

THE SMART PLACE TO START

# NCCCC

NIAGARA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



“ It is essential that we share  
relentless *focus*  
by providing the highest  
standards of *excellence*  
in teaching and learning  
for our students. ”

## A Message *from the President*

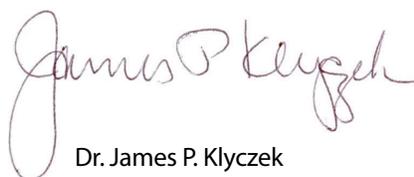
I am pleased to provide you with the Niagara County Community College Annual Report. This three-part report includes the College's annual report, the NCCC Foundation's annual report, and the summer 2016 edition of the NCCC Alumni Association magazine, Connections.

The 2015-2016 Academic Year brought much change to NCCC. The College received its institution-wide accreditation renewal through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This process, which started two years ago, was a tremendous effort and one that showed peer reviewers that we take accreditation standards seriously to meet our mission of student access and success.

Also, it was a pleasure to have NCCC alumna Ellen Latham the co-founder and creator of Orangetheory Fitness, deliver the keynote address at our May Commencement Ceremony held at the Seneca Niagara Events Center. Ellen spoke to our graduates and their families about having “relentless focus” as they move onto their next chapter in their lives.

As educators and stakeholders of NCCC, it is essential that we share that relentless focus by providing the highest standards of excellence in teaching and learning for our students. Please read on to see how NCCC students, faculty and staff have excelled in our community this past year.

Sincerely,



Dr. James P. Klyczek  
President

# Board of Trustees

2015-2016



**James W. Ward**  
Chairperson  
2012-2019



**Henry F. Wojtaszek**  
Vice Chairperson  
2011-2017



**Bradley W. Rowles**  
Secretary  
2015-2021



**Gina I. Virtuoso**  
Financial Secretary  
2009-2016



**Vincent R. Ginestre**  
2011-2018



**William L. Ross**  
2005-2019



**Jason J. Cafarella**  
2016-2020



**Bonnie R. Sloma**  
2008-2022



**Sheila Smith**  
2009-2023



**Christian Clowes**  
Student Trustee  
2015-2016

# NCCC at a glance

## FALL 2015 ADMISSIONS PROFILE

Applications.....	6,025
Accepted Freshmen .....	2,410
Accepted Transfers.....	745
Registered Freshmen .....	1,285
Registered Transfers .....	526

## DEGREES AWARDED IN 2015-2016

Associate in Arts.....	229
Associate in Science .....	282
Associate in Applied Science .....	456
Certificates .....	100

**Total: 1,067**

## FALL 2015 ENROLLMENT

From New York State .....	6,057
From Niagara County.....	4,026
Outside Niagara County .....	2,107
Outside New York State .....	76

## 2015-2016 STUDENT COSTS

Full-time Tuition .....	\$1,980/semester
HOUSING RATE:	
Niagara Falls Campus...	\$2601 - \$3,354/semester
Sanborn Campus.....	\$3,138 - \$4,350 /semester

## ALUMNI

Total Alumni .....	39,500
Alumni in New York State.....	32,285
Alumni in Niagara County .....	17,172

## 2015-2016 EMPLOYEES

Total Employees .....	687
Full-time Faculty, Staff, Administration.....	305
Adjunct Faculty .....	257
Part-time Staff, Administration,	
Non-credit Instructors .....	125

## FACILITIES

Acres .....	287
Buildings. ....	10

## ACCREDITATIONS

### Institutional Accreditation

Middle States Commission  
on Higher Education  
3624 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(267) 284-5000

### Baking and Pastry Arts

American Culinary Federation  
Education Foundation  
180 Center Place Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 824-4468 | (800) 624-9458

### Culinary Arts

American Culinary Federation  
Education Foundation  
180 Center Place Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 824-4468 | (800) 624-9458

### Medical Assistant

Medical Assisting  
Education Review Board  
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1575  
Chicago, IL 60606 (800) 228-2262  
and  
Commission on Accreditation  
of Allied Health Education Programs  
1361 Park Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
(727) 210-2350

### Nursing

Accreditation Commission for  
Education in Nursing  
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850  
Atlanta, GA 30326 (404) 975-5000  
www.nlnac.org

### Physical Therapy Assistant

Commission on Accreditation  
in Physical Therapy Education  
1111 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1488  
(703) 684- 2782 | (800) 999-2782

### Radiologic Technology

Joint Review Committee on Education  
in Radiologic Technology  
20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2850  
Chicago, IL 60606-3182  
(312) 704-5300

### Surgical Technology

Accreditation Review Council  
on Education in Surgical  
Technology and Surgical Assisting  
6 W. Dry Creek Circle, Suite #110  
Littleton, CO 80120 (303) 694-9262  
and  
Commission on Accreditation of Allied  
Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)  
25400 US Hwy 19N, Suite 158  
Clearwater, FL 33763 (727) 210-2350

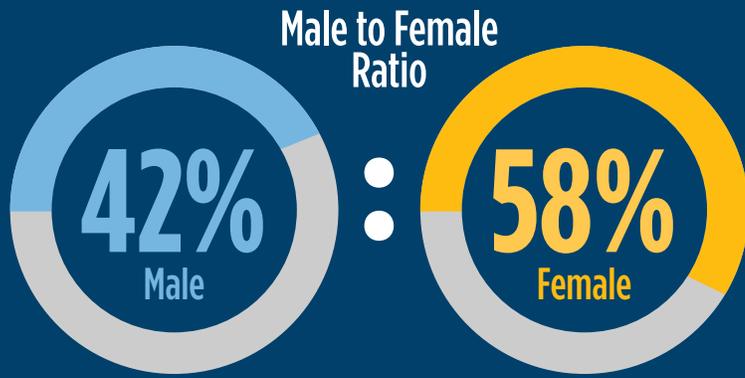
**3111 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
Sanborn, NY 14132**

Ph: (716) 614-6222

Fax: (716) 614-6224

[www.niagaracc.suny.edu](http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu)





Favorite dish at *Savor*  
 Faroe Island  
**Salmon**

Over **\$175,000** in scholarships  
 with almost 200 students being awarded 302 scholarships

**1,000 lbs.**  
 of flour used to build the  
 NCCI Gingerbread House

Annual Fall  
**Breast Cancer Awareness  
 Event and Bonfire**  
 Most Attended Student Life Event

Most Popular Program at NCCC  
**Liberal Arts and Science**  
 (Fall 2015)

 **1,067** Degrees  
 Awarded  
 in 2015-2016

 **20** Average  
 Class Size  
 Students (Fall 2015)



**Bradley W. Rowles**

# Spotlight On

“...an excellent education will *transform* **the lives** of not only those students, but the *community* as a whole.”

### ***Why did you join the Board of Trustees?***

I have spent the past 7 years as a high school teacher and administrator making sure that our high school graduates are meeting the goal of being “College and Career Ready”. In short, this goal is designed for our graduating seniors to find success not only in the college classroom, but also in the workplace. The economic workforce of WNY is changing and we must prepare our young men and women to meet that challenge. I also thought that being a member of the NCCC Board of Trustees was an amazing opportunity to continue that mission, at the postsecondary level.

### ***What is your greatest accomplishment?***

My greatest accomplishment is being a father to my two boys, Liam and Rylan.

