

# Vaughn

COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
SUMMER 2022



**BETTER  
TOGETHER**

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

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## VAUGHN MAGAZINE

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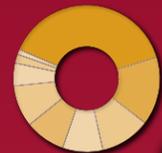
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BACK COVER

# BETTER TOGETHER

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

**Partnerships with industry have helped propel Vaughn College to No. 1 in the nation for upward mobility for our graduates and have contributed to our extraordinary job placement rate. Now, with demand for grads at an all-time high, there's an opportunity for this institution and our partners to set even more ambitious long-term goals.**

**A** close alignment with industries we serve has always been part of Vaughn College's mindset. Harkening back to the College's inception in 1932, one of the earliest alliances occurred when Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia persuaded his World War I buddies, Casey S. Jones, George Vaughn and Lee Warrender to move their aeronautics school from Newark to a site he offered in Queens across from the New York area's first airport. That partnership worked, creating a job pipeline for graduates of the Academy of Aeronautics to become part of the rapidly growing airport and aviation industry.

That model of partnership became part of Vaughn's DNA, contributing to the College's high employment rate for graduates and top rankings: [No. 1 for upward mobility](#), according to an Equality of Opportunity Project published in The New York Times, and in the [top 4% of colleges](#) with the highest return on investment for low-income students, reported by the Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

Now, in our 90th year, Vaughn may well have reached an inflection point in its relationship with industry as surging demand in the labor market, particularly in the aviation and STEM industries, is having a significant impact at Vaughn.

"I've never seen anything like it in my 26 years—demand for our graduates is off the charts!" said Vaughn College President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, a comment that was echoed across the board in conversations with department chairs, career services staff and faculty alike. As exciting and rewarding

as this hiring surge is in the moment, DeVivo sees an even greater opportunity for the long-term prospects of Vaughn and its mission as a minority-serving institution.

"Now is the time for industry to invest in our students and this institution because the graduates we are producing are needed now and for the long term," said DeVivo. "We've stayed closely aligned with industry and certification requirements, but now there has to be a commitment from industry to work closely with minority-serving institutions, like Vaughn. If you're talking about diversity and changing the complexion of the aviation, aerospace, manufacturing, engineering and more—this is the time to be that sponsor. There are a variety of opportunities to be involved in the life of the College. Affordability, an unmatched educational experience and terrific outcomes are what we are guaranteeing students and their families—we need the industries we serve to help make that possible for the diverse young professionals they demand."

Clearly, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to industry partnerships at Vaughn, which already take many different forms — from internships to scholarships, from gateway programs to equipment donations, and from curriculum advisory to actual training programs and support for the student experience. This article will look at the broad array of industry partnerships that empower Vaughn and at new initiatives that further support our mission to provide a transformational education leading to student career success.

## [Atlas Air](#) Partners With Vaughn to Create a Unique “Pathway to Success” Program for Pilots

The ink is still drying on a new program called the Pathway to Success First Officer Trainee Program with Atlas Air, a leader in global airfreight based in Purchase, New York.

The program is designed to enable new pilots at the RATP level who successfully complete a comprehensive training program, which was co-designed by Atlas and Vaughn faculty, to transfer directly to Atlas Air’s 737 air fleet. This is a major leg up in the industry, enabling new pilots to forgo the traditional pathway through regional airlines and go straight into a career flying Boeing products. In addition to the coursework, the program includes a monthly stipend, medical benefits, a 401(k), transportation and accommodations.

“This is nothing less than a different paradigm and a different path we’re creating for Vaughn aviation students,” said Denise Borelli, director of flight crew operation for Atlas Air. “They can go straight from college, skip the whole regional lifestyle, and go to a major cargo airline that flies domestic and international routes. They can go through our fleet and head straight for the end goal of being an international wide-body aircraft captain. We’re excited about Vaughn students joining us, seeing the opportunity of the nontraditional path Atlas offers and getting the word out to other future pilots!”

## UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR PILOTS AND AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS FUELS EXPANSION OF ‘GATEWAY’ PARTNERSHIPS

With the post-shutdown downturn in travel, the news is full of stories about flights grounded because of a lack of staff. Ron Ruggeri, Vaughn’s interim aviation department coordinator, explained the pilot shortage as a combination of pandemic-driven early retirements by the previous generation of pilots, a reduced number of trained pilots coming out of the military and obstacles like the high cost of aviation training.

What does the gap in the pipeline of trained pilots mean for Vaughn students? Ruggeri put it simply: “The airlines need pilots. We have students and we’re AABI-accredited and Restricted-Air Transport Pilot (RATP)-certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and we’ve been right in the heart of the busiest aviation hub in the country for going on 90 years. The airlines want to partner with us, and we want to talk to them about how to meet those needs while providing opportunity to our graduates.”

In 2021, Vaughn College partnered with JetBlue for their [University Gateway Pilot Pathway Program](#), the airlines’ longest-running pilot pathway program for aviation college students who attend Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI)-accredited institutions. Students can earn a conditional offer for a position as a first officer at JetBlue and, once accepted, can follow a specific track to gain experience at regional-affiliated carriers to build flight time. If they meet all the program requirements, including flight time, and pass all of the related tests, students will join JetBlue as first officers without additional interviews.

“The JetBlue Gateway partnership is a great model, and now we are looking to develop customized partnerships specifically for Vaughn with a number of other airlines we are already connected with,” said Ruggeri. “For instance, we have a long-standing relationship with Atlas Air, which has hired dozens of Vaughn graduates in virtually every department. Now, Atlas wants Vaughn to be a source for pilots and we are developing a pilot pathway program tailored just for our students— with cross training and online courses we can integrate into our curriculum to prepare our students for a fantastic career opportunity.” (See adjacent box for more on the new Atlas Pathway partnership.)

In addition to these pilot programs and discussions with new contacts at [Tradewind Aviation](#) and [Falcon Jet](#), Vaughn’s contracted flight school, [Heritage Flight Academy](#), and the FAA continue to be core parts of the Vaughn aviation opportunity. Vaughn is one of only 29 schools currently part of the FAA’s Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative (AT-CTI), which prepares students to work as air traffic controllers and provides pre-training and an FAA-approved curriculum pathway to jobs specifically publicized to AT-CTI enrollees. Vaughn students train on the same equipment used by the FAA, which helps accelerate their training upon acceptance to the FAA academy in Oklahoma City.

## A ‘VACUUM IN THE PIPELINE’ FOR TECHNICIANS PROPELS NEW AND EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

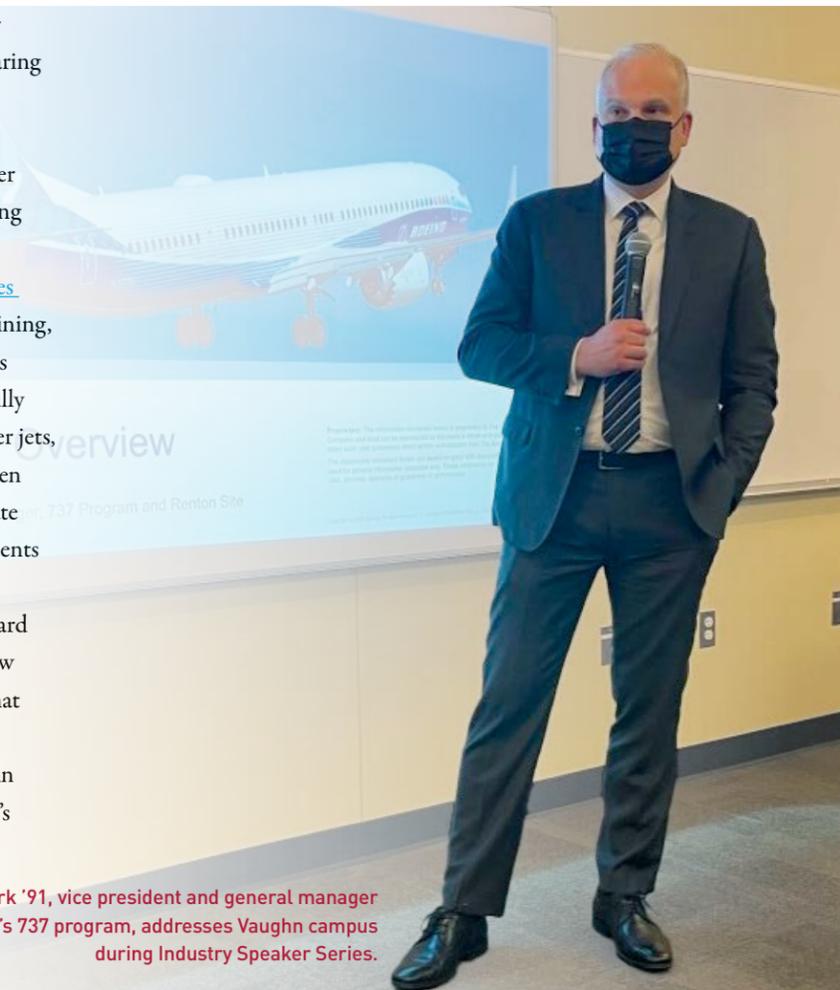
“There are not enough aviation maintenance technicians to go around now,” said Domenic Proscia, Vaughn’s vice president of training. “Just like with pilots, the airlines released a lot of older technicians in the pandemic and now the demand has come roaring back. We’re getting calls from many airlines and even contract service providers. And it’s not just airlines—there’s a technician shortage, where we have aircraft component manufacturers eager to get trained and skilled graduates of Vaughn’s Aviation Training Institute (ATI).”

