

# Building on Success



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6,000

undergraduate students

25 average class size

Not too big. Not too small. Just right.

SUNY Cortland stands out for academics, athletics and affordability. Red Dragons dig deeper, reach higher and achieve more. The proof is in the numbers.



FROM:

34 states

48 countries

45

minutes from Ithaca, Syracuse and Binghamton to our campus



MAJORS FOR EVERY INTEREST

68

academic majors



from biomedical sciences to business economics



EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

5,400+

students qualifying for financial aid

such as grants, loans and scholarships



STRONG OUTCOMES

85%+

students pursuing internships, research or field placements

with dedicated support from Career Services



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

\$350+ million

in facility upgrades since 2011

including space for business and the sciences



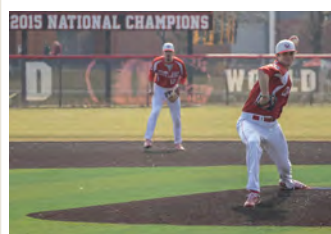
PURPOSE AND PASSION

90+

student clubs



from academics and the arts to social justice and service



ATHLETICS POWERHOUSE

25

national team championships

NCAA Division III titles in nine sports, the second highest total nationally



## President's message

# It's a great time to be a Red Dragon

*By Erik J. Bitterbaum, President*



I want to share a few points of pride with you that speak to the amazing things SUNY Cortland students, faculty, staff and alumni are doing.

On Nov. 12, 2022, the football team will play Ithaca College in the annual Cortaca Jug game at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. This follows a 2019 game at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. that set the Division III attendance record at 45,161. We're hoping to eclipse that record during this year's game, which is both an opportunity for our student-athletes to shine on a national stage and a way to organize one of the largest gatherings of SUNY Cortland alumni in history.

This semester, the university received 11,700 applications for admission and welcomed approximately 1,400 first-year students. It ranks among our largest incoming classes. SUNY Cortland also has 500 new transfer students who join us from other institutions. These figures speak to what makes the university so attractive to students: excellent academic programs and faculty, unique experiences and a quality, affordable education.

The campus is in the midst of several significant upgrades, including renovations to administrative offices in the Miller Building, academic classrooms, offices and common spaces in Moffett Center and residence halls such as Casey and Smith towers. An exterior lighting project will install 467 new LED lamps that will make spaces brighter at night and save 50% on electricity costs. Updated and modern outdoor signage will make campus navigation easier for visitors. In all, more than \$350 million has been spent on improving campus facilities over the past two decades.

"All In: Building on Success," Cortland's comprehensive campaign, has eclipsed its goal of raising \$25 million to support five key institutional priorities. Those priorities include: student access and success, unique educational experiences, supporting programs and faculty, building a lifetime network and nurturing SUNY's healthiest and most athletic campus. While we received many significant contributions from alumni and friends through the campaign, its success was based on an incredible volume of smaller gifts.

New interdisciplinary majors in healthcare management, environmental geosciences and communication and media production offer students training and degrees in exciting and in-demand fields. A new online master's in literacy provides flexibility for educators to further their education while they are teaching in another location.

The addition of new faculty allows us to meet these needs and extend Cortland's commitment to scholarship and teaching excellence. The university welcomed 32 new faculty members for the fall semester and 28 new faculty searches are underway for the 2023-24 academic year.

For many students, success requires more than the instruction they receive in the classroom. Offices across campus deliver important supplementary support, such as the Writing Center, The Learning Center, Advisement and Transition and Memorial Library. Investments in these programs lead to increased student satisfaction and should bolster retention and graduation rates.

Briefly, I am also pleased to report the Blackbird Film Festival was held on campus in May and screened 136 films — a majority written or directed by women, people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community — from the 1,196 submissions it received. The Sierra Club ranked the university among the top 100 in the nation for its commitment to sustainability. An international Transfer Honor Roll recognized Cortland for a fifth consecutive year. SUNY Cortland Danceworks won a National Dance Alliance Championship.

It's a great time to be a Red Dragon. I am excited for what the future holds for the university, our employees and our graduates.



