Our students are the future and will change the world. Thanks to the support of our friends, alumni, and employees, the Empire State College Foundation provides students with academic supports, community engagement, and financial assistance to ensure they flourish in their studies and succeed in their goals.

With this goal always in mind, and with your unwavering support, we are forward-thinking and ever-evolving.
As 2021 came to a close, it was exciting to reflect on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of SUNY Empire State College. Looking forward, we now begin the next 50 years, focusing on the heart of our success — our students.

For those who have decided to add on to their already busy day-to-day life and attempt something new — enrolling in college to change the direction they are going, to better their career and the lives of their family — the goal line may seem far away and the path to get there overwhelming. That is where SUNY Empire comes in. We provide the path to the goal, specializing in brighter futures!

The path becomes easier with a guide, partners, and a map of courses. SUNY Empire provided a mentor as my guide, professors and workshops as partners, and a clear map to follow as I began my graduate degree and entered the nonproft sector less than a year later. Now I have a career in helping people — 20 years of assisting people who are changing the world.

This college changed my life, and my story is not unique. In the following pages we share stories of others affected by SUNY Empire who are changing the world. I hope you enjoy their stories, and on behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I thank you for continuing to support SUNY Empire.

Sincerely,

Marian Conway, Ph.D. ’01, ’04
Chairwoman, SUNY Empire State College Foundation Board of Directors

It is an incredible honor to serve as officer in charge of SUNY Empire. When I assumed this role in December 2020, I knew it would be a great and serious undertaking. What I did not know, however, was the full extent of our college community’s resiliency, innovation, and generosity in times of crisis. It seems the darkest of times can shine the brightest of lights on our shared humanity.

I hope our alumni will join the faculty, staff, and students in our anticipation of an exciting new chapter in SUNY Empire’s story as we welcome our new president, Lisa Vollendorf, Ph.D., who will begin her role this summer. I have had the honor of getting to know our incoming president over the past several months, and I am filled with optimism about the future of this institution under her leadership.

In 2021, the SUNY Empire State College Foundation allocated $1.63 million to assist with critical collegewide initiatives, including awarding nearly $850,000 in direct fnancial assistance to students, funding faculty research projects, and launching new programs and partnerships — all markers of our thriving educational community. None of this would be possible without the support of our alumni and friends.

This year’s Impact of Philanthropy report demonstrates the many ways we are a forward-thinking, and ever-evolving institution. Thank you for your continued dedication to the college and our students. We are better and stronger because of you.

Sincerely,

Nathan Gonyea, Ph.D.
Officer in Charge
Time and again, alumni demonstrate their gratitude for their SUNY Empire experience through a commitment to helping current students succeed. Translating their respective successes into the tangible support that students need, both Jennifer Manocherian ’74 and David Theobald ’13, ’17 are encouraging students to achieve their aspirations and change the world for the better.

EXPERIENCED NURSING ADMINISTRATOR, FORWARD-THINKING ENTREPRENEUR, AND ASPIRING ADIRONDACK 46ER

DAVID THEOBALD ’13, ’17

David Theobald ’13, ’17, a School of Nursing and Allied Health alumnus and founder of a healthcare staffing and technology group, is the epitome of high-energy. Between running his company, serving on several volunteer boards, and working on climbing all 46 of the Adirondack High Peaks, alongside the youngest of his four children with his wife Susan ’16, he keeps busy.

As a teenager, David was drawn to the field of nursing through circumstance. At age 15, he was caring for his grandmother in Long Island and realized he “had the caring gene, the call to help others,” as he describes it. During college, after initially pursuing studies in environmental science, he was hospitalized after a motorcycle accident and was again attracted to that helping role.

“I found healthcare fascinating — all the ways to support people in their time of crisis,” he said. He pivoted from environmental science to nursing and spent the following years working in various units at hospitals as a registered nurse.
THE HELPING GENE

As a nurse, he liked trying new experiences. Working at different hospitals, “I was the first one who wanted to float.” After working as an RN at multiple institutions, he decided to pursue a Bachelor of Science in nursing. “I had a quest for knowledge and learning skills. There were so many shortages in the healthcare workforce across the state. I found there was a big need for nurses to have a better in-depth knowledge of how to support patient outcomes. Empire was a great choice for me because I could still work and take care of my family.”