### ***What do you feel is NCCC’s greatest selling point, and why?***

NCCC is an unbelievable educational experience at an affordable tuition. As many of us know, college tuition continues to climb at a rate many can no longer afford. The ability for NCCC to provide, and for our students to receive, an excellent education will transform the lives of not only those students, but the community as a whole.

### ***What is your favorite part of commencement, and why?***

Being a witness to the countless smiles and seeing the excitement from not only the graduates who worked so hard, but the many families, friends, and supporters in the audience.

### ***Do you have a hobby?***

I enjoy spending time with my wife and two boys at the countless parks and activities around Niagara County and WNY. We particularly like Olcott Beach’s Carousel Park. Also, I grew up playing hockey in WNY and I still spend time on the ice with my son and the Niagara University’s Jr. Purple Eagles hockey program. Lastly, I am proud to serve and volunteer within my community.

### ***Do you have a pet?***

We have a 9 year old female Chocolate Lab named Savannah and 4 egg laying chickens.

### ***What is your favorite meal at Savor?***

The Cowboy Ribeye is my favorite. This was a daily feature when I was in one day.



## 2015-2016

# SUNY Chancellor's Award Recipients

The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are honors conferred to acknowledge and provide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. The awards provide SUNY-wide recognition in six categories: Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities, Teaching, and Adjunct Teaching. The dedication and high standards put forth by these employees exemplify the very best of NCCC.

### *Excellence in Classified Service*



**Leslie Saunders**  
Senior Typist  
Allied Health  
& Nursing Division

### *Excellence in Adjunct Teaching*



**James R. Goodrich**  
Fine Arts Instructor  
Business, Technology  
& the Arts Division

### *Excellence in Adjunct Teaching*



**Cynthia E. Walker**  
Accounting Instructor  
Business, Technology  
& the Arts Division

## New Faces



**Charlotte Kinney**  
Cleaner  
Operations



**Allison Korta**  
Alumni Associate  
Foundation



**Dominic Martin**  
Instructor  
Winery Operations



**Megan Muth**  
Principal Clerk  
Student Development



**Stefani Orefice**  
Typist  
Admissions



**Jamie Reid**  
Director  
Liberty Partnership



**Diane Roth**  
Assistant Vice President  
Allied Health



**Sherry Sodano**  
Grant Writer  
Grants

## Retirees

**Lisa Babcock**  
Director  
Security

**Beata Coleman**  
Typist  
Science, Health & Mathematics

**Joan Mooney**  
Professor  
Humanities & Social Sciences

**Marguerite Newton**  
Professor  
Arts, Media & Technology

**Randy Schultz**  
Technical Assistant  
Admissions

**Cathy Vanderwalker**  
Assistant Multilith Operator  
Print Shop

**Jon Williams**  
Professor  
Arts, Media & Technology





## STUDENT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 1 Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy**  
 Diane Salt - *Outstanding Phlebotomist Award*  
 Theresa Shapiro - *Outstanding Medical Assistant Award*  
 Nikki Benzo, Kristen Gorman, Joelle Kistner, Alicia Lyman, Jeanine Peck,  
 Jennifer Perry, Margaret Torres, Heather White
- 2** Robert A. Frazier with President James P. Klyczek - *2016 President's Medaillon*



- 3** Erica L. Orf - *Dr. Glen Jones Radiology Award*
- 4** Albanellys Perez with Coach Nate Beutel - *Female Athlete of the Year*
- 5** Niagara Falls Culinary Institute Student Awards Night
- 6** Zachary J. Colgan with President James P. Klyczek - *President's Cup (Athletics)*

- 7 Arts, Media & Technology**  
 Jessica L. Dirks *Excellence in Digital Media and  
 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence*  
 Walter Hendrix Garcia *Excellence in Mechanical Technology*  
 Devon Gildner *Excellence in Animation*  
 Derek Martin *Excellence in Computer Information Systems*  
 Joshua Allen Phelps *Excellence in Animation*  
 Loniejae Morgan Rita Simonton *Excellence in Fine Arts*  
 Zachary J. Sonker *Excellence in Computer Aided Drafting and Design*  
 Mackenzie Jean Wright *Excellence in Digital Media*

- 8** Jonatan Juan Meza - *Ben Raymond Mathematics Award*
- 9** Jessica L. Dirks *Excellence in Digital Media and  
 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence*  
 Nina Mariah Frye *SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence*  
 Derek Martin *Excellence in Computer Information Systems*  
 Jonatan Juan Meza *"Ben" Raymond Mathematics Award*  
 Erica L. Orf *Dr. Glen Jones Radiology Award*  
 Jennifer Perfect *HPE Major of the Month - September*  
 Christian Robert James Wilson *Excellence in Computer Science*



- 10** Student Loniejae Morgan Rita Simonton with Fine Arts Professor Barbara Buckman
- 11** Matt Matre with Coach Matt Clingersmith - *Male Athlete of the Year*

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### Not Pictured

- Mannie J. Abrams - *James Mussel/Kevin Tagg Radiology Award*
- Katelyn Bevilacqua - *C.A.R.E. Award*
- Joseph Crumlish - *Excellence in Theatre Arts*
- Brandon Czerwinski - *SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, Salute*
- Tammy Goffin - *Elena T. Perone Nursing Achievement Award*
- Trevor McCabe - *HPE Major of the Year 2015-2016 Award*
- Courtney Pearson - *Excellence in Music*
- Catherine I. Siemucha - *Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence*
- Jenna Lynn Wax - *Professional Nurses Association of WNY Graduate Award*
- Jacob Samuel Williams - *Excellence in Audio Recording & Production*



# Creative Minds

ENCOURAGING LEARNING  
AT ALL AGES



## NCCC ANIMATION STUDENTS USE LIGHTBOXES

NCCC Animation students learn how to transfer their traditional drawing skills to the computer, using the latest cutting-edge 2D and 3D computer animation software, equipment and hardware. Using equipment such as the lightbox, allows the student to see through multiple frames at a time so that the images created appear to “move” or become “animated”.

The NCCC Associate in Science in Animation was started in 2014 to meet the needs of the rapidly growing field of animation, including the areas of video game design, feature film production, television production, independent short-film production, advertising, as well as visualization in industry, medical fields and law enforcement.

