

**ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMERGENCY SUCCESSION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, to provide continuity of leadership and to create a structured plan in the event of an unexpected vacancy with the role of the President, Onondaga Community College will adopt a formal emergency succession resolution. This resolution will proactively address potential leadership disruptions and ensure stability during a transition period, minimizing any negative impact on the Institution's operations and reputation. This resolution will be revisited each year at the February board meeting and will be revised when necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, upon notification of the need for a temporary replacement for the President, the Board of Trustees Executive Committee, consisting of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, will be informed immediately and an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees scheduled to formally appoint the emergency internal successor for the duration of time needed. Notification will also be shared with SUNY Administration and legal counsel if warranted to ensure that the emergency internal successor's appointment aligns with state education laws and college governance processes and procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the emergency appointment for the role of the President will be internal until it is established that a more formal process should take place for an Interim President. Currently, the emergency internal successor will be selected from the positions of Provost & Senior Vice President, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, and Vice President of Enrollment Management. The Board of Trustees will officially appoint the emergency internal successor from one of the above positions at the emergency meeting. The Board of Trustees Chair will be in contact with the emergency internal successor regularly to be sure that the continuity of college operations remains in place. Should it be determined that the President of the College can no longer return to their duties, the Board of Trustees will then meet to determine next steps, which includes, but is not limited to, working with SUNY administration to be sure all necessary processes and procedures are followed; and

**WHEREAS**, the College will develop a communication strategy that details how the campus community and external stakeholders will be informed of these emergency appointments and kept abreast of next steps in the process. Clear, transparent communication will be crucial for the continuity of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the President recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Onondaga Community College emergency succession resolution, ensuring continuity of leadership;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Board of Trustees approves the Onondaga Community College emergency succession resolution.

Approved at the meeting on February 11, 2025

February 11, 2025  
Date

  
Paul Mello, Secretary of the Board

**RESOLUTION TO DETERMINE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE  
PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TITLES**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has, in recent years, supported College efforts to advance a robust, efficient and clear organizational structure, while preserving flexibility to adapt to changes as they occur and appropriate titles provide a logical and intuitive organizational structure, and are important for recruiting and retaining talent; and

**WHEREAS**, the President requests approval of the following position titles that meet the “professional service” standard as defined in New York State Education Law for inclusion into the roster of positions listed in Appendix 2 of the Professional Administrators of Onondaga Community College Federation of Teachers and Administrators labor contract:

- Director of Civic Engagement
- Director of Inclusion & Belonging
- Director of The Learning Center
- Director of the Office of Accessibility Resources
- Senior Systems Administrator
- Senior Director of Opportunity Programs

**WHEREAS**, no new funding is required for these positions and the nature and scope of duties and responsibilities, reporting lines, and qualifications are currently in place for these positions as defined by the attached position guides;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College determines that the titles listed above be included in the professional service roster, effective February 11, 2025, as defined by Section 6303 of the New York State Education Law, subject to the approval of the Chancellor of the State University of New York.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting on February 11, 2025

February 11, 2025

Date



Paul Mello, Secretary of the Board

**ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
(OCCHDC)**

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT SARAH GAFFNEY AS A DIRECTOR OF THE OCCHDC  
TO FILL A VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR;  
TO APPOINT CAROL OBERNESSER AS A DIRECTOR FROM 2025-2027; AND TO  
REAPPOINT SARAH GAFFNEY, LORI DIETZ, DR. KERRY EVANS, AND DR. LARRY  
WEISKIRCH FROM 2025-2027**

**WHEREAS**, the bylaws of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation stipulate that directors shall be eligible to serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the bylaws of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation stipulate that Directors shall be appointed and reappointed by the Board of Trustees of the Member, upon the recommendation of the Corporation's Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee of the Onondaga Community College Housing Development Corporation recommends appointment of Sarah Gaffney from January 2025 – August 2025; appointment of Carol Obernesser for a two-year term from 2025-2027; and the reappointment of Sarah Gaffney, Lori Dietz, Dr. Kerry Evans, and Dr. Larry Weiskirch for a two-year term from 2025-2027;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Sarah Gaffney from January 2025 – August 2025; appointment of Carol Obernesser for a two-year term from 2025-2027; and the reappointment of Sarah Gaffney, Lori Dietz, Dr. Kerry Evans, and Dr. Larry Weiskirch for a two-year term from 2025-2027.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting on February 11, 2025

