SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton

NYSUNY2020 Challenge Grant Application:

The SUNY Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology
Executive Summary

In consultation with the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam are developing a new concept that would allow the two institutions to deliver new academic programming, find ways for shared service administration, and potentially offer services to the surrounding community. In order to supervise and coordinate the collaborative academic activities, a new Institute is being created named the SUNY Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology. It is the SUNY Institute because while it grows out of both SUNY Canton and Potsdam, it will also have a unique identity of its own, serving as the clearinghouse and public image of many of the shared collaborative programs and back office functions. It is an institute for arts, sciences and technology because it will draw from the strengths of both institutions. While SUNY Potsdam is the leading arts campus of SUNY, it takes tremendous pride in the rigor and success of programs in the sciences, social sciences, and education. By characterizing the institute as representing both the arts and sciences we convey that deep and broad participation in the collaborative efforts. Clearly it is also an institute of technology in recognition of the important and unique contributions brought to the partnership by SUNY Canton, a SUNY leader in technical education. The Institute is where the best programs of both institutions can explore collaboration to enhance the programs of one another but also to create new learning opportunities not currently available on either campus.

The mission of the SUNY Institute of Arts, Sciences, and Technology is to use the assets of SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam to create new opportunities that neither college could achieve on its own. These opportunities will include administrative collaborations, academic programs, and student-related activities and services. The Institute will provide a mechanism to allow and facilitate the development of a new type of academic mission for the Canton and Potsdam campuses. The Institute is essentially the scaffolding linking the two institutions and on which many different opportunities can be built. It allows Canton and Potsdam to maintain their own identity, leadership, and brand while creating what will become a third brand shared by the institutions.

There are many goals related directly to the creation of the Institute, but the central goals are increased enrollment, increased selectivity for both institutions, and making a significant contribution to the local economy.

While there are risks with such a major effort, the interdependence that this will create will almost certainly reduce costs and increase revenue. A successful Institute will serve to improve both institutions while also providing increased financial stability.

At present the leadership of the Institute is provided by the Provosts of the respective campuses. They see that the appropriate faculty members, departments, and programs are invited to participate in collaborative conversations. A Steering Committee has been created consisting of the Provosts of the two campuses, one dean from each campus, and a representative of the faculty governance system of each campus. This committee will develop the template for curricular proposals and to study how best to use the shared governance institutions of each campus and make recommendations regarding the processes for program approval and academic standards issues that respect the oversight of faculty governance on both campuses.
The Institute will also serve as home to the shared administrative functions between SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam, largely, but not completely, under the supervision of the CFO, Natalie Higley. By having the shared back-office functions under one roof, the institutions will gain the ability to have standardization across administrative processes and redundancy in processing functions, something each institution has been unable to achieve alone. With redundancy and cross-training come greater efficiencies and more capacity with less investment in personnel, thus increasing the savings the institutions will obtain through the shared administrative alliances.

This proposal consists of two parts. One is a building; the other is the academic collaboration it represents. In considering the bricks and mortar manifestation of the institute, we seek to build a facility, midway between Canton and Potsdam, to provide a neutral place where some administrative functions may be housed, provide for a meeting place where academic and administrative issues may be discussed and developed. The institute will be available as a business incubator serving St. Lawrence County and the North Country, as a home for the Small Business Development Center currently housed on the SUNY Canton campus, and to host training activities serving the needs of communities.

The academic cooperation which is the mission of the institute will require funding to launch the collaborations. The financial constraints of the last few years have left the OTPS budgets of the campuses stretched very thin. In order to jump start conversations in the disciplines and to launch new program initiatives, some funding will be necessary. We seek permission to apply the Academic Excellence and Access Fee to provide a needed funding stream for that purpose. The fee will also assure that both campuses are able to keep their academic equipment up-to-date and compatible with the programs of the other College. This will allow for seamless mobility of students, particularly in the sciences and technology.
**Regional Economic Development Vision**

The initiatives outlined in this proposal flow directly from the strategies developed by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council (NCREDC), as outlined in its report, including Workforce Development, Clean Energy, Business Retention and Expansion, and Energy Efficiency: (http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/themes/nyopenrc/rc-files/northcountry/northcountry_2012progressreport.pdf)

Furthermore, it ties to important other initiatives of the NCREDC through its Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) group, linking all of the region’s colleges and universities, with important research centers like the Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, and the Miner Institute in Chazy. One might even envision that the coordinating office for the HERD initiative could be located in the proposed building.

