

\$2.9 Million for New Paltz/Sullivan partnership

APRIL 26, 2004
Volume 2, Issue 8

President Steven Poskanzer, Provost David Lavallee and several other New Paltz administrators helped announce a \$2.9 million partnership last week created between SUNY New Paltz and Sullivan County Community College, which will allow Sullivan County residents to take bachelor's degree courses from SUNY New Paltz in Sullivan County.



Photo by John Grayshaw

President Steven Poskanzer helped to announce the New Paltz/Sullivan partnership last week, linked via live, fully interactive video conferencing, with State Sen. John Bonacic at SCCC and SUNY Chancellor Robert King in Albany. The event was made possible with the assistance of Joe D'Agostino (left) and Emily Trapp (center) of Instructional Media Services.

This initiative has been developed over the course of a two-year discussion between businessman and philanthropist Alan Gerry of Sullivan County, State Sen. John Bonacic, and the presidents of New Paltz and SCCC, as well as leading administrators from both colleges.

The funding for the partnership includes \$1.5 million already secured by Bonacic as a state member item and a commitment from the Gerry Foundation of \$1.4 million between 2004 and 2007.

With the funds, the campus has already purchased distance learning equipment and refurbished Lecture Center 3A as a distance learning classroom. Some of the funds will be used to create another distance learning classroom in the newly renovated van den Berg Learning Center. The bulk of the funds will pay the salaries, benefits and transportation costs for up to ten full-time lecturers for the first three years of this pilot program. The program will be re-evaluated near the end of the third year to determine whether the demand could

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The new faculty hires will spend a considerable portion of their time offering live classes at SCCC's Loch Sheldrake campus, but will also teach on the New Paltz campus. New Paltz will also offer additional classes at SCCC via live, fully interactive video conferencing. New Paltz professors will keep "office hours" both at SCCC and by private video conferencing with Sullivan County students.

Research commissioned by Bonacic determined that a market base existed in Sullivan County for a strong and affordable higher education program. Initial offerings will be in nursing, human services, business and elementary education within an English major during the Fall 2004 semester. Program selection was premised on the market analysis. These departments at New Paltz will gain additional faculty resources under this pilot program.

It is expected that 30 New Paltz courses in a variety of fields will be offered at the Sullivan campus and an additional number, likely between 20 to 40 courses, will be offered via live, fully interactive video classes with faculty at New Paltz.

The Provost's Office and the Office of Continuing and Professional Education will be administering the program for New Paltz. The following campus individuals have been heavily involved in the planning and launching of this initiative: Provost David Lavalley, Dean Kathy Kraus, Associate Dean Helise Winters, Program Coordinator Helen Bocker, Assistant Vice President for Administration Shelly Halstead and Director of Instructional Media Services Emily Trapp. Deans Hadi Salavitabar, Bob Michael and Gerald Benjamin, as well as the department chairs and faculty members of sociology, nursing, elementary education and English have also been involved.

News Pulse is published every other week for the faculty and staff of SUNY New Paltz by the Office of Public Affairs. It is printed in-house on recycled paper.

To submit information to the newsletter, please [complete the online submission form](#). If you are requesting inclusion in the next issue, your submission must be received by noon on Tuesday, May 4. Contact Eric Gullickson with any questions.

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