February 11, 2025  
Date

  
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Paul Mello, Secretary of the Board

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF  
INGERMAN SMITH, LPP AS SPECIAL COUNSEL**

**WHEREAS**, on November 12, 2024, the State University of New York (“SUNY”) Board of Trustees adopted a resolution regarding “Strengthening the Community College Presidential Search Process and Ensuring Transparency and Accountability” (the “Resolution”) which amends the SUNY Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges (the “SUNY Guidelines”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Chancellor of SUNY and other SUNY officials have taken action(s) in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution, including implementing new requirements regarding the employment contract of community college presidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College has been advised that the adoption and implementation of said Resolution exceeds the statutory authority granted to the SUNY Board, in contravention to statute and existing policy and/or guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College has further been advised that the SUNY Board failed to promulgate the new rules/requirements contained in the Resolution pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act’s statutorily required rulemaking procedure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College has determined that it is in its best interest to institute legal action, and/or take any other appropriate legal action to protect its rights, authority and autonomy as it relates to the Community College Presidential Search Process;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College hereby appoints Ingerman Smith, LLP, as Special Counsel for the purpose of commencing legal action against the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Chancellor of SUNY, Dr. John King, and/or any other proper parties on a cooperative basis with other community colleges and/or parties in the State Supreme Court, County of Albany, and/or other appropriate administrative agency(ies), jurisdiction(s) and/or tribunal(s), challenging the legality of the action(s) taken by SUNY related to the Resolution, the legality of the Resolution and the action(s) that the Chancellor of SUNY and others have taken in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution and/or take any other appropriate legal action to address issues relating to the Resolution and its impact on the interests, rights, autonomy and authority of the Onondaga Community College; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College is herewith authorized to execute a retainer agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP, and any other necessary documentation relative to this appointment, on behalf of the Board.

Approved at the meeting on February 11, 2025

February 11, 2025  
Date

  
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Paul Mello, Secretary of the Board

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A NEW PROGRAM IN  
PRE-ENGINEERING**

**WHEREAS**, new programs at Onondaga Community College originate from transfer requirements, industry needs, student and community input, faculty recommendations, and/or program review; and

**WHEREAS**, review and consultation for such new programs will occur with the Provost, Academic Deans, and within Academic Departments, Curriculum Committee, Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee, and Faculty Senate as a whole with further review of such new programs conducted by the State University of New York and the New York State Education Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Provost has discussed the new program proposal with faculty leaders and hereby requests endorsement by the Board of Trustees to conduct a cost and feasibility analysis to be reviewed by an independent consultant consistent with the requirements outlined in the College's Curriculum Handbook, subject to the College President making a final determination concerning whether to proceed with any new program; and

**WHEREAS**, enrollment in the College's School of Technology, Engineering, and Computing continues to grow, attracting new students interested in tech-related programs that offer strong career outcomes in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, labor market analysis indicates above average median salary and above average projected occupational growth for technical and engineering occupations in our region over the next 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Provost has recommended to the College President and the College President hereby recommends to the Board of Trustees that a Pre-Engineering Technician degree be endorsed for a feasibility study; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustee recognizes that the programs resulting from the feasibility analysis will be appropriately designed to fulfill the requirements of a credential the College is authorized to grant (e.g., Certificate, Associate of Arts, Associate of Sciences, Associate of Applied Sciences, Associate in Occupational Studies);

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Onondaga Community College hereby endorses a feasibility study for a Pre-Engineering Technician degree and/or certificate program consistent with the College's existing authority to develop certificates and associate degrees.

Approved at the meeting on February 11, 2025

February 11, 2025  
Date

  
Paul Mello, Secretary of the Board