For many years, Vaughn has been one of the [Delta Air Lines TechOps Partners](#), with access to enhanced computer-based training, Delta technical training supplements, donations of aircraft parts and equipment, and training for Vaughn’s instructors. Delta’s fully owned subsidiary [Endeavor Airlines](#), which flies small commuter jets, has evolved as a closely aligned Vaughn partner, particularly when it comes to hiring graduates. According to Fred Parham, associate director of the ATI, “Endeavor must have hired 150 of our students over the past three years. They visit our campus frequently and they appreciate the fact that our curriculum is more geared toward commercial airline experience. Endeavor guarantees an interview with Delta after 12 months, but right now demand is so high that Delta will swoop up mechanics even faster!”

In December, the Industry Speaker Series presented Vaughn alumnus Ed Clark ’91, who was recently named head of Boeing’s

737 MAX jetliner program. The veteran engineer started his aviation career more than three decades ago at John F. Kennedy International Airport as a maintenance supervisor for Trans World Airlines while attending classes as Vaughn. He later received his master’s degree from DeVry University and went on to hold several leadership [positions at Boeing](#). After the presentation to the [Vaughn community on the Boeing 737 program](#), Clark remained on campus to answer questions and advise students on how to get started in their careers—including available opportunities at Boeing.

Proscia pointed out that the training that Vaughn students receive is broad enough to open the door to jobs in industries adjacent to aviation and aeronautics. “We’re creating technicians who can meet demand in almost every technical area, from electronics to composites to off shore wind. They learn all about different systems that apply to a variety of industries; for instance, gas turbine and power generating stations that operate to make electricity use the same engines as aircraft. An airframe and powerplant technician is versed in how to maintain these engines, opening up career opportunities in a variety of fields.”



Ed Clark '91, vice president and general manager of Boeing's 737 program, addresses Vaughn campus during Industry Speaker Series.

# BETTER TOGETHER

## ENGINEERING PARTNERSHIPS IN CUTTING-EDGE INDUSTRIES

Dr. Hossein Rahemi, chair and HSI-STEM director of the engineering and technology department, sees the strength of Vaughn's industry partnerships as a valuable differentiator. "Our partners are not only providing internships and jobs; they also support our students attendance at conferences and competitions, and they play a critical role in the curriculum advisement essential to the department's expansion of course offerings and degree programs. A good example of this is the new bachelor of science degree in computer engineering with concentrations in artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity that will be offered in fall 2022."

He cited his department's long-standing partnerships with [Lockheed Martin](#) and Sikorsky Aircraft, and with Vaughn alumni currently at Sikorsky, Richard B. Brown '94, CH-53K/E aftermarket chief engineer, and Rajdeep Singh '00, director CH-53K systems engineering. Both alumni provided reviews and recommendations for another major degree program in the works, the bachelor's in computer science, laboratory development, program accreditation, internships and various issues relating to preparing students for the workplace. Both wrote letters of support for the new degree program.

Alumnus Jefferson Maldonado '16 graduated from Vaughn with a bachelor's in mechatronic engineering and landed his dream job as the first robotics engineer hired by logistics giant [ArcBest Corporation](#). While at Vaughn, he pursued his passion for robotics, becoming president of the Robotics Club, which won the [2016 VEX Robotics World Championship](#). Maldonado credits Vaughn's Robotics Club with helping get him where he is today. So now, as manager of robotics, AI and automation, and charged with developing ArcBest's robotics department, it's not surprising that he is looking to Vaughn as a great source for robotics engineers. Last year, he was a speaker at the seventh annual Manufacturing Day, where he announced that ArcBest was hiring new engineers for the robotics department. To date, he has hired Norrin Abreu '19 and created internship opportunities for mechatronic engineering students.

Another strong partner on the cutting edge of technology is [Easy Aerial](#), a "military-grade autonomous drone-in-a-box" solutions company that was founded by former military personnel

**"IT'S REALLY ABOUT ENSURING THAT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND TEACHERS UNDERSTAND THE PATHWAY: HERE'S THE EDUCATION, HERE ARE THE PROFESSIONAL TRACKS, HERE ARE THE DIFFERENT THINGS YOU CAN DO. ACROSS HIGHER EDUCATION, THERE'S BEEN GREATER AWARENESS AND COORDINATION IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS. AT VAUGHN, THIS HAS BEEN PART OF OUR MISSION AND IT'S A MARKET DIFFERENTIATOR FOR US."**

—DR. SHARON B. DEVIVO

and aerospace, robotics and software engineers. Located in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Easy Aerial has been a frequent visitor at Vaughn, attending Technology Day and other College events. They are providing internships and have already hired a number of Vaughn's graduates in electronics and engineering. Equally important, they are investing in Vaughn's future designers of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) by sponsoring students to attend the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUFSI) Student Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS) Competition, to foster student interest in UAS technologies and careers.

Rahemi pointed out that Vaughn's adjunct professors are often well positioned to connect students with job opportunities, noting that Adjunct Professor and Advisory Council Member Di Yang from the FAA's engineering services department recently posted job listings for mechanical, electrical, civil and electronic engineers. By early April, five Vaughn students had accepted positions there.

"We need more partners in AI and cybersecurity now that we have those concentrations in computer engineering," said Rahemi. "These are areas to expand, and we will need to engage students to attend conferences and competitions — across all of the engineering industry spectrum. That's why donations from alumni to support student engagement is so important."

## VAUGHN'S ADVISORY COUNCILS: EVOLVING WITH INDUSTRY NEEDS

DeVivo believes that Vaughn's close alignment with industry is particularly important to Vaughn students and families, as well as the institution's responsibility to clarify the steps from education to career. "It's really about ensuring that students and families, guidance counselors and teachers understand the pathway: Here's the education, here are the professional tracks, here are the different things you can do. Across higher education, there's been greater awareness and coordination in meeting the needs of employers. At Vaughn, this has been part of our mission and it's a market differentiator for us," she said.

Vaughn's advisory councils are composed of industry professionals who work with faculty to enhance, update, expand and direct the curriculum to best prepare our students for success in the workplace.

To keep pace with the engineering and technology department's expanding subject matter, "Right now we have electrical, mechanical and mechatronic engineering and robotics all under one umbrella, but we may need to break down into industry sectors to get more specific feedback," said Rahemi. DeVivo also sees a tipping point coming. "We've added cybersecurity and AI, we're looking at automated cars and biomedical engineering and industries that are aviation-related," she said. "We have to utilize the time of our industry advisers to best effect, whether we focus on the sector or the degree."

Vaughn's other advisory councils are also going through a period of change, with the ATI advisory council being reconstituted to reflect both regulatory changes and industry applications beyond aviation. "We're talking with [Clark Forklift](#) and manufacturers like [Accessory Technologies Corporation](#) that do work for airlines," said Proscia. "An aviation maintenance technician is already versed in how to maintain gas turbines and power-generating stations, and a huge growth area here in Long Island in the next six to seven years is offshore wind turbines. Right now, the only training is in Europe, so there's an opportunity right here." Proscia also explained that legislative changes at the federal level would give advisory councils an even bigger role in curriculum design. "The new regulations will enable us to design our own aviation maintenance curriculum to better prepare our students to meet industry needs while still meeting FAA requirements."



## Podcast Series Is Launching

Summer 2022 marks the launch of a new monthly podcast by Vaughn President Dr. DeVivo. The "Futureproof Focus," podcast will be a series of conversations with prominent industry, student, faculty and alumni guests, with the lens focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in education and employment and the forces that drive personal and career growth.

"We will focus on future industries and how best to bring low-income and first-generation students into those industries," said DeVivo. "So I'll be talking to CEOs who are thinking long-term about urban air mobility, drones, AI and self-driving cars. And asking underserved students about their obstacles and what they need to get there. It will be a dialogue about what companies need and what students are looking for."

The first guest is John Dietrich, the new president and chief executive officer of Atlas Air Inc. discussing partnerships and the workforce shortage. Future guests will include Kirei Watson '18 now with Collins Aerospace talking about being a woman of color in STEM. Futureproof Focus podcasts will be a space for courageous, honest, open and unscripted conversations focused on the latest news, career opportunities and insights in the exciting fields of engineering, technology, management and aviation.

## INNOVATING TO OPEN NEW DOORS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

With decades of experience and insight into the value of internships, Chaundra Daniels, Vaughn's new director of [career services](#), clearly sees the power of industry partnerships. "Ideally, we'd like to have partnerships that would allow any student to come into our office and ask for an internship and we'd be able to help them," she said. "The goal is to not only give the students experience in their area, but also to create a pipeline to a full-time job with that employer. So we're not only tapping into existing internship programs that companies have; we're working to develop new internships specifically for Vaughn. And we are looking for new doors to open with companies and create opportunity for our students."

Daniels quickly found a "new door" to open for employers and students when she developed employer engagement days, designed to streamline the student engagement process with employers. Emulating Vaughn's current hybrid classroom, engagement days allow recruiters and students to meet individually either on Zoom or in person. "These one-on-one conversations are much less stressful for the students than the job fairs with dozens of companies," said Daniels, "and the institution has been tremendously supportive and saw the value in providing a different way of thinking about connecting students and employers."

**"THE GOAL IS TO NOT ONLY GIVE THE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE IN THEIR AREA, BUT ALSO TO CREATE A PIPELINE TO A FULL-TIME JOB WITH THAT EMPLOYER. SO WE'RE NOT ONLY TAPPING INTO EXISTING INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS THAT COMPANIES HAVE; WE'RE WORKING TO DEVELOP NEW INTERNSHIPS SPECIFICALLY FOR VAUGHN. AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW DOORS TO OPEN WITH COMPANIES AND CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS." —CHAUNDRA DANIELS**

Indeed, DeVivo welcomed the chance to shift from the standard career fair to a deeper kind of engagement. "Engagement days are literally that: a chance for companies to engage and connect with students and with Vaughn. We can talk about scholarships and internships. What about "micro internships," where students spend a day or a few days visiting a company? We need to think outside the box of the old career services model where companies come in and pick up resumes and go away. We need to be innovative and take chances and learn from them."

