



## 2023 AAUW NYS Celebration of College Women Presidents!



**Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 am to 12 noon**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7457199346?pwd=VXl4YURMSmdsSXpxRHdia0Nwa01FUT09>

Meeting ID: 745 719 9346    Passcode: AAUW    To join via telephone, dial 1 (646) 558- 8656 US

### **Program**

**09:15 am Welcoming Remarks  
by Carol Griffith, AAUW NYS President &  
Tiffany Sanchez, AAUW Vice President of Programs and Fellowships**

**09:45 am Presentation by Maria Ellis, AAUW NYS College & University Director &  
Jessica Sims, AAUW American Fellow,  
Empire NYC Branch, Communications & Visibility Co-Director**

**10:15 am College & University Women Presidents - Panel I  
Q & A with Kimberly Edgar, AAUW NYS Ithaca Branch President**

**11:00 am College & University Women Presidents – Panel II  
Q & A with Carol Griffith, AAUW NYS President**

**11:45 am Closing Remarks by Estelle Kone, AAUW International Fellow,  
Empire State NYC Branch member**

## Denise A. Battles, Ph.D., President, SUNY Geneseo



Dr. Denise A. Battles is President of SUNY Geneseo, a role she has held since July 1, 2015. A native of Oswego County in Central NY, Dr. Battles graduated from Paul V. Moore High School (Central Square, NY) in 1981. She received her baccalaureate degree in geology from Colgate University (Hamilton, NY) in 1984 and her Ph.D. in geology from University of California, Los Angeles in 1990. She served as a geology faculty member at Georgia Southern University from 1990-2005. In 1994, she moved into the first of several administrative roles, eventually serving as Assistant Dean and later Associate Dean in that institution's Allen E. Paulson

College of Science and Technology. During the 2000-2001 academic year, she served at Auburn University as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, where she was mentored by former Auburn President William V. Muse. In 2005, she was recruited to be the first (founding) Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. She held that position until 2012, when she was named Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, leaving that role for the presidency at SUNY Geneseo.

In addition to her faculty and administrative appointments, Dr. Battles has held leadership roles in multiple higher education associations. She is the current President of the Rochester Area Colleges, a 19-campus consortium in the greater Rochester, NY area. She previously served as President of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (2008-09), a national organization supporting academic deans of arts and sciences, and Vice President and President-Elect of the Association of Chief Academic Officers (2014-15), an organization she helped establish. More recently, she completed service as Chair of the ACE Council of Fellows, the alumni organization for the ACE Fellows program; President of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC); and member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Dr. Battles additionally served for six years (2011-16) on the editorial board of the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, a publication of the American Psychological Association and the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. She also provides leadership in support of economic development through her role as Co-Chair of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council (FLREDC), one of ten gubernatorially established REDCs in New York State.



## Alison Buckley, Ed.D., President, SUNY Ulster



Alison Buckley, Ed.D., joined SUNY Ulster in July 2023, as the 7th President. Prior to joining SUNY Ulster, Dr. Buckley most recently served as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs for Connecticut State Community Colleges. In this role, she was responsible for establishing the strategic enrollment management direction for the state's community colleges. She also led the reform efforts for student affairs to ensure all community college students, regardless of location, had the support and resources needed to be successful.

Prior to joining CSCU, Dr. Buckley served for seven years as the associate vice president of enrollment management at Howard Community College (HCC) in Columbia, Maryland. During her tenure, HCC was consistently recognized for best practices in the field of enrollment management and had the strongest enrollment among Maryland's community colleges. Dr. Buckley also served as the executive director of the offices of admission at the University of Baltimore. She was the managing director of graduate recruitment at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as the director of business development for the executive education division. Prior to moving to

Maryland, she worked at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught at the American College, Dublin, the Community College of Philadelphia, Delaware County Community College, and Howard Community College.

Dr. Buckley has presented nationally on matters related to enrollment management and performance improvement. She currently serves on the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Institutional Infrastructure and Transformation, the Association of Community College Trustees Advisory Committee of Presidents, and the NJCAA Presidential Advisory Council representative for Region XV. In Maryland she served on the Lieutenant Governor's task force on two generation poverty and the Governor's task force for students with disabilities. Dr. Buckley currently serves as a trustee of Randolph College.

Dr. Buckley received her bachelor's degree from Randolph College, a master's degree in history and a postgraduate certificate in museum studies from the University of Delaware, an M.Phil. in women's studies from the University of Dublin, Trinity College, an M.B.A from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park and a doctorate in organizational leadership studies from Northeastern University.





## Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., President, SUNY Buffalo State University



Katherine S. Conway-Turner, Ph.D., began her tenure as the ninth president of Buffalo State on August 3, 2014. Her professional leadership can be seen in the many and varied aspects that are part of a major academic anchor institution. Dr. Conway-Turner oversees and manages more than 1,500 faculty, staff, and administrators who provide more than 75 undergraduate and 60 graduate academic degree programs to 6,500 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students each year. President Conway-Turner's vision for Buffalo State to become "Buffalo's College" through engagement, excellence, and social responsibility has been embraced and is paying off in dividends for both the college and the community including garnering significant philanthropic support for the institution.

President Conway-Turner earned her Ph.D. and master of arts degrees in social psychology, and her bachelor of arts degree in microbiology, all from the University of Kansas. Her scholarship focuses on adult development and aging; the psychological impact of aging on family relations, health, and development; and women and intergenerational relationships. She is the author of numerous articles, chapters, books, and book reviews.

Before coming to Buffalo State, President Conway-Turner was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, from July 2010 until July 2014. From 2004 to 2009, she was provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY Geneseo. Dr. Conway-Turner was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware, where she also served as director of the women's studies program and graduate program coordinator. She was an American Council on Education (ACE) fellow at the College of New Jersey, and she has held teaching positions at University of Delaware, Santa Clara University and California State University, Long Beach.

President Conway-Turner's personal journey mirrors that of many of her students, past and present. As a first-generation college student, she appreciates the process of education and embraces its transformative aspects. She listens to the ever-changing needs of her students and attempts to implement and monitor new programs and processes to help these students become successful, contributing members of society.

She has also become known on campus and in the community for her social media outreach, including blog posts, tweets, and Instagram posts that highlight activities occurring on campus, as well as many of her humanitarian efforts.

Dr. Conway-Turner is married to Dr. Alvin L. Turner, a psychologist licensed in New York and Delaware, who is engaged in the independent practice of psychotherapy, supervision, training, and forensic psychological services.



## KRISTINE D. DUFFY, Ed.D., President, SUNY Adirondack



KRISTINE D. DUFFY, Ed.D., President SUNY Adirondack Dr. Duffy arrived at SUNY Adirondack in 2013 as its 7th President with significant experience in New York State higher education. Prior to her current position, she served for seven years as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services at Onondaga Community College and six years as Dean of Enrollment Management at Cayuga Community College. Prior to that she held positions in high school counseling and college admissions in the Capital District. She holds an Ed.D. in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College. Her research centered on student retention at community colleges and her dissertation was titled: *A Mixed Methods Study of Community College Students on Academic Probation: The Limiting Effect of Academic Doublespeak*. She also earned a M.S. in Guidance and Counseling from Russell Sage College and a B.S. in Business Administration from SUNY Brockport. Kris has assisted the college in securing and investing nearly \$45 million in federal, state, county and private gifts and grants to improve nursing, science, athletic and student service related facilities as well as improved direct support services to students.

Nearly 90,000 square feet of facilities have been constructed or renovated and the college's state-of-the-art Culinary center and student-run restaurant, Seasoned, opened in downtown Glens Falls in September, 2018. This project was the first of Governor Cuomo's Downtown Revitalization Initiative projects completed in New York State. Through careful strategic planning, the college has experienced increases in graduation rates, gained student racial and ethnic diversity and closing achievement gaps for historically marginalized populations, and developed important partnerships with K-12 and local workforce leaders. New support service programs have transformed the college's ability to break down barriers to success by intentionally and intrusively attending to in class and out of class challenges. The college has secured nearly \$5 million in federal grants to scale up student support programs to help address students' academic and life needs. For example, the college created its community hub- a one stop center that includes a food pantry, professional clothing closet, and staff to help connect students with community services and programs that address issues of hunger, homelessness, healthcare, transportation and other non-cognitive needs. Kris is involved with the community through several board positions. She is currently a member of the Warren County Economic Development Council, Saratoga Economic Development Council, Glens Falls National Bank and the Upstate Agency board of directors. She serves on the Rural Community College Alliance, and as past-President of the New York State Community College Association of Presidents. She has also served on the boards of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Glens Falls YMCA. Kris's engagement in SUNY Adirondack's community has led to new donors, partnerships, and increased recognition of the college's tremendous impact in the region. She was honored with the Community Champion award from Hudson Headwaters Health Network in 2016. Kris resides in Queensbury with her husband, John, and enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, and spending time with her adult sons and lovable dog Lester.



