ISSUE: 3 VOL: XXII Apr. 2021



STATE BUDGET PASSES —

Promising News for Community Colleges

Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon (former PA member), Senator Joe Griffo and advocacy by NYSUT's President Andy Pallotta and the Legislative Staff, led by Legislative Director Alithia Rodriguez -Rolon, all worked diligently to restore budget cuts to Community Colleges proposed by Governor Cuomo. Thanks also go to the Community College Union Presidents for the multiple meetings with Legislators and their advocacy for their students and members.

SUNY Community College Base Aid

The enacted budget, using 2020-21 as a base year, establishes a 98 percent funding floor for Base Aid for 2022. The enacted budget also includes a \$50 FTE increase, bringing the per student total to \$2,997. This amounts to a \$14.4 million increase in base aid. The enacted budget restores the \$33 million cut outlined in the executive budget proposal.

What does this mean?

It means that with the infusion of Federal money coming in and State funding that will mitigate drops in enrollment. MVCC, like other community colleges, continues to face enrollment declines. The funding floor model will help in establishing a set funding amount that will aid with the planning for future budgets.

Other state budget info...

Additionally, not in the state budget, but proposed as a law, was the idea of charging lower tuition for online courses. When we saw this proposal, we urged NYSUT to "make it go away." NYSUT delivered and that proposal never went forward. We are indeed fortunate to have a state-wide Union like NYSUT with the power to get favorable legislation passed.

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MVCC Budget

In the Budget Forum, presented by President Randy VanWagoner and VP Tom Squires on April 14th, President VanWagoner started off by stating that no layoffs will be included in the 2021-22 academic year budget.

In part, layoffs will not occur due to the Federal stimulus money that has been received so far. While MVCC received nearly \$16 million in Federal funds through the stimulus packages, a portion of the money has specific guidelines related to the use of the monies. The College is waiting for guidance from the state related to how the remainder of the money can be allocated.

Enrollment remains a concern, as it has continued to be in previous years. As the College starts preparing for the 2021-22 academic year budget in January 2021, they planned for a 10% decrease in enrollment for the upcoming academic year. While it is not believed that we will experience a 10% decline in enrollment for fall 2021, if the College were to realize a 6.5% decline instead, the 3.5% difference would cause an increase of \$543,586 in funds.

The proposed budget does not include an increase in tuition. MVCC currently ranks as the third lowest cost per FTE among all SUNY institutions with \$4,594 annual tuition charge.

Budget managers continue to go through their school/department budgets with a fine tooth comb. This year, they were able to reduce the overall expenses by \$647,000.

The President also spoke about vacancies and filling open positions. Some positions were in the process of being filled, some near completion of the hiring process, when COVID hit. The College made the decisions to put those searches on hold and re-evaluate once things start to settle down some. At this time, the College is reviewing vacancies to see what can be filled at this time.

The College is planning for a few capital projects

- Utica campus Academic Building Floors—with the decrease of occupancy in the buildings, the College has used this opportunity to continue their work in updating the flooring in the Academic Building
- Utica campus Payne Hall roof—the roof and overhang continue to be a problem for Payne Hall. Construction will begin to repair the leaky roof and repair the overhang.
- Wayfinding—the College continues to address signage throughout both campuses.
 Signage, including campus maps, have been placed around campus grounds to help visitors navigate our campus. Signs will be updated/posted inside buildings.
- Science and Technology Building Renovation—much needed updates to the Science and Technology building are being planned.
- ADA compliance—the College continues to address ADA compliance issues in our buildings. While our newer buildings have fewer issues, our older buildings need to be retro fitted to comply with ADA guidelines.

COLLEGE BUDGET

P A N O R A M A ' S E D I T O R I A L P O L I C Y

Panorama is the voice of our local. In addition to the PA website (www.mvccpa.org), email, and bulletin boards, Panorama is a principal vehicle for bringing you, on a regular basis, information on the views and activities of our members.

We welcome articles by, for, and about PA members of union related issues and concerns as reflected in NYSUT and AFT activities as well as in the purpose and functions of the PA's standing committees: Community Outreach, Education & Training, Grievance, Internal Communications, Political Action, and Research and Records.