*Student Mariah Camarre shows NCCC Animation Program Coordinator Liz Van Verth her design using a lightbox in the Introduction to 2D Animation class.*

## “SENIORS” TAKE CLASSES AT NCCC

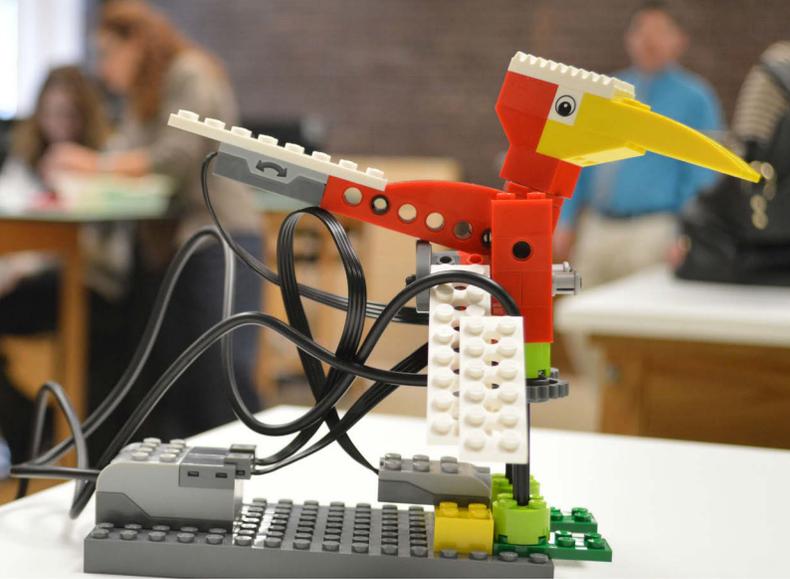
Three residents of Mount View Assisted Living in Lockport enrolled in Intro to Computer Applications at NCCC last Spring. They sat in the front row, with younger students sitting next to them and behind them offering 67-year-old Sandra Leaming, 73-year-old Margaret “Marge” Reinard and 91-year-old Cecile Tegler assistance on the projects when needed.

The owners and staff of Mount View Assisted Living provide residents with opportunities to continue “living” and restarting their lives, which is not your average assisted living facility practice. Shortly after moving in, each resident is asked, “What would you like to do?” These three residents said they would like to go to college to learn about computers.

The computer class is just the first step for the three students. Their goal is to write and eventually publish poetry, short stories and their memoirs.



*Margaret “Marge” Reinard (l) and Cecile Tegler (r) are offered help with a computer assignment by classmates*



The completed LEGO Robotics "Flying Bird" model that will be used in classrooms to help teach Niagara Falls Elementary school students engineering, programming, and mathematics.



Professor Marguerite Newton shows an instructor from the Niagara Falls City School District an important detail using the robotic software.

## LEGO ROBOTICS, MATH & SCIENCE WORKSHOP HELD AT NCCC

In January, NCCC played host to fifteen 4th grade teachers and Math coaches from the Niagara Falls City School District for a workshop focusing on integrating math and science into robotics using Legos. NCCC is the higher education partner in the New York State Education Department Mathematics and Science Partnership Program funding that was awarded to Niagara Falls City School District. The program funds professional development opportunities that strengthen educator effectiveness through a systemic approach to increase content knowledge, instructional practices and training in the math and science subject areas. Faculty members from the NCCC Science, Health and Mathematics division coordinating the workshop were Instructor Jillian Wilsey, Professor Sal Sciandra and Professor Marguerite Newton.



Liberty Partnerships Program Administrator, Michael Radosta, works with students to evaluate a robot's data to identify the sectors that exhibited a magnetic field as part of the STEM Fair.

## NIAGARA STREET STEM FAIR

At the STEM Fair, Liberty Partnerships introduced students to how computer programmers and scientists work together to solve problems, such as exploring Mars with a robot that is over three light-minutes away from Earth. Students were given a real-world problem to program a robot equipped with a sensor to look for ferromagnetic rock (magnets) on a grid. A team of students programmed the robotic movements while another analyzed the data coming back from a gauss meter to identify the coordinates that contained the magnetic rocks.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFERS NON-CREDIT COURSE ON DRONES

Recent changes to FAA regulations have paved the way for expanded commercial use of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS), commonly called drones. NCCC Workforce Development has been offering a non-credit course that provides the information and skills training for businesses and hobbyists to harness the potential of this technology.

The economic impact of sUAS technology is expected to be at least \$82 billion in the next 10 years. Much of this growth comes from the application of drone technology to existing industries, as well as emerging businesses that will be created. "It's the next transformative technology that will literally change how business is done for many industries," according to Phyllis Ulett, NCCC Director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development.

For more information contact the Workforce Development Office, (716) 614-6236.

# Get Involved

ON AND OFF CAMPUS



Pictured left to right: Richard Strong, Maddy Riggs, Claudia Folsom, Kathleen Chiarella, Mackenzie Wright, Paul Ratka, Tara Cutaia, Corey Wright, Tracey Johnson and Matt Davis

## PTK VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On Saturday October 3, 2015, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and their advisors, Paul Ratka and Corey Wright lent their time and energy to help rehab a house in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Niagara Falls. PTK members worked alongside volunteers from Habitat for Humanity. For many of the students, this was their first time volunteering for the organization. "It was a great and fulfilling experience; I would definitely do this again," says Maddy Riggs, a first year nursing student, and member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Mr. Ratka stated it would be great to go back and help again. If you would like to get involved with Habitat for Humanity, you can find them on the web at [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) to find ongoing and upcoming projects near you.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB

NCCC Student David Meidel kayaks down Ellicot Creek with the Entrepreneurship Club to Smoke on the Water Restaurant in North Tonawanda. Kevin & Mark Richert, the executive chefs and co-owners of Smoke on the Water, shared their experience owning and operating a restaurant with the students.

Club Advisors: Prof. Laurie Ryan, Prof. Paul Ratka.



## A CELEBRATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S LEGACY

April 2016 was the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Members of the NCCC Humanities faculty marked the occasion through a series of public performances, readings, a film series and other creative activities. Events included a Sonnet Slam, performances of Shakespeare's tragic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, a Renaissance Festival and a Shakespearean Insult Contest.



Students enjoy 50 ft. Nacho Bar



Caricature Drawings



Chicken Wing Festival

## STUDENT WELCOME WEEK ACTIVITIES

During the week of August 31 – September 4, 2015, Student Life welcomed students back to campus with a week full of free activities. The week included the 50 foot Nacho Bar, a caricature artist, dinners, breakfast; outdoor movie night; magicians, comedians, jugglers and of course, a chicken wing festival!



## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Julia Pitman, Vice President of Student Services, welcomes new students to the Wolf Pack. She also shares important information such as the NCCC Code of Conduct and students' rights and responsibilities with students and parents during New Student Orientation.



Student & Faculty Networking Event during New Student Orientation



# Taking Initiative

## VETERANS SERVICES

For the seventh consecutive year, NCCC has been designated a “Top School” in Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) Guide to Colleges & Universities, which measures best practices in military and veteran education. In addition for the sixth consecutive year, in 2016 NCCC was selected as a Military Friendly Institution which assesses the College’s policies and programs and their responsiveness to student veterans and military spouses.

*With the relocation of the Veterans Services Office in September, a lounge area was created within the office for students to relax, study and socialize. The students pictured (from L to R) are: Brandon Czerwinski and Jessica Dirks.*

## LT. GOVERNOR HOCHUL SPEAKS AT ACE EVENT AT NCCC

New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and Lockport Mayor Anne McCaffrey were the guest speakers at the American Council on Education (ACE) Network for Women in Higher Education event held in March on the Sanborn campus of NCCC. The event was open to the public and many individuals took the opportunity to hear these two leaders present on the topic of “The Importance of Women in Education and Leadership in New York State”.



## NCCC STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATE DROPPED FOR THE PAST 4 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

The percentage of NCCC students who default on their student loans is now 13.9%, a drop of 6.1% over the last 4 years. Nationally, the Department of Education estimates the average community college default rate is 20.6%.

