



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
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COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR
COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

JOINT MEETING OF THE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 14, 2024

WAYS & MEANS MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

COUNTY FACILITIES MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hernandez

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. Olson, Mr. McCarron; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

1. ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Dr. Warren Hilton, President

a. INFORMATIONAL: Adoption of the Annual Budget for Onondaga Community College for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts with Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by the Adoption of the 2025 Budget (\$10,072,000)

Melissa Duran immigrated to the United States from Ecuador 11 years ago with the dream of becoming a surgeon. She settled in New York City with her sister where she worked full-time and went to school full-time. She earned Biology degrees from Laguardia Community College and Brooklyn College. Her grades were good, but not good enough for medical school. Her dreams of becoming a surgeon were on hold.

When her sister returned to Ecuador, Duran decided to move upstate where her mother was living. She discovered Onondaga Community College and decided to enroll for the fall 2023 semester. She chose the Surgical Technology degree program. "It put me in the operating room so I could get experience there. And I also began retaking old classes so I could improve my GPA (grade point average)."



Duran excelled in her coursework at OCC and improved her cumulative GPA from 2.9 to 3.8. She earned membership in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Honors College, and was also a Meg O'Connell Scholar. She shared her knowledge at the Learning Center where she tutored fellow students in Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology 1, and Spanish 1 and 2.

*In between semesters, she did research at Syracuse University with Professor Sarah Hall. They used the animal model organism *C.elegans* to investigate the mechanisms of environmental programming of gene expression and in impact on adult phenotypes.*

When she's not in class, tutoring, or doing clinicals at one of the area hospitals, Duran can often be found on the 2nd floor of Coulter Hall where the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP) is headquartered. "The advisors

here are amazing. They are always staying in touch and giving you all of the things you need to succeed. Sometimes I have imposter syndrome and think I don't belong here. But when people are telling me I'm doing great, I realize I really do belong here."

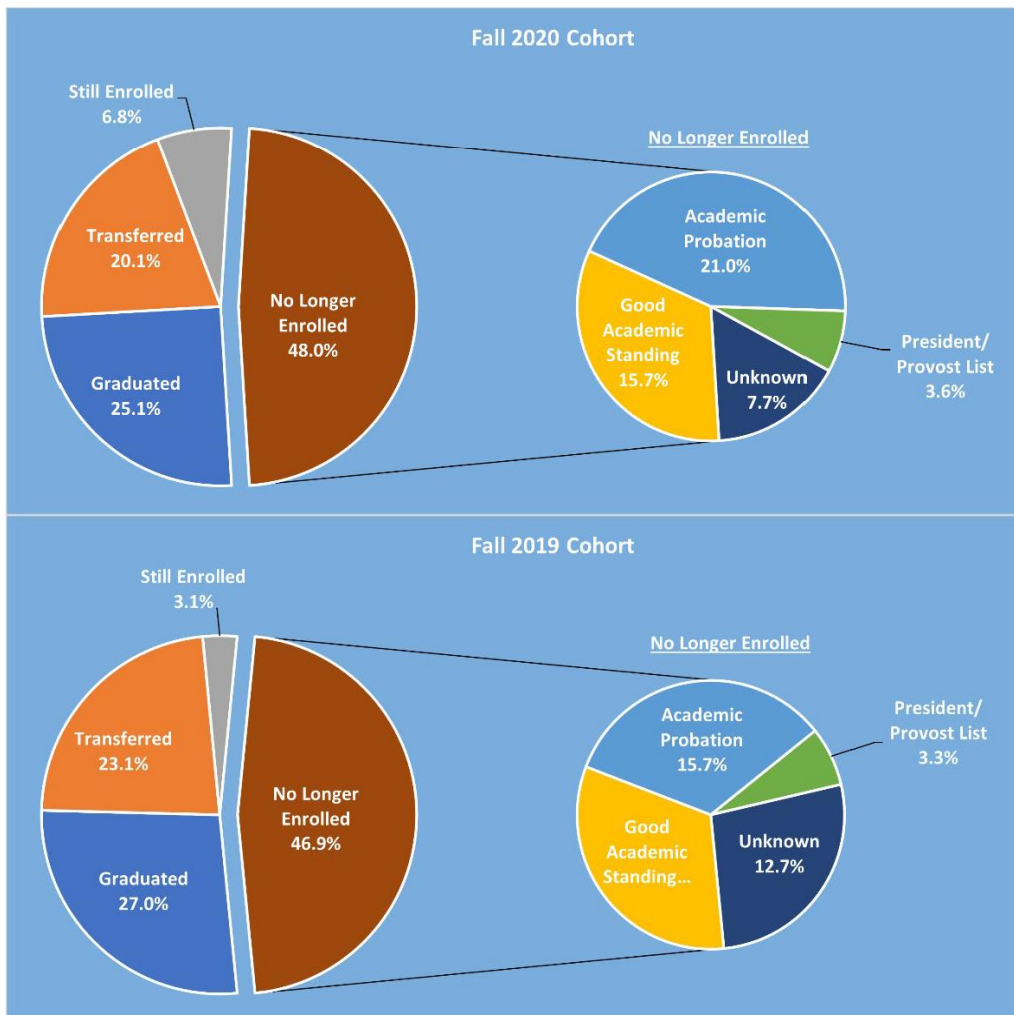
Duran will complete her Surgical Technology degree this May. She plans to transfer to SUNY Upstate Medical University where she will pursue a master's degree in MedPrep Enhancement. The program will give her the opportunity to continue to improve previous grades in preparation for medical school.