All submissions are subject to the review and acceptance of the Editor and/or Internal Communications Committee. We do not accept articles that make personal attacks and we reserve the right to edit articles for length. We look forward to hearing from you.

PUBLISHER MVCC Professional Association

PRESIDENT Norma Chrisman

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR Robin Saxe

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Prez Desk

In 1963, Sam Cook released "A Change is Gonna Come". This song was inspired by various events and situations that Mr. Cook experienced during the Civil Rights Movement, with one instance being that he and his group were turned away from a white-only hotel in Louisiana.

Sadly, Mr. Cook's vision, as well as Dr Martin Luther King's and others, has not come to fruition. Everyone should be treated equally and be provided the same opportunities regardless of their gender or race. Unfortunately, that has not been the case and we are seeing more and more violence between races and groups.



Norma Chrisman

We cannot turn a blind eye to this and should be part of a solution. At our April Executive Board (eboard) meeting, the eboard approved the formation of a Social Justice Committee. The PA's Social Justice Committee will be based on the NYSUT Social Justice agenda stating "(the committee) promotes equal access to society's opportunities, thereby empowering people to have choices and control over their own destiny. This agenda stems from the belief that injustice and oppression in other communities and nations directly impacts members of the labor movement. The premise behind this agenda is that a socially just world affords individuals and groups fair treatment and an impartial share of society's benefits."

Furthermore, "this agenda holds that a fundamental responsibility of labor leaders is to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and fight to ensure that every individual enjoys basic human rights. A social justice agenda is more than token charity; instead it is a strategy that transforms individuals and communities."

This committee will work with other PA committees, mainly the Education and Training Committee, to provide workshops to educate our membership.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please reach out to me at nchrisman@mvcc.edu .

In Solidarity,

Norma_

On a side note, in 2007, Mr. Cook's song was selected for preservation in the Library of Congress, with the National Recording Registry deeming the song "culturally, historically, or aesthetically important." If you have a moment, please watch this moving Vevo video, <u>https://</u> <u>youtu.be/wEBlaMOmKV4</u>

NEW MEMBERS -Highlights of your PA Contract

By Eileen Bush, New Member Chair

In my December article, I asked "Do you know your PA contract?" My intent was to encourage you to read about the collective bargaining agreement that is currently in place with the College, as I waited too long to do so. I hope you have now begun to discover some of the member benefits you are entitled to as a Professional Association (PA) member. I'm including two highlights from the collective bargaining agreement that I am especially grateful for as each has greatly impacted my life.

Article 2 – Association and Employee Rights and Responsibilities (2.6 Tuition Waiver)

Dependents (as included on the employee's Federal Income Tax return) of employees shall be entitled to a tuition waiver for any state-aided courses offered by the College, after contribution of any grants in-aid up to the cost of tuition. An individual serving in the same relationship as an employee's spouse shall be entitled to such tuition waiver whether or not that individual is included on the employee's Federal Income Tax return. All such Tuition Waivers during the summer sessions shall be limited to a cumulative maximum of six (6) credit or equivalent hours.

The employee or dependent shall be responsible for all costs in excess of the tuition.

Article 10- Other Economic Benefits (10.2 Letter I - Health Insurance)

The College shall maintain the aforesaid health insurance coverage unless the parties mutually agree to change such coverage. During the term of the agreement the parties shall establish a Joint Committee to study and make recommendations for possible alternative insurance carriers and/or coverage. Such recommendations, if mutually acceptable to the parties to this agreement, may be implemented at any time. The added costs of any change in carriers and/or coverage, savings as the result of any changes in carriers and/or coverage, the rate of contribution by employees, and the designation of unit employees making such contributions, if any, shall be subject to negotiation. This committee shall consist of three(3) members appointed by the President of the Association, and three (3) members appointed by the College President.

Welcome to our newest PA Members

Finally, I would like to welcome the following new members to the Professional Association. Peter Steiner Dustin Swiss Jon-David Velletto Jewel Smith-Rudolph Susan O'Meara Jessica Morris

You will see a couple of the new members profiles highlighted in this issue. If you haven't already, please complete the new membership form that was emailed to you. Please let PA President, Norma Chrisman, know if you have any questions or if you have not received the membership form email.