Daniels is also opening new doors at companies that are eager for access to the unique pool of diverse, motivated and highly trained graduates that Vaughn produces as a minority-serving, Hispanic-serving institution (HSI). Leveraging her background in equity, diversity and inclusion, Daniels is reaching out to the diversity offices of various employers and finding that many have a keen interest in using this lens to develop and strengthen relationships. She cites Atlas Airlines' commitment to diversity and inclusion and their proactive approach to deepening engagement with Vaughn, including a recent fireside chat with her focus on women and diversity. Another example was a luncheon with Vaughn's female students and the Keynote Speaker was Kozzetta Chapman, American Airline's senior manager of tech ops recruiting and development and the airline's diversity coordinator, who discussed recruiting trends and what women can expect, particularly women of color, in the workforce.

"We are also looking for full-service companies that see Vaughn as the full-service College that we are," said Daniels. "Recently, [Spirit Aerosystems](#) from Kansas came to Vaughn for a virtual engagement day, their first visit. They are an aviation-centered, high-tech manufacturer with opportunities for our engineering and management students."

[ATL Partners](#), an equity investment firm that primarily serves the aerospace, transportation and logistics industries, is also the latest company to work with Vaughn College. "They want to partner with institutions that serve a diverse population," said DeVivo. "We are working now on a partnership that provides scholarships, support for students to attend conferences and competitions, and to sponsor our management speaker series to make the content more widely available. They have also said they'd like to support us growing into aviation finance, which would be a whole new sector for us. It's forward-thinking and a great model for other companies."

Finally, new technology tools are also driving opportunities for students to find the right professional fit not only when they graduate, but also as students are determining exactly which degree program is right for them. Digital job and labor data platforms are essential tools for students, and Vaughn partners with both the Burning Glass Technologies (BGT) and [Handshake](#) platforms. Students can use the BGT platform to see careers options they can achieve through Vaughn's curriculum and get a sense of salaries and top employers. The Handshake platform connects students with actual job opportunities by connecting employers to students and the career services department.

## MAKING LONG-TERM PARTNERS A PART OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic planning has been key to this institution's long-term progress. Since the days when it was known as the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, Vaughn College has always looked to the future and the changing needs of the industries we serve, and hope to serve, to provide our students with a transformative education and life-changing opportunities.

This strength in planning was a huge advantage when the pandemic began in March 2020. Vaughn's leadership quickly responded by creating two ad hoc committees to evaluate Vaughn's strengths and industry needs and develop a plan to make sure graduates would continue to find excellent employment opportunities.

"The ad hoc committees, consisting of trustees, faculty, staff and external stakeholders are a perfect example of how strategic planning is embedded in the bones of this institution," said DeVivo. "Our planning effort always takes both an internal and external view of the College, and we check in with advisory councils, employers, alumni and industry to develop our plan. That planning piece of our personality has served our students well over the last 25 years."

The institution is now experiencing an unprecedented demand for our graduates and DeVivo sees an opportunity for a new level of engagement and long-term commitment with all of our partners. "We're at a pivotal moment, and we have to use it," she said. "There's a nationwide recognition of the widening equality gap as well as the enormous gap professionals for high-tech jobs. We want our industry partners to invest in our students and this institution for the long-term. We know that the most successful companies are the most diverse, and working together with this institution--Vaughn students can deliver the skill sets that are needed as well as provide a lifetime of opportunity."

# UNITED AIRLINES PARTNERS WITH VAUGHN TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

For the first time in the College's history, a chapter of the [National Society of Leadership and Success \(NSLS\)](#) has been established on campus. This milestone is due in large part to a longstanding partnership between Vaughn and United Airlines.

The NSLS is the nation's largest leadership honor society and collegiate leadership development program. It is also the only program of its kind to have earned accreditation for its programming—an outstanding benefit for participating students.

Vaughn has already seen a tremendous interest by student leaders for this program since its launch on April 1. NSLS differentiates itself from traditional honor societies in that students must complete a step-by-step leadership development program to be inducted. The curriculum offers students the opportunity to develop many in-demand skills such as leadership, communications and team building. While Vaughn already produces highly skilled graduates in the aeronautical and engineering fields, the NSLS program provides additional expertise in the personal development disciplines that today's highly motivated employers demand. And now, because of United's sponsorship covering all membership fees, every qualifying Vaughn student can join the Society.

The response has been overwhelming. "We expected that 15 to 20 students would attend the orientation," says Elaine T. White,

student affairs assistant vice president and dean of students. "We were thrilled to see more than 90 students sign up. These are the exact high-performing, highly engaged students we want to see benefit and thrive."

## WHY VAUGHN? WHY NOW

The establishment of the NSLS is the result of demanding work, a perfect fit, a student focus and an industry looking to fill its pipeline with highly accomplished student leaders. According to Kristin C. Lewis, senior manager, global community engagement at United, "Vaughn and United are the perfect fit. Our airline is dedicated to supporting the industry by focusing on expanding the diversity of its workforce while building a robust talent channel. Vaughn is renowned for its ability to support underrepresented and first-generation student populations move into well paid and established career fields in STEM. United's and Vaughn's goals meshed perfectly."

It was also a perfect fit when Vaughn's President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, Director of Student Success Sarah Tsang, Assistant Vice President and Chief Development Officer Stephen DeSalvo and White were working to reinvigorate Vaughn's current leadership initiative, the Student Leadership Academy. DeSalvo reached out to Lewis and a great and mutually beneficial partnership was formed.

## HIGH-VALUE NSLS BENEFITS

There are myriad benefits that accrue to the student scholars who participate in the NSLS. It is the No. 1 leadership honor society in the United States with more than 1.5 million members nationwide. There are over 700 participating colleges and more than \$2.4 million in scholarships and awards granted every year. The NSLS' mandate is to help students turn their plans into action. White says that she has already seen this thinking manifest itself as students apply SMART thinking to their planning: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely. "Students are already thrilled to see what they can quickly accomplish."

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION, "ENGINE OF SUPPORT"

United, with support from Vaughn's student body, is looking to meet its goals of increasing the industry's diversity by filling the pipeline with great candidates for the open aviation jobs that have become available since the pandemic as well as the thousands of jobs that will be created with the growth of the industry. According to DeSalvo, "United and NSLS are engines of support for Vaughn. It is the perfect fit for the student body and the industry." White agrees, "For the first time, the College can offer our students access to a national leadership society that affords them credits, recommendations, mentorship, networking, training, targeted peer support and access to job boards, all while attending classes. We're grateful to United and truly excited for our participating students as they will be even better prepared to succeed upon graduation."



## NSLS MEMBERS BENEFITS

- > **Leadership Orientation:** new members learn the steps of the program and the schedule of events for the semester
- > **Leadership Training Day:** an interactive video training session where members identify goals and overcome obstacles
- > **Three Speaker Broadcast Events:** live-streamed with leaders, celebrities and best-selling authors six times per year. This year's speakers have already included Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn; actor and former NFL player Terry Crews; and The New York Times best-selling author and Good Morning America anchor Robin Roberts
- > **Three Success Networking Team Meetings:** small peer groups meet biweekly to set goals and hold each other accountable
- > **Induction:** members receive a Foundations of Leadership Certificate honoring their achievement and lifetime membership into NSLS
- > **Scholarships and Awards:** access to more than \$2 million in exclusive scholarships and awards
- > **Job Bank:** members can apply to jobs/internships and have access to employers seeking to hire NSLS members
- > **Partner Discounts and Benefits:** available on many retail goods and services
- > **Custom Recommendations:** members receive personalized letters for graduate admissions officers and employers
- > **Professional Communication Training:** a professionally administered communication assessment tool (DISC) helps to identify communication style; recognize and appreciate other styles; and prepares members on how to interact effectively with others
- > **Nationwide Network:** over a million members at over 700 colleges offer a network of support and motivation

# VAUGHN LAUNCHES NEW COMPUTER ENGINEERING BACHELOR'S DEGREE

## ENGINEERING IS ALL AROUND US. BUT DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH ENGINEERING PLAYS A ROLE IN OUR DAILY LIVES, ESPECIALLY COMPUTER ENGINEERING?

Engineering plays a critical role in most of the technologies that define modern-day life and society. Vaughn recognizes the importance of this discipline and, as part of the College's commitment to offering its students the most relevant curriculum, has launched an exciting new degree in computer engineering that will position students for in-demand, high-earning careers.

The career opportunities are extensive. With the rapid development of technology in the information era, this ever-growing field demands well-trained individuals with knowledge and skills for a broad range of computing industries, including hardware, computer networking, security and telecommunications. The study of computer engineering involves many technological aspects such as operating systems, programming and networking of components and systems ranging from computer architecture, computer algorithms and digital logic design to active hybrid semiconductor chips, networking, embedded computing systems, artificial intelligence and security.

According to Miguel Bustamante, assistant professor, engineering and technology, "We want students to fall in love with computer engineering and all that it offers. We also want to make sure that our highly motivated but underrepresented students know that this hot specialty is a great career opportunity for them. The fact that

Vaughn is committed to offering in-demand degrees like computer engineering is just one more reason that Vaughn was recognized as number one nationwide at providing its students the highest level of upward mobility and closing the equity gap."

### SPECIALIZING IN TWO GROWTH AREAS: CYBERSECURITY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The curriculum in computer engineering emphasizes two well-defined concentrations: cybersecurity and artificial intelligence—giving students a well-rounded education in either concentration. Students in the computer engineering program will learn the fundamentals of programming, computer algorithms, networking and systems security. The program addresses the multidisciplinary nature of the field. Furthermore, students will be exposed to industry-related experiences through undergraduate research and internship opportunities.

