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The State University
of New York

view

VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DR. MICHAEL BROPHY:

A President for All Genres

SUMMER
2026

College Welcomes Nobel Prize
Recipient Dr. Omar Yaghi

Hudson Valley Breaks Ground on New
Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC)

HVCC North Now Offering
Full Degree Programs

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College Reaches Milestone of 100 Academic Programs

Hudson Valley has expanded its academic offerings to an impressive 100 programs, providing one of SUNY's most comprehensive arrays of educational opportunities. Spanning liberal arts and sciences, healthcare, business, technology, the arts, and STEM fields, the college's diverse portfolio reflects its longstanding commitment to academic excellence, workforce development and student success. With programs designed to prepare graduates for rewarding careers and continued education, Hudson Valley continues to be a leading destination for accessible, high-quality education and a powerful engine of opportunity for students and employers alike.

Accounting Certificate
Accounting AAS
Addictions Counseling AAS
Administrative Information Management and Technology AAS
Architectural Technology AAS
Automotive Management AAS
Automotive Technical Services AOS
Aviation Maintenance Management AOS
Biological Sciences AS
Biotechnology Certificate
Biotechnology AS
Business Certificate
Business Administration AAS
Business Administration AS
Cardiovascular Interventional Technology Certificate
Civil Engineering Technology AAS
Clean Energy Management AAS
CNC Machining Technology AOS
Coaching Certificate
Collision Repair Certificate
Collision Repair Technology AOS
Community and Public Health AS
Community and Public Health Certificate
Computer Aided Drafting Certificate
Computer Information Systems AAS
Computer Information Systems AS

Computer Information Systems Computer Science Track AS
Computer Information Systems Cloud Computing Track AAS
Computer Information Systems Programming & Database Management Systems Track AAS
Computer Information Systems System & Network Administration Track AAS
Computer Information Systems Web Design & Programming Track AAS
Construction Certificate
Construction Technology - Building Construction AOS
Criminal Justice AAS
Criminal Justice AS
Dental Assisting Certificate
Dental Hygiene AAS
Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography Certificate
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certificate
Digital Media Certificate
Digital Art and Design AS
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice AA
Early Childhood AAS
Early Childhood Administration AAS
Early Childhood Administration Certificate
Early Childhood and Childhood Education Studies AS
Earth Science AS
Electric and Autonomous Vehicles Certificate
Electric and Autonomous Vehicles AOS

Electrical Construction and Maintenance AOS
Electrical Engineering Technology-Electronics AAS
Electrical Technology: Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology AAS
Engineering Science AS
English AA
Entrepreneurship AAS
Environmental Science AS
Exercise Science AS
Fine Arts AS
Fitness Specialist Certificate
Forensic Science Studies AS
Hacking and Cybersecurity AS
Health and Wellness Studies AS
Health Information Management and Technology AAS
Health Science AS
Health Sciences Certificate
Healthcare and Medical Science Preparation Certificate
Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Technical Services AOS
History and Political Science AA
Honda Professional Automotive Career Training AOS
Human Services AAS
Human Services AS
Individual Studies AS
IT Help Desk Support Certificate
Liberal Arts & Sciences - Adolescent Education (Teacher Education Transfer) AS
Liberal Arts and Sciences AA

Marketing AAS
Mathematics and Science AS
Mechanical Engineering Technology AAS
Mechatronics AOS
Media Studies AA
Mortuary Science AAS
Nursing AAS
Overhead Electric Line Worker Certificate
Paramedic AAS
Paramedic Certificate
Physical Education Studies AA
Physical Sciences AS
Physical Sciences Chemistry Track AS
Physical Sciences Physics Track AS
Polysomnography AAS
Psychology AA
Public Administration Studies AAS
Radiologic Technology AAS
Respiratory Care AAS
Semiconductor Technology Certificate
Surgical Technology AAS
Teaching Assistant Certificate
Theatre Arts AS
Welding Certificate
Welding and Fabrication AOS
Worksite Health Promotion Certificate

Can be completed in the evening
Online options available
SUNY Reconnect eligible
Also offered at HVCC North

College Awarded NSF Grant to Support Biotechnology

Hudson Valley Community College was awarded a \$468,000 grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of its project “Raising Awareness and Creating Pathways to the Biotechnology Workforce.”

The project, led by Professor of Chemistry and Biotechnology Program Coordinator Dr. Donna Barron, focuses on expanding regional awareness of academic and career opportunities in the rapidly growing biotechnology sector. It is also part of a program called “Biotech Connect,” which offers free community-based workshops that engage students, families and educators. Activities include summer camps for students in grades seven through 12, family enrichment

nights, adult education sessions and lunch-and-learn events for career advisors.

Dr. Barron will work with two co-principal investigators, Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Julie Friot and Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Michelle Lewis, to design and deliver programming that introduces participants to biotechnology concepts and careers.

The college offers a Biotechnology A.S. degree and a Biotechnology Certificate program, both of which serve as direct pathways to careers in the growing field. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for biological technicians is expected to grow seven percent



through 2033, with an estimated 10,300 job openings each year, on average, over the decade.

Hudson Valley Launches Uniquely Abled Academy to Train Students with Autism for CNC Careers



Hudson Valley has become one of the first 16 colleges in the country, and the first in New York State, to host an innovative Uniquely Abled Academy, a division of the Uniquely Abled Project. This first-of-its-kind program is designed to train, support, and provide job placement services for individuals on the autism spectrum, with current programming to prepare students for jobs as CNC operators in advanced manufacturing fields.

The program includes credit-bearing in-class instruction, where students learn basic CNC programming, setup and operations, and use quality control instruments. Instruction is also provided in safety and metrology, shop mathematics, blueprint reading and other technical areas. In addition to the technical skills taught as part of the Academy, students

receive non-credit-bearing job-readiness training, including resume creation, participation in mock interviews and soft skills training.

Graduates are qualified for jobs as CNC operators and entry-level programmers, machinist apprentices and machine trainees, among other titles and positions. They are also supported throughout the program by Hudson Valley’s Center for Access and Assistive Technology, which offers comprehensive support services for more than 900 students with disabilities studying at the college each year.

Regeneron Donates \$500,000 to Hudson Valley to Strengthen STEM Education and Workforce Development

Hudson Valley Community College announced a transformative \$500,000 donation from Regeneron to enhance its STEM and biotechnology programs. This donation to the college’s Foundation will support several key initiatives, including curriculum development, lab equipment and career engagement initiatives, such as internships, co-ops, mentorship programs and recruitment events; the expansion of STEM-based workforce development opportunities; the construction of the Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) on campus; and the creation of the Regeneron Biotechnology Lab.

The Regeneron Biotechnology Lab will be used by both college faculty and students and local high school

students involved in STEM outreach programs and will provide students with hands-on experience using cutting-edge tools and techniques found in the biotech industry.

The donation underscores Regeneron’s commitment to advancing biotechnology education and workforce readiness in the Capital Region. By providing state-of-the-art technology, supporting curriculum development and funding targeted community outreach efforts, this investment will help prepare students for high-demand careers and foster industry-academic collaboration that benefits both students and the local economy.



College Partners with Rensselaer County for New Tuition Incentive Program



Hudson Valley Community College has partnered with Rensselaer County to launch the Rensselaer County Educational Incentive Program, a new scholarship opportunity created by the county legislature for Rensselaer County residents pursuing high-demand workforce programs.

Through this initiative, eligible students can receive up to \$2,500 to help cover the cost of tuition and fees, reducing or even eliminating the financial barriers to attending college. It will allow Rensselaer County residents and students in high-demand programs to access the financial help they need to pursue education and training in fields like healthcare, business, advanced manufacturing, construction, automotive, information technology, green and emerging technologies, and more.

Twelve Hudson Valley Faculty and Staff Members Receive Chancellor’s Award

Several members of the Hudson Valley Community College faculty and staff were honored with the prestigious SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in 2025 and 2026.

Instituted in 1972 by the State University of New York, the SUNY Chancellor’s Award recognizes exceptional contributions to the university and greater community by dedicated professionals. Recipients must

show a strong dedication to their work, scholarship and the college community. Since its inception, more than 200 faculty and staff members from Hudson Valley have received the award.



