

Special Insert Inside: Reach Beyond Capital Campaign

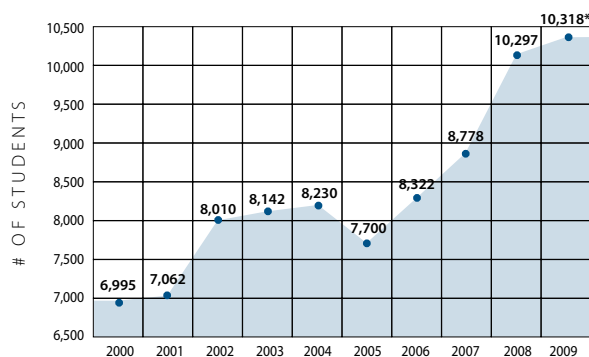


Continuum

A publication of Onondaga Community College, the OCC Foundation and the OCC Alumni Council

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2009

Spring 2009: Record Enrollment Continues



*Spring 2009 enrollment is a projected estimate as of January 29, 2009.

Full Speed Ahead Largest Capital Campaign in 50-Year History is Launched

On November 18, Onondaga Community College announced the public launch of a \$6 million Capital Campaign, *Reach Beyond*. The Campaign will put vitally needed resources behind priority projects - including the new Arena and Sports Complex - that support the College's steadily growing student population and make a college education possible for more people in the Central New York community. With the launch of the public phase, the campaign is expected to continue through December 2010.

"Almost five decades ago, the leaders and citizens of our community envisioned a college that would be defined by

access, a college that would serve not only a select few, but a college that is for all of the people who have the desire and the will to transform their lives through higher education," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. "The College's significant progress over the past decade has brought us to where we are now welcoming this fall our largest incoming freshman class in history, and announcing the launch of a transformational Capital Campaign that will allow us to even more fully realize the vision that this College was founded upon," added Dr. Sydow.

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Continuum is published for Onondaga supporters, friends, alumni and the Central New York community.

Send inquiries to: Public Affairs, Onondaga Community College, 4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215 or call (315) 498-7252.

Classic Ad Campaign Gets New "Upstate" Twist

The screen fades from black to a backyard college graduation party. Family and friends congratulate the young grad and ask where he's headed next.

"New York," he says, proudly.

"Oh, the big city..." someone in the crowd muses.

Turns out, he's headed everywhere in New York - except for the big city. The film then takes the viewer on a colorful journey through the wine region. Past majestic waterfalls. Across rugged walking trails. And along serene images of boats dancing on glistening lakes.



This is the New York that Onondaga alumnus and filmmaker Sean Cunningham '05 wanted to portray. And out of the nearly 1,000 entries, it was his film that resonated with the judges of the "I Love New York Short Film Contest" - among them actor Philip Seymour Hoffman and Saturday Night Live comedienne Tina Fey. They, and several well-known New York City movie critics, were searching for a film that broadened the popular campaign from city-based to one that showcased the entire state. They chose Cunningham's film as the Grand Prize Winner.

Cunningham grew up in the Town of Onondaga and says he's always loved upstate New York. "There are so many beautiful places in this region," says Cunningham. "In my film, I wanted to help people really see its beauty. I think

it was eye-opening for many who have yet to discover the splendor of upstate New York."

In 2005, Cunningham graduated from Onondaga Community College with a degree in graphic design. He transferred to Binghamton University to study film and in his senior year he says he entered the contest on a whim.

The grand prize was a high definition camera and tickets to attend a filmmaking workshop in New York City. Also, his short film was shown nationally during the 2008 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In 2009, his film will be shown at all New York State film festivals.

"Most of my family is from the Syracuse area. They're really proud of the commercial and on Thanksgiving Day they all gathered at my home to watch my national debut."

He says his time at Onondaga provided just the right foundation for a career in film. "I've always wanted to use my creativity, and graphic design was a huge interest



Onondaga alumnus
Sean Cunningham '05

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Message From the President

At Onondaga Community College, we greet 2009 with great optimism for the promise that lies ahead. In spite of the economic downturn, the College remains in a strong position. Over the past decade, we have

achieved large-scale operational efficiencies, we have engaged in environmental conservation practices that have also reduced costs, and we have adopted entrepreneurial practices designed to reduce our reliance on public funding. For example, student housing is a completely self-sustaining operation. In 2007-08, Onondaga was awarded 8% or approximately \$11 million more in grants and contracts than peer institutions across the country, and this past November a \$6 million capital campaign—*Reach Beyond: The Campaign for Onondaga Community College*—was launched and is further detailed within this issue of *Continuum*.