# Mission, values and priorities

SUNY Cortland is a university of opportunity that prepares its students with knowledge, integrity, skills and compassion to excel as leaders, citizens, scholars, teachers and champions of excellence. Students and employees choose SUNY Cortland for its nationally recognized academic programs, innovation and experiential learning and the rich intellectual, social and athletic life on campus. The university is a center for cultural and economic growth, distinguished by successful partnerships with organizations, schools, agencies and businesses throughout the region, nation and world.

## Mission

SUNY Cortland is an academic community dedicated to diverse learning experiences. Students grow as engaged citizens with a strong social conscience fostered by outstanding teaching, scholarship and service.

## Values

- **Student focus**

All decisions, plans and actions revolve around students' academic, personal, social and cultural development and wellness.

- **Integrity**

Dedication to honesty, hard work, high personal and professional standards and respect for people, perspectives and the environment.

- **Intellectual life**

Commitment to inquiry, academic rigor, creativity, lifelong learning and contribution to discipline, profession and the greater good.

## Priorities

- **Academic excellence**

Academic programs are cultivated to provide students with the best opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and dispositions. Relevant and engaging curricula, effective and innovative delivery methods, appropriate facilities and a culture of continual improvement are vital components.

- **Transformational education**

Intentionally designed and highly effective educational opportunities challenge how students see themselves and the world in profound new ways. It challenges students to reflect, acknowledge their self-efficacy and continually expand their understanding and skills to be engaged in their lives and communities.

- **Well-being**

Personal and community well-being is advocated through academic disciplines and campus programming and facilities. The university promotes the physical, emotional, cultural and social well-being of students and employees, determines areas of greatest need and responds with policies and programs that recognize the well-being of each individual as critical to its strength as a whole.

- **Maximization of resources**

This priority includes being fiscally responsible, thinking about efficiency while maintaining excellence and communicating clearly about resource allocation. It also means focusing on sustainability and ensuring that the campus is dedicated to responsible use of natural resources and considers its impact on the environment.

# National recognition

SUNY Cortland has been recognized by numerous national organizations and media outlets for its academic offerings, commitment to sustainability and access to a quality, affordable education.

Some of the recent rankings and honors include:

- *The Princeton Review* placed SUNY Cortland among the top colleges and universities in the Northeast on its 2022 Best Colleges: Region by Region list. The university scored a 96 out of 99 on its “Green Rating,” a comprehensive measure of a university’s environmental awareness and preparation. Cortland was named to *The Princeton Review’s* Guide to Green Colleges in 2020, 2021 and 2022.



- *U.S. News and World Report* ranked the university at No. 18 on its 2021 list of public regional universities in the North region, highlighting Cortland’s strong first-year retention rate (81%), selective admissions rate (52%) and the academic merit of incoming students.



- *Sierra* magazine has ranked SUNY Cortland among the top 100 higher education institutions in the nation for its commitment to sustainability for six consecutive years. The Sierra Club’s annual “Cool Schools” list named Cortland at No. 82 in 2021, the top performance for any SUNY comprehensive college.

- *Washington Monthly* ranked Cortland at No. 46 on its national list of master’s universities in 2021, using data that underscores the university’s ability to deliver life-changing education. Cortland was lauded for public service and social mobility. The magazine also placed Cortland at No. 53 on its “Best Bang for the Buck: Northeast” list.

- One of the university’s fastest-growing and most popular majors, criminology, was named the No. 2 program in New York state by College Factual. The study emphasized post-graduation employment and earnings. Students in the major routinely are involved in undergraduate research with faculty and intern with local police or the Cortland County District Attorney’s Office.

- A new coffee shop on campus, Sawubona, which opened in 2021 as part of a \$25 million comprehensive renovation to Moffett Center, earned silver recognition for retail sales at the 2022 Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards.

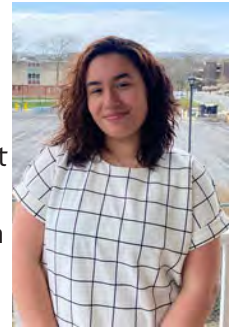


# Notable accomplishments, 2021-22

SUNY Cortland continues to build on more than 150 years of academic excellence by creating an environment in which students, faculty and staff thrive. The university is also committed to improving campus facilities in ways that allow students to learn and live to the fullest.

