Since my arrival at SUNY Canton on June 1st, the Campus has been quiet. I have enjoyed getting to know the 11- and 12-monthers, those who spend their summer in the office preparing for the academic year. I want to thank them for their hard work to make sure this semester gets off to a wonderful start. Thank you as well to those faculty who volunteered their time in the two new orientation sessions this summer. Several hundred students took advantage of these successful new sessions.

In the next week, this Campus will be bustling with students and faculty. Our classrooms will become hot-spots of learning, the residence halls will come back to life, and we will all settle into the semester.

This Fall, we are welcoming several new faculty and staff, and have a strong and vibrant class of incoming students. I look forward to meeting them!

Some big changes are coming to Campus as well. As of August 25, the Miller Campus Center Intramural Gym will go permanently offline. It will be transformed into an Enrollment Services Center, housing the Registrar, Student Accounts, Financial Aid, and the College Association. In this one-stop shop, students can add/drop classes, check on financial aid, manage their accounts, and get their student ID, among other services. This move also allows us to find the right spaces for other offices on campus to better serve our students. Renovations are expected to be completed by November.

I look forward to seeing you all at the State-of-the-Campus Address, Friday, August 23, at 9:00 a.m., followed by the first Faculty Assembly at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to grab some coffee and danish beforehand, sponsored by the UUP.

J. C. Hoffman
Start-Up NY (an acronym for SUNY Tax-free Areas to Revitalize and Transform UPstate New York) is a program that allows new businesses that align with or further a college’s goals and missions to set up shop on college property or on land within a mile of campus. By doing so, that business is exempt from state property taxes and sales taxes, and its employees are exempt from state income taxes, for 10 years. Certain businesses, such as retail and service companies, are ineligible for the program, as it seeks to target research, development, and manufacturing firms.

We all know that building space is at a premium on this Campus; rest assured, we will not be leasing out this precious resource. Rather, we are considering off campus land and buildings that are already off the tax rolls, so we do not further burden area taxpayers. Business interested in taking advantage of this program with SUNY Canton would have to agree to provide our students with internship opportunities, potentially leading to long-term employment. It is also important that we consult with our local community, so we are reaching out to the village, town, and county governments for their ideas.

If you are interested in learning more, please take a moment to read the brief overview that my Chief of Staff, Lenore VanderZee, compiled. She is available to answer questions or hear your ideas on how we can all benefit from Start-Up NY; she can always be reached by phone at x7109 or by email.

Tuition Assistance Programs

One of the benefits of working at SUNY Canton (besides colleagues that are second-to-none) is tuition assistance for professional development. Employees can receive tuition assistance through the State, the various representative unions, the Associated Colleges, the College Association, and/or the President’s Office.

Details are available from Nancy Rowledge in the HR Office. Professional development and continuing education benefits you and the entire SUNY Canton community, and I hope many of you will take advantage of these outstanding opportunities.