Graduates are expected to work in the industry, holding such diverse positions as computer engineer, software engineer, algorithm development or machine learning specialist, networking/security system engineer, technical sales representative and many other computer-related positions either in the civilian or military sectors. In fact, government and non-government sources

estimate that 1.8 million cybersecurity-related positions worldwide will go unfilled in 2022.

Dr. Hossein Rahemi, engineering and technology department chair, says, "The exposure to both theory and hands-on technical work as well as computing projects will enhance students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they advance through the program." In addition, students will engage in research projects that require participation, presentation and publication at technical conferences to enhance students' learning outcomes and prepare them for future challenges.

### BOOTCAMPS GIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A HEAD START

In addition to launching this new computer engineering degree, Vaughn has also developed three highly targeted summer bootcamps for high school students that will focus on 1) cybersecurity, 2) artificial intelligence and 3) blockchain technology. The four-day on-site courses will give these high school students exposure to some of today's most exciting topics and the opportunity to experience college life.

Vaughn remains dedicated to providing a distinctive education to a diverse population of students, and its mission is to create an environment that cultivates personal growth and leadership in preparation for successful careers. Consistent with this mission, the computer engineering program will deliver new engineering applications that expand career and research opportunities for Vaughn's dynamic and highly engaged student population.

“WE WANT STUDENTS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND ALL THAT IT OFFERS. WE ALSO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR HIGHLY MOTIVATED BUT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS KNOW THAT THIS HOT SPECIALTY IS A GREAT CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM.”  
—Miguel Bustamante

## COMPUTER ENGINEERING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

### Sectors:

- > Aerospace and defense industry
- > Computer hardware and software industry
- > Government agencies
- > Automation industry
- > Public transportation
- > Power plant and electricity facility
- > Telecommunications companies
- > Educational communities
- > Financial services

### Positions:

- > Computer Engineer
- > Software Engineer/Software Design Engineer
- > Hardware Engineer
- > Algorithm Development Engineer
- > Network Engineer
- > Security System Engineer
- > Cyber Security Analyst
- > Cyber Threat Hunter
- > Systems Administrator
- > Vulnerability Analyst
- > Data Engineer/Data Scientist
- > Process Control Engineer
- > Information Technology Specialist
- > Embedded Firmware Engineer
- > Programmer Architect

# FEDERAL GRANT PAVES THE WAY FOR NEW GUIDED STEM DEGREE PATHWAYS

Vaughn is launching a robust new computer science pathway designed to assist under-resourced Hispanic and low-income students in the borough of Queens, New York, and surrounding areas expand their educational opportunities in emerging high-demand STEM fields.

The Title III HSI-STEM federal grant for five million over five years will enable Vaughn to develop strong degree programs in which diverse students will be able to build a strong foundation of computational literacy; collect and analyze data for the purpose of identifying patterns and summarize numerical results; develop coding and programming skills needed for the jobs of the future; and earn degrees and certificates in data science, big data, artificial intelligence, and computer science. The program seeks to increase the percentage of Hispanic and low-income full-time freshman and transfer students from community colleges enrolled in STEM majors at Vaughn.

## DEVELOPING A NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE PATHWAY

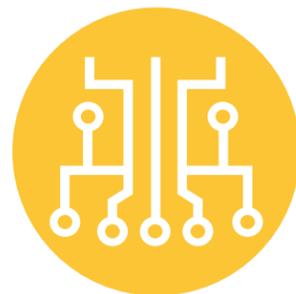
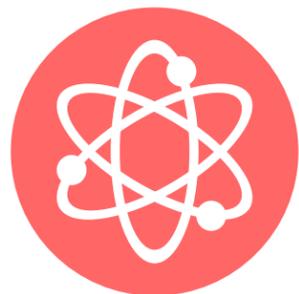
Vaughn College has been a leader in developing successful programs in aeronautics and engineering and is the primary institution serving the needs of the Hispanic community in Queens. This new grant will allow Vaughn to train the future science and technology workforce and increase the participation of underrepresented groups in STEM fields. This endeavor includes developing a new computer science pathway, strengthening outreach to high schools to improve STEM awareness and interest, providing comprehensive wraparound student services and project-based and collaborative learning, model transfer articulation toward a STEM degree, high-impact practices, a summer STEM academy, work-based experience, transfer support opportunities and faculty professional development.

Engineering and Technology Chair Dr. Hossein Rahemi says, "Vaughn's pathway project intends to provide meaningful work-based internships, apprenticeships and fellowships for students in the program that can lead to high-paying permanent jobs in Queens, which is suffering from high unemployment rates and limited STEM opportunities. We are dedicated to these goals across the College."

The STEM pathways team gathered extensive evidence on what helps Hispanic STEM students complete their degrees. Vaughn's STEM project will adopt best practices from CUNY's ASAP study (a WWC-approved study) that incorporates a dedicated student success team (counselors, coaches, tutors, mentors), summer bridge courses and a dedicated Computer Science Center equipped with the latest-computing laboratory equipment to provide Vaughn students with the tools to succeed. Additional support services will include mental health support, financial assistance for class expenses, a book lending library and transportation costs.

"The new STEM pathways program will allow our students unprecedented access to learning and new equipment that will enhance their careers and make them future proof," said Rahemi.

**“OUR GOALS ARE LOFTY, BUT THE STEPS ARE CLEAR. WE WANT TO CREATE A CLEAR AND ONGOING DIRECTION FOR THESE STUDENTS TO HELP THEM DREAM ABOUT AND ACHIEVE CONFIDENCE AND SUCCESS IN STEM AND COMPUTING FIELDS.”**



## ▶ VAUGHN SPOTLIGHT

TOMMASO ROSSI '24 | Student

## FROM ITALY TO QUEENS

Aviation was the magnet that drew Rossi from a small town in northern Italy to Vaughn College and the pursuit of his dual bachelor's degree in airport and airline management.

For Tommaso Rossi, the fascination with aviation began when he was still in middle school in Sondrio, a small town in northern Italy near the border of Switzerland. Hearing about airlines and airports from a friend studying to become a pilot, Rossi became increasingly focused on aviation, and by the time he was ready to graduate, he knew he had found his career goal. While researching colleges, he found that Vaughn offered a dual airport and airline management program unlike anything available in Italy. "I thought, why not do something outside the box and go to school in the US?" said Rossi. "Fortunately, I am very lucky, and my family supported me. Unfortunately, the pandemic made the process of getting started very challenging."

After applying and being accepted to Vaughn, Rossi found out that the Italian embassy was closed due to COVID-19 and that he would have to start his Vaughn education remotely in 2020. "Zoom learning is difficult, and with the different time zones, it was even harder," said Rossi. When Rossi moved to campus in January 2021, he wasted no time making the most of Vaughn's opportunities to get exposure to the aviation industry. He attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) national conference in Washington, which he described as "100 percent incredible, with a chance to meet people from every aspect of aviation, including aviation marketing and law, and see how many paths I could take." As a member of the American Association of Airport Executives student chapter, he visited MacArthur Airport, and in April of his first on-campus semester at Vaughn, Rossi began an internship with Travelers Aid at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport that gave him an inside experience of airport life.

"In an airport, you have to expect the unexpected," said Rossi. "With [Travelers Aid](#), we help people if they need extra assistance at the airport, whether they miss a flight or whatever troubles

you never think would happen. I got a lot of experience with the dynamic between passengers, airlines, customer service and the businesses at the airport."

While working at JFK, Rossi learned about the company that manages [Terminal 4, JFK International Airlines Terminal \(JFKIAT\)](#), and his proactive efforts led to a new internship offer from JFKIAT. In February 2022, he started as an operations supervisor, working to ensure that operations run smoothly in Terminal 4. "It's everything from the gates to security to the taxi queues, and responding quickly to any problems that arise. Every day is different, and there's a lot of problem solving. Plus, we aren't just observing; we are reporting on what we see to our managers and always thinking about how to improve the process." Rossi pointed out that every intern is required to come up with a project to improve the experience at JFK Terminal 4, and he has chosen a project to improve and smooth the check-in process.

At the halfway point in his degree, Rossi has gotten a lot of experience on the airport side of his dual management degree, and he is eager to gain experience on the airline side as well to decide which direction he will pursue.