## Student achievement

**Nia Vega**, a leader on equity and social justice issues and an advocate for survivors of sexual assault, is one of 171 students from around the country to earn a 2022-23 Newman Civic Fellowship. A criminology major with a minor in computer applications, Vega is the president of Students Active for Ending Rape (S.A.F.E.R.) and the co-president of Men of Value and Excellence (M.O.V.E.). She has inspired classmates to engage in important topics and plans on a career in mental health counseling, with hopes to use the fellowship to continue mentorship efforts during her final year on campus.



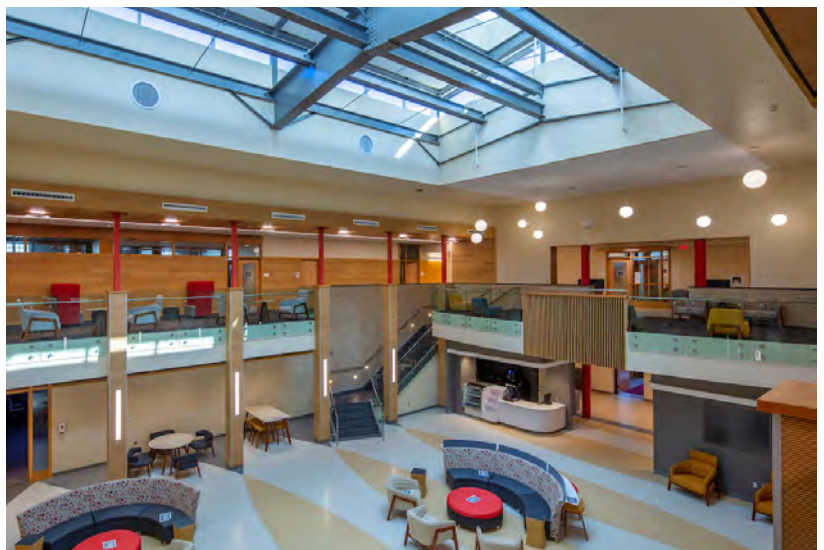
**Jayson Rivera '22**, recipient of the 2022 Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for EOP Student Excellence, had influential high school baseball coaches who pushed him toward college. At Cortland, Rivera has thrived. He was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon, the national honor society for EOP students, and is an active member of a Greek organization, La Unita de Latina Lambda Upsilon Lambda. As part of Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (C.U.R.E.) program, he is student teaching and hopes to someday inspire the next generation of high school students to follow his path.

## Construction updates

A \$25 million transformation of Moffett Center was officially completed with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in March 2022. The building, originally home to a gymnasium and swimming pool, has been converted into a state-of-the-art space with modern classrooms, offices and a two-story, skylit central atrium that has become a popular and beautiful common area on upper campus.

Projects totaling more than \$35 million took place throughout 2022. Miller Building, home to key administrative offices, received its first major upgrade since it opened in 1967. Improvements to Smith Tower included new kitchenettes, laundry facilities, bathrooms, lounges, ventilation and energy-efficient lighting and windows. The project to renovate Smith and Casey Towers, Cortland's two tallest residence halls, began in 2020 and totaled \$32 million.

Other recent and ongoing efforts include new campus-wide exterior signage and lighting, sidewalk replacement and repair and a new interactive display for Cortland's C-Club Hall of Fame that celebrates the university's proud tradition in athletics.



## Sustainable solar sheep and pigs

Since 2021, Cortland has loaned sheep from a nearby farm to help trim the grass around 2.4 acres of solar panels. Instead of running lawn mowers and weed whackers around the 2,443 solar panels, using sheep is a zero-carbon way to keep campus looking nice and the animals fed. The panels provide both shade and shelter for the sheep and are part of how the campus operates entirely on renewable electricity. A pair of Kunekune pigs, a breed native to New Zealand, joined the flock of sheep in the summer of 2022, becoming the first solar grazing pigs in the nation.



## Expanding academic offerings

Two new degree options for SUNY Cortland students include a master's in athletic training and a bachelor of fine arts in musical theatre. These degrees give students better pathways to professional opportunities in their career fields.