For the past few years, Jim Trimboli, NCCC director of financial aid, has taken proactive steps to address student loan default and help students manage their debt. Some of the techniques used by the NCCC Financial Aid Office are:

- Counseling students who are delinquent in their loan payments about successful loan repayment matters, including the consequences of default.
- The College partners with Consumer Credit Counseling of New York to allow students to take advantage of consumer debt management strategies.
- NCCC became the first State University of New York (SUNY) campus to pilot the new Smart Track Student Engagement Initiative. This initiative allows NCCC to customize student email communications to first-time, freshman student loan borrowers at critical semester intervals.



The result of the above efforts has paid dividends; NCCC student loan default rate dropped dramatically and students are graduating with financial skills that will benefit them throughout their life.



## MAPPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOMS

NCCC partnered for a third year with the WNY Women’s Foundation to provide individualized services to Single Mothers through the MOMS (Mapping Opportunities for Moms) program. Single mothers in the MOMS program receive personalized services from both an achievement coach and career coach. Over the last three years, 29 MOMS received an emergency scholarship to cover costs for unforeseen circumstances and another four received a \$2,500 STEM scholarship for women pursuing a technical degree in a non-traditional field for women.

Sixty-nine single mothers in the MOMS program have now graduated from NCCC and another 120 found new employment that will help them to better support themselves and their families.

The NCCC community has been very supportive of the MOMS program and its presence has increased awareness of the challenges facing single student mothers.

# Affirmation of Accreditation

On June 23, 2016, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed the accreditation of NCCC and affirmed inclusion of the additional location at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. This reaffirmation led by a hard-working Steering Committee, consisted of students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and community members participating in dozens of individual surveys and group meetings assessing accreditation standards to meet our mission of student access and success. Thank you to everyone who participated for a job well done!

## Middle States Steering Committee:

Ms. Deborah Sorrentino, *Co-Chair*  
 Ms. Lori Townsend, *Co-Chair*  
 Ms. Jennifer Allen, *Secretary*  
 Dr. Mary Jane Feldman, *Writer*  
 Ms. Sue Brade  
 Dr. Luba Chliwniak  
 Dr. Matthew Clarcq  
 Ms. Elizabeth Kline  
 Ms. Mary Beth Morse  
 Ms. Julia Pitman  
 Mr. Scott Steiner  
 Ms. Gina I. Virtuoso, *Member of NCCC's Board of Trustees*

### PHOTO CAPTION:

(L to R, Front row) Dr. Mary Jane Feldman, Dr. Luba Chliwniak, Ms. Deborah Sorrentino, Ms. Mary Beth Morse, Ms. Gina I. Virtuoso (L to R, Back row) Dr. Matthew Clarcq, Ms. Julia Pitman, Ms. Lori Townsend, Ms. Elizabeth Kline, Mr. Scott Steiner, Mr. James Ward, *Chair, Board of Trustees*  
 Missing from photo: Ms. Jennifer Allen and Ms. Sue Brade



## “Our Mission of student access and success.”

### Mission and Goals / Integrity

**Co-Chairs:** Barb DeSimone and Bob McKeown  
**Liaison:** Mary Beth Morse  
 Barbara DeSimone  
 Sabrina Kerfoot  
 Gretchen Mittelstaedt  
 Cindy Oberjosh  
 Sal Passanese  
 William Sabio  
 Donna Sandretto

### Planning, Resource Allocation & Institutional Renewal / Institutional Resources

**Chair:** Steve Lamkin  
**Liaison:** Mary Jane Feldman  
 Cathy Barron  
 Debbie Beach  
 Jennifer Crandall  
 Mike Dombrowski  
 Patrice Elnicki  
 Stephanie Menth  
 Mark Mistriner  
 Joe Schmidt  
 Julie Speer

### Leadership and Governance / Administration

**Chair:** Bob Morris  
**Co-Liaisons:** Liz Kline and Gina Virtuoso  
 Theresa DiGregorio  
 Anne Jowsey  
 Nancy Kennedy  
 Kyle LoConti  
 Dennis Michaels  
 Barbara Rowe  
 Kathy Saunders  
 Alissa Shugats-Cummings  
 Lydia Ulatowski

### Student Admissions & Retention / Student Support Services

**Chair:** Allison Armusewicz  
**Liaison:** Julia Pitman  
 Jessica Helmbrecht  
 Colleen Johnson  
 Melissa Lock  
 Cindy O'Keefe  
 Brenda Simonson  
 Chris Tirella  
 Tim Veiders  
 Cheri Yager  
 Jillayne Yost

### Faculty

**Chair:** Dave Milazzo  
**Liaison:** Matt Clarcq  
 Elaine Beaudoin  
 Katherine Johnson  
 Liz Meacham  
 Cindy Meyers  
 Jessica Ramell  
 Sue Siegmans  
 Jessica Thomas  
 Brad Wingert

### Educational Offerings / General Education

**Chair:** Suzanne Buffamanti  
**Liaison:** Sue Brade  
 Marty Drake  
 Marc Pietrzykowski  
 Lindsay Rose  
 Jared Schickling  
 Don Topolski  
 Jeanne Tuohey  
 Mark Voisinnet

### Related Educational Activities

**Co-Chairs:** Bridget Beilein and Ian Stapley  
**Liaison:** Scott Steiner  
 Nicole Bishop  
 Josephine Brevetti-Runkle  
 Jim Carlo  
 Lisa Dubuc  
 Karen Ferington  
 Hal Kingsley  
 Monica Lopoyda  
 Cheri Mavissakalian



*Master Chef Henin of Delaware North discussing finished plates with Chef Gonzalez.*



*NFCI student works on her cake for Specialty Cakes class.*



*Chef Instructor Scott Steiner teaches innovative cooking skills in his Culinary Competition Cooking & Advanced Techniques class.*



*Plated dish from Culinary Competition Cooking & Advanced Techniques class.*





*The "award winning" house-smoked beef brisket sandwich, with vinegar coleslaw and siracha mayo piled high on a Brioche roll served with pomme frites is now on the menu at Savor Restaurant at NFCI. The slider version of this sandwich was voted "Best Sandwich" at the 2016 Taste of Buffalo in July.*



# Develop a taste for the *extraordinary*

NIAGARA FALLS CULINARY INSTITUTE

## SAVOR RESTAURANT WINS BEST SANDWICH AWARD AT TASTE OF BUFFALO 2016

Savor Restaurant at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute's house smoked beef brisket slider was awarded "Best Sandwich" at the 2016 Taste of Buffalo held in downtown Buffalo in July.



Savor was one of fifty local restaurants in the competition. The Taste of Buffalo is the second largest food festival in the United States and it attracts almost 450,000 patrons annually.

If you missed the festival but still want to try this award winning sandwich – not to worry – this tasty sandwich is now on the Savor lunch menu...for a limited time!

## DELAWARE NORTH HOLDS CHEF CERTIFICATION AT NFCI

In March, Delaware North conducted two American Culinary Federation (ACF) chef certifications exams at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. Sixteen of Delaware North's chefs traveled from all over the country to prepare for their exam for Chef de Cuisine (CCS) certification and for the Certified Sous Chef (CSC) exam.

The chefs worked with NFCI faculty and students in preparation for the exam, which included a written test and a three-hour timed practical exam where chefs had to demonstrate advanced cooking techniques to a team of ACF evaluators. Among those present were Delaware North Corporate Chef, Roland Henin CMC, who is one of only 70 certified master chefs in the United States, and Regional Executive Chef Pascal Beaute, who currently works at Kennedy Space Center.

