

**Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees
Education Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Whitney 210
Presiding: Trustee Jaime Alicea, Chair**

Trustees: Haji Adan (virtual); Jaime Alicea; Vicki Brackens (virtual); Kathryn Crockett; Dr. Donna DeSiato; John Sindoni; Mark Tryniski

Staff: Stephanie Aldrich; Dr. Agatha Awuah; David Furney; Sarah Gaffney; Julie Hart; Dr. Warren Hilton; Linda Kelley; Roger Mirabito; Louis Noce; Michael O'Connor; Wendy Ornoski; Justin Pritchard; Amy Proulx; Dr. Hector Rodriguez; Dr. Scott Schuhert; Nicole Schlater; Olin Stratton; Susan Tormey; Dr. Larry Weiskirch

Call to Order

At 8:23 a.m., Trustee Alicea called the Education Committee meeting to order.

Introduction

Dr. Hector Rodriguez, Provost & Senior Vice President

Trustee Alicea introduced new Provost & Senior Vice President, Dr. Hector Rodriguez. Dr. Rodriguez provided an overview of his industry and higher education experience.

Externally Funded Projects

Trustee Alicea introduced Nicole Schlater, Associate Vice President, Grants Administration, and Louis Noce, Executive Director, OCC Foundation, to provide an update on externally funded projects currently in place. Ms. Schlater mentioned that in total grants secured are at \$341,750. Grants pending decisions & grants in progress are worth an additional \$140,000 in the institutional pipeline. To clarify, the grants listed do not account for all institutional gifts – these are specifically FY26 Foundation and corporate grants. This list excludes other forms of institutional support (e.g., sponsorships or general support without typical grant structure). For context, the total institutional giving in FY26 is \$924,045 so far (compared to \$1.3M in FY25). Key takeaways of this funding are that overall, institutional support has remained strong in fiscal year 2026, with a focus on diversifying the portfolio of institutional grants that OCC has applied for. Many of the names on this list are first time donors to OCC including the Charles Hayden Foundation, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the National Grid Foundation, and the New York State Black Legislative Task Force. As the Foundation seeks to increase overall philanthropy at OCC, grantmaking is one tool in our toolbox. This signals exciting momentum for institutional giving – and all giving – to OCC.

Grants secured include:

- Charles Hayden Foundation: \$90,250
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation: \$10,000
- Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield: \$15,000
- National Grid Foundation: \$100,000
- National Grid: \$3,500
- NYS Black Legislative Task Force: \$75,000
- JPMorganChase/MSFCP: \$48,000

Ms. Schlater continued by saying that The National Grid Foundation has provided us with a \$100,000 grant to strengthen OCC's career pathways to healthcare and advanced manufacturing. This will support the 52 students to complete OCC's Semiconductor Bootcamp and training programs for Certified Nursing Assistants, Home Health Aides, and Medical Assistants in 2026-2027. Support will expand access to training and certification programs, provide targeted student support and help build the workforce pipeline in growing CNY industries.

One additional grant is that of the Money Smart Financial Coaching Program. This includes \$48,000 grant funded by JPMorganChase to support an initial 2 years of the MSFCP program to promote financial literacy and wellness. Partnering with OCC's Integrated Learning Seminar (ILS 153), the program combines in-class instruction with personalized financial coaching. OCC joins fellow SUNY 2-years Westchester Community College and Fulton-Montgomery Community College as MSFCP partners.

Ms. Schlater continued with an overview of the recent Title III submission. OCC's request is for funding in the amount of \$2,964,217 under the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program to implement OC3—Commit, Complete, Compete. Addressing institutional weaknesses identified through strategic planning, OC3's objectives will (1) increase student enrollment, retention, and completion, including among low-income, first-generation, and adult students; (2) improve success in gateway mathematics courses; (3) engage students in career development and work-based learning; (4) strengthen workforce AI skills across programs; (5) improve graduate employment and earnings; and (6) enhance institutional capacity through integrated data systems and technology-enabled student support services. OCC proposes three integrated activities: Activity 1: design Guided Career Pathways and expand use of career and other assessment data to strengthen student onboarding and advising; Activity 2: implement an evidence-based math diagnostic and skill development model, integrate discipline-specific AI competencies, and increase work-based learning opportunities; and Activity 3: provide structured career-development experiences for College Credit Now students, establish progressive workforce-readiness milestones for all students, and strengthen post-graduate and employer feedback. The project addresses Title III's Absolute Priority 1 by improving academic quality, student success, and institutional capacity through comprehensive reforms in academic programs, student support systems, and institutional management. OC3 also addresses Title III's Competitive Preference Priority 1 by increasing student attainment of industry-recognized credentials, strengthening career pathways, and expanding work-based learning. Outcomes include: 10% increase in enrollment; 6 percentage point increase in retention; 5 percentage point increase in graduation rates; and 12% increase in graduate income.

There being no further business, Trustee Alicea adjourned the Education Committee meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Prepared by:
Julie Hart
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Submitted by:
Jaime Alicea
Chair, Education Committee