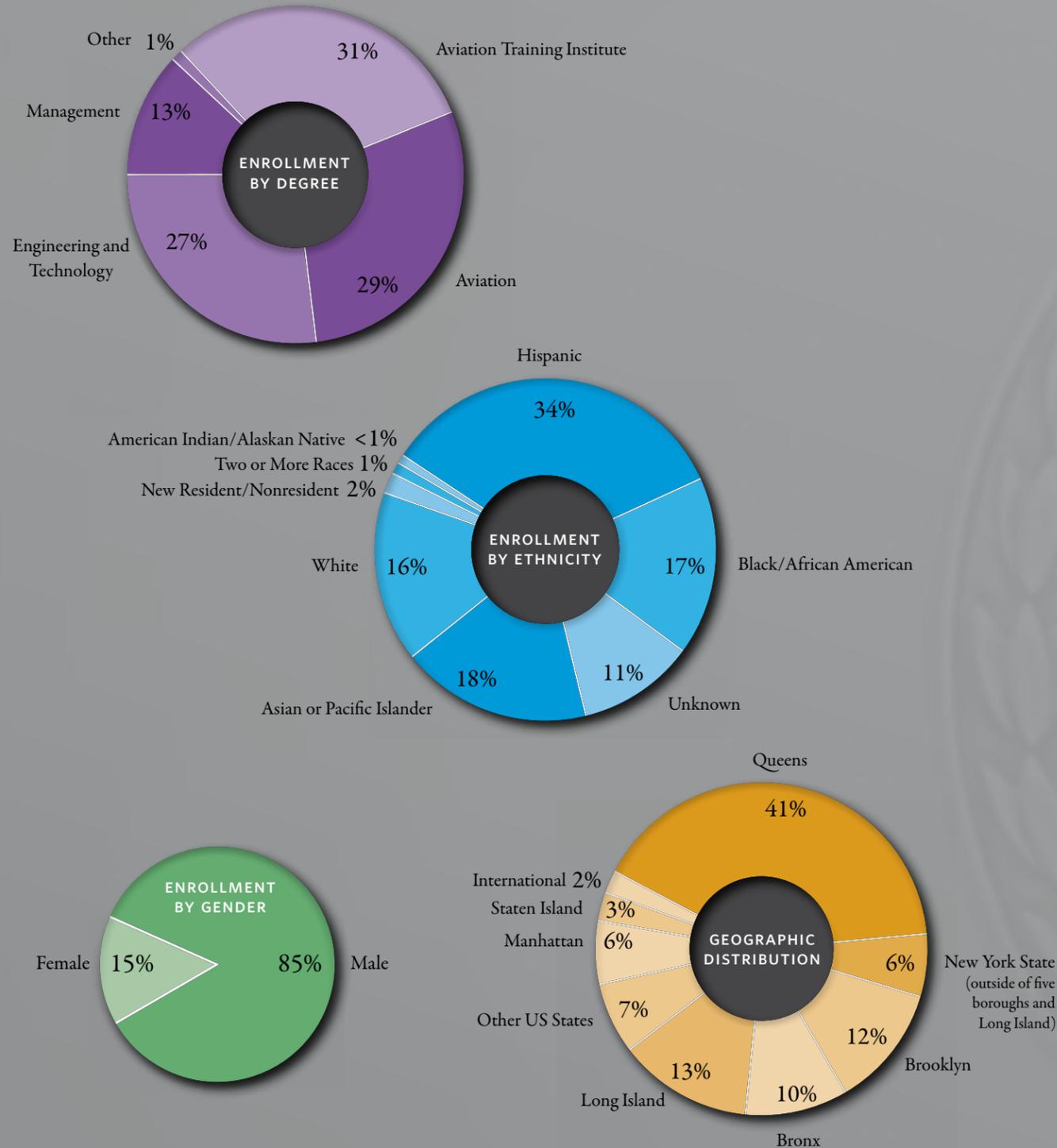
He is also taking advantage of the social activities and club events now possible and is thrilled to be in Queens. "Manhattan is so glamorized," he said, "but I adore Queens, which feels like the real New York, with every culture and language and people from all over the world."



# VAUGHN COLLEGE REPORT 2020-2021

Demographics, Financial Summary and Annual Fund

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF ENTERING FALL 2020 FRESHMEN



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### BALANCE SHEET

	2021	2020
Total Assets	\$105,761,771	\$105,350,258
Total Liabilities	\$63,058,440	\$64,896,854
Total Net Assets	\$42,703,331	\$40,453,404
<i>Comprising:</i>		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$17,700,394	\$15,186,724
With Donor Restrictions	\$25,002,937	\$25,266,680
Total Net Assets	\$42,703,331	\$40,453,404

### REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	2021	2020
<i>Revenues</i>		
Tuition and Fees	\$31,327,430	\$37,555,036
Less: Scholarships and Fellowships	\$5,264,977	\$10,617,910
Less: Federal Aid	\$256,797	\$179,806
Net Tuition and Fees	\$25,805,656	\$26,757,320
Government Grants and Contracts	\$7,741,381	\$7,413,344
Contributions, Including Equipment	\$73,773	\$310,317
Investment Income	\$335,701	\$206,167
Auxiliary Revenue	\$1,331,901	\$2,276,250
Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments	\$4,505,796	\$2,055,880
Other	\$1,880,248	\$2,034,779
Total Unrestricted Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$41,674,456	\$41,054,057
<i>Expenses</i>		
Educational and General	\$33,817,166	\$34,616,975
Depreciation and Accretion	\$5,343,620	\$5,473,503
Total Expenses	\$39,160,786	\$40,090,478
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,513,670	\$963,579
Increase (Decrease) With Donor Restrictions Assets	(\$263,743)	(\$773,167)
Change in Net Assets	\$2,249,927	\$190,412

## ANNUAL FUND GIVING

### THE FOUNDERS CLUB

\$2,500 and beyond

AFCO AvPorts Management, LLC  
 Atlas Air  
 Aviation Week and Space Technology  
 Patricia Clark  
 Arlene Cohen  
 Sharon DeVivo  
 Barry Eccleston  
 Monroe Hatch  
 James and Nancy Vaughn  
 Adam Kokas  
 LaGuardia Gateway Partners, LLC  
 Joseph Martella  
 Oswin Moore  
 Diana Morengo  
 Anthony Rizzuto  
 Jorge Roberts '83  
 Roy Simpson  
 Carol and Ken Stauffer '83  
 The Resource Foundation, Inc.  
 United Airlines Foundation  
 Valley National Bank  
 Peter and Mary Ann Vaughn

### THE LAGUARDIA CLUB

\$1500 to \$2499

John Brogan  
 Ernest Canadeo  
 Ronald Janis  
 Andreas Niens  
 Frank Rosenberg  
 Rochelle Shereff  
 Mary Ward-Callan

### THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB

\$1000 to \$1,499

Clorinda Antonucci  
 Shirley Fierro  
 Elizabeth Hlavacek  
 Love Family Foundation, Inc.  
 Ethan Martin  
 Unity Electric Company, Inc.  
 THE CHARLES (CHUCK) E. YEAGER CLUB  
 \$500 to \$999  
 Andrea Brantner  
 Stephen DeSalvo  
 Douglas Izarra  
 Joseph Jahr '04  
 Labor Management Concepts, Inc.  
 Albert L. Longarini '49  
 Glen Mishler  
 Roderick Randall  
 Walter Sanchez  
 Skanska-Walsh  
 John Stevens  
 THE CHARLES E. TAYLOR CLUB  
 \$250 to \$499  
 Ryan Barren '15  
 Earl Dawson '66  
 Joseph Donofrio '67  
 Richard Enders '63  
 Harris Herman  
 Steve Lewent  
 Steven Livingston  
 Domenic Proscia '94  
 Kelli Smith  
 John Tristani '58

### THE BESSIE COLEMAN CLUB

\$101 to \$249

Maria Alfonso  
 Thomas Apperson  
 Kathryn Callahan  
 Martin Capunay  
 Mary Durkin  
 ECNY Electrical, Inc.  
 Darragh Kinane  
 John Magnowski  
 Frank Miller '64  
 Yahay Obeid '05  
 Relume Foundation, Inc.  
 Gerard Sedlak '73  
 Joseph Werner '57

### THE CHARLES LINDBERGH CLUB

\$51 to \$100

Celso Alvarez  
 B. Dean Angelakos  
 John Enders  
 Gilbert Gonzalez '98  
 Joshua Hirschheimer '08  
 Edward Libassi  
 Rasmus Angerskov  
 Frank and Alice Rosenberg  
 Lysa Scully  
 John Sherrod  
 Temple Stovall  
 George Tracy  
 Andrea Turner  
 Irene Zincone '57

### \$50 or less

Edmund Aiello '61  
 Ismael Alonzo  
 Dean Angelakos  
 Edward Baklor  
 Eve H. Befdord  
 Arielle Benjamin  
 Ivan Bennett '63  
 Jose Bravo  
 Justin Burmeister  
 Joseph Calandra '54  
 Margarita Cholakova '14  
 Abdelhafid Djemil  
 Stacey Dutil  
 Steve Ferguson  
 Cristian Guevara  
 Sharon Jackson  
 Craig Antonio Jones  
 Divine Juntreal '13  
 Jay Kopstein '68  
 Matthew Lachs  
 Lisa Limbach  
 Maxine Lubner  
 Efrank Montalvo  
 Daniel Pilke '15  
 Jennifer Pye  
 Tamisha Sanders  
 Joseph Sauer  
 Yesenia Suarez '10  
 Christopher Walker  
 Tyler Wendt '15  
 Elaine T. White

## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR THE STUDENT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

Assisting students who, due to unforeseen emergency circumstances, are facing financial hardships, the Student Emergency Assistance Fund helps meet immediate and essential expenses allowing students to focus on their academic coursework. This fund will be used to directly support emergency and ongoing financial needs for undergraduates.

*“Money is hard to come by for every college student in today’s times, but certainly that’s even more true for first-generation students. Our student population is in desperate need of financial assistance which is why giving to the student emergency fund is foremost on my agenda. I want to be able to contribute to the future leaders in the aviation industry and help Vaughn students achieve their dreams!”*

— DOUGLAS J. IZARRA

VICE PRESIDENT AMERICAS SALES (RETIRED), GE AVIATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, VAUGHN COLLEGE

### MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

[www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift](http://www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift).

For more information contact the Annual Fund Office at 718.429.6600, extension 353.





## ATLAS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH DR. SHARON DEVIVO, VAUGHN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

On Tuesday, March 8, the Atlas Air Worldwide Women's Network celebrated International Women's Day by hosting a conversation with Vaughn College President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo.

President and Chief Executive Officer John Dietrich opened up the event by introducing DeVivo and highlighting Atlas' and Vaughn College's long-time partnership and shared commitment to encouraging greater diversity in the field of aviation.

DeVivo has been with Vaughn College since 1996, one of the country's premiere aviation and engineering institutions and ranked number one in the nation in

upward mobility. She is the College's first woman president, a position she has held since 2014.

DeVivo is committed to engaging the workforce of the future. Her work in this area includes an appointment by the US Secretary of Transportation to serve as the chair of the [Youth Access to American Aviation Jobs Task Force](#).

