

## **President's Annual Report to the SUNY Board of Trustees**

2021-22: President Milagros "Milly" Peña

Campus: Purchase College

### **Planning for the Future and New Leadership:**

In the 2021-22 academic year, Purchase has made significant progress in planning and assessment and leadership for the future of the college.

The college has completed its Strategic Plan, Mission, Vision, and Values, and instituted new Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs), in addition to completing successful searches for new, senior leaders in important areas on campus including Academic Affairs. Our new provost, Dr. Earnest Lamb joined us this summer. We also welcome new leaders in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Title IX, and Institutional Advancement, as outlined below.

The strategic plan, entitled *Purchase at 60: Building on Our Promise* focuses on 2021-2027 and highlights five main areas of focus: Empowering the Creative Student; Transforming with Creative Programs; Embracing Inclusion on a Creative Campus; Sustaining a Creative Future; and Expanding the Creative Community. Each area identifies strategies for leveraging our strengths while addressing new challenges.

This past academic year also saw the successful completion of our formal institutional reaccreditation review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The three-year review process, which involved over one hundred members of the campus community, resulted in a substantial, comprehensive self-study document, and culminated in a virtual campus visit and conducted by the peer Visiting Team chaired by Dr. James Lentini, President of Molloy University.

The team visit, conducted April 3-6, 2022, was extremely rewarding and resulted in an incisive Team Report which concluded that the college meets all of the Commissions Standards of Accreditation, and additionally offered

commendations, recommendations, and notes of collegial advice concerning the institution's operations and ongoing self-assessment in the interest of continual improvement. The Team Report was presented by Dr. Lentini in a Confidential Brief to the Commission in early June, and Purchase College's formal reaccreditation was taken up at a meeting of the Commission on June 22-23.

We are very proud to announce that the Commission has elected to reaffirm Purchase College's formal accreditation, and that the reaccreditation process itself has served to reaffirm our success in maintaining standards of excellence as we continue to serve our talented and inspiring students. Finally, the process also acknowledged the ongoing significant work the college has been undertaking to further enhance our assessment and planning processes, and we look forward to providing the Commission further updates on this important work in Spring 2023. Purchase College's next MSCHE evaluation visit is scheduled for 2029-30.

In addition, the college has successfully navigated many challenges related to the ongoing pandemic, including keeping the positivity rate down, conducting tests, providing resources for students in quarantine, and pivoting to more in-person events, courses, and programs.

One highlight of the year was the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement. This year's event, which was the first in person graduation since the pandemic, featured inspiring remarks by honorary degree recipients Kevin Young, Director of the National Museum of African American History & Culture, and Amina J. Mohammad, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. The event also honored visual artist, writer, and editor Corina Larkin '06 with the President's Distinguished Alumni award.

This academic year, the college also made significant progress on Broadview, Senior Living at Purchase College. Our planned senior community, which is slated to open to its first residents next year, is now more than 90 percent sold and the future residents are already engaged in a number of activities with each other and the campus. Barry Pearson, who was appointed this May 22 as Senior Vice President for Intergenerational Learning and Program Planning (VPIL), together with Kelly Jackson, Director of Intergenerational

Learning and Continuing Education are already at work ensuring the successful integration of the Broadview senior learning community throughout our campus' programs.

### **Welcoming our new President: The Inauguration of Dr. Peña**

The college held the official inauguration and installation of Dr. Peña on October 28. As a testament to her dedication to sustainability and social justice, Dr. Peña had chosen Purchase College and the Sustainable Future: People, Place, and Purpose, as the theme of her inauguration.

More than 150 gathered in the Neuberger Museum's Theatre Gallery, along with additional virtual attendees through the livestream, to hear Dennis Glazer, Chair of the Purchase College Council opening the ceremony, followed by greetings from SUNY Board of Trustees Chair Merryl Tisch, Alumni Association President Kevin Collymore '10, Purchase College Student Government President Nicholas Astor '22, Lucille Werlinich, chair of the Purchase College Foundation, along with remarks by various campus leaders.

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina J. Mohammed was keynote speaker preceding Milly Peña's inaugural address.

Performances highlighted the talented students from our Conservatory of Music, including the Ella Fitzgerald Scholar: Anais Reno '25, the Purchase Symphony Orchestra, The Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra, and the Soul Voices Choir.

### **Responding to COVID: A Cautious and Optimistic Transition**

In the 2021-22 academic year, the majority of students and courses were once again in person and the campus was teeming with programs, events, and activities.

While COVID continues to be a significant challenge to operations, to students' mental and physical health, and to enrollment, the Continuity of Programs and Services (CPS) Taskforce has worked successfully over the

past academic year to ensure that the campus is able to continue to operate as seamlessly as possible and to respond to evolving situations such as various surges quickly and effectively while keeping the health and safety of the campus as the priority.

In 2021-22 the college's CPS taskforce continued to closely monitor and respond to health and safety risks related to the pandemic.

The campus moved to surveillance testing of random community members along with those who were unvaccinated.

Student Affairs offices provided critical support in terms of quarantining/isolation of students and delivery of food to students in quarantine/isolation, in conjunction with staff from the Purchase College Association and Chartwells, while Human Resources was responsible for keeping employees safe through testing, and contact tracing until tracing was no longer the most efficient way to curtailing the spread of the virus.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, The PAC's lobby hosted community testing which was essential during the surge of the virus.

The college partnered with Westchester Medical Center to provide Covid vaccines to hundreds of students and arranged for transportation for students from campus to Westchester Medical Center.

Health Services monitored followed up with students presenting health concerns, conducted contract tracing, notified the community about positive cases, and provided case management for students isolating and quarantining on campus.