The *power* of  
believing  
"I can"





FITNESS EXPERT,

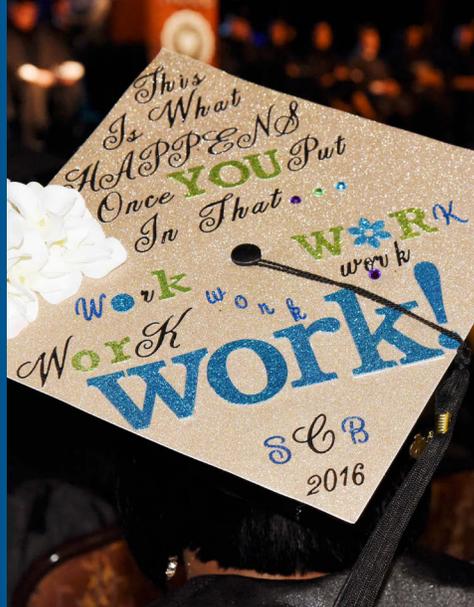
*Ellen Latham '77*

DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS

NCCC alumna Ellen Latham, returned to her hometown, to deliver the keynote address at the College's commencement ceremony. Latham encouraged graduates to "believe in the power of change" and always try to have a "relentless focus" in everything they do.



Latham, a highly trained physiologist with a lifelong passion for health and fitness, is the co-founder and creator of **Orangetheory Fitness**. The Fort Lauderdale-based **Orangetheory Fitness** was recently ranked #399 in *Inc.* magazine's Fastest Growing Private Companies list and #462 in *Entrepreneur's* 2015 Franchise 500 list of the top franchises in the world. Latham is the owner of Ellen's Ultimate Workout gym in Florida and is also the author of *Push: A Guide to Living an All Out Life: The Story of Orangetheory Fitness*.



## 2016 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Over 1,800 guests attended the Niagara County Community College 52nd annual Commencement Ceremony held on Saturday, May 14th at the Seneca Niagara Events Center in Niagara Falls, NY. Ellen Latham '77, co-founder of the Orangetheory Fitness, gave the keynote address.

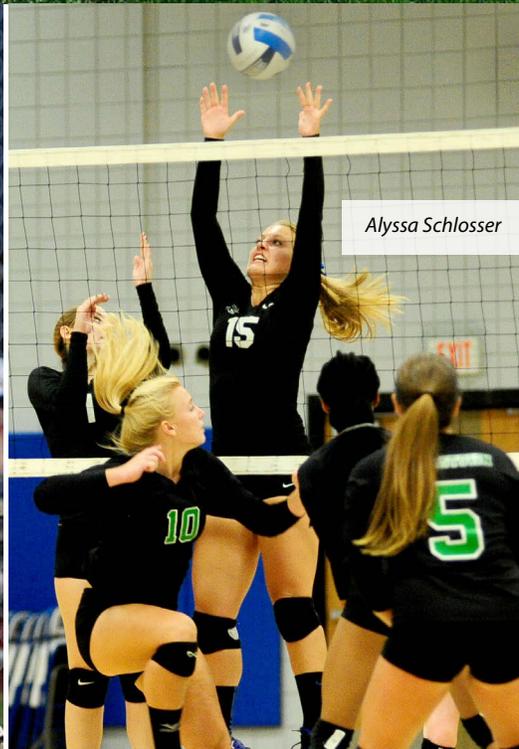
Four hundred and three graduates walked the stage and received diplomas from NCCC President Dr. James P. Klyczek, Trustee Gina I. Virtuoso and Trustee Bonnie R. Sloma. The Master of Ceremonies was Board Chairperson James W. Ward and participating in the program were Board of Trustee members Henry F. Wojtaszek, Bradley W. Rowles, Jason Cafarella, Vincent R. Ginestre, William L. Ross, Sheila Smith and Student Trustee Christian Clowes.

# 45 School Record Wins

For the NCCC Men's Baseball Team



Michael Colosi



Alyssa Schlosser



Kelsi Palistrant



# Highlights

## Men's Baseball

The athletic department at Niagara County Community College had another stellar year, highlighted by the baseball team's fourth-place finish at the NJCAA Div. III World Series. The Thunderwolves, led by Region III Coach of the Year Matt Clingersmith, won a school-record 45 wins and their fourth regional title.

The Thunderwolves were led by the NJCAA All-American duo of shortstop Michael Colosi and pitcher Matt Matre. Colosi was also named a Rawlings Gold Glove winner and the NJCAA Div. III Defensive Player of the Year. Freshman hurler Christian Lindsay-Young was a 23rd round selection of the Oakland Athletics in June's MLB Draft.

## Wrestling

The wrestling squad, under the direction of Region III Coach of the Year Keith Maute, produced a program-best four NJCAA All-Americans – Zach Colgan, Alex Kelly, Anthony Liberatore and Cody McGregor.

## Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team also advanced to the Region III title game for the first time in school history.

## Golf

NCCC, which was led by NJCAA Tournament qualifiers Will Hoffman, Callum Manderson and Stone Skeeter, racked up two tournament victories and finished fourth at the Region III Championships.

## Women's Basketball

Head coach Nate Beutel, the Region III Coach of the Year, led the women's basketball program to a school-record 28 wins and its first-ever appearance in the regional championship game.

## Awards & Recognition

At the year-end athletics banquet, Zach Colgan was honored as the school's President's Cup winner for excellence on the mat and in the classroom, while Albanellys Perez (women's basketball) and Matt Matre (baseball) were named Female and Male Athlete of the Year, respectively.



Zach Colgan



Michael Filocamo

Maurice Channer



Taliyah Hopkins

# Financial Statements

## STATEMENT OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
Student Revenue	\$20,642,144	\$47,226,036
State Aid	\$12,423,839	
Sponsor Contributions	\$8,871,000	
Chargebacks	\$4,983,220	
Other Revenues – Offset	\$305,833	
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel Services	\$24,254,904	\$47,364,355
Equipment	\$1,331,653	
Contractual Expenses	\$6,842,810	
Employee Benefits (A)	\$14,934,988	
 <b>Revenues over/(under) Expenditures (A)</b>		 <b>(\$138,319)</b>
Fund Balance (8/31/14)	\$11,992,946	
Fund Balance (8/31/15)	\$11,854,627	

(A) Does not include the expense associated with implementation of SGAS 45 regarding the accounting for other post-employment benefits of \$5,026,717 for fiscal year 2014-15 or the income associated with the implementation of SGAS 68 and 71 regarding the accounting for pension plans of \$2,313,982 which on a net basis served to reduce the fund balance on August 31, 2015 to a deficit of \$36,604,648.

The Grants Office managed over \$2.1 million in grant funds during the most recently completed fiscal year which included \$1,711,364 in new funds. Twenty-eight grant applications totaling \$2.85 million in funding requests were made in 2015-16.