One of the key strategies of the HERD group is to encourage innovation and collaborative projects among the region’s colleges. This proposal directly links SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton in curricular developments in three important areas: business education, STEM curricula (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), and programs in the health sciences and technology.

The Workforce Development strategy lies at the core of these academic initiatives. The demand for persons trained in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines is well known and has been the object of many other initiatives, including most recently a $2.95 million NSF grant to SUNY to improve the STEM pipeline. The North Country has an especially great need for a highly trained workforce, given the recent decline in industrial production. This proposal seeks to improve the training opportunities in precisely the fields generally seen as most conducive to economic growth in the region. The health-care industry is one of the largest in St. Lawrence County, and all evidence points to its continued growth. Through collaboration, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam can produce highly skilled employees ready to join this vibrant industry, particularly in the allied health professions that will be in great demand to support the new healthcare models being implemented throughout the United States.

Other strategies outlined by the NCREDC which directly connect to this proposal include: Clean Energy, Business Retention and Expansion, Energy Efficiency, and Workforce Development. Within the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency strategies, the Institute as noted will focus on training additional students in the STEM fields in general and health sciences and technology in particular. A trained workforce is essential for energy local industry. In particular SUNY Canton has developed a curriculum in renewable energy technology, linked to its own proposal for a wind turbine to generate electricity. Through collaboration with the science programs at SUNY Potsdam, the institute can become home to a research and development center focusing on renewable energy.

Business Retention and Expansion is clearly linked to these academic programs. Individuals trained in the health sciences and technology and in business on both campuses will form the cornerstone for the entrepreneurial advancement of the future of the North Country. Through the enhancement of the educational opportunities afforded to students in all these fields, one anticipates the emergence of better trained graduates a significant number of whom will choose to remain in the North Country. By also focusing on curricula in business, the Institute will also be producing individuals who can support local businesses: both to assist and enhance local business opportunities but to create new ones to both serve the region and to bring back some of the capacity lost in the last decades. Lastly, the institute building might house the Small Business Development Center currently located on the Canton campus, thus making its services more accessible to a larger portion of the population of the county.
Economic Impact

The SUNY Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology will have a profound impact on the local economy. At its core, it has the goal of increasing enrollment in the two participating colleges. According to the most recent economic impact studies, at present, the two colleges provide for over $750 million annually in economic activity in the region. Through the additional strategic enrollment spurred through the initiatives of the Institute, those numbers will increase dramatically. In the first few years, it is reasonable to project that up to $5 million in economic activity will be spurred each year, through added enrollment, and through the economic impact of the students on the region. Every additional student enrolled in either campus adds approximately $40,000 in economic activity to the region. Consequently, adding just 100 students will result in $4,000,000 of economic activity for the county.

But the economic impact of the Institute reaches further. Through the improvement in the training of individuals in STEM fields, in health sciences technology, and in business, the Institute will be producing highly skilled and trained members of the workforce. As such, it is anticipated that these individuals will then go on to assist in the economic development of the region as employees in the region’s businesses and industries, but also as the entrepreneurs who will, in turn, establish businesses themselves. Projecting the concrete impact is extremely difficult. But if experience is any guide one can envision a handful of new companies each hiring as few as four employees each could have a $1 million impact.

Lastly, the Institute building might house the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) currently located on the Canton campus, thus making its services more accessible to a larger portion of the population of the county. At its current location in the basement of Wicks Hall on SUNY Canton’s campus, the visibility of the SBDC is limited to the public. With its future placement at this proposed facility, not only would the SBDC be more visible, it would be more centrally located for the locus of population in the county. The new location would also allow for easier access to those unfamiliar with the college campus. Beyond the relocation of the SBDC, the new facility would also provide opportunities for local start-up businesses to have incubator space to get their start. The northern region has tremendous cottage industries that struggle to become financially solvent within the first year and often close—this incubator space would be an excellent opportunity for small business leaders to get beyond the financial worries of the first year and provide a better chance for financial success. Eventually, these start-up businesses will be able to thrive and allow for additional job creation within St. Lawrence County.
Academic Excellence & Student Success

Academic excellence and student success lies at the very heart of the two academic initiatives outlined here. Both SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam pride themselves on their student-centered atmosphere. SUNY Canton is dedicated to offering high quality technical programs to give graduates access to satisfying careers. SUNY Potsdam has as a guiding philosophy the handcrafted education: an orientation among faculty members and college staff to assist and nurture students to a successful completion for their educational goals.