The Office of Disability Resources, which assists students with disabilities to ensure equal access to all programs, services, and activities at Purchase, has been vital in ensuring that those who have disabilities have the accommodations they need for remote learning, including ensuring the accessibility of academic courses in the online environment. The Cornerstone Program team provided individual student meetings, weekly group, peer mentor meetings, and meet ups for students on the Autism

Spectrum.

Access to mental health services has been of utmost importance during this time. Counseling staff met remotely with students for support, short term counseling, evaluations, substance use counseling, crisis needs, and referral sessions as outlined below.

The College still had an open and active Food Pantry during the past year, allowing students to pick up food and other items from the Pantry.

### **Facing Enrollment Challenges with New Ideas**

Purchase College, like so many other institutions of higher learning across the country, is still feeling the effects of the pandemic on enrollment. However, we anticipate a very healthy incoming class of 1,037, which includes both first year students and transfer students.

In fact, freshmen enrollment has rebounded to levels not seen since the onset of the pandemic. Transfer students are still down significantly from the highs of 2018.

Overall enrollment is predicted to be down year over year based on several factors including two years of lower enrollment during the pandemic, retention challenges during the pandemic, and losing a very large graduating class in 2022.

Demographic shifts mean we will continue to face enrollment challenges in the near and distant future.

As demographics shift and there are fewer high school graduates pursuing college degrees in the Northeast, we need to offer more flexibility in delivery, a more diverse program mix, and recruit more commuter and completion students in order to keep our total enrollment up at a sustainable level of 4,200.

Meanwhile, we are currently in a more competitive landscape. Unlike in previous years, students now apply to an average of 8-10 colleges and are

accepted into 7-8 of them. Private schools are giving out huge amounts of scholarship funds, which eats into our ability to attract students as their tuition is the same amount or less than what they would pay at Purchase, eating into our competitive edge in the marketplace.

To counterbalance these trends, we have also increased scholarship awards in order to attract qualified students and retained an outside consulting firm to analyze our program mix and our place in the market.

We will look at expanding and revising programs based on students' needs, our mission, and our enrollment needs in the coming months and years, while also continuing to support our existing programs.

We are also reactivating the liberal studies degree to strengthen our degree completion program which provides experiences in applied learning coursework, which will also be attractive to transfer and new students and recoup the previous enrollment levels.

Other plans are underway to readmit students who took a leave or deferred, create new articulation agreements with 4 new SUNY community colleges, and to offer transfer grants which will be utilized to attract more transfer students.

We have also moved the communication degree to the School of Humanities to facilitate new partnerships with the journalism program, which will enable the development of new tracks that will attract more students in the coming years.

As the fall semester gets underway, we will be working with Gray & Associates on a programmatic market survey to determine how we can best position ourselves in the current and future educational landscape. We will work closely with Gray & Associates to review and analyze comprehensive data regarding our academic strengths and where there is room to grow.

Once we have that valuable information, we will work collaboratively across campus governance while contemplating adding new programs or amending or transitioning existing programs.

### **Supporting Student Retention**

When students are engaged in educational experiences that include elements such as collaboration, shared experiences, learning outside the classroom, and critical inquiry into big ideas that matter, they are more likely to persist to graduation.

At Purchase, high impact activities begin in the first year at Orientation and continue with First Year Seminar programs, and carry on through to the senior project.

The benefits of these activities cut across demographics and increase retention, engagement, and graduation rates for all students. The addition of several new programs have already begun in the 21-22 academic year or will begin shortly.

These programs help students to form stronger connections with faculty and staff to support their educational journey to graduation

Programs include:

#### **First Year Learning Communities**

Incoming BA and BS students must enroll in a first year seminar, and this year they have a new option: a selection of First Year Learning Communities taught by Faculty-in-Residence. Open to both residential and commuter students, FYLC seminars focus on a topic chosen by its faculty leader who also serves as the students' advisor. An optional residential Summer Fellows program extends orientation for those enrolled.

#### **SummerQuest**

Created specifically for rising sophomores currently undeclared or whose GPAs fell below a designated level, SummerQuest is a residential summer

program that allows students to reassess their first year and explore what's next. Working with faculty, career development staff, and academic advisors, participants will consider their strengths and passion to forge a path forward.

### **Purchase in the City**

While the program began in previous years and paused during the pandemic, the hugely successful Purchase in the City returned in full force this past semester with eight trips to New York City ranging from museums to galleries, to Broadway, to walking tours.

### **Academic Recovery Program**

When a student's GPA falls below a predetermined level, outreach begins explaining the Academic Recovery Program process, emphasizing its role as support and not punishment. Mandatory biweekly meetings, tutoring, and workshops as well as recommendations for self-care create a foundation for improvement. Also planned are clearer and more thorough communications, include the website.

### **Cornerstone Connect**

The Office of Disability Resources has expanded their fee-based Cornerstone program to those not on the Autism spectrum to take advantage of individual coaching with a learning specialist. Additional support groups open to all students wishing to build their executive functioning skills are also planned.

### **Website**

Finally, a retooled Purchase Experience page on the main Academics website repackages what's new and existing to lay out a clear path and the resources available, while a new First Year Journey page goes in greater depth outlining the first-year experience ahead.

### **Supporting Students' Health and Wellbeing**

In the 2021-22 Academic Year, Counseling & Behavioral Health Services staff provided 740 students with 3,819 individual and group therapy appointments. Consistently, nearly half of new counseling clients sought



some type of emergency contact for mental health or interpersonal violence. Our hybrid modality provided students with their preference of sessions. During indoor mask mandates, this approach will continue. Our confidential answering services appropriately connected those in crisis after hours with the On Call counselor and other critical resources. A return to our in person graduate training program supplemented the number of clinicians on site who were available to support programming and clinic staffing after the unanticipated departure of the Assistant Director for Behavioral Health.

