



**SUNY ORANGE
FOUNDATION**
& ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
Empowering Dreams Together



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



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Who is the SUNY Orange Foundation?

This Report to the Community should start and end with our unwavering gratitude to the many alumni, donors, elected officials, county colleagues, faculty and friends who made all of these accomplishments possible.

Everything you will read in the upcoming pages is a testament to our community's belief in and support of SUNY Orange, the SUNY Orange Foundation and SUNY Orange students. None of this happens without all of you.

The SUNY Orange Foundation has been around since 1988 and, during that time, it has grown into a \$20M organization. While its fundamental mission of raising and distributing funds, building a strong alumni network, and fostering lasting ties to our community to expand opportunities and support the success of our students hasn't changed much, the organization itself continues to evolve and change with the times. The COVID pandemic changed the way our students learn and the way in which they need us to support them and the SUNY Orange Foundation rose to the challenge. We purchased new Chromebooks so students could attend class from home, helped individual students financially through our Grant in Aid program, purchased gift cards so students could put gas in their cars, and worked with Uber so that students still had a way to get to class when transportation became a problem. Our fundamental goal has been and always will be to keep our students in school and on track to fulfill their dreams.



We'll say it again...none of this happens without your trust, your faith and your support. We are deeply grateful for the many individuals who come to SUNY Orange to receive the education they want and deserve. You are helping to get more nurses into our county healthcare facilities. You are helping to educate future engineers, architects, police officers, cyber security technicians, physical therapy assistants, dental hygienists, occupational therapy assistants, teachers, and counselors who will work, live and raise families right here in Orange County.

You are changing lives. This report is a tribute to you.

With all of our gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Ansbro".

Dawn Ansbro
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Gomez".

Christopher Gomez
Chairman of the Board

Scholarships Positively Impacting the Community



“I want to inspire alumni to support SUNY Orange scholarships because a relatively small amount of money can make the difference between success and failure to a new student’s life. For me, the cost of getting a college degree was an obstacle, as it was (and is) for a lot of students, but it was truly the best investment I made in my own future. I want SUNY Orange to continue to give students the foothold they need to succeed. Scholarships can do that. Please be as generous as you can and pay it forward.” — *Joe Como, Class of ‘75*



“I can’t think of a better way to honor a loved one and give back to this outstanding college for the difference it has made in my life than to make a difference in someone else’s life through a SUNY Orange scholarship.”

— *Fred Schwinger, Class of ‘71*





“Aside from the monetary value that this scholarship has provided, it has also given me relief from the anxiety that comes with trying to figure out how school costs are going to be covered. With this scholarship, I can focus the rest of my finances on childcare for my infant son. It’s a beautiful thing that has happened here. I am over-the-moon with gratitude to the Foundation for this gift. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much!” — *Cynthia Z., Iris Stedener Memorial Scholarship*

I am thrilled to be a recipient of this Scholarship and I am extremely thankful for this financial support that will help my future. Not only has this scholarship lightened my financial burden, it’s also inspired me to give back to my community one day in my future. I want to be able to help others like me who need financial assistance in making their dreams come true.” — *Enrique C., David Kotler Memorial Scholarship*



Fighting to make sure everyone has access to quality education

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The SUNY Orange Student Emergency Fund helps SUNY Orange students whose lives have been disrupted by unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable emergency expenses.

Over **200** students assisted

Danielle was a part-time pre-Nursing student in the process of separating from her husband when she fell behind on her bills. She was already taking care of her two children and gained custody of her sister when her mother passed away in 2019. Danielle needed help catching up and the Student Emergency Fund was able to help her and her family get back on track.

Over **\$250,000** awarded since 2018

The SUNY Orange Foundation is honored to have **received annual grants of \$10,000** from the Dyson Foundation for four years in a row to help students who are struggling financially with tuition, books or child care. We appreciate their partnership and our students greatly appreciate their support.