In keeping with the theme of this year's International Women's Day, "Break the Bias," DeVivo discussed the current sense of urgency to improve diversity in aviation. "The last statistic I heard was that women represent a mere four percent of the workforce across all of aviation, and it's even worse for people of color." She continued stating that one major obstacle is a lack of awareness about the different career paths within aviation.

"It feels like we are at a pivotal moment in our industry. It's clear we need to reach students earlier and then provide ongoing touch points to continue educating them about aviation as a potential career. We are somewhat of a mysterious industry, and we need to create a connected, collaborative pathway that may start with a field trip to an airport in elementary school, continue on to an EAA demo flight and then to an open house at a place like Vaughn College. A connected ecosystem that opens up the eyes of young students—and their families—to consider aviation as a career. I think this will help move the needle in bringing greater diversity to the industry," she noted.

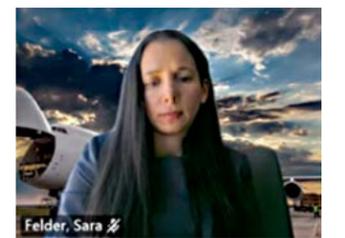
*"Give people permission to make mistakes. Let them know that you've created a safe space for them to share their ideas. That's really helpful, as is reminding them they are not alone. Knowing that other women have gone through—and overcome—the same fear or insecurity can give them the boost they need. Plus, it's a great way to build a foundation of trust and connection."* —DR. SHARON B. DEVIVO

*"One of my key takeaways from Dr. DeVivo is the importance of finding time to connect with our teams. Engaging with our team members and keeping them motivated is the key to a meaningful and productive working relationship."* —LIUDMYLA (MILA) TSILO

As the first female president of the College, she has firsthand experience with breaking bias and smashing stereotypes throughout her career. But it wasn't easy. She admits when she first got "a seat at the table," she was often quiet and "would hope for the best." Finding her voice took time, and it's something DeVivo is committed to encouraging students to do.

"Give people permission to make mistakes," she said in response to a question about how to coach young women professionals lacking the confidence to speak up. "Let them know that you've created a safe space for them to share their ideas. That's really helpful, as is reminding them they are not alone. Knowing that other women have gone through—and overcome—the same fear or insecurity can give them the boost they need. Plus, it's a great way to build a foundation of trust and connection."

Liudmyla (Mila) Tsilo, manager, corporate tax at Atlas, who attended, said she was inspired by the discussion with DeVivo. "One of my key takeaways from Dr. DeVivo is the importance of finding time to connect with our teams," said Mila. "Engaging with our team members and keeping them motivated is the key to a meaningful and productive working relationship."



Karrosue Prince '20, Vaughn alum and quality assurance compliance administrator, added, "I am so fortunate to have attended Vaughn College and had the opportunity to interact directly with DeVivo. She cares so much about her students and takes a very hands-on approach to their development. While I was a student, DeVivo invited me to a Women in Aviation luncheon, where I had the opportunity to meet Lysa Leiponis, former airport manager of LaGuardia Airport. This was a really important moment for me because I realized how far women can go in aviation. DeVivo has always emphasized the importance of women in aviation, and encouraged us to strive for our goals in the industry. Though we are small in numbers in a male-dominated field, we have the ability to make just as much of an impact."



# AVIATION TRAINING INSTITUTE (ATI) Faculty

## THREE INSTRUCTORS, THREE STYLES, ONE LOVE OF TEACHING

Alfredo Calabrese '91, Antoine Deetjen '13 and Carl Lewis all took different paths to Vaughn's Aviation Training Institute (ATI), but all share a love of teaching and have found their own unique approaches.

### ALFREDO CALABRESE

Calabrese was a student at Vaughn when he started "working the ramp" at [United Airlines](#) in '89. Back then, Vaughn was called the College of Aeronautics, and when Alfredo Calabrese got his Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) certificate in '91, he became an aircraft maintenance technician. "I've been at United for 32 years, and now I see students at Vaughn today who start on the ramp at 18 and it reminds me of me!" he said. Calabrese became an adjunct instructor at Vaughn in 2011 and has arranged his schedule to keep teaching and working at United. "I enjoy teaching, and it makes me feel good to share my experience to help students prepare for the industry. And it's important for them to get live exposure to the way industry works."

Calabrese's long connection with Vaughn gives him a special perspective on how the College has changed and progressed since the College of Aeronautics days, with state-of-the-art labs, flight and air traffic control simulators, an additional ATI campus and expanded academic programs that weren't available when he was a student. "At the same time, it enhances the College's training to have instructors who are still in the field and bring real-life experience to the students," he said.

As a first-generation American whose parents immigrated to New York from Italy as adults, Calabrese can relate to challenges many of his students face. "I learned English from 'Sesame Street,' and I know what it's like to have language barriers. Also, my parents didn't know their way around the area and college, and didn't always have answers. If a student brings this up, I tell them I went through that, too. I was fortunate to have an older cousin who became an airline mechanic and had gone to Vaughn, and that helped get me on this path."

Calabrese sees this post-pandemic period and the years ahead as a time of incredible opportunity. "It's not just the gap now; it's also that there's a lot of people like me with a 25-35-year time frame who are going to start retiring. Airlines want to hire people now so that our generation can pass the bar to the next generation."

Speaking of passing the bar to the next generation, Calabrese spoke with pride about one of his students, Emily Mooney, who graduated in December of 2018 with an A&P and associate of occupational science (AOS) degree and was recently promoted to aircraft maintenance supervisor at United. "I was at work on a Saturday morning and was told I'd be introduced to the new supervisor, and suddenly I heard a voice saying, 'Professor Calabrese,' and it was my student, Emily! Now my buddies are calling me 'Professor,' but that's not so bad, right?"

### ANTOINE DEETJEN

His path to Vaughn started with a Rubik's Cube. "I was working in airport security, guarding an airplane, not knowing what I wanted to do with my life," said Deetjen, "and in my downtime, I was playing with a Rubik's Cube. One of the mechanics came by and saw the cube and said, who solved this? He didn't believe me when I said I did, so he messed it up and gave it back to me. I did it again. Then he asked me, why are you wasting your time? You should go to Vaughn College

and get your A&P and be an aviation mechanic! And that's what I did." Deetjen got his A&P license and AOS degree in 2013, studied physics, and got a degree in psychology from Queens College before deciding to pursue his career in aviation maintenance.

In 2017 when Deetjen was working as a mechanic alongside a fellow Vaughn alumus, Pedro Martinez '15, an adjunct instructor in the ATI, Martinez suggested that teaching was something Deetjen should try. Despite some hesitation, Deetjen decided to give it a shot. "I fell in love with teaching instantly, and got great feedback from my students after my second semester, so when Domenic Proscia, the vice president of training and Vaughn alumus, offered me a full-time spot, I was happy to take it. I still love it now."

Deetjen enjoys instructing students on the full curriculum, but said that his favorite lab is reciprocating engines and his favorite lecture is introduction to aviation physics, where his background gives him an in-depth approach. He believes his psychology degree has been very beneficial to his teaching methodology and explained that he had developed his own three-step learning system.

"The first lesson I teach my students in any class is 'How to Learn.' Step one is taking in information, and I make the point that the better organized you keep the information, the easier it is to access it. Step two is repetition, because the more often you repeat an action, the wider the neuropath becomes. And Step three is teaching it back, because you know you've mastered a subject when you can teach it back to someone."

Deetjen makes a point of letting his freshmen students know that he had never handled a tool before he got his A&P certification and that they don't need background experience to become proficient in the field and have almost unlimited career options. "I tell them, with your A&P, you can work for the [MTA](#) (my friend Pedro is an inspector there now), you can work as a roller-coaster mechanic, which is a very high-paying job, you can work in commercial or private aviation, you can go to [SpaceX](#) or [Virgin Galactic](#)—aviation is just one option!"

### CARL LEWIS

He already knew he liked teaching before he came to Vaughn. In 2012, while working at John F. Kennedy International Airport for JetBlue's inflight entertainment company, Live TV (now Thales), Carl Lewis told a colleague how much he had enjoyed teaching part time when he had previously lived and worked in Virginia as an aviation mechanic. "I told my buddy about my experience at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) and how much I'd like to

teach again if I had the opportunity," said Lewis. "He had gone to Vaughn and knew of an opening. I applied, and I've been at Vaughn ever since."

Lewis, who was born and raised in Mount Vernon, NY, got on the aviation path when he was graduating from high school and found out that he qualified as a jet engine mechanic in the military test to join the [United States Air Force](#). "To a 17-year old, that sounded cool!" he said, and went on to serve in the United States Air Force for four years, from 1978 to 1982. Lewis moved to Virginia and worked for 20 years with United Airlines, and then was employed for five years by [Swissport Aircraft Maintenance](#), where he discovered he enjoyed training the company's young mechanics and started teaching part time at the AIM. Soon after returning to New York, he found his way to Vaughn as a full-time instructor, teaching airframe and powerplant, as well as a variety of first-semester classes.