<b>FUNDER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	
Dollar General Foundation	\$4,000	\$1,711,364
NYS Department of Labor –		
Consolidated Funding: Unemployed Worker Training	\$57,119	
NYSED Coordinated Collection Development Aid	\$8,447	
NYSED Liberty Partnership Program	\$54,067	
NYSED Math Science Partnership	\$10,000	
NYSED Perkins Title IV Career and Technical Education Act	\$417,949	
Oishei Foundation	\$500,000	
SUNY Educational Opportunity Program	\$129,500	
SUNY Graduation, Achievement, and Placement Program	\$44,010	
SUNY High Needs Program	\$67,653	
SUNY Small Business Development Center (SBDC)	\$337,335	
SUNY Workforce Development Training Grants	\$81,284	

28  
OLD FALLS  
STREET



Niagara County Community College was established as the twenty-fifth State University of New York-chartered two-year college on November 8, 1962.



Niagara County  
Community College  
2012

*NCCC President James P. Klyczek outside Niagara Falls Culinary Institute with SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher*

**NCCC is sponsored by the County of Niagara, New York.**

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# NCCC FOUNDATION Annual Report

“**We make a living**  
by what we get;  
**we make a** *life*  
by what we *give.*”  
- Winston Churchill

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the NCCC Foundation and Alumni Association accomplished fundraising and outreach by hosting events, raising funds for the new Learning Commons and scholarships, and connecting with many alumni and community partners. Our success would not be possible without our many generous donors, volunteers, student workers, and interns. Your continuous support is gratefully appreciated.

If you are already involved, whether it is through attending our Annual Scholarship Gala in October, the 5K Race/Walk in May, being a Presidential Partner, establishing a scholarship, donating to the College and Foundation, or volunteering for our events, we thank you for your continuous support! The Foundation and Alumni Office operate by Winston Churchill's motto, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." We hope you would like to share your time, talents, and treasures for the benefit of the next generation.



Entry Perspective



Deb Brewer, Foundation Director (middle), and President Klyczek (right) spoke about NCCC's Learning Commons and Scholarship Gala on the local TV show Target Success hosted by Jerry Wolfgang, Foundation Chairperson (left).



First Floor Atrium

# Learning Commons

## THE TRANSITION FROM A 'TRADITIONAL LIBRARY' TO A LEARNING COMMONS

In 2015, Senator Robert Ortt announced that \$12.5 million had been secured in the 2015-16 state budget to create the Learning Commons at Niagara County Community College. Ortt said "NCCC is an economic engine in Niagara County and an academic model for the community college system. They provide quality, affordable education and career training options to local residents looking for advancement. This capital funding will enhance the student experience at NCCC and ensure that we continue to attract high quality students locally and across the state." Through the generosity of the NCCC Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, Faculty, Administrators, The Statler Foundation, and Community Partners, the goal is within reach.

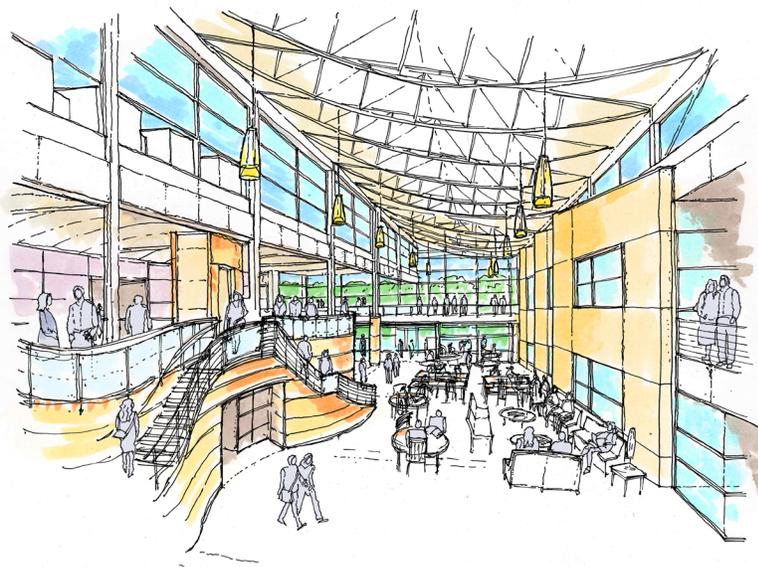
The Learning Commons will provide students with opportunities for academic enrichment, access to self-directed learning options, multimedia workstations, computers, print kiosks, wireless access, group meeting areas, study areas, and academic tutoring. Faculty will be able to direct students to one location to receive a multitude of services and to access enrichment activities. The space will house an additional retention coordinator, instructional designer, academic technology specialist, and academic and career coaches who will work with students to facilitate their path to success.

## NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$500,000 FROM THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

A grant totaling \$500,000 over five years from The John R. Oishei Foundation will help NCCC complete improvements to the College's current library facility, transforming it into a vibrant and welcoming Learning Commons space. Oishei Foundation Senior Vice President of Programs, Blythe Merrill, added, "This project will not only transform the campus physically, but will also transform how students receive critically needed support services. This one-stop model is designed to help increase student success measures, including retention and graduation rates." NCCC President James P. Klyczek said, "I want to thank The John R. Oishei Foundation for its investment in the students and this project at Niagara County Community College.

In addition, the new first floor of the Learning Commons will serve several purposes including the social 'living room' of the campus with an area for students to enjoy coffee and soft seating in a Tim Hortons, an E-Commons area, individual and small group study areas, secure access to the Child Development Center, an expanded faculty development resource center, and the College's art gallery.

NCCC President James P. Klyczek said, "The transition from a 'traditional Library' to a Learning Commons will allow the College to better meet our students' needs. Technology has taken on greater importance today, and libraries must have a different approach to help the 21st century student. The Learning Commons reflects a change in how libraries are seen and used and in how students are best engaged not only by educators, but their peers as well."



JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION

*If you are interested in becoming more involved with the Foundation and how you can leave a legacy, or for a complete scope of the Capital Campaign Learning Commons project, naming opportunities, or ways to contribute, please contact Foundation Director, Deb Brewer at 716-614-5911 or at [dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu).*



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Save the Date  
2016 Scholarship Gala  
October 15, 2016



# A Remarkable EVENT

## NCCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP GALA

On Saturday, October 17, 2015, the NCCC Foundation held its Annual Scholarship Gala. Nearly 400 guests gathered at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute for gourmet food stations that featured new twists on American classics prepared by NCCC Culinary and Baking & Pastry Arts students under the guidance of Chef Mark Mistriner, Business and Hospitality Division Chair, and their culinary instructors. A remarkable silent auction, basket raffle and drawings were held throughout the evening. Thank you to co-chairs David Karwick and James Mezhir who raised almost \$140,000 for the NCCC Foundation and scholarships.

The success of the Gala is largely due to the numerous volunteers, donors and sponsors. We appreciate your continued support.

**Almost \$140,000** was raised for the  
NCCC Foundation and scholarships.

*Six new Distinguished Student Scholarship recipients from Niagara County were recognized. These students exemplify superior academics, community service and commitment to Niagara County. They are Natalie Hiltz, Andrew Teixeira, Natalie Pilski, Christian Milleville, Steven Sass, and Emily Siemucha.*



# Endowed Scholarships



## The John R. LaPorta *Memorial Scholarship*

### NEWLY ESTABLISHED SCHOLARSHIP

The John R. LaPorta Memorial Scholarship was established in 2015 in memory of John by his parents, Angelo and Joan LaPorta, and his sister, Paulette Ziff. John was a lifelong resident of North Tonawanda who graduated from NCCC in 2007. John's love for music encompassed playing the keyboard and drums, writing songs, and performing with friends. His family established this scholarship in John's memory to help student's achieve their goals through education, and, like John, their love of music.