As noted earlier, the origins of the Institute lie in efforts on both campuses to provide unique educational experiences which can enhance the degree programs of students on both campuses: programs on the Canton campus to add real value to the degrees of Potsdam; courses on the Potsdam campus to provide important learning experiences for students from Canton. This Institute is where programs from both institutions can explore collaboration, to enhance programs and to create new learning opportunities not currently available on either campus.

In particular, in the first phase of its development, the Institute will host collaborations in three general curricular areas: in business programs, in STEM disciplines and related technology, and in the health sciences and technology. The purpose of these conversations will be to develop new and innovative curricula to be offered on both campuses and as collaborative programs through the Institute itself. The Steering committee for the Institute will assure that the programs manifest sufficient rigor, as well as guarantee academic excellence and student success. The shared governance process developed for the Institute will also provide a necessary broader consideration of the programs.

Both campuses offer degrees in Business. It is reasonable to assume that working together the two campuses can enhance their curricular offerings through collaboration. Indeed, there have been preliminary discussions looking at the possibility of developing new collaborative degree programs, perhaps leading to masters programs in some business areas. SUNY Potsdam has strong departments in STEM disciplines (biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics, and computer science) while SUNY Canton has degrees in environmental technology and engineering technology. SUNY Potsdam’s students in sciences can benefit from exposure to related technological fields; SUNY Canton’s students could benefit from increased depth of exposure to scientific theory and practice. Finally, both campuses host strong programs in health-related disciplines. SUNY Canton has a well-respected program in Nursing and in Veterinary technology. SUNY Potsdam offers a Community Health major and a pre-medicine concentration, as well as Biology, Chemistry, and Biochemistry majors. One can easily envision a high degree of collaboration between these curricula. Science students at SUNY Potsdam could expand their practical expertise in applied health and technology, depending on their career and graduate school objectives; students in health fields at SUNY Canton could achieve deeper scientific bases for their practice or pursuit of graduate degrees.

In addition to developing new programs, the Institute could sponsor:

- Faculty development opportunities.
• Joint research programs, some of which might serve regional economic development needs (e.g., sustainability, and alternative energy programs).
• Conferences, leadership institutes, and the like, that attract faculty from other colleges to engage with Canton and Potsdam faculty members.
• Faculty/Staff collaborations on co-curricular projects linking student and academic affairs.
• Non-credit programs reflective of the strengths of the campuses offerings.
• Service learning, internships, cooperative education and experiential learning activities for the campuses.
• A research center serving as a clearinghouse for the campuses expertise and the needs of the local businesses and governments.
• The Small Business Development Center and other outreach services to local entrepreneurs.

This proposal requests permission to levy the Academic Excellence and Access Fee, at a rate to be determined, in order to provide for three discrete areas of the operation of the institute.

1. The proceeds from the fee will help to provide incentives to faculty to collaborate and develop new curricula.
2. The fee will help to underwrite new programs, guaranteeing support until such time as the program can be self-supporting on enrollment alone.
3. Purchase equipment, particularly in the sciences and technology, in order to assure that student learning basic scientific concepts on each campus are using the same equipment, in order to lower the barriers to student mobility.
Partnerships

Historically, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam have collaborated both academically and administratively to offer the best services to our students. In the past year, Canton and Potsdam have expanded their partnerships by branching out into sharing administrative positions, thus saving both institutions funds that have then been redirected towards academic and student services. With the Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology, Canton and Potsdam strive to further enhance and solidify their partnership through both administrative and academic offerings.

The faculty members of the institutions have already demonstrated that one of the most exciting possible areas of collaboration between the campuses was in the academic realm. After two years of discussions, the Potsdam Department of Geology and the Canton Department of Environmental Technology proposed minors to be offered to students of the other campus. Their proposal consisted of a minor in Geology for SUNY Canton students and a minor in Environmental Technology for SUNY Potsdam students. The pairing was extremely fortuitous and has the effect of providing a truly enriching opportunity to students of each school.

