Frank J. Morgan Clock Tower” or contact the Foundation for more information: (518) 439-5242 or foundation@hvcc.edu.
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