David received his B.S. in nursing in 2013 and decided to enroll in the then-fledgling graduate program in nursing. Being a member of the first cohort in the Master of Science in nursing program, he likened their class to “the pilot child.” His wife Susan simultaneously enrolled at SUNY Empire in the MBA program. “We knew we’d have long hours studying, and we thought we might as well take this journey together.”

“BUILDING THE AIRPLANE AS WE FLY”

In 2003, David took his nursing experience and developed a business plan for Davin Healthcare Workforce Solutions (originally founded as Stat Staff Professionals, Inc.), a healthcare staffing organization. “Davin was started with a stethoscope and a willingness to make a difference,” he said. “It grew into an organization understanding the desperate need for quality healthcare and giving back.”

Davin Healthcare Workforce Solutions has since evolved to offer nursing and allied health staffing services along with software and technology to help hospitals and caregivers manage credentialing and clinical placements. He credits Bridget Nettleton, Ph.D., an early mentor and the retired dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health, with discussions that aided development of Davin’s software, which helps nurses manage their credentialing and work assignments.

As healthcare continues to evolve, Davin’s services are evolving with it. “We’re building the airplane as we fly,” he surmises. “That’s healthcare in a nutshell.”

“Empire was a great choice for me because I could still work and take care of my family.”

— David Theobald ’13, ’17
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

As one of the nursing program’s earliest graduates and an experienced professional in the field, David was asked to serve on the School of Nursing and Allied Health Advisory Board. In addition to advising SUNY Empire, he volunteers as a board member for the nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau and the Siena Baldwin School of Nursing. He believes in the importance of volunteer service. “It’s your duty and civic responsibility to support organizations in your community that you have a passion for. It’s something that I find rewarding, sharing best practices and ideas. That’s how you get work done.”

Part of his commitment to community includes establishing scholarships, like the two he founded at SUNY Empire, to help nurses complete the state-mandated “BSN in 10.” BSN in 10 refers to a New York state law passed in 2017 requiring nurses to obtain a bachelor’s degree within 10 years of initially receiving their RN license.

“That’s one of the passions for us to support the BSN in 10,” he said. “What can we do as an organization to help not just our nurses, but any nurse who is going to school. We said let’s commit some of our funds to nursing education. It has branched out to other colleges across the state and the country, and at five or six high schools throughout the Capital District. I think that’s a lot of our work in the future, supporting scholarships and getting kids interested early.”

“THE TASSEL IS WORTH THE HASSLE”

During the pandemic, while his youngest son was home studying remotely from SUNY Morrisville, David thought of another — albeit unconventional — way to give back to the community.

“My son started it, and I was inspired. We started hiking the Adirondack High Peaks,” he said. “One of the goals was that for every peak we hiked, we would donate $1,000 to scholarships. We are up to 38 peaks.” They hope to eventually complete all 46 peaks.

He likens the effort of a wintertime “23-mile crazy hike” to the difficulty of pursuing higher education. “It’s a challenge to go to school, especially as a returning adult. It’s like a hike to get to the top. To get to the degree, you have to believe that ‘the tassel is worth the hassle.”

His own aspirations go beyond his current business model and graduate degree. In addition to eventually pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, he hopes to teach the next generation of nurses and expand Davin’s efforts to support nurses’ education and wellbeing through technology, and by getting more people into the nursing field.

Ultimately, he says his goal is simple. “It’s really just lending a hand and supporting nurses. I always feel the more you give to the profession, the more you can receive as a community, as patients, or for our loved ones. It’s bigger than just me.”
Spend an hour in the company of alumna Jennifer Manocherian ’74, and you will come away entertained by her stories, impressed by the sheer variety of her interests, and envious of her willingness to throw herself head-first into her passions.

A writer and teacher, producer of Broadway shows, family therapist and divorce mediator, and self-described “compulsive knitter,” Jennifer has an infectious energy and drive to take advantage of every opportunity. She is passionate about sharing that energy, and helping others cultivate their own opportunities, as she has done by establishing the Angel Scholarship fund at SUNY Empire State College.

AN EDUCATION INTERRUPTED

Jennifer’s path to SUNY Empire is in some ways a familiar one and in other ways a departure from that of the average SUNY Empire student. Growing up outside New York City, she came from a family where education was important. In her parents’ view, “everybody went to college,” but that path ultimately wasn’t for her. “I dropped out of Barnard when I was very young,” she said, and soon began raising a family with her husband Fred. Although she periodically accumulated credits at several colleges, it wasn’t until she had four children of her own plus a nephew living with them that she decided to finally complete the degree she had started many years before.