## Amy Kremenek, D.M., President, Tompkins Cortland Community College



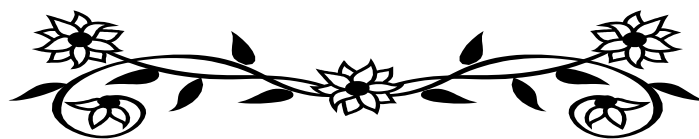
Dr. Amy Kremenek currently serves as the fifth president of Tompkins Cortland Community College, a college of the State University of New York (SUNY) located in Dryden, New York. Her appointment was made by the Tompkins Cortland Community College Board of Trustees and the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees, and became effective on June 1, 2022.

In 2022, Dr. Kremenek was named an Aspen New Presidents Fellow, one of just 26 community college presidents nationwide selected for the program by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. This program, made possible with support from JPMorgan Chase, supports community college presidents in the early years of their tenure as they work to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success. She has focused her leadership efforts at Tompkins Cortland Community College on a three-part strategy of student enrollment and retention, campus engagement and participation, and community partnerships and collaboration.

Dr. Kremenek serves on the Boards of Directors of Ithaca Area Economic Development and the Cortland County Business Development Corporation. She is a member of the New York Community College Association of Presidents, Tompkins Chamber CEO Roundtable, CenterState CEO, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation.

Prior to joining Tompkins Cortland, Dr. Kremenek served more than 15 years as Vice President at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York. Prior to her service in higher education, she worked in various professional roles in health care and public utilities. She has served on boards for a number of statewide and regional professional and civic organizations, including Say Yes to Education, SUNY Council on University Advancement, and the American Association of Women in Community Colleges.

She earned a Bachelor of Science from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Citizenship at Syracuse University, and a Doctorate of Management in Community College Policy and Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus. She and her husband Brent are residents of Dryden and are the proud parents of two adult children.



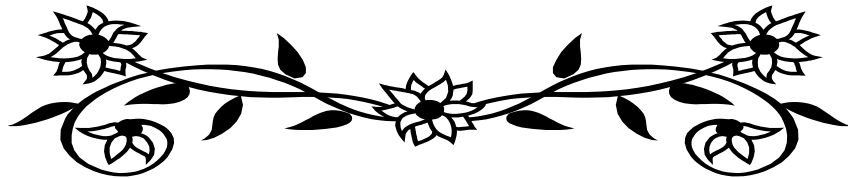
## Mary C. Toale, Ph.D., Officer-in-Charge at *SUNY Oswego*



Dr. Toale was appointed *SUNY Oswego's* Officer in Charge in January 2022, after serving the university in various capacities since her arrival in 2014. As a first generation Pell recipient, Dr. Toale firmly upholds student success as the core of *SUNY Oswego's* mission.

During the past year, Dr. Toale has led and advanced strategic initiatives across and beyond the campus community in alignment with institutional priorities, such as examining strategic enrollment management and integrated marketing, co-founding, chairing and serving on committees focused on the region's preparation for Micron's investment in Central New York, and securing funding for and launching the Oswego Dialogue Project through the James A. Triandiflou '88 Institute for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Transformative Practice.

Dr. Toale earned her doctoral degree in instructional communication and master's degree in communication theory and research from West Virginia University and a bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics education from West Virginia Wesleyan College.





## Lisa Vollendorf , Ph.D., President, SUNY Empire State College



Dr. Lisa Vollendorf became SUNY Empire's sixth president on July 1, 2022. With more than 26 years of experience in public higher education, she is deeply committed to the values of access and inclusive excellence. In her short time at SUNY Empire, she has led the implementation of numerous initiatives to advance the institution and enhance the student experience, including overseeing the institutions change from SUNY Empire State College to Empire State University, creation of a new strategic plan, new academic programs, and initiatives to improve access, diversity, equity, and inclusion at SUNY Empire.

Prior to SUNY Empire, Dr. Vollendorf held faculty appointments and leadership positions at numerous universities, including Wayne State, Cal State Long Beach, San José State, and Sonoma State. A Spanish professor by training, Dr. Vollendorf has published two monographs and six edited collections on women in early modern Spain and colonial Latin America. She holds a Ph.D. in Romance Languages from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in both English and Spanish from Colorado State University.