At the Harbor Center, the director coordinated volunteers to offer free stress reduction classes. Staff launched 3 drop-in support groups with the popular “Knit, Crochet, Relax” group attracting 54 new students to the Lighthouse Lounge on Friday afternoons. Staff members taught four Health Promotion classes, training 23 undergrad interns to offer peer-led programming in various campus venues. Undergrad interns began hosting “After 5 Substance-Free Friday” social events in the Lighthouse Lounge and supported over 50 staff-led Health Promotion outreach events this year.

A new staff member was hired to complete the final year of the Purchase/SUNY MOU with OASAS for an Alcohol Prevention grant. Outcomes from the grant’s 5- year assessment cycles demonstrate that binge and underage drinking at Purchase has declined over the past 5 years, but that cannabis consumption at Purchase is more frequent than student use reported among the national comparison group. This work reinforced the importance of broad-based, ongoing needs assessment and the importance of a good cultural fit for interventions. As a result, a new Health Promotion programmer will join the treatment providers at CBHS to support student success in the 22-23 academic year via engagement with our unit’s educational goals: sustainable health and well-being over the life span.

### **Purchase Responds: Celebrating and Furthering Diversity**

During this time of national reckoning, diversity and inclusivity have taken on

even greater importance. Over the 2021-22 academic year, the Office of Diversity and Compliance (ODC) has worked closely with the President's office, the cabinet, and other stakeholders, including following a year-long engagement with students and the Purchase Student Government Association in a dorm renaming and broader campus focus on our campus history and land acknowledgement, to help move the campus forward through diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

On July 25, the College Council, with the full support of the administration, voted to approve the renaming of a residence hall that had formerly named by students as Big Haus to a new, more inclusive name of Central.

Many students and some faculty had voiced their concerns that the name Big Haus, which originated decades ago when students named it that, had negative associations not keeping with the college's commitment to diversity and social justice. While we do not have documentation as to why the dorm was named Big Haus, the students felt it could be reference to either a prison or a master's house on a plantation, neither of which is acceptable.

The new name denotes the residence hall's location, which is centrally located among the six traditional residence halls, but it has a deeper meaning that we believe will resonate with the community. Central represents a meeting place where we can gather to speak and be heard, and a place to come together to move forward.

Given the environment of continued social and political upheaval, Purchase College student interest in social and restorative justice, as well as students' perceptions of how our Student Code of Conduct violations are adjudicated, the Office of Community Standards is embracing our community's feedback and has formed a Community Standards Tasks Force. Charged by the president and co-chaired by our Director of Community Standards and Director of the Multicultural Center, the taskforce is comprised of various campus partners. Since Spring of 2022, the Task Force has educated its members as they completed various SUNY Conduct Institute trainings, met with SUNY legal counsel, reviewed other campus Codes of Conduct, and met with campus administrators to better understand the Code of Conduct's scope.

This past year the college also made progress on other significant issues related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion including the reinvigorating of the Multicultural Center on campus.

Beginning in September 2021, student organizations began to utilize the MCC space for meetings and events. Student groups included: Queer People of Color, Humans of Asian and Polynesian Ancestry, Students of Caribbean Ancestry, Black Student Union, Theatrixx, Afro-Fusion, Latinx Unidos, International Student Association, the Political Science Club, and Organization of African People in the Americas. Additionally, the MCC engaged two interns for the fall semester with plans for expanding these opportunities for the 22-23 school year. The MCC has also made important community partnerships with Hillels of Westchester, the Loft LGBTQ+ Center, Manhattanville's Center for Inclusion, and the Center for Racial Equity.

The Center hosted and collaborated on a number of events this academic year. Notable events included discussions regarding how to acknowledge the campus history. The Center also spearheaded the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge (Month of February): Based on the work of Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., the challenge served to help communities develop "effective social justice habits." By taking the time to engage every day, we are in a better position to understand and combat privilege, oppression, power, supremacy, and inequity. The MCC chose February for the Challenge as its alignment with Black History Month makes it a perfect time to develop skills that will help combat injustice and inequity in our communities and institutions the rest of the year. This Challenge is a mostly self-guided schedule of reading, listening, watching, acting, connecting, and reflecting with some opportunities to meet, discuss, and reflect together.

Other events of note included the first in person Black graduation event since 2019, events held in conjunction with Hillel regarding the war in Ukraine and the Afghan refugee experience, and a live, virtual drag show; among many others.

As part of the ongoing initiative to come to terms with the history of the campus, the MCC collaborated with faculty and students to host a discussion about capturing student work reflecting on the history of the campus' land. The student work includes research papers, poetry, music, art, and other creative explorations of our complex shared histories.

In tribute to Women's History month, the center hosted StatueFest (Monologues about Statue-worthy Women), which featured the stories of women who died in the Triangle Waist Factory Fire as well as Zora Neale Hurston, Mary Lou Williams, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Frances Perkins, and Antonia Pantoja. Monologues were performed by students and some of the playwrights stayed for a talkback following the performance.

In summer 2022, after a successful search, Lisa Miles-Boyce, JD, joined the college as Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX/ and Affirmative Action Officer. Under her leadership, we look forward to continuing to move forward in important progress related to various policies, practices, and the further implementation of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategic Campus Plan.