GRANT IN AID

In addition to scholarships, the SUNY Orange Foundation provides financial assistance to students who need help with tuition and books through its Grant in Aid program.

Over **\$60,000** in assistance awarded since 2018

Kathryn is a student in the SUNY Orange Nursing Program who has been supporting herself and her family financially since she was a teenager. She was in her last year in the program and needed some help with tuition costs. Through the help of our generous donors, the Foundation was able to give Kathryn what she needed to finish her degree.

“Thank you so much for your generous donations to SUNY Orange. These funds allow students like myself to work less throughout the semester, and spend more time focusing on our degree. I am so grateful for this gift so that I can take the next step in finishing my last year of nursing school.” — Kathryn

Keith came to SUNY Orange after high school and didn't finish due to some difficulties at home. He is now married and wants to start a family, so he returned to SUNY Orange to finish his degree—both to expand his job options and to provide his future children with an example of why they should never give up. Keith was ineligible for financial aid and a faculty member mentioned the SUNY Orange Foundation Grant in Aid program.

“After a difficult time right after high school, I never completed my degree and thought that door was shut to me forever. But now, thanks to the generous support from the SUNY Orange Foundation, I have a shot at going back to school and finally getting my degree!” — Keith



Thinking Outside the Box to Better Serve the Community



\$50,000 to hire consultants to research and develop the new Orange County FoodTEC Program, and food and hospitality workforce development opportunity on the Newburgh campus.

\$25,000 to support the new SUNY Orange Cares Program which combines the financial support of our existing Student Emergency Fund with the ability to address food insecurity through gift cards and on-campus meal vouchers, on-campus access to support services from our community partners, financial literacy training and career services support provided by SUNY Orange alumni. This new wraparound program provides a single place for students to access the help they need to stay in school, finish their degree, get a better job and become more financially secure.



\$11,000 to fund the annual Summer Equal Opportunity Program which provides access, academic support and financial aid to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who show promise for succeeding in college but who may not have otherwise attended.

\$15,000 provided through a generous donor to purchase new Chromebooks for the SUNY Orange Technology Loan Program when all classes went virtual.





\$10,000 to support campus visits for prospective students, including transportation, food and takeaways to encourage future communication.

\$10,000 annually to help provide funding for Student Peer Advisors who work in close cooperation with staff of the Academic Advising Office to provide a high level of service to SUNY Orange students by helping them connect to and utilize campus resources.



\$10,000 annually to support the Student Ambassador Program which employs current students to work with prospective students and their families, sharing valuable insight and information regarding all that happens at SUNY Orange.



The SUNY Orange Foundation provides an average of **\$1.2M** in support to SUNY Orange annually.

Healthcare Education: Healing Our Community Since 1952

RISING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR NURSING STUDENTS

- In 1952, Orange County Community College became a leader in the exciting evolution of nursing. The College was chosen to open the first associate degree program in nursing education in the United States.
- Today, this innovative program features the latest in simulation technology which provides SUNY Orange students with the scientific knowledge and resources needed to examine and address health and illness in today's healthcare environment.



HOW SUNY ORANGE STUDENTS RESPONDED DURING COVID

- SUNY Orange Nursing 2 students gained valuable experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were there as Orange County teamed with Montefiore St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital to facilitate a vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) at Kaplan Hall on the College's Newburgh campus.
- More than **1,100 vaccines were distributed throughout the day**, and SUNY Orange students were in the middle of the action as they administered vaccines while working with Montefiore staff to process patient paperwork and keep folks moving through the process.
- In the 2022 Nursing School Almanac, the SUNY Orange Nursing Programs on both campuses were ranked in the top twenty of the **"Best Associate's Degrees in Nursing in New York"**. This ranking is based on the stellar performance of our students on their NCLEX-RN exams, with a 93.4% first time pass rate on the Newburgh campus and 92.4% first-time pass rate on the Middletown campus.