ANNE ANTIDORMI
Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (2025) - Adjunct Instructor, Dental Hygiene



MARY BETH MULLEN
Excellence in Classified Service (2025) - Graphics Specialist, Creative Services



RICKY THIBODEAU
Excellence in Faculty Service (2025) - Assistant Professor and Department Chair, Business and Criminal Justice



JOSHUA KOHAN
Excellence in Teaching (2025) - Assistant Professor English, Foreign Language & ESL



MATTHEW HOWE
Excellence in Professional Service (2025) - Associate Dean of Academic Advisement and Retention, Enrollment Services



SANDRA EYERMAN
Excellence in Professional Service (2025) - Digital Communications Manager, Communications & Marketing



DR. MEGEEN MULHOLLAND
Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities (2025) - Professor, English, Foreign Language & ESL



BETH KANE
Excellence in Teaching (2026) - Professor, Computer Science and Mathematics



DR. MARY ANN GULYAS
Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (2026) - Adjunct Instructor, Fine Arts, Theatre Arts and Digital Media



KATHRYN AGAN
Excellence in Classified Service (2026) - Program Assistant III, School of Health Sciences



PAMELA SLATTERY
Excellence in Adjunct Teaching (2026) - Adjunct Instructor, Nursing and Surgical Technology



KATE RODRIGUEZ
Excellence in Faculty Service (2026) - Associate Professor, Nursing and Surgical Technology

Aeronautical Technical Institute Takes Off

The college’s Aeronautical Technical Institute (ATI), located at the Albany International Airport, which began instruction in the Fall 2024 semester, has gained FAA Certification as a Part 147 Aviation Maintenance Technical School. The ATI also received three Air Force T-1A trainer jets to be used as part of the new aviation maintenance training program.

The twin-engine T-1A jets, which have been used for 30 years as one of the primary training aircraft for the Air Force, are being phased out of the Air Force aviation training program. The jets were flown into to Albany International Airport from Randolph Air Force Base in Texas, giving ATI students valuable hands-on training with the aircrafts.

ATI offers a 12-month Aviation Maintenance Technician program and Aviation Maintenance Management A.O.S. degree. ATI also started a four-week, 32-hour Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program to introduce prospective students to the aviation industry. Additionally, the program conducted a Military Veterans Aviation Transition Program to transition military aviation veterans to obtain FAA Mechanic certifications.



SUNY Reconnect Program Driving Adult Students to HVCC

The State University of New York’s Reconnect program is aimed at encouraging adults without a college degree to give college a chance, and, so far, it’s been very successful at Hudson Valley Community College. The college has received several thousand inquiries regarding the program since it was first announced in May 2025.

SUNY Reconnect promises free tuition and assistance with textbook and supplies for

students, ages 25-55, who wish to return to college and pursue an associate degree in selected fields. Students hoping to enter the program must apply for financial aid, and Reconnect will cover costs beyond what is covered by federal and state financial aid.

The program is specifically targeted to adults who have no prior college degrees, and students can study full-time or part-time to complete their associate degree at Hudson

Valley or one of the SUNY system’s other 29 community colleges. Funding for the SUNY Reconnect program was included in the 2025-26 and 2026-27 state budgets.

Academic degree programs that are eligible for SUNY Reconnect include those aimed at high-demand fields, including education, health care, cybersecurity, applied technologies and human services.

Dr. Chris McNally Named EV Educator of the Year

In May 2025, Applied Technologies Professor Dr. Chris McNally was named EV Educator of the Year by the Electric Vehicle Association (EVA), a national volunteer organization that works to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles. The award is given to “those in a public or private education role who are expanding access to educational opportunities

that advance understanding of EV technology, charging, infrastructure, and the broader impacts of electric vehicles on society and the environment.”

Dr. McNally has been instrumental in developing curriculum and securing grants to establish training for both automotive technicians and EV charging infrastructure

professionals at the college. He’s helped lead a number of “train-the-trainer” outreach programs to educate automotive education professionals, including five summer intensive trainings that brought more than 20 technicians from Instituto CEA, an automotive technical education college in San Jose, Costa Rica. He also led the development and launch of a new degree program in Electric and Autonomous Vehicles in 2021, which is one of the first of its kind in the SUNY system.



College Announces Expansion of Highly Successful Student Retention, Graduation Support Program: ASAP



After becoming one of the first colleges to launch SUNY’s Advancing Success in Associate Pathways (ASAP) program in 2024, college leaders announced expansions to the program in 2025 and 2026. These changes will help deliver important resources to more than 300 students to help them gain and maintain academic momentum.

The ASAP program supports students pursuing associate degrees by providing access to a wide array of resources and support to help them overcome barriers to obtaining a degree. This includes funding to cover textbooks, groceries, transportation, and other costs of attendance, as well as comprehensive personalized advisement, academic support and career development activities.

Casey Crandall Named Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation

Casey Crandall is the new executive director of the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. In this role, Crandall leads the college’s philanthropic initiatives, with a focus on strengthening alumni and donor engagement in support of student success and institutional priorities. He works closely with the Foundation’s Board of Directors and oversees all fundraising activities, including annual giving, capital campaigns, alumni relations and events, and major and planned gift fundraising.

Crandall brings significant experience in higher education fundraising and strategy development to Hudson Valley’s Foundation. For the past 18 years, he held positions in the Division of University Advancement at the University at Albany, where he supported the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, the School of Criminal Justice, the Massry School of Business, UAlbany Athletics and the UAlbany Fund. If you are interested in learning more about supporting Hudson Valley’s students, please reach out to Casey at c.crandall@hvcc.edu or (518) 629-4665.



History of HVCC North

In 2010, Hudson Valley Community College opened the \$13.5 million Training and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative and Renewable Technologies, or TEC-SMART, located in NYSERDA’s Saratoga Technology and Energy Park® (STEP®). For more than a decade, TEC-SMART served the training and education needs of the area’s growing semiconductor technology sector and housed the Clean Tech Early College High School in partnership with Ballston Spa Central School District.

In 2024, the STEM Education Center opened as part of a \$17.5 million HVCC North expansion project, aimed at serving more than a thousand students annually with coursework applicable to more than 30 associate degree and certificate programs. The two-story, 14,500-square-foot building includes state-of-the-art labs for microbiology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and biology, as well as classrooms, student support space and offices. The project also supported renovations to TEC-SMART.

Together, the facilities at HVCC North now provide education and workforce training opportunities in the specialized and growing fields of healthcare, STEM and skilled trades. The site will also increase non-credit, short-term workforce training offerings that contribute to regional business and economic growth and meet a rising demand for skilled labor in the greater Capital Region.

HVCC North, Formerly TEC-SMART, Becomes Official Branch Campus Offering Full Degree Programs

HVCC North, located in the Saratoga Technology + Energy Park (STEP) in Malta, NY, has been designated an official branch campus of Hudson Valley Community College by the New York State Education Department.

Consisting of two state-of-the-art buildings – TEC-SMART and the STEM Education Center – HVCC North will continue to offer students access to educational opportunities in the highly growing fields of healthcare, STEM and skilled trades in Saratoga County and throughout the North Country.

The branch campus now offers five complete degree programs on site, as well as a variety of individual courses, non-credit study and student resources.

Coursework in the following programs can be completed entirely at HVCC North:

- Clean Energy Management A.A.S.
- Electrical Engineering Technology – Electronics A.A.S.
- Electrical Construction and Maintenance A.O.S.
- Engineering Science A.S.
- Health Sciences Certificate

valley view

College Breaks Ground on New Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC)



Hudson Valley Community College hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025. This \$64 million, 130,000-square-foot workforce training facility designed to address the region’s growing shortage of skilled trades and applied technology professionals is the largest construction project in college history.

Serving as a regional hub for innovation and career-focused education, ATEC will prepare thousands of students for high-demand careers in automotive and transportation technologies, building systems, electrical construction and maintenance, mechatronics, renewable energy, semiconductor manufacturing, welding and other emerging fields.

Through hands-on learning in state-of-the-art laboratories, students will gain the technical expertise and practical experience needed to excel in today’s rapidly evolving industries. The center’s curriculum will integrate classroom instruction with project-based learning, developed in close collaboration with industry partners to ensure graduates are

equipped with the latest skills, knowledge, and certifications to meet workforce demand.

ATEC will play a pivotal role in advancing regional workforce training and addressing the skilled trades talent gap, which continues to widen. Baby Boomers, many with skilled labor jobs, are retiring at the rapid rate of more than 10,000 per day between now and 2030. By 2033, there will be an estimated two million unfilled skilled technical jobs throughout the nation.

When complete, ATEC will train up to 5,000 new skilled technicians over the next decade to meet critical workforce needs and strengthen the regional economy—particularly within underserved communities. During that time, it will generate more than \$2 billion in salaries for the regional and statewide economy.

By fostering collaboration between education and industry, ATEC will become a hub for employers across the Northeast seeking a highly skilled workforce and access to advanced training resources.

ATEC will allow the college to expand existing programs to support emerging industries, launch new initiatives in high-demand fields, and offer fast-track, industry-recognized certifications, non-credit training, and bootcamps for current workers seeking to advance their skills.