The SUNY Potsdam program in Geology has an outstanding track record in placing its graduates in industry and graduate schools. It is a well-developed liberal arts-based curriculum which prepares its graduates for jobs in mining, public service, research, and to pursue additional graduate study. Similarly, the Canton Environmental Technology Program has a strong track-record of placing its students in a wide variety of industries, and prepares them to be certified as environmental engineers within the State of New York. The Canton minor in Environmental Technology provides SUNY Potsdam students with a pathway to certification, while the Potsdam minor in Geology provides all the necessary prerequisites to SUNY Canton students interested in eventually attending graduate school. In this way, the programs truly enhance the quality and opportunities of the other.

As noted earlier, the institute will participate in the initiatives of the NCREDC through the Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) group, which links all of the region’s colleges and universities, along with important research centers like the Trudeau Institute in Saranac Lake, and the Miner Institute in Chazy. The Small Business Development Center (SMBC) at Canton will be relocated into the institute building.

The institute will also operate within the existing partnership of the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley. This association, founded over 20 years ago, has fostered cooperation among not just SUNY Canton and Potsdam but with Clarkson University and St. Lawrence University. The decades-long program in which students may cross-register for courses at the other three colleges at no additional cost provides a mechanism for swift implementation of programs such as the reciprocal minors discussed above. Building on this solid base, it is envisioned that the institute will also reach out to these partner schools in the areas of research and local economic development.
SUNY Strategic Plan

The Institute for Arts, Sciences and Technology at SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam embodies the intent of several of SUNY’s Six Big Ideas. In line with SUNY and the Entrepreneurial Century, the Institute itself is a major departure from tradition for SUNY, creating a full-scale effort to build a new organization that expands academic opportunities for Canton and Potsdam’s students, offering new avenues for collaboration between faculty, and contributing significantly to the economy of the region. The Institute cultivates entrepreneurial thinking across SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam’s entire learning landscape, bringing together two different but complimentary SUNY institutions to create new, innovative programs designed to serve the needs of our citizens. In particular, the initial emphasis on business programs rightly identifies this area as crucial to the development of entrepreneurs who can serve the North Country. It is well known that individuals who live and learn in rural areas are far more likely to pursue career opportunities in those areas than are persons whose life experiences come from urban settings. The North Country can become a living laboratory for economic development.

The Institute serves to contribute to the Seamless Education Pipeline by creating ways to close the gaps that impede educational success. Narrowing in on SUNY’s focus of developing highly effective teachers, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam will work collaboratively to provide innovative programs drawing on the strengths of the two institutions. In conjunction with the Cradle-to-Career initiative from SUNY, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam’s collaborative efforts through the Institute will ease educational transitions between the two institutions, helping to achieve the goal of leading every student through the education system and into a career in the 21st century workforce.

The Institute will serve to bridge the two institutions as well as enhance SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam’s enriching presence in both communities, aligning the two institutions with SUNY’s Big Six Idea of the Vibrant Community. Strong communities are the heart of economic revitalization and SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam strive to enhance their communities by attracting young, talented and creative people. The Institute will aid both Canton and Potsdam’s offerings, allowing both institutions to attract talented individuals to the North Country that may not have previously sought out this region. SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton are a major source for arts and cultural programming in the North Country; the Institute will enhance these offerings by drawing on the diversity and culture of the two institutions to form critical building blocks in the development of a new creative economy.
Collaboration

SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam will provide the leadership for the creation of the Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology. The collaboration between the two colleges is supervised directly by the two campus presidents, who meet weekly to manage all areas of shared services. Further direction is provided by an Executive Committee which consists of the executive leadership of both campuses, which meets on a monthly basis. This group has created a Steering Committee for the Institute consisting of the two Provosts, an academic dean from each campus, and a representative from the faculty governance structure of each campus. This Steering Committee will have the responsibility for managing the conversations among different academic departments, the supervision of the creation of new academic programs, eventually the administration of those programs. The committee will work with academic departments to encourage collaborative discussions. The steering committee will also determine which proposals for collaboration will be supported from the Academic Excellence and Access Fee to provide funding to underwrite curricular offerings.