### **Accessibility**

The Purchase College Electronic Information Technology Accessibility (EITA) policy continued to guide the college's response during the COVID 19 pandemic. The policy strives to ensure "that people with disabilities have an opportunity equal to that of their nondisabled peers to participate in the college's programs, benefits, and services, including those delivered through electronic and information technology." To meet this goal, the campus Accessibility Committee, which included stakeholders from across campus, worked to ensure that the campus funded the most crucial needs to ensure equal access, including hardware, software, and increased captioning options.

To ensure information conveyed through purchase.edu was accessible, all Content Managers were mandated to complete the Annual CMS Review training or lose publishing rights. New content managers received onboarding training with accessibility best practices. The Director of Digital Accessibility worked with faculty on auditing course materials and advising

on priorities for immediate and long-term improvements to content. To further electronic accessibility, in the Spring of 2022, a mini-module on accessibility best practices was released to all faculty and staff.

### **Our Community: Connecting, Expanding, Engaging**

To celebrate its reopening after the pandemic, the Neuberger Museum of Art hosted a Member Appreciation Week in July to welcome back the Purchase College campus community and external visitors.

In April, the Museum's signature Roy R. Neuberger Prize was awarded to internationally acclaimed painter, printmaker, and video artist Tomashi Jackson. Named for the Museum's founding patron, the award includes a solo exhibition, catalogue, and \$25,000 cash award. The prize exhibition, *Tomashi Jackson: SLOW JAMZ*, will be on view at the Neuberger Museum through November 27, 2022.

In June, the Museum announced one of its most significant acquisitions: Romare Bearden's *River Mist* (ca. 1962) is a striking abstract collage that combines oil on unprimed linen, and oil, casein, and colored pencil on canvas, cut, torn, and mounted on painted board. *River Mist* was purchased by the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art in honor of its recently retired chair, Susan Dubin, and her husband, James.

This spring, *The Friends at 50: Selections from the Collection* filled most of the Museum with works acquired over the last fifty years through the marvelous generosity of the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art organization. The show was remarkable in its breadth and depth, encompassing photography, sculpture, painting, and work in other media, inclusive of Cleve Gray's immersive *Threnody*. In conjunction with the exhibition, a series of virtual Artist Talks featured three artists who had created several works included in the show. A public celebration, the Friends 50<sup>th</sup> Big Birthday Celebration, capped off the festivities in early June.

Nearly a dozen smaller shows throughout the year featured objects from the Museum's expansive 6,000+ piece collection. *The Rise of a Social Consciousness in the Arts of Mexico since the Revolution* highlighted the important roles played by modern Mexican artists in the awakening of a social consciousness in Mexico. Featuring works on paper and fabric, *Impressions: The Inventions of Printmaking* navigated the rich history of printmaking from relief to intaglio to planographic processes.

*Then and Now: Modern and Contemporary Selections from the Permanent Collection* is an ongoing show featuring works from the Roy R. Neuberger collection. And still on view through early September, *Milton Avery: Watercolors* includes ten watercolors on paper from Avery's watercolor portfolio created from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s.

Shows earlier in the year included *Lesley Dill: Rush*, which filled a gallery with an enormous collage of hundreds of interconnected animal and human figures culled from world spiritual traditions and representing love, death, transcendence, and other themes. *David Smith: Billiard Players* included a selection of works executed during a crucial period in the artist's artistic evolution and the debut of a newly restored metal sculpture. *Stephen Antonakos: Project Drawings* showcased a set of eight drawings created during the formal evolution of the artist's neon work; the works were featured during an event celebrating the reinstallation of *Neon Lintel*. *Following the Clues: The Roy R. Neuberger Collection Provenance Project* showcased four fascinating research stories about works from the Roy R. Neuberger collection. The Open Classroom space showcased collaborations with students and faculty from the College's Art History's Museology (M+) and Art & Design program as they explore works from the collection.

Along with its exhibitions, the Museum continues to engage its audiences with hybrid programming such as artist and curator talks, in-gallery meditations, and art-based educational resources for youth.

Throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, The Performing Arts Center remained "on pause" in regards to presenting professional performing artists to the public. However, it was a "pause with a purpose" — The PAC never wavered in its commitment to serve as a vibrant, creative, and active hub for the campus and the greater community.

The PAC's four stages provided vital space for Purchase College School of the Arts conservatory classes as well as large scale rental activity, while the lower lobby served the community as a NYS site for COVID testing. All the while, The PAC continued its efforts to develop virtual and in-person events focused on campus and K-12 engagement.

Film and theatrical rental activity provided an important revenue stream throughout the extended public closure; much of this activity also served The PAC's larger mission. The PAC's collaboration with Carnegie Hall's LINK-Up Educational program to film a culminating orchestra concert for NYC Education Department alongside the Weill Music Institute is one example of the kind of rental that feeds into our larger mission to engage, enlighten and educate. Our relationship with Carnegie Hall will continue in the summer of 2022 with the National Youth Orchestra residency.

Collaborations were critical to the furthering the mission of The PAC in other areas as well. A year-long project that connected *Gibney Dance Company* and the Conservatory of Dance gave students the opportunity to present a new work on the PepsiCo Theatre stage at the end of the semester, offered a series of in-school Masterclasses for regional high school students, and provided our dance audiences with an opportunity to experience a virtual watch party. Likewise, ongoing collaboration with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center provided access to a rich library of digital content to share with PAC fans and followers.

Thanks to the generous support of donors and funders like ArtsWestchester, The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, and The Jandon Foundation, The PAC's *Virtual Field Trip* series continued, providing an important resource for regional schools. Offered free of charge, each trip included performance videos, curriculum learning plans, and sequential teaching videos supporting the performance. Artists involved include *Step Afrika*, *Black Violin*, and *Pilobolus*. For the 2021-2022 academic year the Virtual Field Trip series served over 20,000 K-12 students from over 900 classrooms.