“When I heard about Empire State College, I thought, ‘This is probably an opportunity for me,’” she said. SUNY Empire was not only accessible to a busy mother with young children, the prior learning assessment process and acceptance of previous credits was crucial in making it a feasible option. “I’d managed to accumulate enough credits that I was close to the end of a junior year, so it wasn’t an insurmountable thing to do,” she said.

Jennifer’s graduation in 1974 coincided with the birth of her fifth child, and she felt a tremendous sense of achievement. “I felt I had at least accomplished that. For me, it was a matter of legitimacy and opportunity. I wasn’t sure what lay ahead for me.”
EMBRACING THE PERFORMING ARTS

What lay ahead was a graduate program in education, with a focus on becoming a family therapist. Her practice as a therapist thrived and she built a program in divorce mediation, until falling into a career she never expected. “I had always had a starry-eyed vision of going into the entertainment business.”

She admits, “I didn’t have talent, but I'd always wanted to go into the arts.” Beginning in 1987 and for more than three decades to follow, Jennifer devoted herself to the performing arts as a producer of numerous Broadway and Off-Broadway plays and musicals. Several of her shows were nominated for or won Tony awards, including “Caroline, or Change,” “Spring Awakening,” “August: Osage County,” and “Stomp.”

She has a practical outlook about making such a drastic career change. “If I want to do something, I have to do it all the way. I walked away from a budding career in divorce mediation. I called it a leave of absence, but once you walk away it’s hard to come back,” she says.

LIFE AS A PROCESS

She credits her SUNY Empire experience with leading her toward a variety of pursuits. “Without Empire State College, I would have never been able to get a graduate degree, and all the things I have done up to where I am today have been a part of that.” She is philosophical about her life path. “I see life as a process; you can’t ever look at anything in isolation.”

These days, Jennifer remains busy with work, volunteering, and a close connection to her large family. In addition to teaching writing, she is working on her first novel, wrote the book of the musical “Marry Harry,” currently available on streamingmusicals.com, and recently wrote the book for a short musical titled “Cockroaches and Cologne,” featured in the Emmys’ “Broadway on Demand” film finalist series.

Jennifer serves on the board of New York Stage and Film, which develops new works, and The Peace Studio, which supports artists bringing stories of peace and reconciliation throughout the world. She also volunteers for 18by.vote, a nonprofit aimed at getting young people to register to vote.

She loves to connect with other people, whether it is through a Zoom writing class with students in Kenya or receiving letters from the recipients of the Angel Scholarship fund. “I’ve been very blessed in my life. I try to give back and like to be personally involved with what I do.”

Jennifer established the Angel Scholarship in 2018 to assist students who have encountered a personal hardship that has hindered their educational plans. Since its inception, the Angel Scholarship has assisted more than a dozen students with the cost of their education.

“I love seeing the stories, to know that somebody has the opportunity to move ahead in life, or whatever they need to do,” she said. “A lot of people at Empire State College are people to whom education is really meaningful. This is what’s going to make a difference in their future.”

“For me, graduating from Empire State College was a matter of legitimacy and opportunity.”

— Jennifer Manocherian ’74
Tracy Smith, a New York City native, is a two-time survivor of intimate partner stalking. He describes his experiences as among the most traumatic of his life, in part because he felt that as a stalking victim, there were not enough resources for male victims. He did, however, turn his experiences into a career goal: to become a social worker focused on advocating for those in crisis.

As the youngest in a family of four sons, Tracy describes his upbringing as dysfunctional, as he and his brothers were subjected to verbal and physical abuse from an alcoholic father and dealing with the emotional scars it left behind. “My brothers and I were looking for our father to be there for us, but later realized he could not be there for himself,” Tracy recalls. “As teenagers, we each rebelled in our own ways.”

He says that his rebellion resulted in a series of bad decisions, some of which almost cost him his life. In his early adulthood, he entered a romantic relationship that ultimately did not work out — and it led to him being stalked. After 20 years of therapy and healing, Tracy found himself in another romantic situation, which resulted in him becoming a victim of gang-stalking.

He turned to God and therapists, both of which nurtured him back to himself and saved his life.

He says as a two-time survivor of intimate stalking — with 20 years between experiences — he is alarmed that little to no progress has been made in establishing services for male stalking victims.

“It’s mainly because men don’t report their victimization,” Tracy says. “Some reasons for this are the male victim’s fears of being ridiculed and not being believed, as well as the collective socialization of males that prevents them from seeking help. There is also lack of sensitivity training among law enforcement and community-based organizations for male victims.”