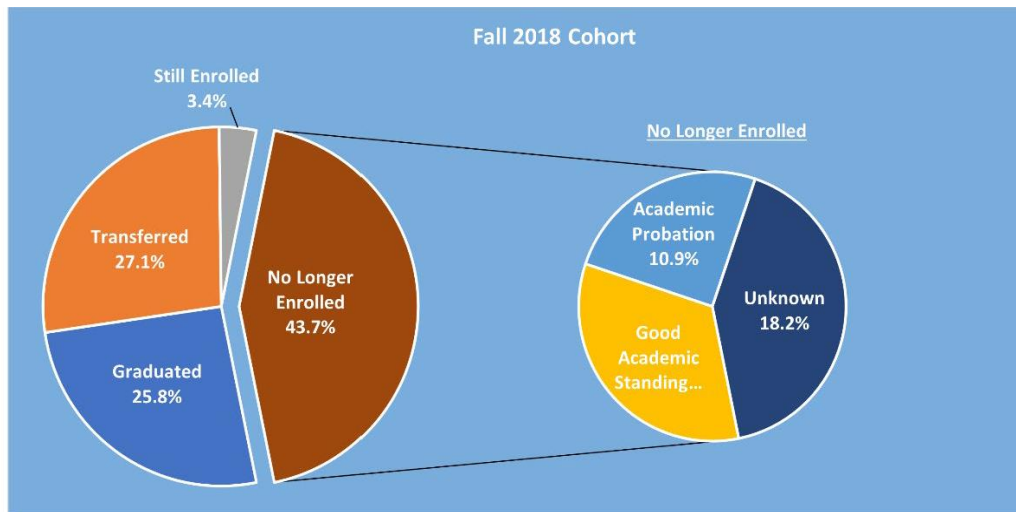
Dr. Warren Hilton presented the following information:

- Graduation rates – federal government identifies these for community colleges as first-time college students who are fulltime in the first semester and graduate with an Associate’s Degree in 3 years
- Most students at OCC are not fulltime students
- Better measure of student outcomes for public higher education are the numbers below; 50-55% success rate
- Some students at OCC do not graduate in 3 years (but are still enrolled), they transfer before receiving the degree, or they have graduated

(2024-2025 Onondaga Community College Tentative Budget on file with the Clerk)

The below charts represent a historical view of OCC’s student outcomes as of Fall 2023.