Professional certification requirement changes for athletic training led Cortland to expand its graduate program, which includes a series of 18 courses and four different clinical experiences. A \$1 million renovation of the John L. Sciera '52 Athletic Training Room, completed in 2021, gives students access to modern equipment and experiences on campus.

Cortland is one of three SUNY campuses to offer a B.F.A. in musical theatre, which prepares scholars for careers in acting, dance and signing. Graduates have gone on to careers as actors, choreographers, directors, theatre technicians and educators, with some performing in lead roles on national tours.





# Maximizing institutional success

SUNY Cortland has a culture of continuous improvement that stems from regular reevaluation of how faculty and staff can best serve students. Using communication, transparency and self-assessment, the university has strengthened connections between academics, campus-wide planning and its financial responsibilities.

### Middle States reaccreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed SUNY Cortland's accreditation status in 2022. Accreditation allows the university to receive federal aid and makes it possible for students to qualify for financial aid, transfer credits and graduate programs. The Middle States team was particularly impressed with Cortland's current commitment to students and its roadmap for strategic planning over the next 10 years.



### A culture of continuous improvement

Several communicative bodies incorporate input from all corners of campus and expand transparency on decision-making. Key groups include the President's Advisory Council, the Resource Advisory Council and the Institutional Planning and Assessment Committee.

### Living our values

Through leadership, communication, training and development, the university guides members of the campus community to put into practice the core values of service, justice, inclusiveness and integrity. Faculty and staff, as a community of scholars, citizens and colleagues, take pride in setting an example for students to follow.







### **A commitment to well-being**

SUNY Cortland students are proud to be part of SUNY’s healthiest and most athletic campus. The Student Life Center, which opened in 2015, offers many opportunities for fitness and well-being. Among many activities available to them, students can swim, run, lift weights, play basketball or indoor soccer, use the climbing wall and rent bicycles to get around campus.

Cortland has a strong history in intercollegiate athletics with 25 team national championships, 106 individual national champions and 317 conference championships. Of the approximately 1,400 first-

year students that entered SUNY Cortland in the fall of 2022, 1,152 participated in athletics in high school.

### **A new round of strategic planning**

Following the 2022 reaccreditation from Middle States, SUNY Cortland is focusing on its next strategic plan. The university will reflect on its previous plan and take input from a wide range of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members on how Cortland can continue to serve students and provide for a robust intellectual and social climate.



### **Real-world connections**

Experiential learning is a significant component of learning at SUNY Cortland. Through internships, undergraduate research, study abroad and service, students gain invaluable hands-on experience that shapes them both as scholars and leaders. Opportunities to connect with alumni experts through virtual, on-campus and on-site events also make life-changing impacts on student career paths.

### **Additional resources**

Learn more about SUNY Cortland’s efforts on institutional effectiveness at [cortland.edu/ie](https://cortland.edu/ie).

# Alumni who inspire

SUNY Cortland alumni go on to do great things after they graduate. Their Red Dragon pride is reflected through their commitment to current Cortland students. Many alumni give back by sharing career insights and guidance.

## Red Dragons in the news

**Mary Sullivan Ritayik '97** is SUNY's newest statewide police commissioner and has dedicated her career to improving and expanding community policing on SUNY campuses. As an officer at SUNY Purchase and later as investigator and chief at SUNY New Paltz, Ritayik is also a role model for women pursuing careers in law enforcement.



**Melinda Clancy '13** is a procurement forester for New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation. Profiled in *The New York Times* in 2022, Clancy spoke about her plan to plant 20,000 trees across the city's five boroughs. As a biology major, she got hands-on experience creating a digital tree inventory of campus that was used to analyze storm water retention, air pollution and other environmental issues.

Two former Red Dragon student-athletes are playing major roles in professional sports. **Derek Lalonde '95**, who was the top assistant coach for the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning during the team's run to Stanley Cup titles in 2020 and 2021, was named head coach of the Detroit Red Wings in June 2022. **Dan Pitcher '10, M '11**, is the quarterbacks coach for the Cincinnati Bengals and played a key role in the team making an appearance in Super Bowl LVI in 2022.