Tracy is now earning his Associate of Arts in community and human services, made the Dean’s List last term (with a 4.0 GPA) and is on track to graduate in spring 2022. After completing his associate degree, he plans to earn his bachelor’s degree in community and human services and his master’s degree in social work. His professional goal is to become a licensed clinical social worker specializing in crisis intervention and mental health counseling.

“I want to change the system. There are no shelters for men who are victims of domestic violence. There is very little research, little academic literature, and no funding. Men are
Shaquoya Williams, a Syracuse native, has loved helping others since she was a child. So it was not surprising to those who knew her when she became a personal care aid and a respite provider, helping disabled children and adults in home-care settings. She also earned her associate degree in psychology online through the for-profit Argosy University, which has since closed its doors.

As fulfilling as her jobs were, Shaquoya felt the tug of something else — a dream deferred, her bachelor’s degree. She decided to pursue her B.A. degree in psychology, a subject that intrigued her for very personal reasons.

“I wanted to know more about the human mind and why people do the things they do. I experienced some traumatic events as a child. I want to help young children and adolescents with their traumatic experiences and lead a better life,” Shaquoya says. “I want them to see there’s more to life than thinking about the things that held you back. You can move forward.”

She found out about SUNY Empire through word of mouth. She did some research, learned that some of her prior credits would transfer, and enrolled in spring of 2020. She had also landed a new job with Catholic Charities as a family advocate, helping parents at risk of losing their children. Things were looking up.

Enter the COVID-19 pandemic and a progressively abusive marriage. She began divorce proceedings, leaving everything behind but her two children. She moved her small family into a shelter, where she continued to work full time and pursue her education online.

The Nancy Gathings Bunch Scholarship, established by former Metropolitan Center Dean Nancy Gathings Bunch for students who wish to work in the service of others, will help him do just that.

“It took me 30 years to get here, and I am honored, humbled, and grateful that I was selected for this scholarship,” Tracy says. “Out of all the people they could have selected, they chose me, and I won’t let anybody down.”

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A native of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, Eneida Cardona moved with her mother to the South Bronx at age seven after her parents divorced. There, they lived with her aunt while her mother looked for work.

“We went from living in a nice neighborhood in Puerto Rico to living in the South Bronx in the 1980s, when it was literally burning. Our apartment building was always on fire. There was violence in the streets and drugs everywhere,” Eneida recalls.

She said that when she first moved to New York City, she did not speak English, making it difficult to understand or communicate in school. She remembers an art teacher, Mr. Van Dyke, who would bridge the language gap with paper and crayons, urging her to express herself through art.

“I loved the idea that I didn’t have to speak but could say what I was feeling through drawing or clay or objects that didn’t require me to express myself verbally,” Eneida says.

Later, in high school, another art teacher recognized Eneida’s love for art and helped her apply for a scholarship to the Fashion Institute of Technology for Saturday classes where she could earn pre-college credit.

“It was my opportunity to get involved with these really creative people,” Eneida says. “Art took me to a place of peaceful imagination and creativity. It felt like ‘home’ to do something creative.”

After graduating from high school, Eneida enrolled at an art school in Philadelphia. In 2009, Eneida moved back to New York City with her husband and young son, where she took a job with the International Center for Photography (ICP), a museum dedicated to photography and visual culture. There, employees were able to take free classes through the ICP’s photography school. Eneida soaked up 60 of them. Employees were also encouraged to earn their bachelor’s degrees.

“I thought about going back to school for a long time, but I didn’t do it,” Eneida remembers.

While at ICP, Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico, where her parents and extended family still lived. During the hurricane, Eneida lost contact with them for weeks and felt helpless.
She turned her helplessness into action, doing what she knew best — using art as a way to help others. She started a nonprofit, Artists for Puerto Rico, and called upon artist friends to donate work. She sold the pieces and donated all of the proceeds to relief efforts in Puerto Rico, coordinating efforts with Boys and Girls Clubs.

“There was so much funding going toward infrastructure and rebuilding, but a lot of kids were left without schools and art programs. We concentrated on arts and education funding,” Eneida says. “We held our first auction in 2018 and filled an elementary school with books. The smallest effort can really help someone, and that someone can help someone else.”