PA CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS



Member Profile

Tabitha Carter

Coordinator of Distributed Learning Educational Technologies

What degree(s) to you have? Computer Science A.S.

Where did you go to school? Herkimer County Community College and I am planning on returning to Empire State College this summer.

Where were you employed before coming to MVCC? Herkimer County Community College where I spent 25 years total as a student and then as a staff member.

What attracted you to applying for your position? I knew that I wanted to stay in the Community College environment so I was extremely happy when I saw this opportunity. It allowed me to continue working in online learning and to expand on that by also managing the college in prison program.

What is your family life like (spouse, children, fur babies, etc)? I am married and we have two cats, a Hahn's Macaw, eight chickens and sometimes we foster a goat.

What do you like to do outside of work? We recently purchased another property as a camp, so we spend a lot of time there cleaning that up and gardening. I am a horrible gardener, but I like doing it. And I like to spend time with my critters and on occasion I like to stamp metal and crochet.





Dustin Swiss

What degree(s) do you have? I currently have an A.O.S. in Culinary Arts but am working on a B.P.S in Food Service Management starting Fall of 2021

Where did you go to school? The Culinary Institute of America

Where were you employed before coming to MVCC? I was the Executive Chef of the Adirondack League Club in Old Forge, NY

What attracted you to apply for the position that you are in? Throughout my 13 years in the culinary industry, I found that one of my favorite parts of the job was sharing my knowledge with my employees and watching them grow into better chefs. This position allows me to do that every day!

What is your family life like (spouse, children, fur babies, etc)? I have one incredibly smart dog, Eli, an English Setter

What do you like to do outside of work? I am a big outdoors person. I spend most of my free time either hunting, fishing, hiking, or skiing.

Anything else you'd like to tell us? I am enjoying my position here at Mvcc. My coworkers have been incredibly helpful in getting me acclimated to the school and I enjoy being able to help the students.

Member Profile

Jon-David Velletto

Coordinator for Workforce Development CCED/AIM

What degree(s) to you have? AAS Restaurant Management (MVCC) BA Food and Beverage Business Management (New England Culinary Institute) MBA (Bryant University)

Where were you employed before coming to MVCC? MVCC Tech Assistant in the Hospitality Management Program (6 years) Many years in various roles in the hospitality industry

What attracted you to applying for the position that you are in? Helping to create growth opportunities for local business and workers.

What is your family life like (spouse, children, fur babies, etc)? I have a wife and 3 children (4, 9, 11). My wife is a refugee of the Bosnian war and is an Art teacher for OHM BOCES.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoy attending the kids activities which include baseball, swimming, dance, and lacrosse. I also enjoy cooking (and eating), reading, video games and playing Golf. Most of all I miss traveling with my wife and kids and am looking forward to that becoming normal again.

Robin Saxe

Student Support Advisor Public and Human Services



What degree(s) to you have? Associates in Fine Arts and Bachelors in Elementary Education

Where were you employed before coming to MVCC? I have been here so long I feel like I have never worked anywhere else. [©] I started my career in a couple different local child care centers.

What attracted you to applying for the position that you are in? I love working with our students and seeing them succeed. I feel that I have the ability to fully use my strengths in supporting my case load of students.

What is your family life like (spouse, children, fur babies, etc)? I have a wonderful husband and son who are my whole world. We are a very close family that loves spending time together.

What do you like to do outside of work?

Outside of work I love to spend time with my friends. I am a people person and enjoy going out to eat or to a friend's house to talk and laugh.

What role do you play in the PA?

Currently I hold the positions of 2nd Vice President, Chair of Internal Communications and Chair of Community Outreach

What is your favorite union moment?

I have so many union moments that mean so much to me! I lost my first position on campus when the child care closed, the love and support the union provided was so important in making it through that loss. This support is one of the reasons I continued to pursue other positions on campus rather than move on. Working my way up to another PA position on campus was a dream of mine that I quickly accomplished, again with the support of the union. In my early years at the college I was not an active member and other than attending end of semester dinners did not participate much. These days I do all I can for the union that did so much for me.