Onondaga Community College 2024-25 Budget Presentation May 14, 2024 Onondaga County Legislature

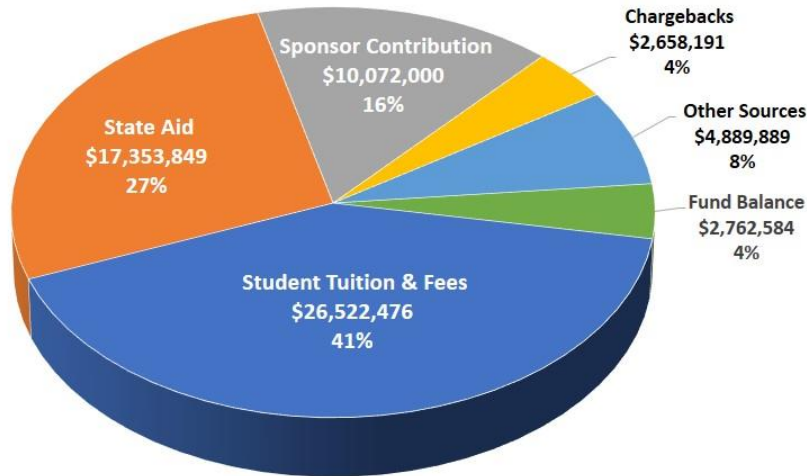


Student Success at OCC

OCC Proposed Budget 2024-25

- State budget approved, and community colleges advocated for an additional \$97M in operating aid for 30 community colleges, which would be \$3.9M for OCC; state approved \$8M, which is ~\$200,000 for OCC
- Did secure funding floor for another year; state legislature did not include the funding floor in state law, so it can be taken away at any time
- Funding floor – 2020/2021 academic year, state holding community colleges harmless and giving same amount, but with inflation things are going up
- State did approve additional aid for TAP; OCC tuition is lower than TAP, which will not have great impact on OCC

Proposed Budget – Revenue

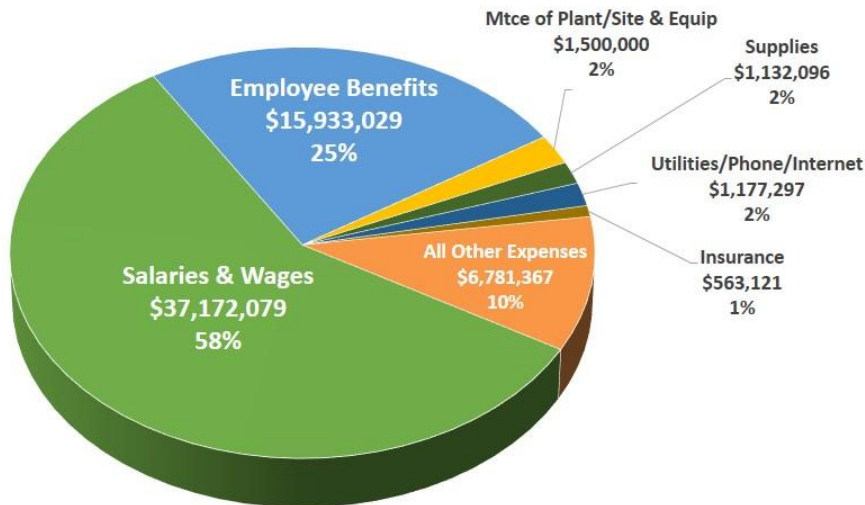


2024-25
\$64,258,989

To Note:	
Tuition & Fees	Total FTE's = 4,595
State Aid	2021-22 Funding Floor
Chargebacks	Rate \$3,610 / 736 FTE's

- Tuition and fees are holding flat for 2024-25

Proposed Budget – Expenses



2024-25
\$64,258,989

- Presenting balanced budget to trustees, who approved the budget
- Using taxpayer dollars wisely and doing what is in the best interest of taxpayers and students
- Maintaining tuition level to help students