Programs housed in ATEC will include:

- Automotive Management A.A.S.
- Automotive Technical Services A.O.S.
- Collision Repair Certificate
- Collision Repair Technology A.O.S.
- Clean Energy Management A.A.S.
- Electric and Autonomous Vehicles A.O.S.
- Electric and Autonomous Vehicles Certificate
- Electrical Construction and Maintenance A.O.S.
- Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Technical
- Services A.O.S.
- Mechatronics A.O.S.
- Overhead Electric Line Worker Certificate
- Welding and Fabrication A.O.S.
- Welding Certificate
- Apprenticeships
- Non-credit skills training
- Short-term introductory learning intensives with hands-on experiences led by industry professionals



DR. MICHAEL BROPHY: A President for All Genres

BY PAUL GRONDAHL

Dr. Michael Brophy became Hudson Valley Community College's eighth president in August of 2025. Originally from Greene County, he began his academic journey and professional career in the Capital Region and brings more than 35 years of experience in higher education to Hudson Valley.

Dr. Brophy has served in teaching and leadership roles at several collegiate institutions throughout his career, and comes to Hudson Valley after finishing a seven-year tenure as president of Hilbert College in Buffalo, NY. He earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from Long Island University, and a Master of Arts in English, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Music, from The College of Saint Rose. After his first several months as president of Hudson Valley, Dr. Brophy speaks with Paul Grondahl about his upbringing, his family, his vision for the future, and the experiences he has collected during his 20 years as a college president.

The year was 1972, the place a hardscrabble six-acre plot of farmland in Greenville, a small town in rural Greene County, where nine-year-old Michael Brophy and his three younger brothers experienced culture shock after a move from the Bronx.

Michael, who had a stint as a filmmaker, is a gifted storyteller with an MFA in Creative Writing. He describes the scene like he's scripting a movie.

His parents, Stephen and Barbara, neo-hippies tired of the concrete jungle and possessed of a freshly purchased copy of the influential bestselling counterculture guide, "The Whole Earth Catalog," got swept up in that era's back-to-the-land movement.

Along with a quartet of rambunctious boys, chickens, goats and a very stubborn donkey, the Brophy clan carried an unbridled optimism and created their own version of the Clampetts of "The Beverly Hillbillies" TV show. They never struck any bubbling crude or became millionaires, though.

"We were poor, but we had so much fun growing up," is how Dr. Michael Brophy, 62, the newly appointed eighth president of Hudson Valley Community College, recalled his long-ago childhood in the hinterland. "We didn't feel deprived in any way."

Brophy and his wife of 33 years, Tara Brophy, are thrilled to be back in the Capital Region after being away three decades for his

academic positions. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. The couple lives in Hudson Valley's Gordon N. '62 and Linda S. Zuckerman Alumni House, a Victorian home provided by the college Foundation near the Emma Willard School in Troy.

"We love the home in Troy and the HVCC community has been so welcoming. We're fortunate to be back in the region and near my father's senior living community," Tara said.

"It feels great to be back in a place I love. It's a blessing," Brophy said. He felt déjà vu when he arrived on campus at the president's office across from the Campus Center, where he played keyboards at a gig in a rock band in the late 1980s.

Brophy is a first-generation college graduate and son of an itinerant carpenter who did not finish high school. His mom helped make ends meet working nights as a waitress. Brophy's inheritance is of a more ephemeral nature, a gift of gab from Irish forebearers. His paternal side is from Kilkenny and maternal side from Cork – "Far and Away" meets "Angela's Ashes." His great-grandfather emigrated to the U.S. in the 1890s and found work on the New York Central Railroad.

His father worked construction to put food on the family's table, but it was his art that fed his soul.

"I remember my dad working on paintings every night after work," Brophy recalled. "He poured his heart into it."

His father's passion for creating visual art was an influence on Brophy, as were trips into Manhattan with his grandmother, who took him to museums, concerts and plays. A love of the arts was firmly implanted.

Our freewheeling discussion in the president's office traversed a long and winding road that began with Brophy earning a bachelor's degree at The College of Saint Rose, with a double major in Music and English. He landed a job in admissions at his alma mater. After a decade of moonlighting at night playing keyboards in wedding bands and rock 'n' roll groups in the Capital Region





bar and club scene, he got married, sold his keyboards and began a steady climb up the higher education administrative ranks.

His wife rivals her husband as a storyteller and will fact-check the president when versions of a story diverge – as often happens between spouses.

“He claims I made him sell all his albums and musical gear the day before we got married, which isn’t exactly true,” she said. “He did sell all his stuff because we had no money and we had to pay for our wedding and honeymoon.”

Her husband has made up for their salad days. “He’s obsessive with his albums and got our daughter into collecting vinyl too,” Tara said.

Tara Brophy (nee McAuliffe) grew up in Tupper Lake. Her father was a New York State Police investigator. The family moved to Guilderland in 1986. She attended Herkimer County Community College and earned a nursing degree at Russell Sage College.

They met at the Eddie Bauer store in Crossgates Mall in the early 1990s, where she worked, when he came looking for a gift. They got engaged while she was working in the oncology unit at Albany Medical Center.

Tara fell in love with Michael’s kindness, artistic soul, creative spirit and the zest for adventure that has carried throughout their marriage.

“Michael sold pianos, taught piano lessons and played in bands to pay his college tuition

and help support his family,” his wife said. “He puts everyone else first to a fault. He is faith-filled and that defines his life.”

In conversation, “blessed” is a word Brophy uses repeatedly. A framed papal blessing from Pope Francis from a family trip to Rome and the Vatican hangs in the office. He displays photos with religious leaders from his tenure as president of Benedictine University (2015-2018), a Catholic school in Lisle, Illinois. Brophy’s presidency at Hudson Valley is his fourth in 20 years – including Marymount California University (2006-2015) and Hilbert College in Buffalo (2018-2025). He made a promise to Tara and his family that this will be his final presidency after moves from California to Buffalo.

At Hudson Valley, Brophy is tapping into

his deep knowledge as a higher education leader, as well as his experience as a filmmaker, creative writer, Fulbright scholar in Bulgaria and teacher in Cuba.

“After 20 years as a college president, I learned that I lead best through storytelling,” Brophy said. “I can relate to the grit and resilience of our students at Hudson Valley. I want them to feel like I know their story, and that I have a vision to help them write the next chapter.”

As a classical pianist, Brophy gravitated to the structure of the sonata with its exposition, development and recapitulation.

As president, he is creating a vision that incorporates HVCC’s six campus locations on both sides of the Hudson River and north to Saratoga County. He plans to deepen collaborations with the University at Albany, other community colleges and four-year institutions, and the region’s burgeoning high-tech sector.

“I’m here to focus on the wellbeing of our 10,000 students and 1,000 employees in all ways,” Brophy said. The filmmaker in him knows how to move from closeups to wide-angle shots. He is creating an HVCC action plan with an eye to granular day-to-day details and aspirational goals.

“Michael has succeeded at every college he has led,” his wife said. “He has an inner goodness and always looks to bring out the best in people. That’s just the way he’s built.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: We sincerely thank Paul Grondahl, Director of the New York State Writers Institute, for his thoughtful and beautifully crafted profile of President Brophy in this issue of Valley View. His experience as a journalist, author and literary leader is evident in the care and insight he brings to the piece, and we are truly grateful for his contribution.



2025 Nobel Prize Winner and HVCC Alum Dr. Omar Yaghi Returns to Share His Story



Dr. Omar Yaghi



Dr. Omar Yaghi and Hudson Valley Community College President Dr. Michael Brophy with Hudson Valley's Victor the Viking

University at Albany and Hudson Valley Community College alum Omar M. Yaghi, who was awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, returned to his alma maters in April 2026 to share his inspiring story with the next generation of scientists.

Over the course of a full day of events across both campuses, Yaghi met with students, faculty, elected officials and community members. In the morning, he participated in a welcome reception and town hall at Hudson Valley alongside SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr., Hudson Valley President Michael Brophy, UAlbany President Havidán

Rodríguez and Congressman Paul Tonko. At UAlbany later that afternoon, he delivered the 16th Henry Kuivila Lecture: Reticular Chemistry and AI for the Planet, after which he joined Rodríguez for a public conversation and Q&A.

During his return visit to the Capital Region, Yaghi reflected on his path to the Nobel Prize — from his arrival in Troy as a teenager from Amman, Jordan, to earning his associate degree at Hudson Valley in 1983 and bachelor's degree from UAlbany in 1985. After graduating from UAlbany, Yaghi earned his Ph.D. (1990) in chemistry at the University

of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a National Science Foundation (NSF) postdoctoral fellowship (1992) at Harvard University. He went on to hold faculty appointments at Arizona State University (1992–98), the University of Michigan (1999–2006) and UCLA (2006–2011) before joining the University of California, Berkeley, where he is now the James and Neeltje Tretter Chair Professor of Chemistry. At UC Berkeley, Yaghi also serves as founding director of the Berkeley Global Science Institute. His highly cited research portfolio includes more than 300 peer-reviewed publications and over 50 U.S. patents.

