



September 2024, Issue I

The Coby Co-Curricular

Newsletter by the Division of Student Development

From the Desk of Dr. Anne Hopkins Gross, Vice President for Student Development

Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of The Coby Co-Curricular, the Division of Student Development (DSD) newsletter at SUNY Cobleskill. Our mission is to advance students to be resilient advocates for themselves and the world around them. Throughout the academic year, the DSD will provide periodic updates on the latest happenings within the Division. The DSD consists of the following areas:

- Community Service
- Emergency Management
- Greek Life
- Sport & Exercise (“Athletics”)
- Student Conduct
- Student Leadership: Orientation, Student Government Association, Campus Engagement Board, Clubs & Organizations, Commuter Student Services
- Residential Life
- Unity Center
- University Police (UPD)
- Veteran Services
- Wellness Center: Counseling, Health, Peer Education



Photo Caption: Summer 2024 Orientation Leaders

The Office of the Vice President for Student Development is located in Knapp 237. Please stop by and say hello! Here’s to a wonderful academic year, Dr. Anne

Discovering SUNY Cobleskill: Welcoming New & Returning Students

The Summer 2024 Orientation Leaders, Office of Student Leadership staff and campus faculty and staff greeted 632 new students and their families during three summer Orientation sessions. Our survey data showed 60% of the students felt “somewhat” or “very” comfortable and prepared for the start of the semester compared to a leap to **95%** after they experienced orientation! During Welcome Weekend, the support of new and returning students continued with a comprehensive schedule of informational sessions and engaging activities. International Student Leadership Trainer, Dave Kelly worked with students during a Community Involvement Fair where students created 215 items including doggie tug toys, ghost lollipops and affirmation pegs as part of group service projects.

Unlocking Success: Living on Campus

Living on campus at SUNY Cobleskill allows students to meet new friends and thrive within the campus community, while growing personally and academically within a safe and fun living environment. With ten different choices in residence halls and a network of compassionate staff, including Residence Hall Directors, Assistant Directors, and Resident Assistants, students can develop their home away from home. Last year, Residence Life staff offered 870 educational and social programs. Residential students reported that 89% agreed or strongly agreed that their RA is approachable and available. This fall, RAs will pilot “Tiger Talk Guides” to prompt intentional conversations with residents to support goal setting and assess progress and achievement.



Connecting as a Commuter Student

It can seem hard for our commuter student population to get involved on campus when they don't live on campus, but the Office of Student Leadership works hard to get all students connected to the Coby community. In addition to the [Commuter Student Services](#) web page, COBY Engage and corresponding CORQ App highlight events and organizations, including club meetings, craft nights, special stage shows, and other fun activities taking place during the day and evening. This Fall the Commuter Student Organization (CSO) will be re-established, encouraging commuter students to take active leadership roles and fostering student engagement. On select days in the Commuter Parking Lot students are greeted with refreshments, snacks and swag, introducing them to campus partners and services. Commuter students can make connections with other students between classes in one of the lounges on campus, such as Unity Center, CANR Café, Library, Lower Brickyard Point, and Warner Lounge. Contact: Mike Wacksman, Associate Director of Student Leadership wacksmmr@Cobleskill.edu

Providing Vital Resources: Emergency Food Pantry

Established at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, our Campus Emergency Food Pantry is available to support students, faculty and staff facing food insecurity. The Pantry is located in Bouck Hall near the Mail Room. Hours are M-F 10am-1pm, M and Th 5-6pm when classes in session. After hours appointments can be scheduled by emailing EmergencyFoodPantry@cobleskill.edu Ongoing donations are encouraged.



Housing Support for Students

Unreliable access to housing is a concern for college students of all ages, across the country. Lack of access to safe, reliable housing disrupts the day-to-day responsibilities of college study that require hard work, dedication, and focus. Our Homeless Liaison, LeAnn Pratt, works directly with SUNY Cobleskill students who may not have a safe or affordable place to live by providing support, conducting outreach, and connecting students with local resources in their time of need. Students are encouraged to fill out the confidential form on our website [here](#) if they ever need housing assistance while enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill.

Nationally Accredited Student Health and Counseling Services

The Beard Wellness Center at SUNY Cobleskill holds national accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care Inc. The Wellness Center team comprises Physician Assistants, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, and a Certified Therapy Dog. Here are a few current highlights:

- Welcome Dorothea VanValkenburgh and Sierra Devlin, two new counselors who have joined the team through SUNY Mental Health funding.
- Better Mynds Online Mental Health platform provides immediate crisis assessment and support by a behavioral health clinician and is accessible 24/7/365 for students. This platform expands access to care and a diversity of providers. Contact the Wellness Center to register. 518-255-5225
- Mental Health First Aid, a skills-based training course that teaches participants to identify, understand, and respond to mental health and substance use challenges, is ongoing. To date, 60 campus community members have been trained.



Developing Sportsmanship and Enhancing Fitness: The Fighting Tigers

SUNY Cobleskill's Department of Sport & Exercise offers opportunities for achieving academic success through the Sport, Movement and Exercise Studies curriculum, reinforcing appropriate lifestyle choices, sportsmanship, respect, diversity, equity and leadership. We are proud of our fall-to-spring retention rate of **98%** for our student athletes. Look for our Fitness Center hours and campus recreation / intramural opportunities at this [link](#).

Student achievements last year included recognition of three Team Champions (women's basketball, men's basketball, and baseball), eleven individual champions, five Players of the Year, dozens of All-Conference members, and the 2023-2024 North Atlantic Conference Man of the Year. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) ensures equal opportunity and success for all student-athletes, academically and athletically, and inspires unity, teamwork, and school pride throughout the campus community. Be a Fighting Tiger!

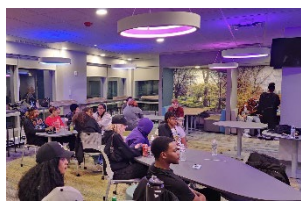


Photo Caption:
Students participating in
program in Unity Center



Photo Caption: Students serving
Holiday meals



Photo Caption:
Students participating
in litter pick up



Photo Caption:
Students engaged
in Alternative Spring
Break

Building Community: The Unity Center

The Unity Center in Bouck Hall houses community engagement, Greek life, and multicultural education. The Center provides a central location for community service projects, programming that creates opportunities for various populations to come together and grow as individuals, and a place for commuter students (actually, all students!) between classes. Did you know there are six active Greek Organizations upholding the mission, vision, and values of SUNY Cobleskill? The leaders and members of these Greek Organizations participate in community service projects, strengthen their academics with mentoring and tutoring, and support diversity, equity, and inclusion by providing "a family away from home." DEI programs offered last year included: women's leadership programs, school supply, clothing and pet drives, and Black History Month programs. Students who went to Philadelphia for our annual Alternative Spring Break trip had volunteered 40 hours of service to the community (meaningful change through active citizenship).

Round-the-Clock Protection: SUNY Cobleskill's University Police Department

This summer, the campus welcomed our new Chief of University Police, William Henn, and Administrative Assistant, Nicole LaBar. UPD can be contacted at 518-255-5317 for non-emergencies, or, in case of emergency, by dialing 518-255-5555, 911, or extension 5555 on any campus phone. Officers embrace the "Community Policing" model and are on duty 24 hours/seven days a week. Don't forget to sign up for emergency alerts on the [Everbridge App](#)