MVCCPA 2020-21 Scholarship Winner

As traditionally happens right before leaving for the ajar period, the Internal Communications Committee reviewed numerous applications. Something unique about this year 's applications was that the committee could not agree on one winner! While the chair of the committee would typically then be the tie breaker, Chair Robin Saxe also could not determine a clear cut winner as both applicants are equally impressive.

It was decided, as we were not able to award the 2019-20 PA Scholarship due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, that instead of selecting just one student to be awarded the 2020-21 PA Scholarship, we would select two recipients.

Fabiha Khan is a Student Trustee on the MVCC Board of Trustees, President of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), member of Phi Theta Kappa and serves on other student and college committees. An instructor wrote "Fabiha's self-awareness, maturity, and desire to help her peers, are in the very top percentages of students I have interacted with. Fabiha has demonstrated strong written and oral communications skills, as well as a sophisticated way of researching, synthesizing, and analyzing material." Another person wrote "Fabiha is an organized and positive student whose candid energy is contagious."

Antonetta Przybylowicz is a counselor at a youth summer camp, Vice President of Fellowship for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) on our campus, caretaker for her grandmother, and assisted with the PTK textbook donation project. An instructor wrote "I strongly believe that this college citizenship is an excellent indication of Toni's initiative, which will certainly continue to serve her well moving forward. Based on her academic track record and hardworking attitude, I believe Toni has a very bright future and is an outstanding candidate for this scholarship."

Congratulations to Fabiha and Antonetta "Toni" as recipients of the MVCCPA 2020-21 Scholarship!

Please refer to pages 8 and 9 for their essays on The Value of a Community College Education.

LET'S GET READY TO.....NEGOTIATE!



The Negotiation team spoke with the College's team at the beginning of the semester. At that time, the College had not received all of the stimulus money nor did they know what the restrictions would be for allocating that money. In addition, SUNY was withholding a portion of our funding. As mentioned in the College Budget article, the College still is unsure how to allocate the most recent stimulus allotment and is waiting for guidance from the state related to that. During that meeting, the College's team presented its financial forecast for the institution and, at that time, was seeing around a 20% decline in enrollment. Fortunately, the enrollment is better, although still in decline, and more stimulus money is on the way. The parties agreed to resume meetings once the state had approved their budget in order to have a full picture of how the state budget and stimulus grants would impact our budgets.

As reported on the front page of this newsletter, the state has approved their budget. Our Negotiations chair, Aaron Fried, has been in discussion with the College's lead, VP Tom Squires. The teams hope to be setting up meetings before the end of the semester. As you may recall, we were very close in settling the contract prior to COVID. We hope to be able to continue that progress and have something to present to the membership in the near future. Be sure to watch your email for updates and General Membership meeting invite. This may happen over the summer so we need to stay in touch so that we can move an ratified contract through the full round of approvals!

The Value of a Community College Education

By Fabiha Khan, 2020-21 PA Scholarship winner

Major: Lib Arts and Sci: Psychology AS GPA: 4.0

Whenever I mention that I study in a community college it makes people flinch, seeing it as this invalid and worthless experience, which was an opinion I too held before I started studying at one myself. Community colleges serve as an opportunity to a better life for generations of working-class students at an affordable price when compared with all other sectors of higher education. I believe that it is very important for everyone in the society to have a college degree in order to acquire and display necessary employability skills. Students today are more likely to enroll into a college that benefits them the most.

I have been enrolled in MVCC for two semesters and it has significantly changed my outlook towards the idealized college experience and the stigma around community colleges. I have come to respect the ideologies my institution holds immensely. MVCC being the first community college in the state has adapted beautifully with times. The college still provides one with a more student focused experience and is keen on keeping it that way.

Community colleges are often subjected to an unfair disparity even though they have proven to be a great stepping stone for many students. One-fourth of students who begin at a community college go on to a four-year school and more than half of those students earn their bachelor's degree. The per-credit cost is much less than a four-year school, which means less debt for a student and/or a better financial position after college or when they transfer to a four-year college. As a lower-cost alternative to four-year colleges and universities, community colleges are both a gateway into higher education and, in many instances, an alternative to four-year institutions.

Community colleges provide one with the opportunity to improve their transcripts.

