

The Coby Co-Curricular

Newsletter by the Division of Student Development

July 2026 Issue # 6

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

A continued spirit of care and engagement across SUNY Cobleskill was reflected by increased student involvement through clubs and organizations, recognition of mentors, student leaders and student-athletes, expanded housing and food support resources, and community outreach efforts. Our campus community continues to embody the values of service, belonging. Thank you for helping create a campus where students are supported both inside and outside the classroom. Read on for more highlights and initiatives from across Student Development!

Living Our Values: Community Impact Across the Semesters

SUNY Cobleskill students, faculty and staff consistently demonstrate who we are, *a campus that cares*. Here are a few examples of campaigns that supported our campus and surrounding community:



Adopt a Family for Holiday Gift Giving – provided 23 families through the Schoharie County Child Development Council with four “sleigh” loads of holiday gifts



Fall & Spring Charity Volleyball Events – in October the winning team, SUNY Cobleskill Agricultural Business Club donated to Farm Foundation and in April the Residence Life staff donated the winnings to the on-campus emergency food and housing insecurity funds



Cereal-ously Committed Challenge – over 760 boxes of breakfast cereal were donated to four local food pantries

Fund for Dignity and Well-Being – a new endowment established through the generosity of Derwin Bennett and Michael Wacksman facilitated by the Office of College Advancement to strengthen access to campus food pantry and other nourishment resources, fostering academic persistence and overall well-being



11th Annual Tiger Color Run – coordinated by the Office of Residential Life, this run drew 177 participants and raised over \$3,000 for the ARC Lexington, proving support and resources to community members with Autism

The re-establishment of the **Campus Community Coalition**, a group comprised of SUNY Cobleskill administrative staff, the Village of Cobleskill Mayor, Village department heads and trustees, and the Cobleskill Partnership Inc. President will foster additional opportunities for town-to-gown partnerships.

Data Snapshot: Engagement & Utilization Across Student Development

Throughout the **Fall 2025-Spring 2026** semesters, engagement with students remained high across all areas of Student Development as evidenced below.

Reporting Unit	Data & Notes
Food Pantry	400 unique users (386 students and 14 staff)
Housing Insecurity	51 students
University Police	694 calls for service 32 welfare checks 2,349 parking decals purchased <i>Food for Fines</i> program, numerous bags of canned goods in lieu of parking violations, that were in turn donated to the campus food pantry.
Campus Engagement	33,831 students attended 72 organizations held events 3,100 total events
Wellness Center	1,331 Medical appointments 1,373 Counseling visits
Community Standards & Advocacy	434 reports submitted 337 cases resolved through Student Conduct review meetings 22 Faculty Student Conduct Board Hearings 6 cases appealed
CARE Team	636 student of concern reports received
Residence Life	1,474 programs 8,628 attendees 1,275 student housing applications have been received for Fall 2026

What the data reveals.....

Relocating the Campus Emergency *Food Pantry* to Lower Brickyard Point has had a positive impact on accessibility of this resource for students and staff.

Homeless Liaison LeAnn Pratt continues to connect students experiencing *housing insecurity* with resources through Schoharie County and agencies such as Catholic Charities.

CCEL, the Center for Campus Engagement and Leadership, formerly the Office of Student Leadership, continued to see an increase in the number of clubs and organizations hosting *events*, as well as increased *attendance* for all events. Use of the *Coby Engage* platform has increased awareness of programs and improved attendance tracking.

The sustained growth in both *CARE and Student Conduct* activity reflects increased student support, intervention, and accountability needs across campus.

In response to feedback, the Office of Residence Life offered extended evening hours during the first week of June to accommodate *housing selection* by new, incoming students who attend high school during regular office hours.

Celebrating Achievements of Student Leaders and Mentors

ICYMI! In case you missed it, in April we recognized the following students for their leadership, academic excellence and campus engagement.



SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recipients, Estelle Kotlowicz and Paisley Nudd, were recognized during the April ceremony at Albany Capital Center for demonstrating exceptional academic performance and integration of SUNY excellence in many aspects of their lives.



The Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence was presented to Nikolas Recore by SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. and recognizes this outstanding EOP, Educational Opportunity Program, student for demonstrating ambition to learn. Nik graduated in May 2026 with a Bachelor of Technology in Cybersecurity and as a four-year letter winner in track and field.

In April a ceremony was held to celebrate students who received *Excellence in Student Leadership Awards* from the Division of Student Development for their exemplary leadership, meaningful contributions to student life and the campus community, and sustained involvement through activities, clubs, services, athletics, and program development.