Here on campus, in partnership with Prof. Janis Astor del Valle's Arts-in-

Education Practicum class, The PAC's Education and Engagement department facilitated a semester-long program called *StorySeekers!* Building on the work piloted in 2021, the project served three classrooms from two regional schools with both in-person and virtual teaching artist visits. All classes were conducted in both English and Spanish for dual language learners. The program also began to work alongside the Great Potential Program to reach students engaged in SUNY Research K12 academic support.

In addition to all of the above, laying the groundwork for fully reopening The PAC has been a central focus of The PAC's efforts. In April, The PAC welcomed the public back to its theatres to enjoy campus-related programming. Alongside productions by The Conservatory of Theater Arts in the Repertory Theater, The PAC hosted audiences for Dance and Music performances in the Recital Hall and PepsiCo Theater for the first time in over two years.

In June, The PAC was proud to announce a live professional presenting season for the 2022-2023 academic year – an exciting step on the road to recovery, and a moment of acknowledgement for the backstage and administrative staff who have been doing the hard work behind the scenes throughout the year.

Intensive planning for the 2022-2023 season is now fully underway, with the box office due to re-open in July. And, as always, ongoing review of future programming possibilities with particular attention to campus connections, equity and diversity, innovation, and collaboration continues to illuminate the road forward.

This past academic year, Purchase offered many opportunities for students and members of the community to meet either in person or virtually with acclaimed academics, writers, artists, and performers across many programs and disciplines.

The 2021-22 Durst Distinguished Lectures included a wide range of talented authors, critics, artists and poets including: Roy and Shirley Durst Distinguished Chair in Literature Lynda Barry, Ken Liu, Margo Jefferson, Teju Cole, Tamara Payne, Kaitlyn Greenidge, and Viet Thanh Nguyen. While the



Jewish Studies program hosted bestselling authors Judy Batalion and Joan Nathan and film producer Nancy Spielberg. Casa Purchase, the Latin American Studies outreach center at the college hosted the third annual series of events with scholars from across multiple areas of expertise in summer 2022.

This past academic year also saw the Conservatories of Dance, Music, and Theatre once again performing for a wide range of concerts, plays, and events for live audiences.

### **Thinking and Acting Globally**

One of Purchase College's important strategic priorities is centered on international education, forging connections from the local to the global. As previously reported, Purchase College joined the University Global Coalition (UGC) in spring 2021. The UGC, which enlists globally engaged colleges and universities from around the world to work in partnership for a more sustainable future, commits our institution to a process of goal setting to advance the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. Since we joined the UGC, we have codified our commitment to the SDGs by incorporating them into the college's new Strategic Plan and by anchoring them as one of our six Institutional Learning Outcomes which focuses on a "commitment to the planet and to the welfare and equity of all of its peoples, by respecting the sanctity of the environment."

### **First Year Orientation Events Incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

In a dynamic and interactive orientation session, the Office for Global Education and the Sustainability Office teamed up in August 2021 to bring like-minded incoming students together to discuss pressing world issues such as equality, justice, hunger, and the environment. Echoing the words of the UNDP (United Nations Development Program), this event was based on the premise that everyone can have enough of what they need while living within our planetary boundaries, and is an expression of Purchase's

commitment to working at home and around the world to make this happen.

Over 320 students attended the event, 22 faculty and staff facilitators participated, including Purchase College's president.

In August 2022, the Office for Global Education will team up with the Multicultural Center and the Sustainability Office to host another SDG event, which will accommodate up to 900 students.

### **Global Scholars Program**

In fall 2021, the second cohort of Purchase College Global Scholars completed the first semester of a four year, comprehensive co-curricular recruitment and retention program designed to help students develop skills in intercultural communication and changemaking leadership. As a part of their fall Global Scholars Seminar, the Global Scholars participated in Soliya Connect, an 8-week multilateral virtual discussion platform designed to give students skills to navigate difference in conversation, refine their sensitivity in listening, and increase their understanding of other cultures through facilitated conversation with other young people from a diversity of backgrounds.

Working closely with the Dean for Global Strategy, who teaches the seminar, the Global Scholars have participated in designing their own syllabus by identifying topics in global engagement most urgent to them, organizing guest speakers, and co-leading class sessions. All students in the Global Scholars Program commit to a certain number of engagement activities as part of their participation in the program. Activities range from peer mentoring to roles with campus organizations such as the Food Recovery Network, NYPIRG, and more. Finally, all of the Global Scholars far exceeded the cumulative GPA and other requirements for good standing in the program during their first semester at Purchase: the average 2020-21 academic year cumulative GPA (N=27) for global scholars is 3.917. The first global scholars will begin traveling abroad using the \$4,000 scholarships attached to the program this summer.

Fatoumata Fadiga, a Global Scholar and Political Science major, is one of only ten students internationally who have been selected as a Future Nobel

Laureate in the 2022 Future Nobel Laureates Scholarship Program. The award is an open call available worldwide to both undergraduate and graduate students. In this fully funded program, Fatoumata will have the opportunity to participate in and receive credit for an online project-based course, travel to Sweden for an international field study, and attend sessions at the 2022 Nobel Week Dialogue: a collaborative event that brings some of the world's leading scientists, policy-makers, and thinkers together to explore scientific topics through a global lens.