"If my story proves anything, it is that greatness is not the privilege of a few; it is the possibility within all of us. It grows when opportunity meets determination, and no institution embodies that more than public education. I am deeply grateful to Hudson Valley and to the

University at Albany, and to the mentors who shaped me... It is one of the greatest honors of my life to return to you — not just as a scientist, but as someone whose story began right here because someone opened a door. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for welcoming me home," said Yaghi.

Yaghi shares the Nobel Prize with Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University and Richard Robson of the University of Melbourne. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences recognized the three researchers for their development of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) — porous molecular architectures with vast internal surface area and the ability to capture, store and transform gases such as hydrogen, carbon dioxide and water vapor. Their collective work, begun independently in the 1990s, revealed how metals and organic linkers could form stable, highly ordered structures with extraordinary internal porosity — a finding that reshaped the landscape of materials research. The breakthrough has opened new frontiers in clean energy, environmental remediation and sustainable water collection.

Yaghi is widely credited with founding the field of reticular chemistry, which uses molecular "stitching" techniques to build extended crystalline frameworks with atomic-level precision. His laboratory's invention of MOFs and their close relatives, covalent organic frameworks (COFs), has transformed materials science and inspired thousands of new compounds designed for targeted applications. His work has demonstrated that these frameworks can store hydrogen and methane for clean fuel, capture industrial CO₂ emissions, and even pull drinkable water directly from desert air.



Dr. Omar Yaghi with Hudson Valley students during his April 2026 visit.



Left to right: University at Albany President Dr. Havidán Rodríguez; SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr.; Hudson Valley Community College Foundation Board Chairman Frank Sarratori; Dr. Omar Yaghi; and Hudson Valley Community College President Dr. Michael Brophy.



ALUMNI PROFILE: Kainat Akhtar

After an inspiring journey of professional and educational growth, Hudson Valley alumna Kainat Akhtar '16 has made her way back to Hudson Valley to join the faculty.

Kainat moved to Troy when she was around four years old. Coming from a small Pakistani village with a seven percent literacy rate for women, her dad was very keen on moving to the United States so she could get a quality education and start a new life.

"Honestly, it was hard for me because of the cultural differences," she shared. "My parents didn't understand that classes happen in the morning and the evening, so sometimes I wouldn't be able to return back to campus for class, which is weird to say, but I kind of had to just show them over time."

Kainat decided to major in Individual Studies to have flexibility with class offerings and earn her degree without any time or credits

known what research really was or what anything outside of being a typical MD doctor was, if it wasn't for him. It was part of the reason for choosing my major down the road."

By taking a class with psychology professor Dr. Todd Wysocki, Kainat finally saw a path that would incorporate her love of science and the desire to help those in need. After graduating from Hudson Valley, she transferred to UAlbany and chose to major in Psychology and minor in Neuroscience. Then, once she earned her bachelor's degree, it was time to think about the next steps in her education – a master's degree, Ph.D. or med school.

Much of Kainat's doctoral research has focused on the origins and early treatment of Parkinson's Disease.

"A lot of times with Parkinson's Disease, you actually have it for around 20 years before you have the onset of motor symptoms," Kainat said. "You'll have dysfunction in your lower body that will slowly travel up your vagus nerve, and as it's traveling up the nerve, it gets deeper into your brain and then you begin to develop more shaking and symptoms."

"General Electric (GE) has a healthcare research facility in Niskayuna, and they developed a new ultrasound machine," she added. "If we put that ultrasound machine on the vagus nerve and stimulate it, it sends signals back to the brain, helping the brain and body reconnect. That's the point of my research. If there is something bad happening in the gut and I zap the five million neurons in there, can I prevent the movement of the disease and also help the gut's overall function? So, I've been trying to use this device as a preventative method."

After years of hard work, dedication and research, Kainat earned her doctorate degree in March 2025, four days before her 29th birthday. Once she got her degree, she immediately wanted to start giving back.

being wasted. In doing so, she completed her general education course requirements and also took several biology and psychology classes, which led to her enhanced interest in science and research.

"Dr. Mike Shea was really great," Kainat said. "He put me in touch with a friend at RPI who was doing similar research to what I was interested in. Once I started learning more, I fell in love with it. I don't think I would have

She began elementary school at School 12 in Troy, then moved on to Doyle Middle School. After her family moved to Latham, she attended Shaker Middle School and High School. She wasn't sure what path she wanted to take when it came to higher education or a career, so just two days after graduating high school, she began taking classes at Hudson Valley. However, Kainat explained that she wasn't doing well at the start of her college career.

"At the end of my Ph.D., when I was giving my thank yous and doing my reflections, all I could think about was the teachers at Hudson Valley."

She reached out to her previous schools, offering to talk to students about her research and the free Ph.D. program. When talking to middle school and high school students, Kainat said she tries to cover everything she wishes she was told back then.

Kainat is currently directing the Science and Technology Entry Program at Albany Medical College – a program for low-income, underrepresented high school students to learn about science and research. She also accepted an offer to return to Hudson Valley as an adjunct professor.

"At the end of my Ph.D., when I was giving my thank yous and doing my reflections, all I could think about was the teachers at Hudson Valley," she said. "You can truly see that they are here because they want to be here, want to help students and love what they do. I can't forget any of the professors I had here. And I really just wanted to use my degree to pay it forward."

Kainat began teaching Honors Exploring the Human Mind during the Fall 2025 semester –

a course that covers science, technology, neuroscience, the brain, and the body.

Looking ahead, Kainat has set both professional and personal goals for the future.

"Professionally, I want to continue to learn and grow as a teacher," she said. "Then, I would love to go more into the administrative side of things because I want to be able to make a lasting impact for students. I value being a professor, but my ultimate goal is to not just be an advocate for the students, but be someone who facilitates change and puts it into action."

"As for a more personal goal, ever since I was a little girl, my grandpa always said he wanted to build a hospital or a school in our village. He has since passed away, but now that I have the credentials, I hope to build that school someday. I would love to continue teaching for a while to learn more about the teaching process in higher education, but then I hope to take that knowledge back home and open a secondary school in Pakistan."

Over the summer, Kainat was asked to chair a seminar for doctoral and post-doctoral students in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. She wrote a mission statement and got to select women from across the world to speak at the event. The opportunity was presented to her after she attended the Gordon Research Conference, a selective, international conference where she gave a talk on her research as a Ph.D. student.

Since then, Kainat completed her first semester teaching at the college and was recently hired as a full-time faculty member and academic advisor. She will be offering classes in psychology, including cognitive psychology.

"When I look back, I'm just very grateful for everything," Kainat said. "I'm so proud of 21-year-old me, who was so naïve, for being able to accomplish all of this. And I'm just really excited to be back at Hudson Valley. I hope that by telling my story, I can also inspire others. I want to tell students, or really anyone, to just do what they love."

ALUMNI PROFILE: Michael Catalano

Michael Catalano, Ed.D., has spent nearly three decades helping others build purposeful futures — sometimes through conversations as a school counselor, other times through hands-on electrical work, and often through a deliberate combination of both. A two-time alumnus of Hudson Valley Community College, Catalano credits the institution with shaping not only his professional path, but also the leadership philosophy that defines his work today.

A school counselor at Saugerties Senior High School for 27 years, Catalano was recently recognized by his peers as the 2025 New York State School Counselor of the Year. The distinction reflects decades of student advocacy, career development leadership and community engagement — work grounded in the foundation he first developed at Hudson Valley.

"My Hudson Valley experience gave me the confidence and clarity to move forward with purpose," he said.

Catalano first enrolled at Hudson Valley in the 1990s, choosing the college for its accessibility and proximity to home. At that stage in his life, he was focused on building direction and momentum.

"Like many students early in their journey, I was determined to prove what I was capable," he said. "Hudson Valley helped me build both skill and confidence."

After enrolling in the Liberal Arts program, he quickly recognized the strength of

the college's academic support systems. Professor Maureen Hood had a lasting impact during his initial tenure. Through her English Literature and Short Story courses, Catalano experienced a level of rigor and expectation that sharpened both his thinking and communication.

(continued, page 19)

"My Hudson Valley experience gave me the confidence and clarity to move forward with purpose."

**Saugerties Central Schools and
Habitat for Humanity Partnership**

*Working together to make dreams come true
and strengthening families one home at a time!*



ALUMNI PROFILE:

Eileen Clinton

For more than 40 years, Mortuary Science alumna Eileen Clinton has enjoyed a wide-ranging career built around a simple but profound idea – we all face grief at some point in our lives and we can all come out the other side of that grief, changed but still whole.

As one of the first female graduates of the college's Mortuary Science program back in the mid-1970s, Eileen was a bit of a trailblazer. She recalls the day she returned home from HVCC and announced to her father and mother – the proprietors of Troy's John H. Clinton Funeral Home – that she hoped to enroll in the newly-established Mortuary Science program, and, eventually, join the family business.