For more information on this scholarship and the others that are available, please visit: [www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships/](http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships/)



### CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Since 1987 donors have generously funded scholarships for NCCC students. Create a lasting legacy by establishing a scholarship. Endowments provide donors with the capability of "Touching Lives & Building Futures" for students, their families and the community. Scholarships are often named to honor the memory of loved ones. Others are named in tribute to alumni, board members, faculty, retirees, organizations, and companies.

For more information, please contact:

#### **Deb Brewer**

NCCC Foundation Director

(716) 614-5911

[dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:dbrewer@niagaracc.suny.edu)

For details on all scholarship opportunities, please visit [www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships/?section=admissions](http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/scholarships/?section=admissions)

# NCCC Foundation Board

## COMMITTED TO NCCC AND ITS STUDENTS SINCE 1987

The men and women who serve on the Board share their time, talents and treasures to benefit not only today's students, but future generations. "Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in social equality. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." Author Unknown



Front Row: Maria Crea MD, David Karwick, David Bonnevie DDS, Jerry Wolfgang, Donna Bryk, and Christina Cerrone Pecoraro  
 Second Row: Jane Haenle, Vincent (Jimmy) Cancemi, Jack Kopczynski, Michael Hooper, Robert MacDonald, Ann Briody Petock, Lester Robinson III, Gina Virtuoso, David DiCamillo, Steven Sinclair, William Bevacqua, Fred Rickan, Jayne Schaber, Marc O'Hearn, and William Ross (not all Foundation Board Members pictured)

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# Thank you.

## NCCC FOUNDATION DONORS

We thank you all for your generosity. We have attempted to recognize each gift from June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016 and regret any inadvertent omissions. Please contact the NCCC Foundation at (716) 614-5910 should you notice a discrepancy.

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this *Holiday Season!*  
Weekends November 19<sup>th</sup> – December 23<sup>rd</sup>



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Visitors, young and old will marvel at the largest, life size gingerbread village in Western New York made with 5,000 pounds of gingerbread and 2,000 pounds of icing! Other activities will include:

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**NCCC ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION**  
**FALL 2016**



**Lester Robinson**



**Laura Schuler**



**Melanie Tisdale**

**A Magazine for Niagara County Community College Alumni**

**INSIDE: Melanie Tisdale '73 | Lester Robinson III '87 | Laura Schuler '04**



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# INFLUENTIAL ALUMNI

## Ellen Latham '77

Growing up on Ontario Street in Niagara Falls, Ellen Latham always had a future connection to NCCC. Her father, Arthur Calandrelli, was once a popular gym teacher in the city. He believed in the importance of education, physical fitness, and giving back to your community which he then passed down to Ellen.

"NCCC offered courses that prepared me for what I wanted to specialize in with my future." After graduating from NCCC in 1977 with an Associate's Degree in Arts and Science, Ellen went on to earn her Bachelor's in Physical Education and her Master's in Exercise Science from SUNY at Buffalo. "NCCC presented me an intimate environment that allowed me to successfully focus and achieve."



And achieve she did. Now 60-years old, Ellen is the creator and owner of Orangetheory Fitness. What makes this fitness program different though is that all of your 60-minute workouts are tracked wearing a wristband that monitors the pace and color of your workout effort for all to see on an overhead board. The classes are designed for every level of fitness with a personal trainer. Ellen pledges to help customers lose between 500 and 1,000 calories during each hour-long session. For 24-36 hours after your workout, Ellen says you'll continue to burn extra calories.

Following in her father's beliefs, Ellen is on the verge of opening her third studio in Buffalo. She is determined to leave her mark on this community. By the end of 2016, she plans to have opened over 1,000 boutique franchises throughout the country. Through all of this though, she remembers to stay humble and think of her father. "He taught me how to focus on what you have, not what you don't have and reach for the stars." NCCC honored her this May as the 2016 Keynote Commencement Speaker where she told the graduates to have "relentless focus" and "believe in yourself" just as she did.

## Ron Winkley '78

Councilman, trustee, public servant, educator, Chief of Police, and NCCC Foundation chair are just some of the titles that '78 Criminal Justice alum Ron Winkley has been given. Adding to that list is 2016 recipient of the Town of Lewiston Citizen of the Year award. This is the second time Ron has received the award.

Ron first began his career in Criminal Justice by working summers at the Niagara County Jail. He then earned his Associates at NCCC followed by his Bachelors at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Masters from Niagara University. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy. In 1981, Ron joined the then-Lewiston Village Police Department where he worked as Chief of Police for 26 years until his retirement in 2007.



Throughout his time on the force, Ron spent 18 years teaching D.A.R.E, was instrumental in the consolidation of the Village and Town of Lewiston police departments, and served as a liaison for the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy. Upon retiring from the police force in 2007, Ron became a full-time professor at Niagara University, served as a Village of Lewiston trustee, was a member of the Town of Lewiston Council in 2010, and Chair of NCCC's Foundation from 2011-2013. He is currently a Foundation Board member at NCCC and has been honored as a Distinguished Alumni. Congratulations Ron!

# 30 UNDER THIRTY



## Denyel (Koury) Beiter '07

Denyel graduated from NCCC with her degree in Communications & Media Art. She then received her Bachelor's in Communication from SUNY Geneseo. For more than four years, Denyel worked as the Alumni Development Specialist at Niagara County Community College's Foundation Office. She is now a Staff Assistant for the University at Buffalo's Center for Excellence in Writing. NCCC Foundation Director Deb Brewer said that she couldn't be more proud of Denyel on her accomplishments. Way to go Denyel!



## Michael Henderson '11

Graduated from Niagara County Community College with his degree in Computer Aided Drafting & Design. He has been the Account Executive at BlueCross and BlueShield of Western New York since 2012. Before that, he was the Sales Director at Martin's Fantasy Island. Congratulations Michael!

## Lana Perlman '06

Received her Liberal Arts degree from Niagara County Community College before working as the Director of Visitor Services at Niagara Tourism & Convention Corp. There she is responsible for enhancing the visitor experience of Niagara. Previously, she worked as the Director of Community Education at NCCC. Keep making Niagara stronger Lana!

## Nikole Wynn '07

After earning her degree from Niagara County Community College in Humanities & Social Science, Wynn became Owner and Attorney of the Law Office of Nikole M. Wynn. She also works as a Staff Attorney for the Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. Well done Nikole!

## CLASS NOTES:

### Jill Palermo '95

Jill Palermo majored in Liberal Arts at Niagara County Community College before attending Buffalo State College for Criminal Justice. In 2001, she graduated from the University at Buffalo with her Master's Degree in Library Science. For over 25 years, Jill has worked for the Lewiston Public Library and is currently the Director. She is an advocate for libraries as a necessity to the community and supportive of the new Learning Commons at NCCC.

### Cristina Virtuoso '03

A graduate of Niagara County Community College in 2003, Cristina continued on to receive both her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Nursing from the University at Buffalo. She recently joined the clinical staff at Niagara Falls Memorial's Summit Family Health Center and Lewiston Primary Care Center.