After a decade with ICP, Eneida left to explore the nonprofit sector as membership manager at the Penumbra Foundation, a photography organization that provides education, research, and public programs. Nearly two years later, she was let go due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“That’s when I decided to go back to school,” Eneida says. “SUNY Empire was always in the back of my mind because they give credit for work experience. I wanted a career in nonprofit management. Although I have experience working for nonprofits, I did not know how to run my own. Going back to school was the best place to start.”

She is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in multidisciplinary studies, focusing on photography, nonprofit management, and arts management and leadership. She also works part time at the Manhattan Graphics Center, and she continues to run her nonprofit, while raising her 15-year-old daughter. Her son is now 22.

In 2021, Eneida was chosen as the recipient of the Latino Heritage Scholarship, established by an anonymous donor and awarded to undergraduate students living in Metropolitan New York who demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in society.

“The COVID-19 pandemic hit us hard,” Eneida says. “We have been working multiple jobs to make ends meet. This scholarship relieved the stress associated with paying for my education. It is so appreciated. I am so grateful.”

Eneida is on track to graduate in 2022 and hopes to earn an MFA and teach photography while continuing to run her nonprofit.

“Art education can lift people out of sadness. I grew up a poor girl in the South Bronx, and I didn’t have anything, but my art skills helped me get by,” Eneida says. “The stuff you can accomplish with your talent and your education ... the possibilities are endless.”
Through the support of our alumni, employees and friends, the Empire State College Foundation provides invaluable resources to students, faculty, staff and in the development of new academic programs. We are grateful for the loyalty of those who support the foundation, and their faith in our mission and students.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED IN 2021

More than $1.4 million was raised by the foundation in 2021. This total includes gifts and pledges directed to the Fund for SUNY Empire; restricted support of individual scholarship funds and other dedicated accounts; estate and planned gift commitments; and corporate and foundation grants and matching gifts.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS TO THE FOUNDATION BY SOURCE

1,501 donors contributed to SUNY Empire in 2021. College alumni make up the largest proportion of the foundation’s supporters.
The foundation provided $1.63 million to be distributed to various college programs and initiatives throughout the 2021–2022 academic year.

### Unrestricted Gifts to the Fund

- **Student Scholarships and Activities**: $897,507
- **Personnel Support and Professional Development Activities**: $229,100
- **Outreach and Emerging Opportunities**: $248,291
- **Fundraising and Marketing Expenses**: $112,400
- **Academic Programs**: $146,800

The most impactful way that people support the college is through the Fund for SUNY Empire State College. The fund broadly supports students, academic programs, and employee development across the college each year.

In 2021, more than 1,400 individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts totaling $343,007 to the Fund for SUNY Empire State College.

**The Fund for SUNY Empire State College**

**71%** in 2021

**9%** of alumni donors to the Fund for Empire State College were first-time donors, with an average gift of $61 each.

**Total unrestricted gifts to the fund increased 5.7% from 2020 to 2021.**
SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT ACTIVITY SUPPORT

Students received $897,507 in scholarships and other activity support in 2021–2022

In 2020–2021, the foundation support included the COVID-19 Emergency Educational Grants, which assisted students with educationally-related financial hardships related to the pandemic. In 2021–2022, COVID-related support for students continued though the federally-sponsored Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) program. HEERF awards are not reflected in the foundation-provided funds at right.

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TOTAL ASSETS OF THE FOUNDATION

Assets of the foundation include investments, real estate holdings, gifts and pledges, property and equipment, and other receivables. Over the past five years, the value of the foundation’s assets has grown by more than $10 million.

$43.5 million in 2021
TOTAL ENDOWMENT VALUE 2012–2021

Endowment value as of June 30, 2021 was $25,927,855

Over the past decade, the value of the foundation’s endowment has grown by more than $12 million overall, with nearly $5 million in growth in the last year.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

The one-, three-, five-, and 10-year average annual rate of return for the Empire State College Foundation investment portfolio. The portfolio experienced an extremely strong rate of return in 2021 at more than 26%, allowing the portfolio to achieve significant growth and stability.
Since the spring of 2020, daily life has been disrupted in many ways. From the places people work, to how they study, to the rhythms and connections of family life, everyone has had to adjust to how they are currently living. For some students, those disruptions did not derail their academic progress, and they were able to pivot to working and studying virtually. But for many students, the disruptions have been difficult to overcome, and the impact on their academic journey has been dire.

In the spring of 2020, it became clear that the Empire State College Foundation had the capacity, the obligation, and the opportunity to support students who were struggling. The foundation quickly launched the COVID-19 Emergency Educational Grant Fund, with an associated fundraising campaign, and within weeks began distributing funds to students in need.