The SUNY Orange Foundation raised \$65,000 in 2020 to help purchase a new Human Patient Simulator for the Nursing Department. Through special event income, grants and the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has contributed to SUNY Orange's legacy of excellence in healthcare education.

Paving the Way for the Future of Healthcare in Orange County



“Writing this letter for this scholarship at SUNY Orange became difficult because I had to capture every emotion I was and am still experiencing. I am a 19-year-old senior at Middletown High School and more than excited to begin my college career this fall semester. Your donation is not just financial help but an opportunity to discover my full potential and grow as a scholar and professional. I feel confident that I am one step closer to my dream. Thank you so much.” — *Stiven M., Medical Laboratory Technician Program*



“Thank you, donor, your contributions mean the absolute world to me. Not only do I thank you, but my family thanks you as well for trusting me with a beautiful gift, a stepping stone, a way to achieve my dream of becoming a registered nurse. I was always so scared to enter leadership roles. After my first semester of Nursing, I realized that I was scared of nothing, because nothing could get in the way of what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. For someone like you to also trust me and see that in me, is extremely meaningful. I cannot thank you enough.” — *Emilie L., Nursing Program*



“Coming to America was a difficult transition in 2010. After suffering an earthquake in Haiti, I decided to take a different path in life where I must succeed in helping my family and others. This scholarship will help me pay for my tuition, books, and lab equipment. Also, I will be able to focus on my education and put all effort into doing well in my classes. By receiving this scholarship, I am reminded there is help in this world — we just have to ask for it. Thank you again for your generosity and for allowing me to make my goals and dreams a reality.” — *Ishmael M., Radiological Technician Program*



“It is an honor to be awarded this scholarship for the Fall 2022 semester. I enjoy my studies as well as volunteering at my local library whenever I can. Aside from school, I also work full time as a medical scribe. I love my job because of how exposed I am to the medical field and this allows me to further understand the role of the nurses in my unit as well as how they interact with doctors and other patient care technicians and staff. After graduation, I plan to enter a credentialed program and eventually become an ER nurse. I am truly grateful. Thank you for your support of SUNY Orange students.” — *Helleen C., Nursing Program*

Who Are Our Students?

- We are proud to have such a diverse student population. **22.6% of our students are Hispanic, 13.2 % are Black and 2.9% are Asian.**
- **SUNY Orange is designated as a Hispanic-Serving institution**, with bi-lingual employees in both the Admissions and Financial Aid areas to help our students navigate the college entry process.
- Thanks to a **Title V Grant, PROSPERAR: Moving Students from Surviving to Thriving Program** at SUNY Orange is designed to transform the educational environment for our students. Through the redesign of programs and services, PROSPERAR closes equity gaps and delivers significant increases in student achievement, persistence and retention, especially for Hispanic and low-income students.
- **30% of SUNY Orange students go on to continue their education at a 4-year school.**
- Pre-COVID, roughly **50% of all students self-identified as first-generation college students.** Post-COVID, that number has dropped to 30% which is indicative of the impact of COVID on the educational dreams and goals for our students.
- **27.5% of our students are over the age of 24 and 60% are female.**
- **47.4% of our students can only attend school part-time because of financial restraints, family obligations or the need to work full-time.**

70% of all SUNY Orange students receive some type of financial aid.

“I believe you will find showcased within the pages of this report many examples of the ways that the SUNY Orange Foundation contributes to the vitality of the College, helps facilitate the success of our students and allows them to focus more fully on their academic experience. The Foundation and the College are like-minded in their beliefs that, when given opportunities and access within higher education, motivated students become accomplished graduates and valuable contributors to our community. The Foundation and the College jointly invest in our future. That improves life for all of us, and that’s why the strong partnership between the College and the Foundation is so important.”