Fundamental to the community college mission is a commitment to provide access to all who seek higher education, regardless of socioeconomic status. In fact, community colleges enroll nearly 50% of undergraduate students in the nation, including 55% of Native American, 46% of Asian/Pacific Islander, 46% of African-American, and 55% of Hispanic students.

Similarly, Onondaga Community College is a diverse community of students and employees representing a wonderfully rich mosaic of backgrounds and traditions. The Ann Felton Multicultural Center serves as a popular venue for events celebrating the cultural heritage and diversity of Onondaga's students and employees. In addition to celebrating diversity, the College is fully committed to utilizing diversity in support of institutional effectiveness. A Diversity Master Plan informed by the Diversity Council and led by our Chief Diversity Officer will build upon areas of strength and will further advance diversity and inclusiveness on the Onondaga campus in the coming year.

For the past four years, Onondaga has enjoyed record enrollment growth, and this past fall was no exception. In terms of raw numbers, Onondaga is once again the fastest growing college in the SUNY system with 793 new students enrolling this fall. On December 1, 2008, the College was once again named to *Community College Week's* top 50 list of the "Fastest-Growing Public Two-Year Colleges." Onondaga was recognized on this national list as #11 in our enrollment category and was the only SUNY institution ranked in the top 15 among all four categories.

Onondaga Community College's tremendous progress has been achieved by a remarkable group of faculty and staff who are deeply committed to the success of students, and an equally remarkable group of volunteers (board members, elected officials, ambassadors and friends) who are steadfastly committed to the success of the College and its ongoing service to Central New York. As we begin the New Year, I am optimistic that Onondaga Community College is well prepared not only to face the economic challenges ahead, but to tap new opportunities for advancing our mission and role as a college of choice and a college of hope, not just for a select few, but for everyone.

Sincerely,

Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D.
President

"Lost Boys" Say Thank You To Onondaga

Five Onondaga alumni recently presented to Dr. Sydow and the College a plaque expressing their appreciation and gratitude.

Nearly 20 years ago children half a world away were caught in the middle of a civil war that was ravaging their east African country of Sudan. The war forced thousands of young boys from their families and homes. In an extraordinary attempt to escape war, slavery and death, these young boys – many no older than six or seven – embarked on a journey out of their war-torn country. For the nearly 4,000 young boys who made it to a refugee camp in Kenya and survived this extraordinary exodus, the world came to know them as "The Lost Boys of Sudan." Among them were Onondaga alumni Kerubino Guot, Atem Abik, Gabriel Bol, Deng Chol, and Abraham Awolic.

Over the years, Onondaga has been privileged to welcome 33 students from Sudan – including seven students currently attending this academic year.



Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., (center) with members of the Lost Boys delegation. Also shown, Dr. Penny Kim (2nd from right) and Eunice Williams, interim associate vice president for diversity services (far right).

"As a college that takes great pride in celebrating and honoring its rich multicultural diversity, it would be the greatest of understatement to say that our campus has been greatly enriched by the presence of each of the 33 students from Sudan," said Onondaga President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. "Their desire to pursue a college education on the heels of such tremendous adversity has inspired me and certainly the entire campus community."



Remembering a Remarkable Woman

Helen B. Q. Anderson '72
(1926 - 2009)

In January, the College, and indeed the entire community, lost a remarkable woman – a true champion of higher education, Helen B.Q. Anderson. Ms.

Anderson served for 23 years on the College's Board of Trustees (1976-1999) as well as on the Board of Directors of the OCC Foundation and the Alumni Association. She demonstrated her unwavering belief in this institution when, through a bequest to the College she became a charter member of the College's Legacy Society, creating a scholarship fund to assist OCC students in perpetuity.

In the early 1970s, Ms. Anderson attended Onondaga as a single mother forced by circumstances to return to the work force. She earned a degree in humanities (with high honors) and was among the first class of graduates to receive a degree on the new campus atop Onondaga Hill. Due to the fortuitous nature of her last name, she was quite

literally the first person to be handed an Onondaga degree. She obtained a master's degree in social work from Syracuse University and went on to have a profound career teaching at local colleges and working in the community.