2024-25 Tuition & Mandatory Fees

Rate	Full-Time	Part-Time
Tuition	\$2,645/semester	\$220/credit hour
Technology Fee	\$270/semester	\$18/credit hour
Student Activity Fee	\$65/semester	\$40/semester
Rec & Wellness Fee	\$125/semester	\$85/semester
Total	\$3,105/semester (\$6,210/year)	-----

Tuition
No increase

Student Activity Fee
Increase by \$10/semester

Recreation & Wellness Fee
Increase by \$20/semester

- Slight increases in fees to student activities and rec and wellness
 - Enrollment up, so more clubs and organizations – student government interested in raising student activity fee
 - Student activity fees are only used for student activities
- Cost of fulltime student at OCC is still significantly less than any other higher education institution in area

The OCC Board of Trustees approved the budget at the meeting today, May 14, 2024

Sponsor Contribution History



- Asking for small increase in operational aid from County; maintained funding level for 7 years
- Not asking for capital funding this year; will be coming back next year for final (agreed upon) 3 capital requests

OCC 2024-25 request from Onondaga County:

a 2% increase in support \$200,000

- 95% of students come from the 5 county regional area with majority from Onondaga County
 - Oswego, Cortland, Madison and Cayuga
- Increasing enrollment of downstate students, particularly from New York City
- 85% of graduates live and work within 25 miles of campus
 - Of the students graduating Saturday, ~85% will contribute to Onondaga County
- Students coming in from out of state pay double the tuition – there are some
 - National Championship Women’s Lacrosse team has a student from Maryland
 - Small percentage of students from out of state; ~40 international students as well
- Students are not asking for handout
 - Over 80% of students are working at least 30hrs/week
 - Accounts for more part-time than fulltime students
 - More and more are taking fulltime academic load and working 30hrs/week

Capital Projects Update Video

[OCC_CapitalProjects_v2.mp4 \(dropbox.com\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/1234567890/OCC_CapitalProjects_v2.mp4)

Questions?

Thank you for your continued support.

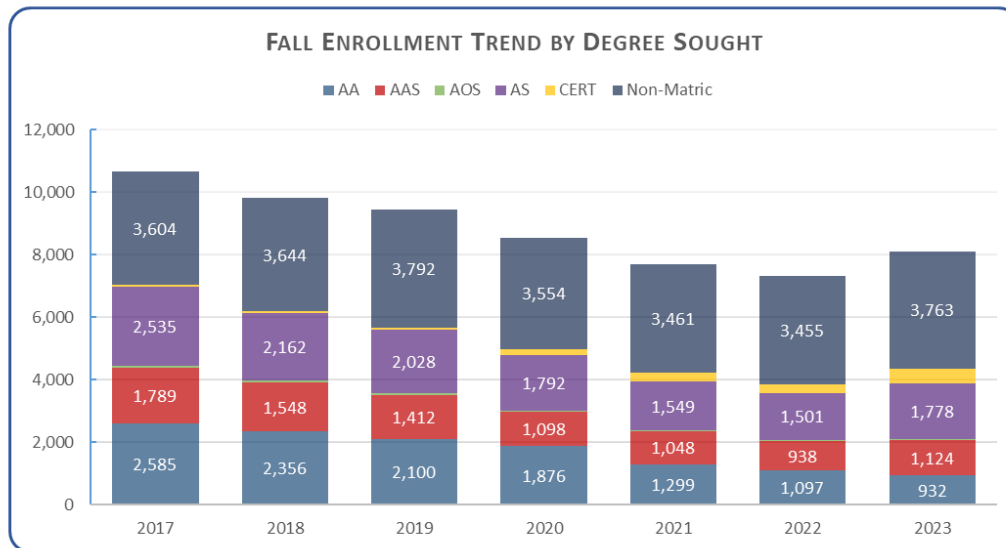
Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Please explain the swing with faculty, CSEA staff and number of positions
 - Transformative affect and success of students to be center stage
 - Improve opportunities for students including walking across stage with degree
 - In terms of fulltime faculty, staffed higher than needed to be
 - Wanted to invest in staff positions including Navigators and Mental Health Counselors, whose soul job is having someone reach out to students and provide support
 - Have over 200 adjunct faculty to supplement the work fulltime faculty do
 - Way to be successful in having transformative affect and maintaining financial stability
 - Adjunct is in addition to the numbers; those are only fulltime faculty represented in the graph

**ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NUMBER OF POSITIONS**

YEAR	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Faculty	187	181	170	151	127	119
Professional Administrators	111	115	109	117	126	130
CSEA Staff	187	180	172	170	164	162
Management Confidential	42	38	34	36	40	39
Total Budgeted Positions	527	514	485	474	457	450

- Please talk about the increase in certificates, and the trends of what people are looking for
 - During COVID, faculty created academic programs responsive to community needs
 - Community indicated the need for shorter-term credentials to be in the workforce
 - More credentials coming online (i.e. automotive tech certificate, electromechanical degree program has certificate)
 - Some additional will be coming online next year with (i.e.) Certified Nursing Assistant
 - Too early to assess if the need is increasing; need year or two to really assess
 - Significant increase in new students in fall semester
 - Some believe it has to deal with vaccine mandate going away for SUNY; will see how the demand plays out
 - Wanted to focus on relevant degree and certificate programs to meet needs of employers and the community



- Please walk through the chargeback system for students coming from within NYS including students who come to Onondaga County to go to OCC, as well as Onondaga residents that go out
 - Rate charged to any student from Onondaga County who enrolls in community college outside of Onondaga County
 - As long as the student completes a certificate of residency proving they are an Onondaga County resident, the rate is charged to Onondaga County
 - When students are coming to OCC from NYC and complete a certificate of residency, OCC gets the chargebacks from NYC; which is based on details of what rate is for each county
 - i.e. Student of Onondaga County goes to Fashion Institute of Technology (community college in NYC), their rate is significantly higher than the rate charged by Onondaga Community College
 - Premise of chargeback – want other counties to pay what Onondaga County is paying on per FTE student basis
 - Formula that every community college puts together when submitting budget
 - Comprised of what the county provides in support, what the college budgets they will receive from chargeback revenues, what they will receive in out of state revenue, and what they will get from out of county students without a certificate of residence – divided by budgeted FTE to come up with chargeback rate
 - Every September, SUNY provides list of community colleges and what the approved chargeback rate is
 - Then colleges bill students
 - 2023/2024 – chargeback rate went up and enrollment up
 - Over 16% of enrollment came from outside of Onondaga County
 - Lot of it is targeting downstate population
- 89% of students at OCC are from Onondaga County or surrounding, 85% of fulltime first-time students receive financial aid, and 68% of students complete degrees debt free
- Keeping sponsor contribution flat since 2017 and keeping tuition flat is an accomplishment; OCC doing excellent job
 - OCC does this as a team – love the County and students; passion to serve the community
 - Anytime anyone from the legislature would like to come and meet students/faculty, they are welcome
- What does OCC see coming on the horizon, what more can be done, and how will the county meet the need?
 - Will have to work together
 - Seen some partnerships grow in the last few years with other higher education partners for students to transfer to