"They were elated, but also a little confused by my career choice," she said. "I was the youngest of five and one of three girls in the family. My oldest brother was already a funeral director."

"Dave Fitzsimmons was the department chair at the time. I came to Hudson Valley in my jeans and my work boots and after about a month, Mr. Fitzsimmons said, 'No more of this, I want all my students to dress professionally,' and of course as a 19-year-old, I wasn't too pleased, but that was the beginning of realizing that when you go out, you're representing where you work and the profession."

Having grown up as the daughter of a funeral director, Eileen had a sense of the career she was getting herself into, but the work was not only emotionally taxing but often quite physical. When someone dies on the third floor of a building, she said, it's the funeral director's job to remove that body with dignity.

"I had to prove myself as a woman, even to my brother, that I can do this. You had to earn your way," she said.



Despite the on-call, 24-hours-a-day nature of funeral service, what drew Eileen most to the profession was the simple act of providing service and solace to grieving families, many of whom were friends or acquaintances from their funeral home's Troy neighborhood.

In an era when the funeral service profession was gradually seeing more women enter the field, Eileen decided to continue her education in the hope of finding new ways to serve the family business' clientele. That education – first a bachelor's degree in psychology from Siena College and a master's from Russell Sage in health education – would eventually lead Eileen down several new career paths.

"At that time in the funeral industry, 'aftercare programs' were slowly becoming more popular," she said. "That was an unknown when I was a student, but you eventually heard about funeral homes following up with families and providing them with support after the funeral service. That really excited me and I knew that if I wanted to pursue this, I needed to continue my education."

After completing her master's degree and while still working at the funeral home, Eileen began volunteering and eventually working part-time at Saint Peter's Hospice during the early 1990s. She loved hospice work and the chance to support families who had suffered a loss and were grieving. When her supervisor decided to retire, she asked Eileen to fill her

position as the hospice's full-time coordinator of bereavement services.

"That was a big decision, because I knew I would have to leave the funeral home. I ended up working at hospice for about eight years, and I really loved the work," she said. "I was still around to help out at the funeral home, if needed, but my career path had shifted."

As she delved deeper into this new vocation, Eileen saw even more opportunities and pathways to serve the bereaved. Eventually, a call from an old friend sent her career path in yet another direction.

"I got a call from my dear friend and mentor, Sister Jean Roche, who was the chaplain at hospice. Sister Jean said Maria College wanted to create a bereavement certificate program and she wanted to know if I would be interested in helping to develop and teach the courses. Of course, I said 'yes.'"

Maria College's Bereavement Studies program ran for more than two decades and helped train hundreds of professionals. The 15-credit program was aimed at anyone looking to serve those going through the process of grief. "We had a complete mix of students – social workers, nurses, funeral directors, people from the ministry, even a couple veterinarians along the way," she said.

While helping others through grief and loss were the touchstones of Eileen's career, she was certainly not immune to the emotional struggles of loss in her own life. Her husband, whom she had married at age 21, died of cancer at 54. She took a break from her career to be a full-time caregiver during her mother's final months, and when all seemed to be looking up in her own life, she received a devastating diagnosis of leukemia, which came just months before Covid-19 shut down the world and greatly impacted health care.

Chemotherapy, immunotherapy, stem cell transplants and months of recovery from 2020 through 2022 led Eileen to reflect on her own life and her personal struggles with loss. Writing and poetry had been comforts to help her through the loss of her husband, and as she gathered together a few decades worth of writing she began to see the seeds of a new project.

"I never planned on these [poems] going anywhere, but when I put them all in one document, they told a kind of story," Eileen said. "What they needed was a back story so that when my children read them, they'd have an idea of what I was going through when I wrote them. I got working on that, and eventually said, 'This is a book!'"

"What a Wonderful World: Reflections on Love, Loss and Hope," available at local bookstores and on Amazon, is more than just a compilation of poems. Eileen drew on her years of experience – from hospice to funeral service and teaching, from the loss of her husband to growing up in a funeral home family – to create a book that is both personal and practical.

"This is a culmination of my life experience," she said. "I'm weaving in my personal losses and trying to address how we cope with

these losses and choose to not just survive but thrive."

Since the book's publication in early 2023, Eileen has sought out opportunities to speak and lecture on the topics of love, loss and hope, and she's using her book as a guide to the discussion.

In early December 2024, she came full circle in a way – back at Hudson Valley Community College as a featured speaker in the Voices: Library Lecture Series.

"My educational and professional journey began at HVCC. The lessons I learned at the college provided an excellent foundation for my career choices and overall success in life," she said. "Gratitude is the best way to sum up my feelings."

Catalano (continued)

"She challenged students to become the strongest versions of themselves," Catalano said. "Her leadership shaped how I think about teaching, mentoring and expectations."

The Liberal Arts curriculum strengthened his analytical thinking, communication skills and professional discipline – competencies he relies on daily as a counselor, mentor and statewide educational leader. That foundation propelled him to continue advancing his education.

Over the next several years, he earned a bachelor's degree in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego, a master's degree in School Counseling from Russell Sage College, a master's degree in Education Administration and Policy Studies from the University at Albany and a Doctor of Education in Child and Youth Studies from Nova Southeastern University.

In 2005, well-established in his counseling career, a conversation with one of his students who needed assistance installing a ceiling fan revealed a broader community need – one that would eventually lead him back to Hudson Valley to strategically deepen and formalize his technical expertise.

At that time, he made the decision to launch Catalano Electric, a residential and commercial electrical business serving the community.

"I decided to formalize and expand my skill set," Catalano recalled. "That started with a commercial wiring course."

One course led to another. Over the span of three years – while maintaining his full-time position at Saugerties High School and operating Catalano Electric part time – Catalano completed evening coursework and earned a second associate degree from Hudson Valley in Electrical Construction and Maintenance in 2020.

Though the content differed from his first academic experience, he describes his return to Hudson Valley as equally formative. He credits professors John Coyne, Daniel Honovic and their colleagues with establishing an exceptionally high standard of instructional excellence, technical rigor and professional mentorship – standards that continue to influence his leadership and professional practice.

Catalano now plays a leadership role in Ulster County Habitat for Humanity initiatives,

guiding Ulster County BOCES Electrical Construction and Maintenance students (11th and 12th graders) in wiring 10 homes from beginning to end. The partnership provides students with authentic, real-world responsibility while directly serving families in need. The nonprofit organization is advancing plans to build 15 additional homes in Saugerties and across Ulster County – expanding both community impact and career-connected learning opportunities.

Together, his academic and technical journeys shaped a philosophy that guides his work with students: there is no single path to success.

"I'm a strong advocate for both liberal arts and technical education," he said. "They are equally important, and both deserve recognition and respect."

Catalano remains connected to Hudson Valley, serving on the college's Electrical Construction and Maintenance Advisory Team. He values the opportunity to contribute to the preparation of future professionals and to uphold the standards of excellence that helped shape his own career.

ALUMNI PROFILE: Nathan Van Alstine

After being accepted into two Ivy League schools, 36-year-old Business Administration graduate Nathan VanAlstine was faced with an exciting yet difficult choice — Princeton University or Dartmouth College.

Just a few years earlier, Nathan wouldn't have imagined attending any four-year school, much less applying to Ivy League colleges and being accepted into two of them. However, he said Hudson Valley changed that.

Nathan grew up in Ohio, and served in the U.S. Navy for five years. Following his service, he worked in a variety of different careers, including retail banking, revenue cycle management, operations management, and most recently, HR operations for GE.

"When I got out of the Navy, I went back and forth on if I wanted to go back to school or focus on my career," Nathan said. "Then during the pandemic, I hit something of a mid-life crisis. I was overweight — 300 pounds, actually — out of shape, and stuck in a life that felt empty. I wasn't proud of the work I was doing, and I wasn't moving forward. That kind of quiet stagnation wears on you. So, I bought a cheap stationary bike and just started pedaling. I lost 75 pounds in the first six months, then another 25. And somewhere along the way, I started thinking about what I actually wanted to do with my life."

"Healthcare had always been in the back of my mind," he added. "I had worked in different areas of healthcare, from the front line to collections, and saw firsthand how much it fails people. If ever I was going to make a difference, it was going to be there. Healthcare reform became my beacon in the distance."

Nathan attended college before, but explained that he was not always a "stellar student" and was working three jobs to afford his education, which led him to drop out. But now, he was determined to succeed. He enrolled in two classes at Hudson Valley, and after earning A's in both of them, became a full-time student and earned straight A's again. With great grades and a positive attitude, Nathan was eager to accomplish more and transfer to a four-year institution.