### Laura Cherry '88

Laura Cherry graduated from Niagara County Community College in '88 with her Associate's Degree in Nursing. She then attended Liberty University for her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and is currently pursuing her Master's in Nursing Education. She was named Director of Quality Management at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

### Phil Tripi '92

Criminal Justice graduate Phil Tripi won his second gold at the World Police and Fire Games in wrestling. In the 2011 games, he won a gold medal in the bench press. The 46-year-old is currently a patrolman for the Niagara Falls Police Department and spends his free time coaching his sons on their high school wrestling team.

**DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL UPDATES  
WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR CLASSMATES?**

Simply fill out our easy form online at [http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/alumni/alumni\\_info.php](http://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/alumni/alumni_info.php) and you may be featured in the Class Notes section of our "Connections" magazine.



# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## Melanie Tisdale '73

“There are no books on the basics to prepare for this trip!” Melanie exclaimed. I laughed, but began to wonder the same thing as to what exactly I would pack if I were sailing from Youngstown to the Bahamas over the next few months like alumna Melanie Tisdale is planning to do with her husband. “We don’t have a plan as to how long we’re going to be gone for. It’s for as long as we like.”

With no timeframe, no exact plan, and no idea of what one will actually need, it’s a good thing that sailing has been a big part of Melanie’s life since her early 20’s. She was the first female Commodore of the Youngstown Yacht Club and over the past 30-years has raced with her husband in places such as San Diego, Chicago, and Lake Erie. She has been fortunate enough to have experience cruising for several weeks at a time, but never for a few months. She told me, “I’m taking this trip because ten years from now I don’t want to look back and regret not doing all of this.”

## “I just hope that I can pass on some of the things that are meaningful in life and help apply them to NCCC.”

Her lifelong excursion began when she was 8-years old moving to the Niagara area from England. She chose to attend NCCC with an idea of what she wanted to do, but not being entirely sure. During that time, NCCC was in the process of being built. “It looked like a really nice campus and I knew that my credits could always transfer.”

In 1973, Melanie received her Associate’s Degree in Legal Secretarial Science from NCCC. “I was always leaning towards law, but this program helped reassure me of what I was looking to do.” Throughout her time here, she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, wrote for the Spirit Newspaper, and participated in theater. “Sometimes people think that you’re not getting the same level of education if you were at a four-year school. You’re luckier at a two-year school because you actually get to connect with your professors in a way that you don’t at a larger school and we’ve had some really great professors.”

In an effort to find a way to give back to NCCC, Melanie began working there. For over ten years, she was a Technical Assistant in the Learning Skills Center testing incoming students on reading, writing, and math for their basic skills placement. While working there, she put herself through her Bachelor’s Degree graduating from Buffalo State College. Afterwards, she continued on to Law School and graduated in 1988.

Over the next 25-years, she pursued her dream of opening her own practice of Tisdale Coykendall. She was also a member of the Division of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Chair of the NCCC Scholarship Committee, and currently serves on the Foundation Board of Directors at NCCC. In her spare time, amongst her passion for sailing, she enjoys photography and graphic design work.

Recently, she has taken a leave of absence to set sail to the Bahamas, but has never forgotten the impact that NCCC has played in her life. When asked why she thinks it is important to give back, she responded, “I just hope that I can pass on some of the things that are meaningful in life and help apply them to NCCC. When I work on things such as the Foundation Scholarship Committee it feels good because it fulfills a real need of the students and allows me to be personally involved instead of just monetarily. NCCC is a Smart Place to Start and really allows you the opportunity to set a goal and achieve it.”

# 2016 ANNUAL FUND

A gift to the Foundation at NCCC is a long-term investment in Our Community.



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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Lester Robinson III '87



At some point in our lives, either ourselves or someone we know may need additional care. Nursing home costs are projected to rise to more than \$175,000 per year on average by 2021. Les Robinson, '87 NCCC Business Program graduate, asks the question, what are your financial plans?

Recently, Les has authored a new chapter to his guidebook titled, "The Essentials for Long Term Care Planning." Have you saved the hundreds of thousands it may require for professional care over multiple years; or would a long term care insurance policy make more sense for you? This guidebook challenges us to answer these key questions and more about the odds of needing care and the risks of not having a long term care plan.

Les is a Senior Long Term Care Planner, verified Agent, New York State Partnership Certified and Special Care Planner with over 25 years of experience in the industry. Since 2008, he has been on the NCCC Foundation Board and Alumni Association Committee. The guidebook can be provided to anyone via email through [les.robinson@acsiapartners.net](mailto:les.robinson@acsiapartners.net).

## Laura Schuler '04

"I don't see why anyone wouldn't want to go to NCCC," Laura says as we begin our interview. She is beaming with pride as she explains why giving back to NCCC is so important to her. "I love being able to say that I came back here, that I'm alumni, I volunteer, and that I'm able to teach." Laura Schuler, '04 Economic Crime Investigation alumna, has truly come full circle here.

After attending Newfane High School, Laura was fortunate enough to receive a Distinguished Student Scholarship from NCCC. This scholarship is the most prestigious award given to high school seniors in Niagara County offering two years of tuition-free education at NCCC for students who exemplify superior academics, community service, and commitment to the county. "It was nice that someone recognized my hard work and it made me feel like my time here really meant something." Laura now works as a police officer for the Lockport Police Department after graduating from Hilbert College with her Bachelor's in Economic Crime Investigation. She also earned her Master's in Criminal Justice Administration from Niagara University.

While continuing her work as an officer, Laura has come back to NCCC as an adjunct faculty to help students forge their own paths and embrace all that NCCC has to offer. She considers NCCC a really great place to start for everyone who attends. "Students are provided with a range of options from diverse electives to faculty and staff who have real world experiences to share." She loves when students outside of the program take her course as an elective because she believes it helps them expand their overall learning experience and maybe even consider a different career path.

The feeling of being able to help students is what continues to drive Laura forward. "Being a teacher is one of my favorite aspects of my career," she says. "I love being able to come here and watch the 'ah ha' moment that students get when something clicks with them; that is the best feeling in the world."



***Do you have a success story which you would like featured in your NCCC Alumni magazine? If so, share your updates with us by emailing [alumni@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:alumni@niagaracc.suny.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!***



▲ NCCC's first graduating class of 1965 celebrated their 50th reunion in August 2015 at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute. A large breakfast buffet was served and guests had the chance to tour the facilities, watch chef Kara Weber bake a chocolate ganache cake, and later taste test it. Classmates were happy to reunite and bond over their time at Nabisco Tech.



▲ Thank you to our wonderful Presenting Sponsor for the second year in a row for their continued support on NCCC's annual 2016 Alumni 5k Race/Walk. The photo features Fred, Grant, Brent, and Eric Rickan.



▲ The 2016 5K participants are taking off right at the start of the scenic Sanborn campus. To the right, Katie and Caroline Wojtaszek along with Jim Pedlow give this year's race a thumbs up!

Interested in reconnecting with NCCC? Join the NCCC Alumni Association! Find out more information by emailing [alumni@niagaracc.suny.edu](mailto:alumni@niagaracc.suny.edu). You can also like us on Facebook at [fb.com/NCCCalumniAssociation](https://fb.com/NCCCalumniAssociation) or follow us on Twitter @NCCCalumni.



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