Ariana Astacio, Emma Cargill, Rosa Celaya Luis, Kathryn D'Amato-Neff, Nina Dejnack, Vanessa Grant, Briana Haass, Alyssa Healy, Christina Johnson, Sydney Kachmaryk, Rosie Kotlowicz, Stacey Lazzo, Emily Marhaver, Paisley Nudd, Madelynn Orosz, Alex Ramkaran, Isabella Regels, Spencer Reisman, Lucas Reiter, Jacob Rhinesmith, Jennifer Sanmartin, Kyra Schroeder, Samara Sirett, Keegan Thivierge, Aurora Tompkins, Daniil Usmanov. During the *ESLA* Ceremony, special recognition went to:

Emerging Student Leader: Nina Dejnack

Agent of Change: Stacey Lazzo

Perseverance Award: Kyra Schroeder

Distinguished Student Leaders: Rosa Celaya Luis, Maelynn Orosz, and Jacob Rhinesmith

Student Leader of the Year: Daniil Usmanov

During the *2nd Annual Club & Organizations Awards* the following students and advisors were celebrated for their impact beyond the classroom and in their growth as confident and capable leaders.

New Club or Organization of the Year: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club & LASO, the Latin American Student Organization

Greek Organization of the Year: Iota Kappa Sigma

Community Impact Award: Cobleskill Christian Fellowship Club

Student Organization Program of the Year: The Wildlife Society

Advisors of the Year: Chad Newell, Archery Club and Roger Massee, The Wildlife Society

Student Organization of the Year: The Agriculture Business Club



Student leaders represented clubs and organizations during the following regional and national gatherings during the 25-26 academic year.



Student members of Coby's chapter of MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences), accompanied by Derwin Bennett, attended the *40th Annual MANRRS Training Conference & Career Expo* in Dallas, Texas. Students engaged with other student leaders from across the nation and networked with top organizations in agriculture and environmental science.

Members of the Campus Engagement Board (CEB), accompanied by James D'Amico and Mike Wacksman, attended the *2026 Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities National Conference* in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Students are invited annually to experience new programs, events, and engagement ideas.



Former SGA President Daniil Usmanov, and SUNY SA Voting Delegate, and incoming SGA President Lee Mariani attended the *Spring 2026 SUNY Student Assembly*, the official organization by which State University students participate in University-wide governance.

Joe Simonds, President of The Wildlife Society club and a past officer for Ducks Unlimited, attended the *NY TWS Annual Meeting* in Lake Placid where he received the "Outstanding Undergraduate" award by the New York State Chapter of The Wildlife Society.





During the annual ceremony in April, the following student athletes who have demonstrated outstanding academic and athletic excellence were inducted to the *Chi Alpha Sigma national college athlete honor society*: Jared Ainsworth, Evan Balbera, Leta Bernhardt, Mackenzie Caldwell, Ryan Carey, Hallie Gasner, Jojo Haycock, Emma Hinze, Conor Holland, Julieana Johnson, Meara Kelly, Baylee Kirschberg, Margaret Koenig, David Kogan, Alyssa Martin, Aliyah Neeser, Madelynn Orosz, Zach Papanikolatos, Kyra Pence, Kathleen Smart, Rob Staubitz, Kaitlyn Stonitsch, Tyler Szarek, Bella Vannata, Mady Victorin, Lanelle Vile, Jaidin Wendt, and Andrew Wright.

Honoring Staff Excellence

During the Division of Student Development staff recognition awards, Assistant Director of Residential Life, *Travis Early* was named Staff Member of the Year.

Head Coach *Austin Straub* received from his North Atlantic Conference (NAC) peers the recognition of his staff as **2026 NAC Coaching Staff of the Year**. This marks the second Coach of the Year recognition of Straub's career and the second time his staff has been honored collectively, reflecting commitment to team culture and development of student athletes both on and off the field.

Powerful Donations of Lifesaving Resource

Reflecting on the American Red Cross Blood Drives Fall 25-Spring 26, the number of units collected often exceeded the goal. We also sustained a significant number of Power Red Donors. Their donation of twice the amount of red blood cells collected through a specialized process provides a lifesaving resource for patients who have experienced trauma or surgery and for pediatric patients.

Drive Date	Total Units Collected	Power Red Donors
August 28	62	Data not available
September 9	44	5
November 4	61	20
January 28	62	16
March 25	43	12
June 18	36	18

Thanks to all who have donated, with 308 total units collected, we received a \$5,000 SUNY Challenge Scholarship. Look for these upcoming opportunities to donate blood: *September 8 & November 3*