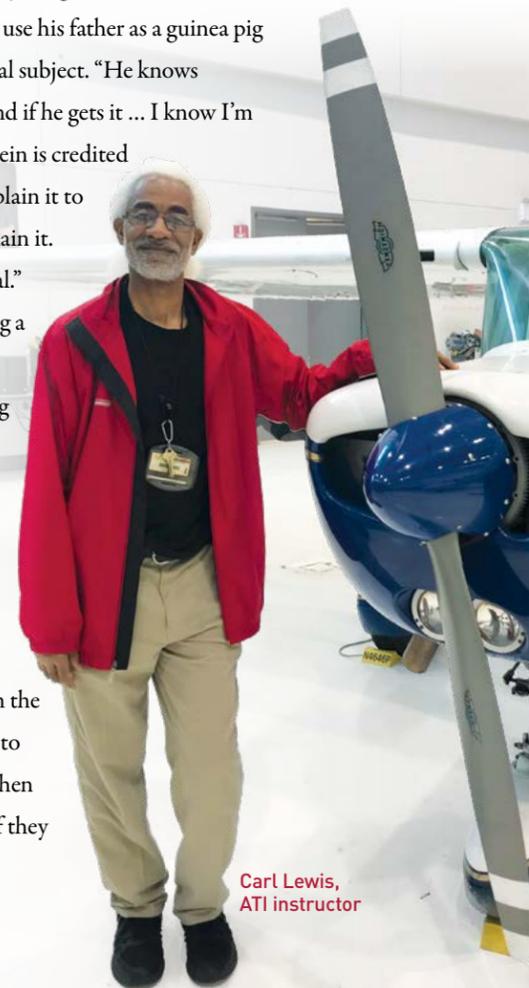
What Lewis finds most rewarding about teaching is being able to take the technical language of textbooks and break it down in a way that is simple and sensible to his students. "I want to prepare the topic and make it so clear, so commonsense that it's almost like we're on a park bench together talking, and they almost don't experience it as studying—but they come away knowing and understanding the subject, and I haven't left anything out," said Lewis.

One of his techniques is to use his father as a guinea pig when he explains a technical subject. "He knows nothing about airplanes, and if he gets it ... I know I'm doing a good job. As Einstein is credited with saying, if you can't explain it to a 6-year-old, you can't explain it. I keep that in mind as a goal."

Lewis also enjoys being a friend and mentor to his students. "Life is happening for them, just like it's happening for me, and I'm glad when they feel comfortable talking to me about their lives. And there's a lot of satisfaction seeing the students go from the uncertainty of starting out to having more confidence when they see they can succeed if they apply themselves."



Left to right: Antoine Deetjen and Alfredo Calabrese, ATI instructors



Carl Lewis, ATI instructor



# TAKING TUTORING TO THE NEXT LEVEL IN THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

Vaughn College takes a hands-on approach to helping students, from guiding them on their first day of attendance, to providing ongoing support of their academics, to helping them embark on a “futureproof” career upon graduation. [The Academic Success Center \(ASC\)](#) is one of the cornerstones of that academic support. It offers a variety of services that complement the education received within the classroom and includes the Math and Writing Center, peer tutoring, supplemental instruction, workshops, advisement and testing. It also provides a welcoming and collaborative area in which to study. Kyle Mercadante, learning specialist, ASC, is a firm believer in the Center and in the power of tutoring. Under their guidance, the Success Center has made strides in tutoring, peer-to-peer support and supplemental instruction to help improve the experience for students.

“Students have become very accustomed to Zoom learning, so the first thing I did was create a single Zoom room for all tutoring. That means that while the room is in session, there is always someone available, making it easier for students to access tutoring help.”

In addition, Mercadante created a D2L Academic Success Center page centralizing all the tutoring resources, supplemental instructors and Math and Writing Center information that students regularly need to access. D2L is Vaughn’s learning management system. In addition to these improvements, Mercadante uses College Reading Learning Association (CRLA) training standards to ensure that every tutor is well prepared to deliver the highest level of teaching value. In fact, tutors who are trained using CRLA standards have established a welcoming environment for all. One student commented to Mercadante that it “didn’t feel like I was talking to a tutor but a classmate or friend.”

These improvements helped increase the number of students accessing the ACS, and the tutoring numbers rose by 45% compared to the previous fall semester. In addition, a post-semester survey indicated that 85% of students who used campus tutoring agreed or strongly agreed that “campus tutoring met my needs to help make a difference in my academic performance.”

“Vaughn students can rely on the fact that they always have academic success support services readily available to support them throughout their academic journey,” remarked Dr. Edgar Trout, associate vice president of academic affairs.



## ▶ BOARD HAPPENINGS



Left to right: Dr. Dave Lovell, University of Maryland, Patty Clark, Dr. Seth Young, The Ohio State University and DY Consultants

### ◀ VAUGHN BOARD MEMBER PATTY CLARK RECEIVES THE FRANCIS MCKELVEY AWARD

The Transportation Research Board’s award is presented to an individual in recognition of their demonstrated commitment to the betterment of the aviation industry. It honors Francis X. McKelvey, PhD., who was actively involved in the organization for over 30 years. Beyond his work in the field of research, he was an educator who encouraged and guided many of his students to pursue careers in the transportation field in general and in the aviation field in particular.

### ▶ PRESIDENT DEVIVO PARTICIPATES IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION BEST PRACTICES AVIATION PANEL

Moderated by Danette Bewley, AAE, president and chief executive officer of the Tucson Airport Authority, the panel discussed recruitment, retention, culture and working with intention during the “Creating Career Pathways for Diverse Airport Leaders” session. The panel members provided takeaways and shared personal stories that demonstrated their commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion in the industry.

In addition to Vaughn College President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, participants included Shannetta Griffin, PE, associate administrator of airports at the Federal Aviation Administration; Jesus Saenz, Jr., IAP, director of airports at San Antonio International Airport; and Chellie Cameron, chief executive officer at Philadelphia International Airport.

“Getting individuals interested in the array of aviation careers needs to start as early as ages 8 to 10,” said DeVivo who is chair of the Department of Transportation Youth in Aviation Access to American Jobs Task Force. “Embracing diversity is one of Vaughn’s core values and also critically important to the success of the aviation industry’s future workforce.”



### ◀ ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP AT VAUGHN

[IEEE Entrepreneurship](#), in partnership with Vaughn College, conducted an on-site, three-day entrepreneurship workshop on sustainable development for college-level STEM students. The workshop ran from June 15 through June 17 and was free to candidates selected for the program based on their technology background and also their strong motivation to become entrepreneurs.

Vaughn board members and entrepreneurs Ken Stauffer ’83 and Dr. Surya Raghu brought the program to Vaughn and ran the workshop. Participants received free student memberships to IEEE.

## ▶ VAUGHN IN BRIEF

### MACARTHUR AIRPORT TOUR



◀ In November students were able to tour the MacArthur Airport courtesy of Shelley LaRose-Arken, commissioner of aviation and transportation at Long Island MacArthur Airport. The event was organized by Vaughn's chapter of American Association of Airport Executives and Vaughn's Air Traffic Control Club.

### WOMEN IN AVIATION CONFERENCE

Welcome to the 33rd International Women in Aviation Conference



▶ The 33rd Annual [Women in Aviation](#) conference was held in March. Several Vaughn students had the opportunity to network, mentor and share the trademark positive energy found at the convention which supports and encourages the advancement of women in all aviation fields and interests.

### NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS CONFERENCE



◀ [The National Society of Black Engineers \(NSBE\)](#) hosted its 48th annual conference in March. Vaughn students enjoyed the opportunity to engage in workshop sessions, career fairs and competitions with other members of NSBE who share a similar passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills.

### ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT



◀ At the VEX U Worlds Competition, Vaughn College's robotics team "VCAT" reached the semifinals and earned the Excellence Award distinction, the highest honor bestowed at a VEX U competition. This award is presented to the team that "best exemplifies overall excellence in building a high-quality robotics program."

▼ The Vaughn College Robotics Club, Coast 2 Coast Robotics and KG CompuTech hosted more than 60 teams from surrounding counties for the [Southern New York Tipping Point State Championship](#) at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, New York in March.

The event provided middle school and high school students with the opportunity to showcase their design skills through project challenges that enhance their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills.

### VAUGHN OPEN HOUSE



◀ More than 130 prospective students and their families filled the William R. DeCota hangar at [Vaughn's spring open house](#) to learn about Vaughn's futureproof degree programs in engineering, technology, management and aviation. Students then toured the campus, residence hall and library in addition to visiting Vaughn's flight and air traffic control simulator labs and engineering labs.

### GRAD FAIR



▶ Vaughn hosted its annual graduation fair in March. Students had the opportunity to buy their cap and gown, take their graduation pictures, purchase class rings and more.



**More than 30 aircraft operations students, set goals and hit milestones in their flight training at Heritage Flight Academy last semester** soloing for the first time, achieving their private pilot license, flight instructor certification and more. Since 2013, [Heritage Flight Academy](http://www.HeritageFlightAcademy.com), located at [MacArthur Airport](http://www.MacArthurAirport.com) on Long Island, has trained hundreds of Vaughn aircraft operations students as part of its Federal Aviation Administration-approved Part 141 training operation. Industry partnerships such as this ensures that Vaughn's curriculum, technology and equipment is the latest and among the best in the US.

## -In Memoriam-

### Roy Schlichtmann

1926-2021

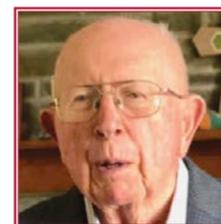


Frederick John Schlichtmann of Media, Pennsylvania, formerly of Northport, New York, died on December 2, 2021 at the age of 95. Schlichtmann was a Vaughn College graduate and had come back to attend the November 2021 Gala.

Schlichtmann was born on Staten Island, New York, and grew up in Brooklyn. Upon graduation from East New York Vocational High School in Brooklyn, he entered the United States Navy. During World War II, he was stationed on Kwajalein Atoll as part of the communications link to American forces in the western Pacific. Returning from the war, he attended the Academy of Aeronautics, now known as Vaughn College. Following graduation, he joined Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation in Bethpage, New York, where he built a career as a tooling and manufacturing engineer. He was particularly proud of his part in building the Apollo Lunar Module and the F-14 Tomcat.

### George E. Capek, PhD

1933-2022



George Capek was born in Manhattan and passed away on April 3 at the age of 89. He graduated from the New York Military Academy, received his bachelor's from CW Post, his master's from New York

University and his doctorate from Columbia Pacific University. Capek worked as a professor of aeronautical engineering at the College of Aeronautics for 40 years.