— *Dr. Kristine Young, SUNY Orange President*





The Typical SUNY Orange Student...It's All of Us



"I am a full-time Business Administration student and I also work full-time. Being a single mom of two lovely boys, the scholarship I received really helped me through this crazy roller coaster of college. I am the President of the Business Club, Treasurer of Student Senate, a Senator on Student Senate, and I am a part of the Parents Club and the SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) Club. I am very excited to be so involved in the college and the scholarship just lifted a weight off my shoulders. Thank you again."
— Kira P., *Business Club Scholarship and Markovits Business Scholarship*



"I am an adult student balancing the normal agenda of work, school and caring for family so your help is greatly appreciated. It is a conglomerate of financial resources that is helping me pay for school as I work towards completing my degree in Nursing. These scholarships are encouragement and motivation to keep up the work. Thank you so much and I will do my best to keep up the grades!"
— Derek Somerville, *Williams Family Scholarship in Nursing, in Honor of Neil Warren; Home Bureau Vertrees Ackerly Nursing Scholarship*



"Your generosity will allow me to pursue my two-year education in Criminal Justice at SUNY Orange. As a first-generation college student with three siblings, money has always been a struggle. However, my parents encouraged me to pursue my dreams as a Forensic Scientist. This scholarship and the many opportunities SUNY Orange offers will allow me to follow this dream. I aim to focus on the task at hand, maintain high grades, and get involved with the community around me. I thank you again for choosing me as a recipient. I am sincerely honored by this opportunity and the support given to me."
— Sarah O., *Dean George F. Shepard Endowed Memorial Scholarship; Dr. Kristine Young Scholarship and William J. DeBlock Memorial Scholarship*



Alumni Giving Back



“I have seen repeatedly the power of a SUNY Orange education. For many of my students, it has transformed their lives. How wonderful it is to be able to invest in our students and in our community. Please give!”

— *Meg Atwood '82, SUNY Orange Department of Dental Hygiene, Donor*



“SUNY Orange has provided me, my wife and our three children a great start to our college educations and successful careers. Contributing to the Foundation is a great way for us to give back and help future students to have the same experience and success.”

— *Roy Dieterle '76, Retired Senior Project Manager, Donor*



“I so enjoyed my time at OCCC! While I ‘missed out’ on living in a dorm, I got all of the other college experiences like picking out my classes, arranging my own schedule, and working multiple jobs. It’s two years of my life that I look back on with a great deal of warmth and fondness. I received several small scholarships that helped pay for my first year. I was so grateful for that help. Once I was able, I started paying it back. I’d like to help others have that same wonderful experience. I will continue to support the scholarship program for as long as I can!”

— *Dawn Moraski '86, HWE Finance, Leidos Corporation, Donor*

Meet the Panelists!



AMANDA VONDRA'S '08
Bioinformatics Scientist, Lindeberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill



JESSICA SANCHEZ-SANABRIA '12
Executive Director of Emergency Management's Watch Command Unit, New York City



ALFRED ORTIZ JR. '19
Software Developer, Machines Corporation (IBM)



ANTHONY CABANILLAS '16
Graduate Research Assistant, University at Buffalo



Our Alumni Volunteers are the Best

Alumni Career Panels: Alumni panels are a great way for current SUNY Orange students to connect with career professionals who can inspire and give insider tips for success.

Alumni Amanda Vondras '08, Jessica Sanchez-Sanabria '12, Alfred Ortiz Jr. '19, and Anthony Cabanillas '16 participated in a virtual career panel for our CSTEP students and those enrolled in a STEM major.



Alumni, Erin Fanning '20, Cameron Tidd '10, Jason Flores '08 and Alfred Ortiz '19 participated in a panel discussion on campus for our Computer Science and Technology students.

Alumni volunteers pin graduates at Commencement.

Alumni participating in Student Involvement Fairs.

Alumni Spotlights



“My degree and the time spent at SUNY Orange set me up for more success than I even imagined possible. The possibilities today are limitless because SUNY Orange gave me the tools that I needed to excel.”