**Kyle Richard '19**, who was shot twice while preventing a sexual assault in 2017 and has since become a motivational speaker and ambassador for preventing relationship violence, has been named associate director of men's engagement and special projects for It's On Us. He has been featured on "SportsCenter" and received several national honors, including the Biden Courage Award and the Orange Bowl Courage Award.



Cortland graduates are problem-solvers who are quick on their feet. Just ask **Ilene Singer Knebel '84**, who won a \$100,000 grand prize on "Wheel of Fortune." She plans to use her winnings to support charitable causes and her three children.

## Connecting with current students

Alumni give back to current students by sharing their expertise and advice with career connections. The Alumni Speaker Series allows students to ask questions and network with individuals who are established in many different career fields. Doing Business in NYC, an annual event held during Spring Break, links current students with alumni in the New York City area. The day consists of two segments. Students first take field trips to sites across the city, meet with alumni and talk about career possibilities. Then, all students and participating alumni gather for an evening networking reception. The program has led to internships and job offers at employers from the New York Jets and New York Mets to Bank of America Merrill Lynch to Northwell Health.

Now in its seventh year, the Michael J. Bond '75 M.D. Alumni/Undergraduate Science Symposium celebrates the achievements and the promise of former and current Cortland students alike. Students learn about ongoing research and career pathways from alumni presentations. The alumni who return to campus also reconnect with their favorite faculty members and interact with current students.

# Comprehensive campaign exceeds goals

The financial support from SUNY Cortland alumni, faculty, staff and friends will allow the university to cater to student needs both academically and outside the classroom. Giving back is part of Red Dragon pride.

## “All In: Building on Success” campaign reaches goal

Cortland’s comprehensive campaign, “All In: Building on Success,” has more than reached its goal of raising \$25 million. At the campaign conclusion ceremony to be held at Yankee Stadium prior to the Cortaca Jug football game this November, the university is expecting to close with \$30 million.

More than 11,400 donors contributed to the campaign, which began in July 2017. During the COVID-19 pandemic, donors stepped up to support a Student Emergency Fund that raised \$475,000 and has awarded more than 1,000 grants to students in need. The campaign also led to the creation of more than 50 new endowed and current-use scholarships, an endowment for 12 annual undergraduate research summer fellowships and money for faculty and staff development opportunities.



“All In” focused on five key institutional goals that will enhance student access to a transformational education, cultivate opportunities for faculty and elevate the university’s national profile.

Those goals are:

- Strengthening student access and success
- Enriching our unique educational experience
- Supporting academic programs and faculty
- Nurturing SUNY’s healthiest, most athletic campus
- Building a lifetime network

Student support was strengthened through funding for opportunity and honors scholarships as well as programming for promising students who need additional assistance in their transition to higher education. Non-academic support for students with physical and mental health needs will also be strengthened.

The campaign will create new ways for students to participate in unique educational experiences such as internships, research, study abroad and service. These experiences help students translate theory into practice and give them a head start in their careers.



## Cortland Challenge continues to break records

The university’s annual 24-hour fundraising event received a record \$472,595 from 3,361 donors on April 6. The money supports several campus programs and initiatives, including The Cortland Fund, which gives back to students through scholarships, athletics, technology, major events and professional development for faculty and staff. Several alumni generously gave matching gifts of more than \$70,000 to inspire others to donate. The Cortland Challenge has set records year-after-year,

having raised \$211,000 in 2019, \$252,00 in 2020 and \$313,000 in 2021.

# Expanding student support

SUNY Cortland students have a variety of options for support from faculty and staff, whether they need help in academics, their mental health or are experiencing a financial emergency. These services make a significant difference in student retention and allow more students to achieve their dream of becoming a college graduate.

## Student Emergency Fund

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the needs of students changed. Certain emergency expenses, such as child care, food, medical or dental appointments, rent, technology or transportation, were triggering financial distress for students.

The Cortland College Foundation's establishment of a Student Emergency Fund allowed for students to meet these costs, stay in college and continue their education. To date, alumni, friends, faculty and staff have generously donated more than \$475,500 to this fund and more than 1,000 grants have been awarded to students in need.