A highly respected community leader and a distinguished Onondaga alumna, Ms. Anderson was a passionate advocate of the College. In a 2003 interview for the College's history project, Ms. Anderson shared her thoughts about the value of Onondaga to the Central New York community. "When people graduate from high school very often they leave here. But when students graduate from Onondaga most of our students stay here. They can get better jobs, better pay and their family is here. That's a great asset to the community." – Helen B. Q. Anderson.

Famous Entrepreneur Series

Onondaga Community College is a platinum sponsor and the host site for this year's Famous Entrepreneur Series. The first of the four annual lectures by visionary leaders across a spectrum of industries featured JetBlue CEO David Barger. To learn more about the Famous Entrepreneur Series, go to <http://www.fes-cny.org/index.php>.

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Message From Board Chair David W. Murphy

The attention of citizens across the state was captured on December 16 when Governor Paterson released the proposed Executive Budget for 2009-10. The extraordinary downturn of the economic climate has reverberated across New York state and the nation, forcing everyone to take a hard look and to make tough choices.

As a businessman, when making an investment of funds, I always look at return on investment (ROI). I can tell you that community colleges, in particular Onondaga Community College provides a return like that of none other, particularly in this market. Recently, Onondaga Community College received the report on its economic impact from the leading provider of socioeconomic impact and strategic planning tools to community and technical colleges in the United States and Canada, Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI). These results show that Onondaga provides a 16% rate of return on state and local government support, with \$43.4 million annually in higher earnings by Onondaga graduates and \$3.6 million annually in avoided social costs to the state of New York (source: EMSI, 2008).

Community college education makes investment sense for students too. The average annual income of a one-year certificate graduate at the midpoint of their career is \$37,200, and \$43,900 for someone with an associate degree – 38% more than someone with a high school diploma. It is these higher earnings that account for an attractive 20% rate of return to students on their Onondaga Community College educational investment, an investment that is fully recovered – including foregone wages – in seven years. (source: EMSI, 2008).

Prior to the current pronounced economic slide, students responded to the strong returns posed by Onondaga Community College and enrollment has grown by more than 45 percent over the past decade. The fact is that despite reductions in public funding, the harsh economic climate will lead more people to look to community colleges for solid returns on more affordable higher education, job training and second or third careers, driving enrollment at Onondaga and our sister institutions further upward.

This awesome responsibility for the well-being of our state, our community and our students in both good times and bad is what drives the mission of Onondaga Community College. Accessible high quality educational programs and services are only possible through an institution that is committed to efficiency and entrepreneurialism, and also to earning adequate public funding support that is commensurate with return. I urge all of our elected officials to take a hard look at the state's bottom line, and for the good of all New Yorkers, to take a hard look at the return of community colleges.

Sincerely,

David W. Murphy
Chairman

FACULTY / STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Charles Abaté, Ph.D., Electrical Technology, published "You Say Multitasking Like It's a Good Thing!" in *Thought & Action: The NEA Higher Education Journal*, Fall 2008.

Jennifer Bergamo, Mathematics, co-presented "Applications of Student Response Systems: Calculus and Statistics" at the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year College's annual conference in Washington, D.C. in November.

Christine Braunberger, Ph.D., English/Reading/Communications, received the 2008 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Kathleen Cantone, Mathematics, co-presented "Applications of Student Response Systems: Calculus and Statistics" at the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year College's annual conference in Washington, D.C. in November.

Tracey Clancy, Mathematics, was named one of the "40 Under 40" by the CNY Business Journal.

Laurie Couse, Residence Life, raised more than \$3,000 and completed a marathon for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Washington, DC.

Marion Cross, Admission and Recruitment, received the Outstanding Professional Award from the SUNY College Admissions Professionals organization at its annual meeting.

William Cross, Ph.D., Social Sciences, was honored by the Mental Health Association of Onondaga County as Individual Advocate of the Year for 2008. He is also a recipient of the YWCA Diversity Achiever's Award for 2008.

Patrick DeFazio, Mathematics, was elected to Articulation Chair (executive board) for the New York Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (NYSMATYC) for 2008-2010.