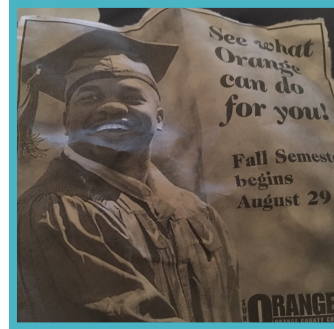
Fun Fact: Michael combined his interest in medicine with his passion for acting and often uses his medical knowledge in the many roles he plays. You may have seen him in *Shameless* or *How To Get Away With Murder*

*Michael Benzaia '08
Radiologic Technology*



“It was an easy choice for me to pick SUNY Orange knowing the fine reputation of this school, and the many programs and course schedules that were offered...SUNY Orange has given me the confidence and a strong foundation to move forward with my educational goals!”

*Teresa Hocker '19
Human Services*



“I graduated in June 2005 and at that point it was one of the greatest achievements in my life. My family and I had become homeless and I was facing the possibility I would be stuck at a dead-end job for the rest of my life without ever making an impact on the world. SUNY Orange changed all of that and then some for me. I begin to shed tears of joy as I now look back and realize the impact choosing SUNY Orange had on my life and all that it did for me.

*Donnell Hill Jr. '05
Liberal Arts*



“I have fond memories of attending Orange County Community College as an adult. The personal attention I received from my instructors was nothing less than impressive and motivating. In fact, what I learned there compelled and prepared me to continue through earning a Master’s Degree. Thank you!”

*Peter Edis '91
Liberal Arts*



“I am a first-generation immigrant from El Salvador and I have invested a lot into my education in hopes that I may get where I want one day. I have earned my place and will continue to earn the positions, and things I want to manifest into my life. I also have done it to show my children an example of a hardworking Latina and a mother they can feel proud of. Don’t give up, don’t back down. It’s all about strategy and using your time wisely.”

Marie Lopez Colon '20, Criminal Justice

We Need Your Support

You can support SUNY Orange students and help them reach their full potential by making a gift to the SUNY Orange Foundation. We are committed to being prudent stewards of all gifts, fulfilling donor intent, and sustaining local public good.

Invest in a student today and watch them invest in others tomorrow!

Establish a Scholarship: The best way to help a student is to make sure that finances are not an obstacle on the road to their success and starting a scholarship, or contributing to an existing scholarship, is a great way to accomplish that.

Matching Gifts: Does your employer have a Matching Gift program? Find out and increase the value of your gift with matching options from your employer.

Purchase a Commemorative Brick: Personalize a commemorative brick in honor or in memory of someone special. It will be permanently installed along the Morrison Hall walkway.

Make a Gift to the SUNY Orange Foundation Annual Fund: A gift to the annual fund is the most flexible gift you can give and ensures SUNY Orange has the resources it needs to provide the best possible education to its students.

You can give online at www.sunyorangefoundation.org, mail a check to SUNY Orange Foundation 115 South Street, Middletown, NY 10940 or call us at 845-341-4337 to learn more about how you can change a student's life today.

WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of Cash, Credit or Stock: Choose one of these options to make giving easier and convenient. For employees of the College, payroll deduction is available.

Pledges: Consider a three-to-five year pledge of financial support as a way to make a significant commitment to SUNY Orange with annual, affordable payments.

Their Future, Your Legacy: Become a member of the Christine Morrison Legacy Society! There are several options that provide you income AND benefit the College. Making a provision in your will or retirement plan today can have a significant impact on the future of the College and its students.





Thank You.

Contact Us: Dawn Ansbro, Executive Director | Phone: (845) 341-4337
Email: dawn.ansbro@sunyorange.edu | www.sunyorangefoundation.org

The logo features a stylized orange graphic consisting of two overlapping, curved lines that form a shape reminiscent of an orange or a dynamic swirl. This graphic is positioned behind the text.

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