Achieving straight A's in a community college can help one earn scholarships that previously wouldn't have been available to them. Furthermore, if one aspires to attend a private university that they weren't accepted in out of high school, attending a community college may be able to help them get a chance at an admission in the university of their choice. Community college does not only give students get a second chance to achieve a more impressive transcript, but they also provide the opportunity to have a better chance at being accepted as a junior than rather than a freshman since there's significantly less competition.

Some people assume that community college professors are not as great as those at four-year institutions. This is nothing but a myth. In fact, community colleges are full of highly qualified, talented professors, who may have many reasons why they choose to teach at a community college rather than a university. Many of them may work as consultants, writers, artists or are self-employed, some professors prefer the diversity of a community college and some just enjoy a less hectic lifestyle.

Community colleges understand that their students need flexibility and that a major percentage of their population of students are those that work part-time, which is why they offer more night and weekend classes than one may find at a four-year school. This means that if students needed to continue working while they obtain their associates, they are more likely in a better position to earn more per year.

Community college can be a perfect choice for students who wish to save money and reduce their dependence on student loans. It's also a good way to help recent high school graduates ease into college life and build successful learning strategies before they transfer to a bigger institution.

"Fabiha has consistently demonstrated herself to be an exceptionally well-prepared, honest, dependable, and hard-working individual. As a student, she was punctual and enthusiastic from the start, and she always has meaningful contributions to the class discussions."

"I have witnessed Fabiha's excitement and dedication to diversity and appreciation of heritage through in-class discussions, reflective journal assignments, and events she has helped create as part of the MSA."

"She is going places—when asked what her plan is, she has a 3-year plan, a 5-year plan, and a 10-year plan—she knows what she wants and knows how to get there."

The Value of a Community College Education



By Antonetta Przbylowicz, 2020-21 PA Scholarship winner

Major: Business—Business Administration AS GPA 4.0

Community college-two words that send most people's noses flying higher than a kite. Yet, no one ever thinks about the benefits of a community college education. Community college is so much more than its reputation affords it. It's cost-effective, full of opportunities at every corner, diverse {both in people and majors}, and employs a staff that looks after its students.

For starters, it's more cost-effective. Even looking at SUNY schools, I would be looking at a \$20,000+ tuition bill per year (barring any form of financial aid), yet at a community college -specifically Mohawk Valley -I haven't paid more than \$5,000. That is a major difference in price tags, yet the education is the same -if not better. That much has been clarified for me upon speaking to transfer advisors at 4-year institutions. According to them, the classes that I have taken here are easily transferable and I should not have to add on another term just to graduate in two years. Thus, I have the same education as my peers, but am not in debt.

When I first began community college, I was not sure what I wanted to do with my career. All I knew is that it had something to do with business. Community college has afforded me so many opportunities to learn and grow -opportunities I most likely would not have had if I had gone straight to a 4-year. To begin with, I am my Phi Theta Kappa Chapter's Vice President of Fellowship. PTK is a 2-year school only honor society, meaning this is an experience I could only get by attending community college. I'm working with a great officer and advisor team to keep our chapter's 5-star chapter status running -something I would not be doing had I gone elsewhere.

Community college is also helpful when you don't know what you want to do because of the many majors it allows you to pick from. Between certificate programs (such as HVAC or Finance), Associates degrees for those heading straight into the work force, and degrees for those hoping to transfer, community college truly has a path for everyone -a fact that you can typically see all over campus .. I've met so many interesting people throughout my time here, people I may not necessarily have met had I gone to another institution.

Finally, with the small class sizes of community college, I have developed a strong support system of professors, advisors, and other administrators that are willing to help me with whatever I need -be it help with writing a resume or simply a letter of recommendation. The faculty here also has a student leadership academy where the staff has taken time out of their busy schedules to teach us students about important leadership skills.

In all, I may get odd looks from other people when I say I go to community college, but I know my experiences here will carry my far in my career, and that means the world to me.

"Her work ethic is an example to the other students around her. I also think she created a nice classroom environment with other students. She works and goes to school which is impressive; since she is able to excel in class."

"Toni was always eager to learn; she was attentive and regularly participated in class discussions, even when other students were reluctant to speak. It was clear that she quickly picked up even the most difficult concepts that we covered. Toni stood out with her academic performance, consistently submitting excellent work and having one of the highest averages in her class. Even after the difficult transition to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Toni maintained her superb work ethic. With an outstanding cumulative GPA, it is evident that Toni excels in the classroom across the board."