The selection of the third cohort of Purchase College Global Scholars, who will matriculate in fall 2022, is complete. We received an unprecedented number of applications from students admitted to majors across the college, which was narrowed to a cohort of 10 (approx. 8% acceptance rate).

### **Reopening of Purchase Outbound Education Abroad for Spring and Summer 2022**

Following a two-year hiatus, Purchase College students once again began to study abroad in spring and summer 2022. Two students departed for an April start at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg, Germany, and approximately forty-three more will study abroad this summer. In order to assist students financially in the return to studying abroad, Purchase College has awarded \$30,200 in International Study Assistance Scholarships, and have covered all costs related to trip cancellation for students in spring and summer 2022. Students have been successfully enrolled in three summer faculty-led programs: France, Italy, and a new program focused on climate change and sustainability in Norway, which received the Chancellor's Award for Innovative Study Abroad programs.

### **Technos-Purchase College Relationship**

Purchase College is proud to have a strong and longstanding partnership with Technos College in Tokyo, Japan, that brings art and cultural exchange to students at each institution, funded by the Tanaka Foundation.

Considering the pandemic, we were not able to send delegations in either direction for in-person cultural exchange, as we normally do. Instead,

Purchase and Technos students engaged in a collaborative virtual exchange in 2021-22 to create an anim   project featuring animation created by Technos College students and with music and voice overs composed, performed and recorded by Purchase College students. The subject of the anim   project is inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and includes the participation of students and faculty from Purchase in disciplines ranging from Studio Composition and Sound Engineering to Theatre and Performance as well as Graphic Design. In addition, Purchase College Global Scholars and faculty from across the College participated in the virtual Technos International Week held October 25-29, 2021, sharing American and Japanese culture in a week of online activities.

Building on the success of the Purchase-Technos anim   collaboration, we will undertake a new virtual collaboration for 2022-23, this time focused on the creation of two live action music videos, culminating, we hope, in a travel component for some of the participating students from both institutions.

### **Fulbright Student and Scholar Awards**

In 2021-22, two recent alumni, Will Byram and Caleb Dowden, conducted research and attended graduate school abroad funded by the Fulbright Student Program in the United Kingdom and Benin, West Africa. In addition, Assistant Professor of Arts Management Laura Ricciardi conducted research in Italy funded by the Fulbright Scholar Program. Endeavoring to build on our success in revitalizing Fulbright at Purchase, Dean for Global Strategy and International Programs Anne Kern was selected and funded by Fulbright to participate in the Fulbright Program Advisor Development Initiative, which took place in Houston, Texas in March 2022 and will resume in New York City in November 2022.

### **Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence in the Conservatory of Dance**

In May 2022, Purchase was informed that internationally renowned Beninese dancer and choreographer Marcel Gbeffa has been named a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) for the Purchase College Conservatory of Dance for 2022-23. During his residency, Mr. Gbeffa will teach courses,

assist in curriculum development, guest lecture, and choreograph new work for Conservatory of Dance students.

As part of the college's commitment to the surrounding community, through this project Mr. Gbeffa will also participate in activities with some of the college's partners including the Denzel Washington School of the Arts in Mount Vernon; the Port Chester-Rye School District; the Police Athletic League's Teen Acting Program; The Buckley School; the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York; the Federation of Alliance Françaises USA; and ArtsWestchester.

### **The Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Award**

Also in May 2022, Purchase College was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Award by the U.S. Department of Education, which will fund six Purchase College faculty members and six New York area K-12 teachers to participate in a four-week curriculum development and immersive foreign language program in Benin, West Africa, to take place in summer 2023. Participants will also explore the intersection of Beninese languages, culture, history, educational systems, politics, and more, and bring back their knowledge in the form of new and revised courses designed for the levels they teach.

Participants will share resources with other educators upon their return, expanding the reach of the program. Purchase's Fulbright Group Project will be facilitated in Benin by a number of the college's international partners, including: the African School of Economics; the Zinsou Foundation; Centre Choréographe Multicorps; and Atchê Binon Art & Culture.

### **Inspiring a Culture of Sustainability and Thoughtful Capital Planning:**

Over the past year, Facilities and Capital Planning has successfully transitioned from a pandemic affected campus to one that is fully open and operational. Although not yet at capacity, the residential campus population increased and capital projects and other campus improvements

moved forward, all while maintaining a high standard of COVID related health and safety procedures and protocols.

While COVID rates are relatively stable, over the past year, the energy markets have become increasingly unstable due to a variety of factors. Two capital projects, Natural Science and Visual Arts building, are being designed and constructed in accordance with the CLCPA goal of increased energy efficiency and lower carbon footprint.

Among the projects we are most excited about is the interior renovation of the Natural Science building, which includes the replacing and upgrading mechanical systems and a reimagining of the academic spaces throughout. Our project team has worked with college representatives and the representatives of the different departments in Natural Science, and have completed our programmatic needs for the project. We now have conceptual floor plans of how the inside of the building could be reconfigured to maximize space and enhance the learning and teaching experience. The building will also be much more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. We have moved on to the Schematic Design phase, which should be concluded towards the end of October.

Another project that will have a significant positive effect is the upgrade to the mechanical systems in our Visual Arts building. The building houses a number of arts programs for our students including; painting and drawing, graphic design, sculpture, printmaking, photography, art history, and arts management. With the various types of materials and mediums that are used, proper ventilation and exhausting of fumes is critical to the programs. The building's mechanical rooms are original to the building and have not had any major upgrades to them since being built. The design team has completed a design that will result in better efficiency, air quality and reduced our carbon footprint. Our anticipated construction start is Winter 2022.