### Sam Frank

1932-2021



Sam Hager Frank, past president of the College of Aeronautics, now known as Vaughn College, passed away on December 20, 2021. Frank was a distinguished history professor and academician committed to scholarship and learning

alongside the empowering and challenging roles of teaching students, sharing knowledge, and navigating and leading the complicated constituencies of college and university administration. After earning his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from Florida State University and serving in the United States Army, he earned his doctorate from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1961, a launching pad that shaped a lifetime odyssey through and beyond academia.

His career vita includes serving as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Jacksonville University; chancellor at Louisiana State University at Alexandria; president of Wagner College in Staten Island, New York; and dean of the College of Professional Studies at City College of New York.

### Omar Webber

1987-2021



2019 graduate Omar Webber passed away in a car accident on November 1, 2021. He was 34. Webber received his bachelor's degree in aeronautical sciences and was working as a pilot for Tradewinds Aviation.

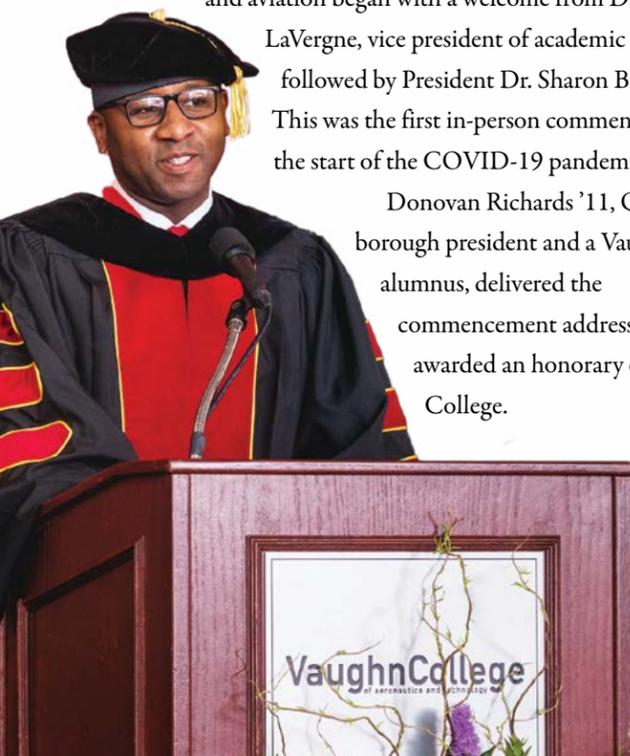


# VAUGHN COLLEGE CELEBRATED THE CLASS OF 2022 AT 90TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

[Vaughn College celebrated its 90th Commencement](#) on Saturday, May 21 in the William R. DeCota Hangar with more than 200 graduates and their families. The conferring of master's, bachelor's and associate degrees in engineering, technology, management and aviation began with a welcome from Dr. Paul LaVergne, vice president of academic affairs

followed by President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo. This was the first in-person commencement since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

Donovan Richards '11, Queens borough president and a Vaughn alumnus, delivered the commencement address and was awarded an honorary degree by the College.



Richards entered politics inspired by a passion to get involved in the community. Prior to becoming president in 2020, Richards previously worked in numerous positions for the city council including being chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection and chair of the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. As Queens borough president, Richards is leading the efforts to revitalize our great borough and make it one which works for all of its residents and workers.

**“MY ADVICE TO ALL OF YOU GRADUATING TODAY IS TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND. UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN IF THE PATH YOUR LIFE TAKES IS NOT THE PATH YOU ENVISIONED, THERE’S POSSIBILITY AND PROMISE AROUND EVERY BEND. I GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PUT THAT VAUGHN DEGREE TO GOOD USE, ESPECIALLY HERE IN QUEENS COUNTY.”**

—DONOVAN RICHARDS '11



Wole Barnarde '22, (pictured left) this year's student speaker, reminded his peers of the challenges and resilience the class of 2022 faced during their time at Vaughn with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barnarde implored his class to never forget to use the skills, knowledge and experiences learned at Vaughn in the future.

President DeVivo (pictured right) closed the commencement ceremony by thanking the graduates for their contributions to the institution and wishing them well in the next chapter of their journey.



“You are now an ambassador for Vaughn, and you can share with others the value of the knowledge you have gained,” said DeVivo. “We look forward to the contributions you will make to the future of this institution.”

## DID YOU MEET YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER AT VAUGHN COLLEGE?

Email [alumni@vaughn.edu](mailto:alumni@vaughn.edu) to tell us your story!

## ► TECH DAY On Friday, May 20

Vaughn College's Engineering and Technology Department held its fourteenth annual [technology day](#) highlighting the department's accomplishments, current programs and anticipated new offerings. Attendees included advisory board members, alumni, students, faculty and industry professionals.



## ► NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

The faculty and staff who are in new positions or joined Vaughn College recently:

### FACULTY:

**Kifle Hagos**  
assistant professor, department of engineering

**Bobby Tang**  
Federal Aviation Administration Grant Coordinator

### STAFF:

**Bryan Arias**  
assistant director of career services, aviation training institute

**Chaundra Daniels**  
director of career services

**Traci Franks**  
associate director of financial aid

**Michael Harrington**  
assistant vice president of human resources

**Mamataz Rubab**  
assistant director of Upward Bound

**Suzette Siranula**  
receptionist, admissions office

**Rosario Sutton**  
assistant director of career services, internship and career services coordinator

**Nikiya Thomas**  
assistant director of STEP from executive assistant, academic success center

**Sarah Tsang**  
director of student success and graduation initiatives from assistant director of student activities and engagement



## REGIONAL AIR CARGO CARRIERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Aircraft Operations major Matt Small '21 (pictured left) received a \$2,500 scholarship from the Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association, an organization that awards scholarships to outstanding students pursuing a career in aviation as a pilot or Federal Aviation Administration-certified aircraft mechanic.



## SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON CELEBRATES DONORS, PARTNERS AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

In early April, more than 80 Vaughn students, alumni, donors and sponsors gathered at the [TWA Hotel](#) at John F. Kennedy International Airport to celebrate the achievements of Vaughn students made possible through supportive donors.

Vaughn President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo discussed the importance of partnerships and scholarships to transform a student's education and career trajectory. Vaughn has a total of 29 named scholarships and a student experience fund to support students. Over the last two years, eight new scholarships have been added, including three that are endowed.

Sadia Harun '21 and Kevin Ferrara '22 received awards from the Laura Taber Barbour Scholarship Fund. This fund awards scholarships to accomplished students who are enrolled in aviation career studies at accredited aviation schools. The students are nominated by their professors and selected by the scholarship committee. Harun, an airport management major, is an aspiring air traffic controller who wants to be the eyes and ears for pilots in the sky and to represent what women in this field can achieve. Ferrara, also an airport management major, is interested in pursuing a career



Left to right: Adjunct professors Loretta Alkalay and the Hon. John Goglia; Management Chair Dr. Maxine Lubner presents award to Sadia Harun '21

in accident investigation at the Federal Aviation Administration or the National Transportation Safety Board.

Representatives from several other scholarships were in attendance, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; United Airlines; The Wings Club; the Kiwanis Club; the JFK Chamber of Commerce; the Susan M. Baer Memorial Scholarship; the Peter Masella Scholarship; and the Daniel Turner Memorial Scholarship.



Left to right: Board Treasurer Mary Ward-Callan, Nicholas Leung '23, Board Chair Peter Vaughn, Board Member Ken Stauffer '83, President DeVivo, Jerrivel Rodriguez '22, Management Chair Dr. Maxine Lubner, Cyan Williams '23

# VAUGHN COLLEGE | GALA | FALL 2021



## FIRST IN-PERSON GALA HELD SINCE 2019

[Vaughn College's 2021 Gala](#) honored Stephen A. Alterman, [Cargo Airlines Association](#) president and chair for the Transportation Security Administration Aviation Security Advisory Committee, for his role as an influential leader in the air cargo industry and his dedicated support of the College at Vaughn's seventh annual gala on Thursday, November 4. The proceeds were used to support student experiences outside the classroom.

"Vaughn is dedicated to enriching the lives of its students and graduates by continually identifying and offering the in-demand programs that industries require while making connections with experts who can benefit our students through their expertise and foresight," said Vaughn College President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo. "We are deeply appreciative of Cargo Airline Association's generous sponsorship and relationship with the College that will support Vaughn students in all programs through internship and career opportunities."

Alterman thanked the College for the honor and noted: "The future of the aviation industry is vitally dependent on educational institutions like Vaughn College. Tomorrow's leaders are at Vaughn today, and everyone at Vaughn should be proud of their contributions that enable both passenger and cargo airlines to fill their job openings with a talented and diverse group of young hires."



Left to right: Vaughn Alumni attend the 2021 Gala; Gala Honoree Alterman and President DeVivo; Hangar transformed; Cargo Airline Association team: Lauren Hyland, Yvette A. Rose, Stephen Alterman and Gina R. Zuckerman

## THE HONORABLE JOHN GOGLIA HONORED AT INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP EVENT



[Vaughn College hosted an event](#) at the TWA Hotel at John F. Kennedy International Airport on April 1 to honor scholarship donors, recipients and their families, and to recognize Vaughn's Adjunct Professor the Honorable John Goglia.

Over the past two years Goglia has received two distinct awards: The Laura Taber Barbour Air Safety (LTBAS) Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 "...for his strong and consistent voice and life-long passionate advocacy for safety in aviation and for unparalleled devotion to mentoring professional excellence of aircraft maintenance technicians," and the National Aeronautic Association Distinguished Statesmen Award 2021 for "...his lifetime of passion and dedication to aviation safety and maintenance, and whose internationally recognized expertise led him to become the first and only Airframe and Powerplant mechanic to receive a presidential appointment to the [National Transportation Safety Board.](#)"