- Making sure OCC is paying attention to direct-to-work opportunities
 - Faculty creating certificates and degree programs
 - Construction Management (launched in fall) – companies cannot find Junior Managers to manage sites
 - Started welding program
 - Endeavoring to start HVAC program
 - This is what OCC is seeing on the horizon, and how they will manage the projected population growth
 - How OCC will have seats in classrooms, which has a lot to do with additional operating aid
 - \$3.9M would have to come to OCC if state granted the \$97M ask, and OCC would have been able to hire more faculty and staff to contribute to success of students
- The question then becomes where is OCC training people, and who needs transportation to get there
 - OCC has to ensure people have ability to get to classroom (i.e. additional funding)
 - OCC launched pilot with Lyft supplementing 10 rides/month to and from campus, which has been popular
 - Talking with Centro, as well as another company out of capital region providing shuttles for students to get from campus to internship opportunities
 - Thinking about childcare
 - Thinking about basic need support – food, security; have homeless students
 - i.e. Had a student over 50 living in residence hall, which has to do with housing security
 - Is OCC looking to do the Career Choice Program with any other companies other than Amazon?
 - Will work with any company that wants to work with OCC
 - Amazon has this with other institutions across the country, and it has worked out well
 - Certainly other organizations (i.e. Starbucks) that are doing this
 - Amazon and Starbucks employees can major in anything; it does not have to be relevant to Amazon or Starbucks
 - Interested in those partnerships as much as possible
 - OCC set up the 2+2 agreements with HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)
 - Is OCC exploring more, and what is the status of different 2+2s?
 - Talking about transfer agreements, and OCC has 3 with HBCUs
 - Many students in County, especially in SCSO, that want to go to HBCUs – none in New York
 - Endeavored to create partnerships with Lincoln University (PA), Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte, NC) and Dillard University (New Orleans, LA); have plans to work on more
 - Allows students a seamless transfer from OCC; often times students cannot go directly to the school due to finances
 - Added Medgar Evers College, a minority serving institution in NYC
 - Locally, working with Syracuse University around partnerships with College of Engineering, computer college, Whitman Business School, and the College of Arts and Sciences
 - Have in place with SUNY Oswego, ESF, SUNY Upstate Medical
 - Many agreements have scholarship dollars
 - i.e. Johnson C. Smith – if student graduates with GPA 2.5 or higher, they will give at least \$8,000/yr for transfer
 - What role does the OCC Foundation play, speaking to the strength of the foundation?
 - OCC Foundation is a separate entity from the college
 - Sole purpose to fundraise to support the college – most of the funds go to scholarships for students or other support
 - i.e. a student needs money to fix transmission to get to class
 - Role will be increasingly important when thinking of the needs coming along (needs not available through federal or financial aid)
 - Thinking of short term certificates, cannot get grant for those programs, but working on increasing that
 - Focus of Foundation will be togetherness – building the community together
 - Any dollars donated to OCC Foundation is an investment in this community, because overwhelming majority of graduates will stay here and contribute (even students coming from downstate)
 - i.e. Student from the Bronx graduating Saturday will be staying here to be a firefighter
 - Does OCC still offer a GED program?
 - Do not offer GED program anymore
 - Believe SUNY EOC (Educational Opportunity Center) is providing GED services locally
 - Work closely with EOC to show students how they can transfer from the GED program to OCC