Leadership Team:

John Schwaller, President, SUNY Potsdam
Carli Schiffner, Interim President, SUNY Canton
Magaret Madden, Provost, SUNY Potsdam
Karen Spellacy, Interim Provost, SUNY Canton
Natalie Higley, CFO, SUNY Potsdam and Canton
Vicki Templeton-Cornell, Vice President for Advancement, SUNY Potsdam
David Gerlach, Vice President for Advancement, SUNY Canton
William Morris, Dean of Students SUNY Potsdam
Molly Mott, Vice President for Student Affairs, SUNY Canton
Bruce Brydges, Asso. VP. for Institutional Effectiveness and Enrollment Management, SUNY Potsdam
Ryan Deuel, Chief of Staff, SUNY Canton
Carol Rourke, Executive Assistant to the President, SUNY Potsdam
Stacey Basford, Executive Assistant to the President, SUNY Canton
Steve Marqusee, Dean of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Potsdam
Maureen Maioco, Interim Dean of Business and Liberal Arts, SUNY Canton
Peter Brouwer, Dean of Education and Professional Studies, SUNY Potsdam
David Wells, Dean, Canino School of Engineering Technology, SUNY Canton
Michael Sitton, Dean, Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam
Kenneth Erickson, Dean of Sciences, Health and Criminal Justice, SUNY Canton
Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises

"It is the policy of the State University of New York to take affirmative action to ensure that minority- and women-owned business enterprises are given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to provide the University with goods and services at competitive prices."

It is the policy and practice of both SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam to actively seek out and utilize whenever possible, minority and women-owned business enterprises. Through the competitive bid process for both design and construction of the Institute, Canton and Potsdam will take measures to ensure affirmative action is upheld.
Implementation

The leadership of the institute is being provided by Provost Madden and Interim Provost Spellacy. They are being aided by a Steering Committee which includes one dean and one faculty representative from each campus. The first order of business will be to develop the mechanism whereby academic proposals will be developed and approved in recognition of the strong tradition of shared governance on both campuses. The steering Committee will also establish guidelines under which direct conversations will occur between faculty members from the two Colleges, and the development of incentives to assure that faculty members’ workload commitments are respected. This group will develop the timeline for convening academic discussions. The Steering Committee will make recommendations about program development and approval processes by the end of academic year 2012-13 so that program proposals may be entertained under the auspices of the Institute beginning fall 2013.

The academic programs of the institute are already underway, being inaugurated by the minors in Environmental Technology offered by SUNY Canton, and the minor in Geology offered by SUNY Potsdam. It is anticipated that conversations will be pursued in the three areas already outlined: STEM disciplines and associated technologies, health sciences and technologies, and business.

Building timeline:

**Design Phase**
- Develop Request for Qualifications - 1 - 2 months
- Advertise - 1 month
- Select Consultant - 3 - 4 months
- Contract Award - 3 -4 months
- Actual Design - 11 -17 months depending on complexity of building and/or site.

**Construction Phase**
- Develop Request for Proposal (included in Design timeline)
- Advertise - 1 month
- Bid/Contract Award - 2 - 3 months
- Construction - 12 - 18 months