## Counseling Center

Conley Counseling and Wellness Services promotes the well-being and personal growth of students through services that include individual and group therapy, consultation, psychiatric services, substance use assessments, outreach and workshops. Three areas of focus within the services include the Counseling Center, Health Promotion and Substance Abuse Prevention and Education. The Counseling Center offers both in-person and telehealth sessions to serve the needs of students.



## Advisement and Transition

New students, transfer students arriving from other campuses and non-traditional students sometimes need additional support to meet their academic and personal goals at SUNY Cortland. Advisement and Transition staff work with students in academic planning, major choice and adjusting to life in college. Services provided include COR 101, a one-credit, graded seminar to facilitate the intellectual and social integration of first-time students, and Starfish, an online communication tool that offers early and ongoing academic feedback to students from instructors.



## The Learning Center

Offering professional and peer tutoring, The Learning Center gives students opportunities to increase academic confidence and learning skills and see improvement in their coursework. An evening online tutoring service, Nightowl, provides drop-in tutoring sessions on weeknights from 7 p.m. to midnight.

## The Writing Center

Students can receive one-on-one appointments with professional tutors to help with any part of the writing process, from development and organization to understanding clarity and purpose. Writing Center staff tailor their consultation based on the needs of each student and also work with faculty to organize classroom visits and workshops.



# Research and grants

Faculty, students and alumni work together on innovation and discovery in all academic areas of campus, with support coming from both outside grants and significant alumni gifts.

## Summer research fellowships

Six Cortland undergraduates spent the summer of 2022 working with faculty on important and interesting research.

Their work spanned academic departments from childhood/early childhood education to philosophy to the physical sciences. The summer research fellowship program, in its 16th year, has relied on donor support to provide students with special opportunities that have prepared them for graduate school and beyond.

## Making milk production more efficient

Assistant Professor **Amanda Davis** is leading a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study how insulin resistance in sheep can promote milk production. The findings may help make milk production more efficient and sustainable and better establish food security in the future. The grant funds full-time summer research for two undergraduates for four years.

## Attracting underrepresented students in STEM

Cortland has joined an alliance of Central New York colleges in a \$2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to attract and retain students from underrepresented backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. First-year students are encouraged and immersed through an online summer workshop, followed by seminars, field trips, STEM-related community service and one-on-one research opportunities with faculty.

## C.U.R.E. extension prepares urban teachers

Nearly \$1 million in funding from the state Education Department over the next five years will support Cortland's Urban Recruitment of Educators (C.U.R.E.) program. Since 1998, C.U.R.E. has prepared more than 230 future teachers to work in high-needs urban classrooms and diversified the teaching force. This most recent grant supports 30 SUNY Cortland students each year.



## Ghost stories as public history

Associate Professor **Evan Faulkenbury** of the History Department used some of SUNY Cortland's haunting folklore as a way to introduce students to hands-on public history. In May 2022, a group of students put months of research and writing on display when they led a haunted history tour of campus. Students used primary sources available through the university's archives, including student newspapers, yearbooks and more to make history come alive.

## Science Symposium connects undergrads, alumni

Three alumni presenters returned to campus in October 2021 to share their experiences and hear about current research done by students at the sixth annual Michael J. Bond '75, M.D. Alumni/Undergraduate Science Symposium. Students presented their work to alumni during a lab crawl. The alumni returned the next day to lead discussions about their education and research since graduating from Cortland.

# A commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

Diversity, equity and inclusion are key pieces of the SUNY Cortland experience. University staff, faculty and students are working to set a foundation of inclusive excellence that will enrich learning, teaching, student development, institutional functioning and engagement on local and global scales. The principles of inclusion are being shared with the campus community through training, programming, regular university-wide communications and day-to-day interactions between students, faculty and staff.

Examples of recent initiatives include:

- The fourth annual TransAction conference was held on campus on March 4, featuring keynote speaker **Michelle Knaier '01, M '03**, an author, educational scholar and artist. TransAction has focused on topics related to the needs and experience of transgender and gender-queer students in the college environment and is free for all participants.