This crisis precipitated a short-term response, while raising a longer-term question: What can we do for our students who continue to need more support going forward?

We have answered this question through a multi-faceted approach, which includes academic support, tuition assistance, and critical resources for meeting basic needs. This combination of services, funded by the Empire State College Foundation, will help students enroll with confidence, remain engaged in their coursework, and successfully complete their degrees.

**BASIC NEEDS PILOT PROGRAM**

In 2021, Joshua Boardman, the college’s Basic Needs coordinator, started a pilot program funded by an Ichigo Foundation grant. The “Basic Needs Early Intervention Pilot” will be a tool to figure out how to best intervene with students who experience a basic-needs crisis. The process will be designed to gather data on students’ current needs, create intervention techniques, and test those interventions for effectiveness. The pilot program will allow SUNY Empire to assist our students to satisfy their basic needs and prevent them from leaving their studies.

The Ichigo Foundation, part of Ichigo Asset Management, focuses on access to higher education for first-generation and low-income students and partners with educational institutions that are student-centered and committed to providing a full and enriching experience for all.

This two-year pilot program will include basic needs emergency grants, benefit screening services to connect applicants with local community resources, and a financial education course.
Our ultimate goal is to learn how to predict impending basic-needs crises for our students. By identifying the risk factors, we hope to find the students who will need more resources at the beginning of their SUNY Empire journey. We can work with these students to make sure their needs are addressed before they enroll in classes and to prioritize high-touch outreach to this population during the first term. As we better understand when and how our students experience a crisis and what precipitates it, we hope to assist them before they are in the midst of a crisis situation.

**OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS**

SUNY Empire launched the college’s first opportunity program in 2020, underwritten by the Empire State College Foundation. The Empire State Opportunity Program (ESOP) provides access, academic support, and financial assistance to underserved students who show promise for college success. The first participants were named in the fall of 2020 and the program quickly expanded under the leadership of Dana Brown, senior director of enrichment and opportunity programs.

That first cohort of students was so successful that the program has grown to encompass three distinct opportunity programs:

- Empire State Opportunity Program (ESOP): A program for full-time and part-time transfer students
- SUNY Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): A program for full-time, first-time, first-year students and full-time opportunity program transfer students
- Empire Promise Program (EPP): A program for first-time, first-year students, continuing students, and transfer students
Participants in opportunity programs receive enhanced academic support services through extra help from professional tutors, financial grants for tuition expenses, early degree planning, mentorship and coaching to advise students year-round, an extensive orientation program, and use of a college-owned laptop throughout the duration of their studies. Opportunity program students are chosen through a highly competitive, selective interview process.

STUDENT EMERGENCY GRANTS

In 2021, the Foundation Board of Directors authorized the creation of a Student Emergency Grant Fund. As shown by the extreme demand for the COVID-19 emergency grants, which resulted in distributing nearly $225,000 to approximately 950 students, it became clear that students face many non-academic challenges during their tenure at SUNY Empire due to unexpected situations. The student emergency grant fund is an ongoing effort to alleviate these non-academic challenges through the distribution of one-time emergency grants.

The COVID emergency grants demonstrated that small-scale individual grants have an impact on student success, as students who received an emergency COVID grant were 1.5 times more likely to finish their studies and 1.5 times more likely to enroll in the next term. Replicating this model, foundation-provided funding will be distributed to emergency grant recipients later this year. These grants will assist with a variety of basic needs, including food, housing, childcare, transportation, medical expenses, or other unforeseen personal-care needs.

Through this combination of programs and services, the college aims to provide individual support to students, ensure their continued enrollment, assist them with completing their degrees, and achieving their personal and professional goals.
The Boyer Legacy Society recognizes and acknowledges individuals who have named SUNY Empire State College in their will or as the beneficiary of a trust or other planned gift.

Membership represents an outstanding commitment to the college and helps ensure that SUNY Empire maintains its leadership role in higher education for adult students who seek better jobs and careers, richer intellectual lives, and sophisticated skills that are essential to be knowledgeable citizens of the nation and the world.

“You think about your legacy of what you’re leaving your children and grandchildren, and this was a natural extension of that thinking. I want to replicate the gift that Empire has been for me, to develop my life in ways that I could never have predicted.”