It was while he was visiting Dartmouth that Nathan realized he could envision himself going to an Ivy League school. So, he took a leap of faith and applied to a few — but, despite his 4.0 GPA, he was convinced he wouldn't be accepted to any of them. That is, until he got two emails one day stating otherwise.

"I was in the library and felt prepared to see the rejections, so I signed into the portal for Princeton, clicked on 'view details,' and saw 'congratulations.' Out loud, I said, 'What? Oh my God, I got into Princeton!'" he recalled. "When I was finally done shaking, I packed up my stuff to go home. I got to my car and saw an email that said 'Dartmouth College: Transfer Decision Notification.' I opened the email, and the first thing I saw was 'congratulations.' I actually let out a tear for that one. I just sat there in my car taking it all in. It felt so surreal. It's important to note that I'm 36 and have never experienced anything as exhilarating as opening those letters. It was beyond thrilling."

Suddenly, Nathan had a difficult decision to make, but after a lot of thought and consideration, he made his choice — Princeton. In the future after undergrad, Nathan plans to attend law school, in addition to graduate school for an MPA (Master of Public Administration) or MPP (Master of Public Policy).

Nathan said he owes a lot of his success to his friends and loved ones for their incredible support, but also to a non-profit organization called Service to School (S2S) and their resource called VetLink, which offers free college application counseling specifically



to military veterans and service members. "I hope my story serves as an example to service members, or really anybody that is coming back to school with a specific focus, to look for every opportunity that is available to them and just go for it," he shared. But he also credits much of his success to Hudson Valley.

"At Hudson Valley, I feel like you're set up to succeed and it's just a matter of stepping out and grasping it," Nathan said. "If I were to describe my experience, I would say I was incredibly well-supported. The professors are very accessible, and a lot of them are focused on pushing students to think about what's coming next. Professor Beaudoin, Professor Lavigna, Professor Reynolds, Professor Whitaker and Professor Yoder all made a difference during my time here. But truthfully, every professor I had contributed something meaningful. It just goes to show that HVCC shows up for its students. I'm so eternally grateful. They say it takes a village to raise a child; I say it takes a community college to raise a citizen scholar."

Hudson Valley Community College Honors Four Distinguished Alumni During Homecoming Weekend

Hudson Valley Community College held its annual Homecoming weekend festivities Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20, 2025, with the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards taking place on Saturday. The Distinguished Alumni Awards program celebrates alumni for notable contributions within their career fields and communities. The 2025 event honored Jerilee Beaudoin '92, Karen Campbell '83, Dan Casale '10 and Shelby Kleniewski '14.

Jerilee Beaudoin is the president and CEO of Sunmark Credit Union, a position to which she brings more than 34 years of experience in the financial services industry, including more than 18 years spent in financial institution management. After earning her associate degree from Hudson Valley, Jerilee went on to earn two more degrees in business administration, including an MBA from the University at Albany. She joined Sunmark in 2020 as chief lending officer and, during her tenure with the company, has led the ideation and implementation of strategic objectives and spearheaded key initiatives related to continued member and employee growth and development. Jerilee has served on numerous non-profit boards throughout her career, and was a 2023 Capital Region Chamber Nonprofit Business Award honoree, receiving the Nonprofit Board Service award for her work with the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York, Inc. She is an active member of the Women's President Organization and the Forum for Executive Women in Albany.

Karen M. Campbell received her associate degree in Engineering Science from Hudson Valley Community College and her bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She retired in 2018 after more than 32 years in the aerospace and defense industry, first in manufacturing and then in program management. She is proud to have led the team which developed the F-35 radar and retired as vice president of marine systems for Northrop Grumman, where she was responsible for submarine and aircraft carrier propulsion and power generation. Now residing in Cape Cod, Karen enjoys spending time with

family and giving back through volunteering. She serves on the board of the Monomoy Dollars for Scholars scholarship program and mentors local students in their pursuit of higher education. She is also active in local volunteer activities with the Family Pantry of Cape Cod, Housing Assistance Corporation, and Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands. She is the proud aunt of 18 nieces and nephews.

Dan Casale is a lifelong resident of Rensselaer County, currently residing in the Town of Brunswick with his wife Darlene and their children, Lia and Patrick. After Hudson Valley, he went on to pursue a bachelor's degree from Utica College of Syracuse University and has spent a large portion of his career in politics, first as a director of constituent services for New York State Senators Daphne Jordan and Kathy Marchione, and currently as district director and director of intergovernmental relations for New York State Senator Jake Ashby. Dan also served for 13 years as a Brunswick town councilman and worked for more than 20 years as a manager for a large construction company in the Capital District. As a Rensselaer County legislator, he serves as chairman of the Education and Environmental committees and the Rensselaer County Energy Management committee, and serves on the Veterans and Youth committee as well. Dan is also an active member of several community organizations and has served on several community boards; he is currently serving on the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation board and the Commission of Economic Opportunity (CEO) board in Rensselaer County. In 2024 he was named Man of the Year for the Friends of 112th Street.

Shelby Kleniewski has lived in the Capital Region her whole life, growing up in Melrose, and now resides in Mechanicville. She began pursuing her career in Dental Hygiene by attending Hudson Valley Community College, and upon graduating with her associate degree, decided to further her education at SUNY Empire State College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences, followed by the University



of Bridgeport, where she earned a dual degree in Dental Hygiene Education and Public Health. She now returns to Hudson Valley each year to share her knowledge of orthodontics with current Dental Hygiene students, and coordinates with the department to offer affiliation opportunities for students. In addition to working full time, Shelby volunteers hundreds of hours per year as coordinator of the Capital Region Toys for Tots, the largest Toys for Tots chapter in the world. She has earned the distinction of becoming the first woman to be named coordinator of the chapter, which serves 14 counties around the Capital Region and impacted the lives of more than 680,000 local children in 2024 alone. Shelby has won several awards for her service to her community, including presidential community service awards and senate awards.



Athletics Earns Program-Record Third Place in the 2024-25 National Ron Case Cup

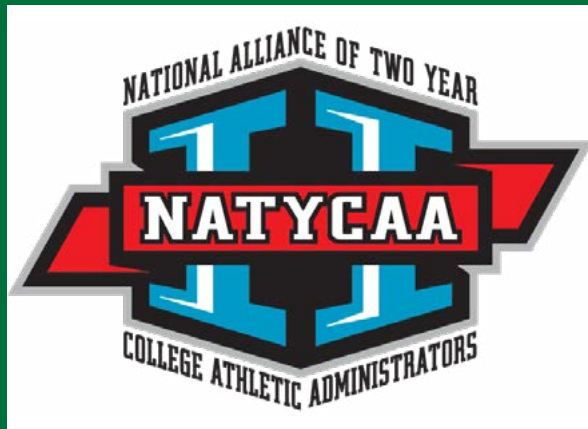
Hudson Valley Community College's Department of Athletics capped a successful 2024–25 season with a program-record third-place finish in the Ron Case Cup, a national competition that recognizes overall program excellence among two-year colleges. The competition is organized by the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA).

Hudson Valley finished third in the NJCAA Non-Scholarship Division after accumulating 113.5 points—highlighting the national success achieved by Viking athletic teams throughout the 2024–25 academic year. The 113.5 points were the highest total among all NJCAA Region 3 programs, trailing only Gloucester (161.5) and Joliet (147) in the overall standings.

"This is a true testament to the college's commitment to our athletics programs," said Hudson Valley Director of Athletics Justin Hoyt. "It all starts with our student-athletes and coaches, who dedicate countless hours to recruiting, coaching and teaching. While we celebrated one of the most successful athletic years in our program's history, I am most proud of the academic records our student-athletes achieved this past year."

At the start of the spring semester, Hudson Valley sat outside the top 20 in standings released in early February by NATYCAA. However, beginning with the men's and women's bowling championships in March, the Vikings launched what became a historic spring season for the department.

The men's bowling team finished runner-up in the NJCAA Bowling National Championships to garner 20 cup points as the NJCAA's top non-scholarship program in the final team standings. The program finished with a record-high three NJCAA All-Americans as Aidan McCarthy, Salvatore laVarone and Tyler Drexel placed fifth, sixth and seventh in the All-Events standings, respectively. The women's program also grabbed valuable cup



points, finishing 11th overall in the final national standings, accumulating 10,637 pins.

The women's tennis program performed well at the NJCAA Women's Tennis Championships in Chattanooga, Tenn. Led by Jocelyn Richter, who finished runner-up in the top singles flight, the Vikings secured a fifth-place finish in the overall standings. Richter was named a second-team NJCAA All-American for her individual accomplishments.

The men's and women's track and field programs had one of its best combined seasons since the program returned to the Valley in 2018. The men earned a fourth-place finish behind four national championship performances from Jair Oliva, Samuel Faga, Xavier Hughes and Makai Gordon.

