



Keeping you in touch with news and events around campus

Vaughn Connected

Produced by the office of public affairs, December 2018

Winter Recess Is Upon Us

▪ Strategic Planning Effort Underway

Vaughn College began its newest strategic planning process with a daylong event in the College's hangar. Members of the College community including external stakeholders, were interviewed over the summer to identify areas for addressing through the planning process.

Called the "stakeholder conference," the session included an evaluation of issues facing the College and areas of opportunities, a discussion of the College's environment and a review of the strategic planning calendar. The conference attendees took all of the identified issues and used the broad categorization as the basis of the resulting six working groups.

The working groups include finance and development; technology and facilities; academic programs; customer service; marketing and enrollment; as well as governance and administration. The committees meet weekly and the chairs of these groups report out to a steering committee that includes members of the board of trustees, the president, the senior staff, the faculty senate president and the student government president. The first open campus meeting was held in November to review each group's work plan, with two more scheduled. The chairs will also report out directly to the board twice over the course of the project.

The final plan will be approved by the board of trustees in October 2019.



First open campus meeting held after the stakeholder conference.

▪ Vaughn Holds Second Annual Assessment Day

Vaughn College's Assessment Committee hosted the second annual assessment day for faculty and staff members to share findings and their process for continuous improvement. Building on last year's event, this year featured more interactive events for participation.

Guest speaker **Linda Suskie**, former vice president of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, opened the day with a presentation on assessment strategies including "keeping the process simple to keep people engaged." This was followed by

round table sessions where attendees discussed their successes with assessment, how it was tied to budgeting and planning and areas for improvement. For a fun and competitive addition to the list of events the committee added the game of "Speed Data-ing," utilizing a different approach to share how the College uses data to make improvements.

"Effective assessment will help you make better decisions with goals, curriculum, teaching methods and resource allocations," advised Suskie. "I find it's best to keep it useful and simple."

Attendees share findings following the round table discussion.



▪ Employers, Alumni and Friends Attend Holiday Reception

Alumni, family and friends of Vaughn gathered with faculty, staff and advisory board members to usher in the holiday season and toast the New Year. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music by Vaughn's music club complemented the festivities.

"We really enjoy opportunities like this where Vaughn has the chance to show our appreciation to our supporters," said **Michael Brady**, assistant vice president of Institutional Advancement. "It's great to see our alumni who come back to Vaughn to share their success with us."



Left to right: Engineering and Technology Department Chair **Dr. Hossein Rahemi**, **Michael Wroblewski '15**, Vaughn President **Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo**, **Dominick Visciotti '93**, **Margarita Cholakova '14** and **Erika Barcenes '13**.

▪ Composite Prototyping Center Honors Vaughn College

The Composite Prototyping Center (CPC) hosted a facility tour and luncheon in November to showcase its capabilities and services and honor Vaughn College and other supporters and partners. CPC is an organization dedicated to providing workforce development, prototype manufacturing and hands-on technical training in advanced composites manufacturing. The College was honored for partnering for several years on a high school training program.



News and Notes

■ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Hub Careers Conversation

In October, Vaughn engineering and technology students and faculty, along with admissions staff, attended the Long Island STEM Hub Careers Conversations at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. Colleges and companies from New York gathered to inform middle and high school students about STEM education and career opportunities.

Drs. Hossein Rahemi, engineering and technology chair, **Amir Elzawawy**, assistant professor and Professor **Manuel Jesus** along with students from the robotics and unmanned aerial vehicle clubs educated attendees about the College's degree programs and hands-on club activities. The students shared their academic and professional experiences at Vaughn while faculty members spoke about degree requirements and the department's goal to address student's needs for graduating and finding employment.

"The faculty at Vaughn are passionate about interacting with students and helping them to reach their potential," said Rahemi. "Teaching in the STEM fields such as engineering and manufacturing is very rewarding and offers a lifetime of opportunity."



Admissions staff speaking with families at the Cradle of Aviation Museum STEM event.

■ Guest Speaker Roundup

Chris Moore, president of the Aviation Mechanics Coalition, came to campus to discuss how safety can be affected by the airline labor shortage and how this shortage presents career opportunities for Vaughn students. With more than 30 years of airline experience as an airframe and powerplant mechanic, Moore's mission has been to promote the intrinsic value of aviation maintenance to undergraduate students.

"If you're a really stellar student and have a lot of knowledge, it can bode very well for you," said Moore. "The need for qualified, educated professionals is continuously



growing. The opportunities are virtually endless."

The engineering and technology department continued the industry connection seminar series with **Matthew Pearce**, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) education programs specialist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Pearce's presentation gave an overview of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce challenges, NASA's internship application system and industry advice.

"Bring some deep thought to your future and apply that to your career decision and it will propel you forward," Pearce advised students. "Our motto is 'reach new heights, reveal the unknown and benefit all humankind.'"

Pearce also spoke about current work taking place in the NASA climate change research initiative and its yearlong interdisciplinary vertical STEM education research.



Attendees ask Pearce questions following his presentation.

■ Management Student Awarded Scholarship from International Aviation Women's Association

Rebecca Petraglia '20, aviation maintenance management major was a recipient of the \$5,000 International Aviation Women's Association (IAWA) scholarship in October. Petraglia and four other college students received the award at IAWA's 30th annual conference held

in Memphis, Tennessee to promote young women's interest in aviation and aerospace careers.



Rebecca Petraglia '20

Department Spotlight: Career Services

The Career Services department guides students through their academic journey at Vaughn College and beyond, considering the career development of every student a primary responsibility. The department offers assistance in career exploration, career planning, decision making, and job search skills and strategies. They are also responsible for developing and maintaining employer relationships to provide internship and employment opportunities for students.

Becky Falto, recently hired as the internship coordinator for career services, is excited to join the team and brings enthusiasm to her new role. "I see this as an opportunity to connect students with developmental opportunities that supplement their learning, strengthen their skills and provide relevant experience," said **Becky Falto**, internship coordinator.

Through their academic journey students will have the ability to identify and utilize job resources such as on campus recruiting events, networking opportunities, resume workshops, interviewing skills sessions and on-line job resources.



■ Events Schedule

Winter Recess

Saturday, December 22 through Monday, January 1, 2019

Spring 2019 Semester Begins Aviation Training Intsitute (ATI) -

Monday, January 7

Academic - Monday, January 14

■ Alumni Giving Corner

Please consider donating to support Vaughn College and the students you serve each day. Make your tax-deductible donation today at:

<https://www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift> or call 718.429.6600, ext. 353.

Vaughn Connected, the College's faculty and staff newsletter, is produced regularly by the office of public affairs. Send items of interest to Maureen Kiggins, assistant vice president of public affairs, at maureen.kiggins@vaughn.edu. For the most recent campus news, visit www.vaughn.edu.