**Total Timeline – 33 - 48 months**
**Leveraging Funding**

The total project budget is $13,130,250. Funding will include direct contributions from SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton, as well as an in-kind gift of commercial property located near the Canton/Potsdam line, placing the Institute Building midway between the two Colleges, creating a Gateway to bridge the two campuses and the two communities. Jointly, SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton are seeking $12,250,000 in grant funding to construct the Institute Building to serve as a focal point of collaboration between the two institutions. In addition, the campuses will seek funding from other entities from which support might be forthcoming, especially for the business incubator function of the institute building. These might include the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency and the Regional Economic Development Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NY SUNY 2020 Request</th>
<th>SUNYs Canton &amp; Potsdam Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purchase of Land</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>US Route 11 on the</td>
<td>$ 194,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canton/Potsdam line;</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.9 acres of</td>
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<tr>
<td>commercial property</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction Costs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>30,000 sqft Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities Connection</td>
<td>$ 1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Academic/Building Component</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Release time</td>
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<tr>
<td>to develop courses/programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Lab for Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Business</td>
<td>$ 250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Director salary +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>fringe, Space,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Manager (salary +</td>
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<tr>
<td>fringe)</td>
<td>$ 67,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>(custodial, maintenance,</td>
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<tr>
<td>utilities, supplies)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>SUNYs Canton</td>
<td>$ 880,250</td>
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<td>&amp; Potsdam</td>
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The Institute Building embodies the spirit of shared services within SUNY. Not only will the Building serve as a processing hub for administrative back-office functions, allowing both SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam to create standardized, efficient processes, thus strengthening both institutions, but will also serve as an incubator, utilizing the assets of SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam to create new opportunities that neither college could achieve on its own. The Institute will provide structure and assistance for the collaborative academic and administrative alliances between the two campuses. The core mission of the Institute is to provide a mechanism to allow and facilitate the development of a new
type of academic mission for the Canton and Potsdam campuses. The Institute is essentially the scaffolding linking the two institutions and on which many different opportunities can be built. The Academic Excellence and Access Fee will be levied on students of the two campuses at $30 per semester. The purpose of the fee is three-fold: to provide incentives for curriculum development, to underwrite the first years of new programs, and to standardize scientific equipment between the campuses to foster student mobility within the shared curriculum.

### Academic Excellence Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011 Enrollment</th>
<th>Academic Excellence Fee</th>
<th>Fee Revenue per Semester</th>
<th>Annual Fee Revenue (Fall &amp; Spring)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUNY Canton</strong></td>
<td>3,826</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$114,780</td>
<td>$229,560</td>
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<td><strong>SUNY Potsdam</strong></td>
<td>4,398</td>
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<td>$131,940</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$246,720</td>
<td>$493,440</td>
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The Colleges will also seek funding for the scientific equipment through other grants, including the National Science Foundation and from the manufacturers themselves.
Appendices

Letter of Support, SUNY Canton
Letter of Support, SUNY Potsdam
Letter of Support, Potsdam College Council
Canton College Council Resolution Supporting the Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology
Shared Services report from SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam to the Board of Trustees, July 15, 2012
(http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/president/upload/Final-Report-7-15-2012.pdf)
October 12, 2012

Dr. John F. Schwaller  
President  
SUNY Potsdam  
44 Pierrepont Avenue  
Potsdam, NY 13676

Dear President Schwaller:

I am pleased to write in support of the collaborative grant application between our two institutions as part of the SUNY 2020 challenge grant program.

SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam share a long history of collaboration in Northern New York over resources, planning efforts, community events, and academic initiatives. Given this rich history and tradition, it is apropos that we seek to formalize this synergy. Our proposal supports the joint construction of a facility that would serve as a hub for the shared services we have in common, as well as a space for future growth.

The proposed building demonstrates our tie to regional development, provides a “think tank” for future academic endeavors, and supports our local economy. SUNY Canton supports the relocation of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) from its campus to the new facility. This would provide increased visibility for the SBDC as well as provide incubator space for local start-up businesses. In addition, the building would provide a center for working retraining efforts throughout the region as coordinated by our two institutions of higher education.

SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam have demonstrated interest in creating the SUNY Institute of Arts, Sciences, and Technology beyond just the conceptual stage. Again, this facility would allow for faculty and staff to explore academic collaborations, as well as serve as a center for future academic partnerships.

I look forward to working in tandem with SUNY Potsdam on this exciting initiative as outlined in our SUNY 2020 challenge grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Carli Schiffner, PhD  
Interim President
October 15, 2012

Mr. Brian Hutzley  
Chief Financial Officer  
SUNY System Administration  
Chancellor’s Office  
SUNY Plaza  
Albany, NY  12246

Dear Mr. Hutzley:

It is my great pleasure to recommend to you the NYSUNY2020 proposal which has been developed jointly by SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam. This proposal builds on several decades of cooperation between the two campuses, and more importantly the dramatic progress being made in shared services over the last six months. As part of the July 15, 2012, joint report to the Board of Trustees, the campuses pledged to begin the SUNY Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology as a mechanism to bring the two campuses closer together. The grant proposal outlined here represents an important milestone in making that pledge a reality.