In the News

Did you receive this in the mail? If so, the PA has confirmed that this is LEGIT and NOT A SCAM.

A federal court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.



If you purchased or were enrolled in a Blue Cross or **Blue Shield health** insurance or administrative services plan between 2008 and 2020, a \$2.67 billion Settlement may affect your rights.

Para una notificación en español, visite www.BCBSsettlement.com/espanol

Questions? Call (888) 681-1142 or Visit www.BCBSsettlement.com

Blue Cross Blue Shield Settlement c/o JND Legal Administration P.O. BOX 91390 Seattle, WA 98111

Electronic Service Requested





What can you get from the Settlement?

Class Members who submit valid claims may receive a cash payment from the Net Settlement Fund. The Net Settlement Fund is estimated to be approximately \$1.9 billion. This is after deducting attorneys' fees, administration expenses and other costs from the \$2.67 billion Settlement Fund. For more details on the Plan of Distribution, read the Long Form Notice available at www.BCBSsettlement.com. You can also call (888) 681-1142. Settling Defendants also agreed to make changes in the way they do business to increase the opportunities for competition in the market for health insurance.

How do you get a payment?

You must submit a valid claim online at www.BCBSsettlement.com or postmarked by mail no later than November 5, 2021. Claim Forms are available at www.BCBSsettlement.com or may be requested by calling (888) 681-1142.

What are your other options?

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you may send a request for exclusion ("opt out"). You will not receive any money, but you will keep your right to sue Settling Defendants for the claims in this case. If you do not exclude yourself, you may object to the Settlement. You will still be bound by the Settlement if your objection is rejected. For details on how to opt out or object, read the Long Form Notice available at www.BCBSsettlement.com.

Opt outs and objections must be postmarked by July 28, 2021. The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing to consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Fairness Hearing is on October 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. The Court will also decide whether to approve attorneys' fees and expenses up to \$667.5 million and \$101 million for additional costs and service awards. These amounts will be deducted from the \$2.67 billion Settlement Fund. You may ask to attend the Fairness Hearing, on your own or through counsel, but you do not have to do so

Please Do Not Contact The Court Regarding This Notice.



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QUESTIONS? Visit www.BCBSsettlement.com, email info@BCBSsettlement.com, call (888) 681-1142, or write Blue Cross Blue Shield Settlement c/o JND Legal Administration, P.O. Box 91390, Seattle, WA 98111.

This settlement, arising from a class action antitrust lawsuit called In re: Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litigation MDL 2406, N.D. Ala. Master File No. 2:13-cv-20000-RDP (the "Settlement"), was reached on behalf of individuals and companies that purchased or received health insurance provided or administered by a Blue Cross Blue Shield company. Class Representatives ("Plaintiffs") reached a Settlement on October 16, 2020 with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("BCBSA") and Settling Individual Blue Plans. BCBSA and Settling Individual Blue Plans are called "Settling Defendants."

Go to https://www.bcbssettlement.com/ to read more about this.

PA Elections

Ballots will be mailed to your home mailing address that we have on file for you. You will have the option to mail in your ballot or drop it off at either of the campus libraries.

Election timeline:

Ballots will be mailed out by April 28. Elections will run May 3—7. Ballots will be counted on May 12th. Results will be emailed by May 17th.



Graduation Day Word Search



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GRADES CEREMONY MEDAL APPLAUSE AWARD GIFTS GOWN GRADUATE ALMA MATER HIGH SCHOOL HONOR EFFORTS MAGNA CUM LAUDE TEARS DREAMS DIPLOMA YEAR PARENTS PICTURES VALEDICTORIAN CONGRATULATIONS ACADEMY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

PA SPRING FLING





Be sure to bring canned and non-perishable food to the PA Spring Fling. Items collected will be donated to a local food pantry.



The Community Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies over the summer. Supplies will be delivered to Kernan Elementary School by the first week of the 2021-2022 school year.

Please help us to support the children of Kernan Elementary School. They are so appreciative of all that we do for them.