In keeping with the theme of energy efficiency, a new combined heat and power energy storage project at the physical education building has been completed and will provide 50% of the electric and almost all the thermal energy for the pool and building. The project was provided at no cost to

design and build via the college's long-standing partnership with the New York Power Authority. It is being currently being commissioned with closeout expected later this summer.

In tandem with the President's Office, Facilities Management has also been working closely with local and state officials to discuss downstream flooding affecting our neighboring communities. Purchase College has been identified as a key partner for the flood mitigation efforts and is part of a proposed plan to reduce the frequency and severity of future flooding. In addition to these community wide efforts, Purchase College is already moving ahead with campus specific stormwater management projects such as bio swales and an improved stormwater detention area.

Through the college's AASHE STARS report, Purchase has been featured on the national Sierra Club's Cool Schools List and The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges. The Sierra Club's Cool Schools rankings serve as a guide for prospective students, current students, administrators, and alumni to compare colleges' commitments to environmentalism. The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges is a resource that the education service company has published since 2010 for college applicants seeking schools with exemplary commitments to the environment and sustainability. The Princeton Review generates a high level of interest among college applicants and their parents in colleges by highlighting green practices, programs, and offerings.

### **Inspiring Intergenerational Learning:**

Broadview: Senior Living at Purchase College is making significant strides, having received approximately 202 deposits, which represents more than 90 percent of available units. This includes a section that has been set aside as affordable housing.

At this point, the ground has been broken, construction is well underway and on schedule, and of special note, the community of our first residents, called Charter Members is already engaging with each other and the campus.

The innovative plan will serve the needs of a growing senior population in the greater Westchester County area while providing unique opportunities for intergenerational learning, creativity, and mentoring all while raising money to support student scholarships and new faculty salaries. The first phase of the project will include 220 apartments and villas for independent living, with assisted living apartments and private memory care suites also available. At the center of Broadview's mission will be the Learning Commons. Open to the entire Purchase College community, the Learning Commons will be a center for engagement, for lifelong learning, and a place for students of all ages to socialize and learn from each other. The space will have a dining venue, multimedia seminar rooms, a computer lab, and studios for art and movement. The space will be designed as a hub where residents will be encouraged to engage in meaningful conversation over lunch with a professor or student; where students will be encouraged to collaborate with residents for projects; and where students and professors can lead classes or create work side by side with residences.

At this time the focus is on looking ahead and creating and refining programs that will best serve this audience and help integrate the Broadview residents with the rest of the community.

### **Financial Picture**

Purchase's FY 21-22 state purposed budget was projected to be a \$7.6M loss. This is due to the continued shortfall in enrollment of almost 800 students (approx. 20%) from our high point. Our actual for year end resulted in a net deficit of approx. \$4.7M, supported by \$1.3M of stimulus and approximately \$3.4 of college reserve funds. The reduced deficit was a result of additional enrollment totaling \$1.3M; one-time additional tax support funds for retroactive salary increases; and operating expense savings of approximately \$1.23M.

DIFR funds (Dormitory Income Fund) were projected to end the FY21-22 with a \$3.36M surplus, based on a resident population of 1,183 for fall, but a full occupancy for spring (with an allowance for vacancy in the normal course of business). Unfortunately, the spring returning students did not come close to meeting full occupancy which resulted in an earnings miss of



almost \$5M. Our total resident population was off by almost 1,000 beds. Actual expense savings of approximately \$3M helped to offset the revenue shortfall, resulting in a net surplus to the fund of approximately \$1.5M. It should be noted that SUNY's financing of debt service will end with this fiscal year, returning us to an annual debt service of approximately \$6M for FY22-23.

IFR/SUTRA funds (Income fund and State Univ Tuition Reimbursements) was projected to end FY 21-22 with a net loss of \$1.4M. The actual number came in at a surplus of \$1.5M. The \$2.9M swing was due to a Shuttered Venue grant received for our Performing Arts Center equal to \$1.5M; along with a combination of additional revenues and reduced spending for the fiscal year.

### **Inspiring Giving:**

The Purchase College Foundation and Charitable Entities had another robust year. Members of the Board were actively engaged in filling new Board seats, maintaining momentum for fundraising efforts, and recruiting new college leadership. Key among these spots, the search for a new Vice President of Institutional Advancement was completed on June 1; Dr. Amanda Walker arrived at Purchase in early July with an immediate focus on supporting the team in Institutional Advancement (IA) and hiring new colleagues to rebuild capacity lost following recent vacancies.

New gifts and commitments of more than \$2.1M had been received by the end of June, bringing the 2021-2022 fundraising total to over 80% of the original \$2.6M goal. An additional \$550,000 in new planned gifts were still in discussion at fiscal year-end. The Foundation's board considered these favorable results given staff vacancies and considering the current political and economic turmoil.

At the start of the year, the Purchase College Foundation's endowment value was \$100,826,357. As of May 31, 2022, the unaudited value stood at \$95,824,566, a decline in value of 7%, due to market volatility. Even so, this relatively small decrease was achievable owing to the diligent work of the

Foundation's Investment Committee, which sought to ensure the preservation of purchasing power by rebalancing target investment allocations.

Through the efforts of Purchase College IA staff, more than \$1.7M in additional federal grants were received via the Research Foundation for SUNY. These awards include a Shuttered Venue Operators Grants totaling nearly \$1.6M for The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College (The PAC) to cover costs incurred during the pandemic, and a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant of \$118K that will fund a dozen Purchase faculty and K-12 teachers to travel to and engage in the in-depth study of language and culture of Benin, Africa.