Michelle Doucette, Mathematics, was a guest speaker at the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS) Summer Institute.

Fran Dulcich, Human Services/Teacher Education, co-presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in Dallas, TX in November.

Kathleen Eisele, D.A., English/Reading/Communication, received a Trustee Recognition Award for her role as a team leader of the Middle States Reaccreditation Team.

William Emm, Administrative Services, completed a Master's Degree program with Keuka College.

Mark Ende, Ph.D., English/Reading/Communication, is a 2008 recipient of the Ann Felton Multicultural Award.

Crystal Etzel, Ph.D., English/Reading/Communication, received a Trustee Recognition Award for her role as chair of the Middle States Reaccreditation Team.

Mary Ellen Faughnan-Kenien, Ph.D., Modern Languages, was co-organizer of a two-day international conference at Binghamton University titled, "Venus: Interpretations and Representations in the Late Classical Through the Early Modern Period." She is also the founder of the Cercle Français - a new group at Onondaga Community College for French conversation. She is a 2008 recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Claude Freeman, Art, received an award for a selected drawing at the Central New York Biennial Art Show at the Kirkland Art Center in Clinton, NY. His drawing "Tides Out" was selected for the 2008 Northern National Art Competition at Nicolet College in Rhineland, WI. He also displayed exhibitions in the prestigious "Made in NY" competition at the Scheinfurth Memorial Art Center in Auburn, NY, as well as the Miniature Art 2008 Exposition at the Council for the Arts of Chambersburg, PA.

Nancy Gabriel, Human Services/Teacher Education, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award. She serves as President of the New York State American Associate Degree Early Childhood Educators (NYS ACCESS) and as Affiliate Representative of the National Board of the American Associate Degree Early Childhood Educators (ACCESS). She is a member of the Allocations Team for the United Way of Central New York and a board member on the Success by Six Educare Team for the United Way of CNY. She presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in November. She was a recipient of a Syracuse Campus-Community Entrepreneurship Initiative eTeam grant.

Corey Hudson, Educational Opportunity Program, is a 2008 recipient of the Ann Felton Multicultural Award.

Bridgette Jacob, Mathematics, co-presented "Applications of Student Response Systems: Calculus and Statistics" at the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year College's annual conference in Washington, D.C. in November.

Patricia Martin, Ph.D., Human Services/Teacher Education, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award. She co-presented at the National

Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference in Dallas, TX in November and she co-presented "Teacher Preparation Via Media-Rich Scenario-Based Instruction", at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) 17th National Institute for Professional Development in New Orleans, LA. She is a co-recipient of the Syracuse Campus-Community Entrepreneurship Initiative, eTeam grant, "Early Childhood Education Entrepreneurs: Connecting Best-Practice in Early Childhood Education with Entrepreneurial Thinking."

Brian Molinaro, Financial Services, was a presenter at the New York State Community College Business Officers' Association Fall Conference in Saratoga Springs on "Tips to Consider When a College Wants to Issue a Request for Proposals for its Commercial Insurance Package."

Carmel Nicoletti, Art, recently had her works of glass exhibited at the Edgewood Gallery.

Richard Pardee, Art, exhibited his handmade books and prints at The Gallery of St. John's Pottery in Baldwinsville, NY.

Dave Pasiak, Athletics and Intramurals, was a featured speaker at Central New York Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Clinic in the fall.

James Russell, Information Technology, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award.

Steven Ryan, Art, juried the art competition at this year's Great New York State Fair. He also displayed a one-man show of watercolors at Le Moyne College's art gallery this fall.

Nicole Schlater, President's Office, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award.

Andrew Schuster, Art, had two works of art on display in the Delavan Art Gallery's special exhibition, *Shadows*, this winter.

Engracia Schuster, Modern Languages, was elected to the Spanish Action League Board of Directors.

Theresa Scipione, Administrative Services, completed an associate degree program at Onondaga Community College. She is also a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award.

Timothy Stedman, Computer Studies, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award for his role as a team leader of the Middle States Reaccreditation Team.

Donna Stuccio, Criminal Justice, was appointed as the new Artistic Director of the Armory Square Playhouse. Wolf's Mouth Theatre Collective in Ithaca, NY presented her short play, "Nice Pants," as part of their first ever festival.

Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., President, was awarded CEO of the Year Award for the Northeast Region by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

Jane Tanner, Mathematics, is serving as the Northeast Vice President for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. She was elected to the International Finance Committee for the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and she presented "Do You Do Sudoku?" at the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Convention in Chicago, IL.

Nadia Tressler, Library, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award.

Harry Tuttle, Ed.D., English/Reading/Communication, published a book titled, "Formative Assessment: Responding to Students." Authored "Authentic Assessment Made Possible by Web 2.0" piece for the book *Web 2.0: New Tools, New Schools*. Authored "Designing, Assessing and Scaffolding Learning in Videoconferences" chapter in the book *Videoconferencing Technology in K-12 Instruction*. Authored "Standards-Based Learning: Helping Students Achieve" (cover story) for *Classroom Connect: Connected Learning*. He authored five columns for Grant Wiggins' *Big Ideas* Web site as well as 25 columns for *Hot Chalk* online journal. He also conducted three presentations at the New York State Association of Computers and Technology in Education.

David Wall, Corporate & Public Partnerships, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award.

Eunice Williams, General Studies, is a recipient of a 2008 Trustee Recognition Award. She was the recipient of the fall 2008 Non-Traditional Student Award and was recently presented with the 2008 Ralph R. Whitney Jr. Award.

Timothy Willig, Ph.D., Social Sciences. His recent book, "Restoring the Chains of Friendship: British Policy and the Indians of the Great Lakes (1783-1815)," has been nominated for Columbia University's 2009 Bancroft Prize.

Ednita Wright, Ph.D., Human Services/Teacher Education, is a recipient of the 2008 YWCA Diversity Achiever's Award. She also received the 2008 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

For a list of 2008 Employee Achievement Awards, go to sunyocc.edu.

McKenney Named Athletics Director of the Year

Robert McKenney has been named 2008 AstroTurf Athletics Director of the Year for Two-Year Colleges in the Northeast Region by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).



McKenney has served as Athletics Director leading the athletics, fitness and intramurals programs at Onondaga since 1999. Under his leadership, the College's athletics division has grown to include nine intercollegiate men's and women's athletic teams, including the newest team - women's lacrosse - that launched this past fall. Additionally, he was instrumental in creating the Annual Athletic Awards Banquet and the Athletics Hall of Fame.

"Bob's dedication to athletic and academic excellence has led our outstanding student-athletes and coaches to great successes, including three national championship titles in the last three years," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. "On behalf of the entire college community, I extend sincerest congratulations to Bob on this well deserved honor."

College Named 2008 Economic Champion

At the sixth annual Economics Champions Luncheon held last fall, Onondaga Community College was named a 2008 Economic Champion by the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. Onondaga was one of 240 Economic Champions named for its contributions to the economic growth of the Central New York region.

Capital Campaign

continued from front page

Reach Beyond is only the second capital campaign in Onondaga Community College's nearly 50-year history and it marks the College's most ambitious fundraising effort to date. As of this publication date, nearly \$3.8 million dollars have been raised. The largest gift was a \$525,000 gift received in 2008 during the campaign's "quiet phase" from the Syracuse Research Corporation.

The priorities of the *Reach Beyond* campaign stem from the vision and strategic goals of the College and focus on academic achievement, access, innovation and creativity.

For more information, turn to the *Reach Beyond* special insert section in this issue of *Continuum*.

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Lacrosse Stars On Their Way to UNC and Le Moyne

Sophomores Ed Prevost '09, of Watertown, and Vinnie Alexander '09, of Syracuse have each received scholarship offers to play lacrosse next fall.

Prevost received a scholarship and a letter of intent from the University of North Carolina (UNC) to transfer in fall 2009. Prevost is a humanities major and currently holds a 3.8 grade point average (GPA).

Prevost is a 2007 graduate of Watertown IHC High School and is an attack man on the men's lacrosse team. He was named 1st Team All American, Junior College Offensive Player of the Year and National Attack Man of the Year. He was also an Academic All-American.



Ed Prevost '09



Vinnie Alexander '09

Another of Wilbur's star student-athletes, sophomore Vinnie Alexander '09, of Syracuse, has received a scholarship and a letter of intent from another top school - Le Moyne College. He will transfer to Le Moyne in fall 2009.