— Carol Tan ’90

Carol S. Tan ’90 and her husband Michael have made a provision in their will to establish the Carol S. Tan ’90 Intercultural Studies Scholarship.
THE GROWTH OF LEGACY GIVING

In recent years, philanthropic organizations across the country have seen a marked increase in legacy giving, with individuals making gift commitments through their estates or other planned gifts. Since the beginning of the pandemic, educational institutions experienced a 9% increase in charitable donations, funding which helped them survive the current crisis. The majority of this funding came from individuals, with a more than 10% increase in bequest intentions. Throughout the country, bequests accounted for over $41 billion of the $471 billion in total philanthropic giving last year.

At SUNY Empire, generous individuals made bequests and other planned-gift commitments totaling more than $620,000 in 2021. We are grateful to these individuals whose forethought will assist students generations down the road.

MEMBERS OF THE BOYER LEGACY SOCIETY

Anonymous
Norris G. Adams ’82
Keith D. Amparado ’88
Marla C. Andolora ’14
David Asch ’83
Allen Bailey ’19
Ute Elisabeth Barber ’93
Sharon E. Baum ’07
Pasquale J. Beldotti ’75*
Juliene Bell-Smith ’20
Juanita Belmar ’17, ’19
Anne R. Bertholf
Susanna Bezold ’98
Henriette Bleck ’16
Deborah Botch ’86
Kathryn (Kay) Boyer ’78
Felicia Brightman-Smartt ’17
Susan K. Butler ’06
Patricia M. Callahan ’94*
Bobbi Jo Carter ’18
Hortence S.* and Warren R. Cochrane*
Maxwell Cohen ’76, ’85*
Willie A. Cornelius ’13
John ’94 and Jane Corrou
Gordon Darrow ’87*
Jeanie H. Davis
George Glenn Dawson*
Philip J. de Carolis ’92, ’97*
Dennis R. De Long
Maureen C. Del Giacco ’86, ’95
Joseph Demma ’21
Yanelys Diaz ’16
Tyrone M. Dixon ’01
Nancy J. Dorau ’18
Sandra Bauhan DuBois ’78
John L. Dunne ’83*
Joan A. Englehart ’84
Carol J. Evans ’77
Marnie Evans*
Astrid Ewing ’82
Ronald D. Falciano ’09
Catherine M. Ferraro ’98
Linza Ford ’91
Patricia M. Fralick ’01
Mark ’78 and Marjorie Fuhrmann
Bailey M. and Elaine Geeslin
James Aloysius Gibson* and Patricia Brozinsky
Alison D. Gilbert ’92
Sidney Gluck ’79
Angelica Godette ’13
Doris Goldberg
Emma Gomez ’79, ’81
Mark Granfors-Hunt ’01
James William and Mary Elizabeth Hall
Hugh B. Hammet
Merodie A. Hancock
MaryAnn Hannon ’09
Jessica A. Harrington ’12
The Boyer Legacy Society is named in honor of former Chancellor of the State University of New York, Dr. Ernest Boyer, pictured at right, and his wife Kathryn G. Boyer ’78.
The President’s Club recognizes our most generous alumni and friends who make gifts totaling $500 or more throughout the year. Members of the President’s Club share the college’s vision and demonstrate their dedication and commitment through their leadership support.

In 2020, we launched the President’s Club Virtual Events, a series which continued in 2021. These online sessions featured college administrators and other speakers engaging in conversation around a topic of interest with President’s Club members.
MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB

Founders Society
$5,000+

Anonymous (5)
- A. Lindsay and Olive B. O’Connor Foundation
  Norris Adams ‘82
- Keith Amparado ‘88
  Ute E. Barber ‘93
- Richard Bonnabeau
- Phillip B. Catchings
- Edward* and Patricia Conway
- Marian Conway ‘01, ‘04
- John ‘94 and Jane Corrou
- William P. and Susan Law Dake
  Joseph Demma ‘21
  Lawrence P. Doyle ‘94
- Dyson Foundation
- Tina ‘97 and Wayne Evans
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
  Patricia M. Fralick ‘01
- David Fullard
  Maryann Hannon ‘09
  Tina Marie Jones ‘17
- Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation
- James ‘79 and Christine ‘93 Karcher
  Davida Delores Kilgore ‘05
- Robert ‘98 and Kathryn Lento
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Joseph ‘80, H’06 and Laurel Anne Mancino
  Janet Lorri Manning ‘21
- Jennifer R. Manocherian ‘74
- David ‘10 and Joy Mazzetti
  Nancy A. McLachlin ‘81*
  Caleah Kathryn McMillan ‘18
- New York Community Bank Foundation
  Organization for Autism Research
  Sandra M. Perez ‘17
  Stat Staff Professionals Inc./Davin Healthcare
  Marian N. Steinberg ‘75
- Stewart’s Shops
- Mary H. Stock*
  SUNY Impact Foundation Inc.
- The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
- The Ichigo Foundation
- The MVMA Foundation
  Ralph Thelusma ’16
  David Theobald ’13, ’17
- Gal Tiroz ’92
- Ann S. Turner ‘86
- Amy J. Vaillancourt ‘98
- Vanguard Charitable
- Melva D. Visher ’81, ’83, ’96
  James Weatherstone ‘12

