

A group of students wearing 3D glasses looking up at a large, colorful, geometric structure. The structure is composed of many triangular and polygonal faces in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange. The students are in the foreground, looking upwards with expressions of interest and excitement. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

DELHI DRIVEN

Building Community

Dr. Mary Bonderoff

Office of the President

 SUNY Delhi

VOLUME VI



As the spring semester is coming closer to the end, I am excited to celebrate the achievements of our students. I've had the pleasure of participating in several ceremonies thus far. The 24th Annual Barbara Jones Leadership Awards ceremony was fantastic! It was inspiring to hear personalized stories from staff who presented the awards. John Padovani and I travelled to Albany with Marissa Lombardi and Daniel Luna, who received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

Several departments recently hosted a new graduation fair to provide graduating students the opportunity to verify their degree requirements, address outstanding holds, seek career assistance, order regalia, obtain a co-curricular transcript, and understand the benefits of being a SUNY Delhi alumnus. Additionally, students in an events management class are planning the Presidential Graduation Celebration on May 16th. We are delighted to incorporate student input and applied learning to make this event meaningful and fun.

The solar eclipse festivities were particularly special, engaging, and educational. It was wonderful to see many students, faculty, staff, and community members gather for this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. Special thanks to the Resnick Library, CSLE, CADi, and the Hospitality Club for providing glasses, activities and delicious cookies. Communications captured incredible photos and promoted our viewing experience widely across social media.

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ACCREDITATION

We welcomed a team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) to discuss our progress to date, as reflected in the monitoring report. The team was pleased with the extensive steps taken. They also shared that 100% of participants in open sessions felt the campus is in a far better place than it was 2 years ago. They recommended to the Commission that SUNY Delhi complies with Standard VI. We expect to learn more about our accreditation status this June.

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SHARED GOVERNANCE

In March, we presented to Chancellor King and members of his executive leadership team our long-term plan for enrollment and financial sustainability. SUNY Delhi is the first campus whose plan was approved. We received praise for our thoughtful plan and appreciation for our commitment to a shared governance approach in its development. The Chancellor and team conveyed that we set the bar high for our peer institutions.

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STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT & RETENTION

Thanks to the generosity of the O'Connor Foundation, an additional \$20,000 was gifted to provide scholarships for students in Delaware County who enroll in any academic program at SUNY Delhi. The financial aid team is implementing new software that will make it easier for students to seek scholarship opportunities and close the gap to pursue higher education. Supplementary funding (\$17,000) was acquired through SUNY Administration to support implementation of this tool.

Many Colleges are facing decreased applications and deposits numbers due to the uncertainty of financial aid packages. Here at SUNY Delhi our applications and deposits are still significantly higher than last year. The administration moved back the deadline for admissions decisions because of ongoing challenges with the FAFSA application. The financial aid team is working tirelessly to alleviate anxiety of families and help students every step of the way. I am most grateful for their leadership and commitment to exceptional customer service.

SUNY Delhi remains strong in our recruitment efforts irrespective of the barriers encountered with FAFSA. Several programs are already full and have waitlists. A few programs are getting close to capacity and acceptances have increased for other programs as well. Our CRM (Slate), which began implementation in 2023, has enhanced our ability to attract and communicate with prospective students. This investment has ensured we can compete in the marketplace among larger institutions.

The SEM Data Team is demoing various tools to visualize data through dashboards to effectively monitor recruitment and retention. Recommendations will be shared soon, and we look forward to strengthening data-informed decision making.

The Calendar Committee is working on implementing a public-facing event calendar. One example that is currently live is the [Academic Calendar](#). Professionals across campus are working on making their department calendars available. Calendars will showcase campus-wide events, important deadlines, holidays, and other large events. The criterion for events displayed is being finalized soon. BroncoConnect is a key component of this project. Big events scheduled in BroncoConnect will be imported into the web calendar. Several department calendars will be combined into a larger campus calendar. This will transform collective awareness and increase engagement in our campus community. The calendars will be launched in time for the fall semester. Stay tuned for additional information.

The EOP summer transition program planning is underway. The RAAC has welcomed new staff to support ELL proficiency, academic advising, and will be expanding the tutoring hours and disciplines supported. Transformational funding through SUNY is being leveraged to increase personnel.

A collaborative effort between Student Financial Services and Academic Affairs is developing a OneStop shop for student customer services to provide a centralized and efficient point of access. More to come on this exciting project!

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OPERATIONAL ALIGNMENT

I am thrilled to share a new educational partnership with MRCOOL has resulted in a \$18,000 gift for equipment and training. This collaboration between the HVAC faculty, Advancement, President's Office, and Enrollment Services is an exemplary model of innovation to expand high-quality opportunities that complement workforce needs with state-of-the-art technology.

The Provost's Office is examining additional opportunities for apprenticeships, in partnership with the New York State Department of Labor. Several grants have been submitted to enhance student support and instruction. The Continuing Education and Workforce Development and Registrar offices are expeditiously setting up the infrastructure to offer microcredentials.

Details regarding the voluntary separation program were shared with the campus community. Important deadlines and related information are available on the [Human Resources website](#). This program is an essential component of our fiscal stability plan.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

A campus-wide Universal Design for Learning (UDL) professional development workshop will be offered on May 29th and 30th. The Access and Equity Services office received incremental funds from SUNY to sponsor this training. This first day is structured to identify barriers to student success. The second day provides practical solutions to reduce barriers. All faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to participate.

At the presidents meeting, Chancellor King implored leaders to identify space for interfaith worship and meditation. A subcommittee within the Equity Council is looking into this to create a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment. Another subcommittee is researching best practices to bolster support for first generation college students.

The office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is partnering with departments to host new pre-commencement ceremonies for graduating students. A Lavender Ceremony will be held on April 24th. This is a cultural celebration that recognizes the achievements of LGBTQ+ students. Additionally, a Kente Celebration will be held on April 29th. This is a tradition that celebrates the accomplishments of African American students. Both ceremonies welcome participation from all members of the campus community.



We have five weeks left until graduation. Keep up the great work! Wishing you well as we approach the final stretch of the academic year.



Yours Truly,

Dr. Mary Bonderoff

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Office of the President
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