Oliva, who broke a 47-year old school record in the 400m event earlier in the year, won the national title in the 400m event with a final time of 50.58 seconds. Faga earned All-American status after winning the 10,000m event, posting a time of 33:48.97. Hughes grabbed the 400m hurdles title and Gordon soared to new heights as he won the men's high jump with a leap of 2.03m (6 feet, 8 inches). In total, the men's program had six individuals grab NJCAA All-American honors, awarded to individuals who place in the top-three of each individual event.

The women's team earned seventh overall with 39 team points. The Vikings were led by Athena Seebald, Inara Bradford and the 4x100m relay team (Taiwo Omoya, Emily Wilson, Abigale Dunlavey and Bradford). Seebald accumulated 16 team points with runner-run finishes in the women's 10,000m and 3,000m steeplechase events. Bradford grabbed points on the relay team and added eight more points with her second-place finish in the 100m dash.

Following the track and field success, the softball program accomplished its stated goal of winning a Region 3 championship and earned its first NJCAA Championship berth since 2015. In the opening round of the championships, the fifth-ranked Vikings defeated Community College of Rhode Island and advanced in the winners-bracket. The Vikings placed fifth overall (tied with Surry) to close out their historic season. Softball was led by Moira Collins, who garnered several prestigious honors, including NJCAA First Team All-American, NJCAA Region 3 Player of the Year and Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year. She became the first Vikings softball student-athlete to be named a First Team All-American since Tracy Cheesebrough accomplished the feat in 2007. Following the season, Collins was named the SUNY Spring Scholar Athlete of the Year and the Capital District Sports Woman of the Year.

The men's golf team closed out the 2024-25 athletic year with another historic performance, earning a top-five finish in the 2025 NJCAA Men's Golf Championships. The team posted a score of +34, finishing eight strokes behind fellow Region 3 member, Niagara. The Viking were led by All-American Jonathan Reynolds, who carded a +13, good for 11th.

Volleyball Enjoys Historic Season

Vikings Finish Regular Season Undefeated, Capture First-Ever Region 3 Championship and Trip to Nationals

Under the guidance of head coach Therese DeCan, the Vikings produced the best season in program history in 2025—finishing a perfect 25-0 in the regular season, capturing the program's first-ever NJCAA Region 3 Championship and earning its first conference title since 1995.

Hudson Valley's dominant run earned them the No. 1 seed in the Region 3 Tournament and an automatic berth to Nationals. Setter Gabriella Kholstinin broke both the single-season and career assists records, becoming the first player in program history to notch 1,000 career assists during an Oct. 9 victory over Orange County. Kholstinin was named All-Region First Team, All-Conference Player of the Year, and All-Tournament, while Emily Coffey earned Region 3 Defensive Player of the Year and All-Region Third Team honors. Jocelyn Caputo was named Tournament MVP and All-Region

First Team, joined by several other Vikings on All-Conference and All-MVC teams.

Additionally, DeCan was named Region 3 Coach of the Year. The Vikings, ranked No. 7 in

the nation heading into the national tournament in Cedar Rapids, finished their historic season with an overall record of 26-2, including a 3-0 victory over No. 10 Monroe University-Bronx



Community Service Award

The Hudson Valley Community College Athletic Department was honored with the NJCAA Region 3 Community Service Award for the 2024-25 academic year. This marks the eighth time the Vikings have received the award, which recognizes outstanding commitment to community engagement across the region.

Hudson Valley shares the honor with SUNY Broome, which earned its first-ever recognition. Region 3 institutions are eligible for the award by participating in a number of community service events that meet or exceed the number of sports offered at their institution, with a minimum requirement of five events.

The Vikings continued their long-standing tradition of service with a wide variety of initiatives that reached across the Capital Region and beyond. Hudson Valley's student-athletes, coaches, and staff gave back through events including:

- New York State Softball Officials Training School
- 16th Annual Race Away the Sigma 5K

- HVCC Homecoming
- Reverse Rett Syndrome Family Fun Day
- Capital Region Walk for R.I.T.A
- Albany South End Children's Café
- Hi-5 Sports Volunteer Camps/Clinics
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk
- Voorheesville Elementary: Golf Unit
- 7th Annual Clunan King of Deadlift Benefit at ABC
- Annual Pumpkin Palooza
- Regional Food Bank & Mt. Zion Church Winter Clothing Giveaway
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's "Feed the Community Day"
- HVCC Thanksgiving Dinner – Day & Night Events
- Capital Region Food Bank Event hosted by HVCC
- Toys for Tots at Myers Middle School

- Annual Lansingburgh Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting
- NJCAA Coaches vs. Cancer: Suits and Sneakers Week
- Free Baseball Drills & Skills Clinics
- Troy Botanical Gardens Clean-Up Weekend
- Rensselaer County Electronics Recycling Day
- Vietnam & Korean War Memorial Cleaning
- City of Troy's Earth Week Clean-Up
- Mental Health Awareness with Capital Region AFSP
- Heads Up Hope 5K

This award reflects the Vikings' ongoing mission to make a meaningful impact off the field while fostering civic responsibility, leadership, and teamwork. Congratulations to all Hudson Valley student-athletes, coaches, and staff for continuing to lead the way in Region 3!

Vikings Baseball Enjoys Historic Season with Postseason Honors and Record-Breaking Performances

The Hudson Valley Community College Vikings baseball team enjoyed a dominant 2026 regular season, entering the Region 3 Final Four with a 34-3 record and the #2 seed in Region 3. Along the way, the Vikings collected a long list of postseason honors while producing one of the most successful seasons in program history.

Hudson Valley earned nine Mountain Valley Conference honors, sweeping the conference's top awards. Robert Melo was named Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year, while Josh Parrow earned Coach of the Year honors following the Vikings' dominant regular season performance.

The Vikings also placed five players on the All-Conference First Team with Nico DeSanto, Red Maron, Logan Norman, Brendan Shea, and Melo receiving recognition. Nick Commisso and Eliezer Rosario earned All-Conference Second Team honors, giving Hudson Valley nine total conference awards.

The postseason recognition continued with six All-Region selections. Brendan Shea, Robert Melo, Logan Norman, Red Maron and Nico DeSanto earned First Team All-Region honors, while Eliezer Rosario was named to the Second Team.

The accolades were highlighted by several historic individual performances throughout the season. Melo delivered one of the most dominant offensive campaigns in program history, setting a new single-season RBI

record with 70 while also breaking the single-season home run record with 16. DeSanto reached a major career milestone during the season, recording his 100th career hit while serving as one of the Vikings' most consistent offensive contributors.

Defensively, Logan Norman earned All-Glove Team honors after a standout season in the outfield. Norman totaled 57 putouts with a .967 fielding percentage across 37 games while also rewriting the program record book offensively. He became Hudson Valley's all-time career hits leader with 122 hits and set new program records for single-season runs (68), career runs (119), and career doubles (32).

Hudson Valley also earned six selections to the All-East Division Team, with Eliezer Rosario and Brendan Shea representing the

pitching staff, Robert Melo earning honors at first base, Red Maron and Logan Norman selected in the outfield, and Nico DeSanto recognized as the designated hitter.

The Vikings' success was powered by one of the nation's most productive offenses. Hudson Valley finished the regular season batting .403 as a team with a .510 on-base percentage while scoring 413 runs and collecting 403 hits. The Vikings added 141 extra-base hits, including 33 home runs, and stole 161 bases during the regular season.

The historic season continued with a May 14 victory over Herkimer in the opening round of the Region 3 Final Four, the Vikings' first opening round victory in the tournament since 2010.



Vikings Women's Bowling Finishes Third at NJCAA Nationals; Men Place Seventh

The Hudson Valley Community College bowling teams wrapped up an impressive showing at the 2026 NJCAA Bowling National Championships in Lansing, Michigan, highlighted by a third-place national finish for the women's team and a seventh-place finish for the men's team.

The tournament began with women's singles and doubles competition, where the Vikings quickly made their presence known. The doubles team of Jennifer Doty and Laney Brown delivered one of the top performances of the day, finishing third overall with a 1,085 total. Doty led the pair with a 592 series, while Brown added 493 pins.

In singles play, both Vikings finished inside the top 10. Doty rolled a 558 series to place eighth overall, while Brown followed closely behind in 10th place with a 552 series. Additional singles contributions came from Alexis Gaudette (504), Lillie Garneau (465), and Alyssa Gray (452).

Team competition continued over the final two days with five-person team games and Baker format matches determining the overall standings. The Hudson Valley women's team delivered consistent scoring throughout the lineup, led by Laney Brown's 202 high game and 571 series. Jennifer Doty added a 188 high game and 506 series, followed by Alyssa Gray with a 170-503, Alexis Gaudette with a 204-486, and Lillie Garneau with a 190-475.