Much positive has been accomplished in bringing the two campuses closer. We have now completed three joint hires, including our CFO, Natalie Higley. We have created a single payroll process for the two campuses, and soon all those functions will be performed by a single office. Human Resources is looking to have fully combined operations within a calendar year from right now. We are well along in creating single offices for Purchasing, Accounts Receivable and Travel, and Institutional Effectiveness. Our Student Affairs offices are engaged in a series of discussions about how best to collaborate. We are moving with all due speed to combine our Information Technology activities, using a function-by-function model as we proceed.

The capstone of these conversations is the development of the Institute, which will house the collaborations between the two campuses in the academic areas. We have three general thematic areas within which to initiate conversations, including: STEM fields, health sciences and technology, and business. A steering committee has been formed to provide for academic leadership for the institute, including the Provosts from both campuses, a dean from each campus, and a representative of the faculty governance system of each campus.

This proposal seeks to construct a building where shared services can flourish, mid-way between the two campuses, to physically and symbolically represent our mutual commitment to the success of this process. It will also serve as a place where important outreach activities to our communities can occur, as a resource for the North Country. We seek to apply the Academic Excellence and Access Fee to provide a funding stream to provide incentives to faculty members who are giving of their time and effort to the development of new and innovative collaborative academic programs. The fee will also help to underwrite the early years of new
curricula, until such time as tuition and state support can cover the fixed costs. Lastly the fee will allow the campuses to standardize the scientific equipment used in the classroom to allow for seamless movement of students from one campus to the other, especially in the sciences and technology.

For these and many more reasons, I enthusiastically support this application as a concrete embodiment of the progress that has been made in the shared services between SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam. Approval of this grant will demonstrate the strong support of the SUNY System for the collaborative approach that the two campuses have pursued in their shared services discussions.

Sincerely,

John F. Schwaller
President
RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE SUNY INSTITUTE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam have proposed the concept of the SUNY Institute of Arts, Sciences, and Technology, that would serve as the clearinghouse and public image of the shared services programs; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will draw from the assets, strengths, and expertise and enhance the reputations of both institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will create new opportunities, not currently available at either institution or that they could achieve on their own; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will help to increase enrollment, retention, selectivity, revenue, and financial stability while reducing costs to both institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will enhance current academic programs and offer new academic and learning opportunities such as new graduate degrees and joint or dual-degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will offer new avenues for collaboration between faculty and staff of both institutions and unleash their boundless creativity and entrepreneurial spirit; and

WHEREAS, faculty and staff from other higher education institutions will be attracted to SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam through faculty development opportunities, joint research programs, conferences, and leadership institutes; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam will maintain their own distinctive identity, leadership, and brand while creating a third brand shared by the two institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will contribute significantly to the economy of our region and potentially offer services to surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Canton, as a leader in applied sciences and technology education, will bring important and unique contributions to the partnership; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the College Council of the State University of New York, College of Technology at Canton (SUNY Canton), fully supports the proposed SUNY Institute of Arts, Sciences, and Technology on this the Twenty-Fifth Day of September, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Ronald M. O’Neill
Chairman, College Council
October 11, 2012

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SUNY POTSDAM AND SUNY CANTON
SUNY 2020 PROPOSAL

I am the Chair of the SUNY Potsdam College Council, a local business owner and a long-term Northern New York community member. I support the joint and shared application by SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam for SUNY 2020 funds, and therefore write in furtherance of that application.

In the July 16 report submitted to SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam outlined an innovative plan for the Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology. This institute of Arts, Sciences, and Technology has the potential to serve as the public image of SUNY’S Shared Services in the North Country.

As envisioned, the Institute will draw from the assets, strengths and expertise of the two institutions and will create new opportunities not currently available at either. The Institute will enhance current academic programs and offer new learning opportunities.

It is further envisioned that faculty and staff from other schools of higher education will be attracted to the Institute, which could serve as a gateway for shared services between Canton and Potsdam, as well as for other schools throughout the northern reaches of New York State. It is believed that the Institute has the potential to significantly contribute to the economy of our region and the surrounding communities.

It is for all of the above reasons that I support the application for SUNY 2020 grant funding for the SUNY Institute for Arts, Sciences, and Technology submitted by SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam.

Very truly yours,

CAPPELLO LINDEN & LADOUCEUR

Roger B. Linden