- The ask is fiscally conservative and responsible; OCC is a steward of taxpayer dollars
 - Cannot guarantee another 7 years without another ask
 - Tradeoffs – OCC does not have all the bells and whistles like others
 - Faculty and staff do not make the same salaries as others, but OCC’s mission is to be here for the community
- Please quantify and talk about the enrollment being up
 - Fall enrollment up ~11%
 - Driven primarily by significant increase in new students
 - Speculated part of that is the vaccine mandate going away
 - Part is start of Electricomechanical Degree Program (with 36 new students)
 - Part is due to new programs faculty created like Construction Management and Supply Chain Management
 - Spring semester enrollment increase driven primarily by staff members (“Navigators”), who consistently reach out to students to register for spring semester and come back
 - Saw an increase in fall to spring persistence rate of 2%; first time rate went up since 2016
 - Fall semester – seeing applications up year over year
 - Cautiously optimistic – issues around FASFA (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) have caused people to pause on deciding where to go to college
 - Registrations not where they want for fall, but looking at data across SUNY, that is the case at most institutions
 - Taking aggressive posture by reaching out to students who have applied to let them know they can go to OCC and graduate with little to no student loan debt
 - Sometime in August will have better answer for fall semester
- Does OCC have an idea of what percentage of people are opting for higher education?
- What market share do community colleges have within that population?
- Are there any projections on what that will look like in the coming years including the population growth?
 - Very hard coming out volatility of last 5 years in higher education
 - This year was a big year for community colleges in NY with increased enrollment, but not so good for 4 year schools
 - Current academic year, have seen market share go up, which is largely contributed to things mentioned earlier
 - Market will respond and other small privates will respond, which could have impact on OCC
 - Hearing that 4 year institutions are trying to offer short-term work certificates; responding to the challenges
 - County and region in good position
 - Micron will bring in fusion of jobs and infusion of families who will look to OCC as a choice for higher education
 - The country has history of holding 4 year institutions as gold standard
 - OCC is fighting that uphill battle – go to community college with little or no debt, achieve more and spend less
 - Can transfer to 4 year for last 2 years, or go to work for jobs above median pay in the area
 - Automotive Techs, Semiconductor Techs, Surgical Techs all make good money with 2 year degree
- Please talk about the Chip Camp last July
 - Someone from Micron said it was their most diverse Chip Camp in history
 - Had 80-90 middle school students from Syracuse City School District (SCSD), Onondaga Nation School, East-Syracuse Minoa School District (ESM), and Oswego County (P-Tech Program students) – students enjoyed it
 - This year will be continuing it
 - Chip Camp 2 or 3 weeks ago in northern part of county
 - Working with Micron, Liverpool SD and Cicero-North Syracuse SD
 - Will have 3 regional Chip Camps – first in north, next is city of Syracuse and south, and another will be western with Solvay and Liverpool
 - Other program is Girls Going Tech
 - Did 2 last year specifically on STEM awareness for middle school ladies
 - Bring in women who work in STEM to talk about their career, as well as offer STEM activities
 - Second program last year was all in Spanish – all ladies and presenters spoke Spanish
 - Hosted Girls Going Tech last week for this year; had about 100 middle school students from various districts
 - Great ways to inspire young people to go into these fields
 - Doing this in a way to provide respect and dignity to families; creating awareness and what the opportunities are
 - i.e. Can go to OCC to be a technician, or can continue on to SU to be an engineer

- How many high school students are enrolled in OCC through the high school credit program?
 - All high schools in Onondaga County and 9 school districts in Oswego County through P-Tech Program
 - These are high school students getting OCC credit while in high school
 - OCC credentials high school teachers to teach OCC courses in high school
 - i.e. Woman from Ukraine at Jamesville-Dewitt is spending her entire senior year taking classes on OCC campus
 - P-Tech Program through grant funding with SCSD and 9 districts in Oswego County
 - Guarantee OCC courses are being taught in every high school in Onondaga County
 - Had zoom call yesterday with Charter School in NYC who wants OCC to credential their teachers in their school
 - Have ~3,000 high school students taking OCC classes while in high school for free
 - OCC will be at ESM and Solvay High School graduations awarding Associates Degrees to students at the same time they will be receiving their diploma; usually less than 15 in each district who complete 60 college credits

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **JOINT WAYS & MEANS AND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

DATE: **MAY 14, 2024**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
<i>Sue Torrey</i>	<i>OCC</i>
<i>Steve Morgan</i> <i>Miralito</i>	<i>OCC</i>
<i>Mark Manning</i>	<i>OCC</i>
<i>Melissa Duran</i>	<i>OCC</i>
<i>Warren Hilton</i>	<i>OCC</i>
<i>Darcie Lesniak</i>	<i>Legislature</i>
<i>Jim Beebe</i>	<i>Legislature</i>
<i>John DeSantis</i>	<i>Legislature</i>
<i>Isabelle Harris</i>	<i>County Exec</i>
<i>Nancy Lowery</i>	<i>County Exec</i>
<i>Steve Morgan</i>	<i>CFD</i>