Following nine Baker games to conclude the tournament, the Vikings secured an impressive third-place finish nationally, finishing behind Iowa Western Community College in second and tournament champion Barton Community College. Hudson Valley was also recognized as the highest-finishing non-scholarship program in the tournament.

Individually, Brown and Doty were named NJCAA All-Americans, finishing third and fourth overall in the national standings.

On the men's side, the Vikings were led by Aidan Rutski, who rolled a 225 high game and 617 series during team play. Salvatore laVarone followed with a 199 high game and 594 series, while Aaron Mantello added a 212 game and 591 series. Matt Sajise contributed a 212 game and 586 series, and Thomas Quinn recorded a 197 high game and 569 series.

After completing three team games and nine Baker games in the final rounds, the Hudson Valley men's team finished seventh overall out of 30 teams, capping a strong national tournament appearance for the Vikings.

With multiple All-American honors, a podium finish for the women's team, and a top-10 finish for the men, Hudson Valley concluded the national championship tournament with one of the most successful showings in program history.



HVCC Finishes With Program-Best Team Results at NJCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships



Hudson Valley Community College turned in one of the strongest performances in program history at the 2026 NJCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships, as the Vikings men's team placed second nationally while the women's team finished fourth overall after three days of competition hosted by Mohawk Valley Community College. The Vikings showcased depth across every discipline, scoring points in sprints, distance races, jumps, throws, relays and multi-events to cap off a historic championship meet.

The women's team totaled 72 points behind a strong effort from sprinter and jumper Inara Bradford, who placed third in the 100 meters, fifth in the 200 meters, and fourth in the long jump. Qimora Johnson added a third-place finish in the 100 meters and seventh in the 200 meters, while Noddy Udeh earned points with an eighth-place finish in the 100 meters and fourth in the long jump.

Alana Dickson placed sixth in the 400 meters and helped lead the women's 4x100 relay team to a second-place national finish. Ava Dwyer contributed key distance points with a fourth-place finish in the 800 meters and a runner-up finish in the 3000-meter steeplechase.

Emily Wilson placed seventh in the 400-meter hurdles while also competing on the fourth-place 4x100 relay and eighth-place 4x800 relay teams. In distance events, Athena Seebald finished fifth in the 10,000 meters and seventh in the steeplechase, while Makayla Kudlack placed fifth in the pole vault.

The women also secured podium finishes in the relays, taking second in the 4x100 relay and third in the 4x400 relay.

On the men's side, the Vikings piled up 109 points led by a dominant championship performance from Makai Gordon. Gordon captured national titles in both the high jump and long jump, clearing 2.03 meters in the high jump and posting a mark of 6.84 meters in the long jump.

Parris Porter finished second nationally in the 800 meters, and also helped the Vikings place second in the 4x800 relay and third in the 4x400 relay.

The sprint group delivered major points throughout the meet. Justice Affinito placed fourth in the 100 meters and third in the 200 meters while running on the third-place 4x100

relay team. Jair Oliva finished sixth in the 200 meters and contributed to the sixth-place 4x400 relay, while Darius Simmons placed seventh in the 200 meters and helped the 4x100 relay team earn bronze.

Nicholas Rushford scored in multiple events, placing fifth in the 400-meter hurdles and fifth in the 3000-meter steeplechase while also running on the third-place 4x100 relay team.

In the distance events, Alan Arnold earned runner-up honors in the 10,000 meters and finished third in the 5,000 meters, while Robert Wiltsie added a 10th-place finish in the 10,000 meters.

The Vikings also received valuable field event points from Tyler O'Donnell, who finished fourth in the pole vault, and Brody Wallas, who placed 10th in the event.

In the decathlon, Vincent Marks secured a third-place overall finish while contributing strong performances throughout the combined events competition.

The national championship meet brought together the top NJCAA Division III programs from across the country, and Hudson Valley's performances reflected both elite talent and exceptional depth as the Vikings closed the season among the nation's best programs on both the men's and women's sides.



What Capital Region Employers Really Need — And What It Means for Hudson Valley

Hudson Valley Community College has been a workforce development leader throughout the Capital Region for decades. The college recently partnered with CCA and ADV Market Research to take a close look at the workforce landscape across the Capital Region. The goal: understand what employers are experiencing on the ground, what skills they're struggling to find, and how Hudson Valley can best serve as a workforce development partner.

What emerged from the research is both a candid snapshot of regional workforce realities and a clear sense of where the college can—and already does—have the greatest impact. This information will be used to help the college better connect and engage with local employers and community partners to enhance existing and create new workforce development initiatives, from full programs to short-term training options, non-credit apprenticeships and more.

Workforce pressure is the new normal

Across 228 employers surveyed, 82 percent say it is somewhat or very challenging to fill key roles today, and 95 percent report experiencing at least one workforce challenge. These aren't temporary growing pains. Employers describe the pressure as steady and structural, embedded in day-to-day operations

rather than tied to any single disruption. Looking ahead, 65 percent anticipate a greater need for upskilling and reskilling their employees over the next three to five years. For the region, that signals something important: workforce development is an ongoing priority, and the demand for skilled talent shows no signs of slowing.

It's not just about technical skills

One of the clearest takeaways from the research is that while technical competence is essential, it's rarely enough on its own. Employers consistently pointed to communication, reliability, adaptability, and a sound work ethic as the qualities that separate adequate employees from exceptional ones. What they're really after is a combination: people who can do the job and function effectively within a professional environment—exactly the kind of preparation Hudson Valley has long been built to provide.

Customization matters

When it comes to training, employers want non-generic solutions built around their realities—their schedules, their equipment and their teams. Sixty-one percent said custom or employer-specific training is the most valuable type for their organization, more so than

industry certifications, apprenticeships, or non-credit courses. As for selecting a provider, industry-experienced instructors are the most important characteristic, cited by 67 percent of employers, followed by the ability to deliver training on-site.

Hudson Valley is a trusted partner—with room to grow

Among employers who have worked with HVCC, satisfaction runs high. More broadly, nearly 80 percent of employers familiar with the institution agree that Hudson Valley produces high-quality graduates. Among employers who haven't yet engaged for workforce training, the top reasons are reliance on internal training and limited familiarity with the full scope of what the college offers.

What does all this mean? The reputation is there. The opportunity lies in deepening the connection. For an institution that has spent decades preparing students to meet the demands of the regional economy, this research affirms what many already know: Hudson Valley plays a vital and growing role in shaping the workforce future of the Capital Region.

To connect with the college to learn about workforce training opportunities, email communityed@hvcc.edu.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S

Bowling: 2024, 2025, 2026
Cross Country: 2024, 2025
Golf: 2025, 2026
Track and Field: 2025, 2026

WOMEN'S

Bowling: 2025
Softball: 2025
Tennis: 2026
Track and Field: 2025, 2026
Volleyball: 2025

REGION 3 CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S

Football: 2024
Track and Field: 2025, 2026

WOMEN'S

Bowling: 2026
Cross Country: 2025
Softball: 2025
Tennis: 2026
Track and Field: 2025, 2026

ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund plays a pivotal role in the Foundation's efforts to support the college. Through donations to the Annual Fund, we are able to support:

- Student Success
- Diversity Efforts
- Academic Programing
- Enrollment
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Community Engagement
- Campus Renovations and Enhancements
- Scholarships
- Student Emergency Fund
- Student Honors Program
- Second Chance Scholarships
- International Initiatives
- Enrollment Initiatives
- And more

WAYS TO GIVE

ONE-TIME GIFT: Your participation matters. Every gift, no matter its size, makes a difference in our students' lives.

RECURRING GIFT: Show your ongoing commitment to the college with a recurring gift, which will allow you to continue to support Hudson Valley automatically with gifts that add up over time.

PLANNED GIFT: A planned gift is an opportunity to leave a legacy with a charitable contribution to the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation. Your gift will create a lasting effect, enabling the college to sustain educational excellence well into the future.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Aside from financial gifts, there are other ways you can show your support for the college:

- Refer a high school student to the college
- Help students and alumni with career networking
- Offer student internship opportunities
- Host an alumni gathering
- Update your contact information

If you are interested in more information about these opportunities, contact foundation@hvcc.edu or (518) 629-8012.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ONCE A VIKING, ALWAYS A VIKING!

Even though you may not be roaming campus anymore, Hudson Valley Community College wants you to stay a part of our community. From celebrating victories to finding resources to propel you towards your goals, we want to help you

succeed and stay connected. To stay involved with college news, events, volunteer opportunities and more, make sure to update your contact information at www.hvcc.edu/alumni and don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, YouTube and LinkedIn.

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

X

x.com/HudsonValleyCC

FACEBOOK (HVCC)

www.facebook.com/HudsonValleyCC

FACEBOOK (ALUMNI ASSOCIATION)

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INSTAGRAM

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