Builders Society
$2,500–$4,999

- Meg Benke
  Dora Cervantes ‘18, ’19
- Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation
  GlaxoSmithKline
  Greenburgh Democratic Town Committee
  International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers IAM
- Scott and Julie Johnson
- Jay R. Marshall ‘06, ’08
  Marie D. Martinez ‘16
  Janice ‘98, ’00, ’04 and Angelo Pastizzo
- Brian ‘05 and Diane Pine
- Mary Ann Policastro ‘10
- Anastasia L. Pratt
  Richmond County Savings Foundation
  Mark and Maria Rodgers
- Larry and Ida Snayley
- Ellen ‘80 and Martin Sperber
- Catherine M. Szenczy ’87
- The EMSS Foundation, Inc.
- Susan ’72, H’05 and John Turben
- Susan and John Turben Family Foundation
  Voya Financial
Partners Society
$1,000–$2,499

Anonymous (6)
- Nicola Marae Allain
  Allen Bailey ’19
  Constance M. Barker ’84
- John M. Beckem
  Bergen County United Way
  Brighthouse Life Insurance Company
  Felicia Brightman-Smartt ’17
- VanRil A. Brown ’00
- Steven P. Capone ’88
- Robert Congemi
  Deborah H. Cooper
- Brian F. Curran ’80
- Elaine M. Donohue ’79
  Sue and Camm Epstein
- Chris ’86 and Diane Feeley
- Barbara ’91 and Andrew Ferrari
  Anita P. Fiorillo ’76
  Joel ’14 and Irene Fisher
- Robert P. Goodman ’83
  Jackson National Life Insurance Company
  Donald L. Johnson ’98
  Lenka Knag ’18
- Galina I. Krasskova ’07
- Lake Placid Education Foundation
- Lydia ’13 and Roy Landesberg
  Marjorie W. Lavin
  Allison Lee
- Katherine J. Lewis ’93
  LPL Financial
- Althea E. Luehrsren ’02, ’10
- John Maggiore
  Jim and Jenny Malatras
- Alan D. Mandell
  Donna L. Mautone
- Margaret McAloon
- Mary Ellen McGory ’84
- Joseph B. Moore and Beth Chiquoine
  Jessica M. Naioti ’12
  Ann Nicholson Wright
- Northern New York Community Foundation, Inc.
- Janice Mary Novello ’83
- Philene Foundation
- Michael V. Polito ’97
  Rodney Pope
  Tamara M. Radcliffe ’14
  Alexander Radcliffe
- Mary Raymond ’99, ’04
  Robert J. Roach Jr. ’96
- James ’05 and Jeanmarie Roth
  Dorothy Semans ’82
- Claudia Shacter-deChabert ’90
- Nicole H. Shrimpton
  Daniel and Sandy Stoller
- Verizon Foundation
- Mabel ’79* and T. Urling Walker
  Estate of Virginia Weiss ’88
- Linda W. Weiss ’83
- Karen West ’84, ’95
  Dianne and Daniel White
- Linda Wilk ’93, ’96
- Nancy Woykowski
  Christopher Wright ’17
- David C. Yamada ’99

Investors Society
$500–$999

Anonymous (3)
- Adirondack Trust Company
  Tanweer Ali
- Ralph A. Aloe ’04
- Jane and Wally Altes
  Marlea C. Andolora ’14
- Joseph Angiello
- Lorrie Anthony
“Being a member of the President’s Club is important to me because I believe it is necessary to invest in students who may be financially challenged while completing their education. The education I received at SUNY Empire well prepared me for a fulfilling career as a healthcare executive. Giving to the Fund for SUNY Empire allows me the privilege of supporting students as they prepare for future opportunities and reach their career goals.”

— Melva Visher ’81
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THANK YOU!
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