Higher education grant consultants McAllister & Quinn assisted Purchase with the submission of additional federal grant opportunities for student scholarships in the sciences; a three-year language, literature, oral and urban history, and community engagement project; and a five-year project to develop strategies and transformational outcomes for student success. The latter two projects are directly related to programs for Hispanic Serving Institutions. These three proposals are still pending.

Among the gifts received by the Purchase College Foundation in 2021-2022, a generous grant from the Merce Cunningham Trust and matching funds from the J2 Scholarship Challenge Grant for Student Success came together in the form of a new endowed scholarship that will provide relief to an aspiring upper-level (junior or senior) artist who is in danger of not finishing their dance degree at Purchase College due to financial pressure. The new scholarship is in addition to an annual gift provided by the Cunningham Trust to the Conservatory of Dance.

ArtsWestchester awarded The PAC a Restart the Arts grant of \$25,000 to support two Fall 2022 performances by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as a part of The PAC's re-opening season. Another ArtsWestchester grant of \$20,000 supported a Neuberger Museum of Art three-part series of Artist Talks featuring artists whose work was included in the commemorative exhibition *The Friends at 50: Selections from the Collection*.

The Terra Foundation for American Art awarded the Neuberger Museum a Re-envisioning Permanent Collections grant for \$75,000 to support the Museum's investigation of otherness within the context of diversity and equity and the segregation of its African works in a reinstallation of the collection planned to open in the fall of 2023.

A student-led initiative to promote equity in the Dance Department successfully raised \$12,500—with the support of a generous community philanthropist, Conservatory alumni, and matching funds from the J2 Scholarship Challenge Grant—to establish a new Racial Equity Fund endowed scholarship.

Members of the Purchase College Leadership Circle—a special recognition society of supporters making generous leadership gifts between \$1,000 and \$9,999 to any fund in the college, alumni, and friends continued to provide support throughout the year.

### **Alumni Engagement**

The Office of Alumni Engagement and the Purchase College Alumni Association's Affinity Groups continued to host virtual programs that brought together alumni, current students, and faculty and staff. With the support of the Alumni Association, the traditional spring Alumni Weekend has been transitioned to fall 2022 and will be a reimagined, hybrid event held in conjunction with Family Day. Two new alumni awards will be introduced during the Weekend's festivities, and elections will be held for new PCAA Board members under recently revised Bylaws and nomination processes.

### **Notable Accolades:**

Purchase College has been included on many significant ranking lists.

Purchase is listed as one of the "Top 387 Colleges" in the nation by The Princeton Review in the 2022 edition of their college guide. Purchase is also

listed as a Best Northeastern College and a Best Value College. Home to the acclaimed Performing Arts Center, Purchase was also ranked on the list of Best College Theaters. Princeton Review also names Purchase as a top Green College for its commitment to sustainability. *The Hollywood Reporter* named Purchase as one of the top 25 Acting Programs in the world, which is also evidenced by the number of prominent Purchase acting alums currently headlining or featured in television, film, and on stage to great acclaim.

Purchase is a top tier National Liberal Arts College and a Top Ten Public Liberal Arts College in the 2022 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges* which also ranked Purchase as one of the most ethnically diverse colleges and a top performer on social mobility, a metric that measures how well colleges serve lower income students.

Purchase was selected for inclusion in the highly selective 2023 edition of *The Fiske Guide to Colleges* based on the college's strength in academics, arts and culture, social life, financial aid, campus environment, extracurricular activities, and more.

Purchase frequently receives positive press in print, digital, and broadcast outlets across the country and beyond. Recent press includes features about alumni, faculty, programs, and students in a wide range of publications including *The Hollywood Reporter*, *News 12*, *Univision*, *Pitchfork*, *Rolling Stone*, *New York Times*, *American Theatre*, *Dance Magazine*, and *Westchester Magazine*.

### **Suggested Areas for System Administration Help:**

We thank the Interim Chancellor for her leadership and Governor Hochul and State Legislators for their recognition and support of SUNY in this year's budget allocation to SUNY. Purchase College will benefit significantly from the adjustments to TAP and the Excelsior Scholarships and the opportunity provided for hiring new faculty and the funds provided to support Purchase College bolster its ability to strengthen and build new programs to increase enrollment with particular attention to attract new students and bolster

curriculum toward workforce development.

Data from the Purchase College Career Development Center show that we are successful with our students finding jobs after graduation, with 88.1 percent of our 2021 graduates having a positive career outcome, including having enrolled in graduate school or gained employment, the vast majority of which is in the field they studied. However, we also have an opportunity to leverage strength with our existing academic programs and develop new programs. This process will be informed by data provided by consultants Gray & Associates and analyzed and utilized by campus leadership and stakeholders in order to leverage our strengths and create new opportunities to further distinguish our unique location and attributes.

Once we have a plan in place to add new programs, the best way SUNY Administration can help support our efforts in a timely fashion is to adeptly and quickly respond to program approval requests.

Where our efforts continue to be challenged is in our inability to offer competitive salaries to faculty and staff, particularly given the expensive region in which Purchase College is located. In addition, the unfunded negotiated salary raises puts a strain on our college budget which has seen a decline in college enrollments. This was already occurring nationally and has now accelerated due to the impact of Covid. I ask for System Administration help in continuing to ensure that SUNY as a whole and Purchase specifically is able to attract and retain talented faculty and staff. In order to ensure we are able to thrive in this challenging landscape, we respectfully request additional State funding needed.

The Purchase College Annual Report for 2021-22 respectfully submitted to the SUNY Board of Trustees, Interim Chancellor Stanley, The Purchase College Council, and the faculty and staff of Purchase College on this day September 28, 2022.

Dr. Milagros Peña  
President