Alexander is a graduate of Westhill High School in Syracuse and is a

humanities major with a 3.2 GPA. He is an attackman on the 2008-09 men's lacrosse team and he received 2nd Team All-American honors at attack, midfield and goalie respectively and all conference 1st team. He is an academic All-American.

Coach Wilbur and his team are gearing up for the 2009 season and are eager to use the new athletic field for practices and home games. "I can't wait for both of these outstanding players to take the field once again this spring."

Film Contest Winner

continued from front page

of mine," he says. "Art Professor Deb Haylor-McDowell was one of my favorite professors. She let me integrate my passion for film into my final art project for one of her classes. She appreciated my enthusiasm enough to let me take a risk and do what I love to do."

Cunningham will always love upstate New York, but right now he's packing his bags and moving to the Hudson Valley area. "I'll be working for a small production company in a nice town along the river. The big city is nice but it's too crazy to live in. I love visiting there, but I'm partial to this end of the state."

To see Sean's award-winning film and learn more about this talented filmmaker, go to <http://web.mac.com/seancunningman>.

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ECONOMIC IMPACT FACTS

Onondaga Community College plays a significant role in the local economy and is a sound investment from multiple perspectives. Students benefit from improved lifestyles and increased earnings. Taxpayers benefit from a larger economy and lower social costs. Finally, the community as a whole benefits from increased job and investment opportunities, higher business revenues, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

Onondaga Helps State and Local Economy

- The OCC Service Area economy receives roughly \$51.6 million in regional income annually due to OCC operations and capital spending.
- ★ *The regional economy is \$898.7 M stronger due to OCC*
- About 5% of OCC's students come to the area from outside regional boundaries, bringing with them monies that would not have otherwise entered the local economy. The expenditures of OCC's out-of-region students generate roughly \$698,000 in regional income in the OCC Service Area.
- OCC activities encourage new business, assist existing business, and create long-term economic growth. The college enhances worker skills and provides customized training to local business and industry. It is estimated that the OCC Service Area workforce embodies about 3.3 million credit hours of past and present OCC training.
- OCC skills embodied in the regional workforce where former students are employed increase local income by \$681.4 million. Associated indirect effects increase income by another \$165.0 million.
- Altogether, the OCC Service Area economy annually receives roughly \$898.7 million in income due to past and present efforts of OCC.

Onondaga Leverages Taxpayer Dollars

- The state and local community will see avoided social costs amounting to \$16 per year for every credit earned by OCC students, including savings associated with improved health, lower crime costs, and reduced welfare and unemployment. This translates to \$3.6 million in avoided costs to the State of New York each year as long as students are in the workforce.
- Students benefit from higher earnings, thereby expanding the tax base and reducing the burden on state and local taxpayers. In the aggregate, OCC students generate about \$43.3 million annually in higher earnings due to their OCC education.
- OCC yields a return on government investment. State and local government allocated around \$40.3 million in support of OCC in fiscal year 2007. For every \$1 of this support, taxpayers see a cumulative return of \$4.40 over the course of students' working careers (in the form of higher tax receipts and avoided social costs).
- State and local government see a rate of return of 16% on their support for OCC. This return compares very favorably with private sector rates of return on similar long-term investments.

Onondaga Helps Students Earn More

- A total of 25,621 credit and non-credit students attended the college in FY 2007. About 88% of these students stay in the region initially after they leave college, contributing to the local economy.
- ★ *Students see their annual income increase by \$190 per year for every credit completed at OCC*
- Education increases lifetime income. The average annual income of a one-year certificate graduate at the midpoint of his or her career is \$37,200, or 82% more than someone without a high school diploma, and 17% more than a student with a high school diploma. The average income at the career midpoint of someone with an associate degree is \$43,900, or 115% more than someone without a high school diploma, and 38% more than a student with a high school diploma.
- OCC students enjoy an average annual income increase of \$190 for every credit completed.
- Throughout his or her working career, the average OCC student's discounted lifetime income (i.e., future values expressed in present value terms) increases by \$7.10 for every \$1 invested (tuition, fees, books, and wages given up to attend).
- Students enjoy an attractive 20% rate of return on their OCC educational investment, recovering all costs (including wages foregone) in 7 years.

Source: EMSI, June 2008