- Cortland's 21-day Anti-Racism Challenge, created by the Anti-Racism Task Force, gives members of the campus community an opportunity to unlearn biases and grow as individuals. Through short, daily activities over the span of three weeks, those participating in the challenge gain awareness, compassion and understanding by learning about power, privilege and social justice.

- An annual Summer Institute for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice brings together faculty and staff for three days of meetings to learn strategies and techniques for developing an anti-racist and inclusive campus. It continued in 2021 and 2022.

- The SUNYCUAD award-winning Beloved Community Narratives Project gave significant visibility to 24 members of the SUNY Cortland community, who told their diverse stories of what makes them individuals. In addition to the project website, portraits and stories are shared on the myRedDragon login screen and in high-traffic campus spaces in Moffett Center and the Student Life Center.

- The Cortland County Community of Color, an organization of professionals of color, including many SUNY Cortland and Tompkins-Cortland Community College employees, has hosted a Juneteenth celebration in downtown Cortland each of the last two years.



- University Police Department Officer **Danielle Salisbury** created a rainbow patch that was worn by officers during LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in June 2022. Salisbury sold patches for \$5 to members of the campus community, with proceeds going to Point Foundation, an organization that aims to empower promising students to achieve their academic and leadership potential. The initial run of 251 patches sold out quickly and Salisbury ordered 251 more.

- Throughout 2022, Cortland is holding a series of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, including a panel discussion with pioneers in women's athletics, **Bonnie May '77** and **Betsy Alden '77**. The talk drew 150 members of women's athletics teams.

- A four-panel Black Lives Matter mural, created by student artists **Vanessa Leon Basurto '22**, **Shannon Delaney '22** and **Katherine Kressner**, was installed in the recently renovated Moffett Center Forum in May 2022. The pieces were selected after a semester-long call for artists to use their talents to reflect the movement and the national struggle for racial and social justice.

# Athletics and the arts



SUNY Cortland students excel in many endeavors outside the classroom, including athletics and the arts. Top-notch facilities also provide opportunities for the greater Cortland community to connect with the university through sporting events and plays, musicals, art gallery exhibitions and film festivals.

## Athletics

Cortland's well-respected NCAA Division III program has won 25 team national championships, 106 individual national championships and 317 conference championships. Cortland fields 25 varsity athletic teams and has among the best facilities in the nation for a campus of its size. The SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex, which hosts football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and track and field, holds up to 10,000 spectators for Cortaca Jug football games against Ithaca College. Park Center, renovated in 2019, is a 281,000-square foot building that features a gymnasium, ice rink, swimming pool, wrestling practice room, gymnastics arena and strength and conditioning and athletic training rooms. In addition to Lusk Field House, which provides indoor space for track and field and team sport practices, baseball, softball, soccer and tennis have impressive outdoor facilities that were all recently improved.

SUNY Cortland's football team will play Ithaca College for the Cortaca Jug at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 12, 2022. The teams played at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. in 2019, setting a Division III attendance record by drawing 45,161 fans to the home of the NFL's Giants and Jets.

## Performing Arts

Musical theatre majors at Cortland put on four major productions each academic year, displaying their singing and acting talents through a variety of classic and modern musicals and plays. The schedule for 2022-23 includes "Proof," "The Bone Harp," "Seussical the Musical" and "Cabaret." The Performing Arts Department holds an annual industry showcase for students to connect with agents and casting directors to help them get started in a theatre career after graduation. The 386-seat Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre and a smaller, infinitely configurable lab theatre provide terrific venues for any type of performance.

## Blackbird Film Festival

Directed and organized by faculty and students in Cortland's Communication and Media Studies Department, the Blackbird Film Festival has emerged as a national platform for emerging filmmakers. A panel of judges, many of them students, evaluated 1,196 films submitted for the 2022 festival. Of the 136 films selected, 30 were by LGBTQ+ creators, 32 by people of color and 71 had women writers or directors.

In addition to thematically organized blocks of films, the festival has featured social events for attendees and panel discussions on topics such as film distribution and tax credits for filming in New York state. Student interns get serious hands-on experience in filmmaking and event management.





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