
[FacultyStaff] Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., February 20, 2025

President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>
Reply-To: president.office@fredonia.edu
To: All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>
Cc: Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>

Thu, Feb 20, 2025 at 7:04 PM



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 20, 2025

Dear Students,

Happy Thursday evening! I hope you are all doing well and the first few weeks of this semester have been good! As always, I want to find opportunities to connect with you and provide updates pertaining to our institution. Thank you for the time you make to read my communications to you. Today, I have a few things to share with you.

MLK Observance

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend or participate in any of the activities that were organized to commemorate the Life and Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. This was our second observance, and I was very pleased with the array of activities planned for our campus community. The day of service planned as part of the observance was also very pleasing. There is a special joy that comes about from focusing on the needs of others. I hope that during the college journey of each student at Fredonia, they will have at least one opportunity to engage in community service.



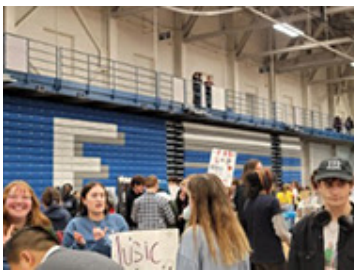
*President Kolison at the MLK Day of Service.
Photo credit Lori Deemer*



Vice Provost, Dr. Judy Horowitz and Dean of the College of Education, Health Sciences, and Human Services, Dr. Janeil Rey

Activities Night

Planners and participants in Activities Night, you did not disappoint! It was another well-orchestrated evening. Activities Night has become one of my favorite events here at Fredonia. It gives me the opportunity to talk with students and learn about extracurricular activities in which they are involved. It is fun to go from table to table to see the many opportunities for student engagement across the university.



Activities Night, Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Advocacy on Behalf of SUNY Fredonia

My advocacy work on behalf of SUNY Fredonia for 2025 began with my visit to Albany on January 27. During my visit to Albany, I attended the Friends of SUNY reception organized by the SUNY Administration and attended by dignitaries including Chancellor John B. King, Jr., Governor Kathy Hochul, Lt. Governor Antonio R. Delgado, the NYS Budget Director Blake G. Washington, several State Senators and Assemblymen, and members of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Chancellor King and his team organized this event all in an effort to build support for funding for SUNY in the 2025-26 budget year. Prior to the

reception, I had the opportunity to visit with Senator George Borrello, Assemblyman Andrew Molitor, and Assemblyman William Conrad (Fredonia Class of 2000). These visits provided me with the opportunity to tell our story and discuss the kind of support we need here on campus. I also used the opportunity to advocate for Governor Hochul's Executive Budget, which I believe will be very beneficial to SUNY Fredonia if it is passed into law in April 2025.



Left to right, President Kolison with George Borrello, NYS Senator, 57th Senate District, William Conrad III, ('00), Assemblyman, District 140, and Andrew Molitor, Assemblyman, District 150

I recognized the important and effective role that students can play in advocacy work when provided the proper preparation. Hence, last year, I indicated to some interested students that I would help facilitate a seminar that would help them to acquire the fundamentals of advocacy work. I have found a very capable individual who is happy to provide such an experience. If you are interested in participating in such a seminar, please send me a note at president.office@fredonia.edu as soon as possible.



The Lanford Presidential Prize

I believe that many of you know that the Lanford Presidential Prize is the highest award the SUNY Fredonia bestows on a graduating senior.

This award is named for the late President Emeritus Oscar Lanford and is from the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment held at the Fredonia College Foundation. Dr. Lanford was the 9th President of SUNY Fredonia (1961-1971) and the award in his name is given to a student from the graduating class who has demonstrated balanced achievement. The recipient is selected by nomination from among those students whose accomplishments exemplify the university's ideals. Criteria for selection include a high degree of personal honesty and integrity, substantial intellectual growth and achievement during university years, a minimum grade point average of 3.80, and exemplary service to Fredonia, including active participation in more than one area of university life.

Students, I am very pleased to announce that this year's Lanford Presidential Prize will be awarded to Ms. Mia R. Piede at commencement. Ms. Piede is a senior double-majoring in Biology and Psychology. She graduated from Dunkirk High School and attended JCC prior to enrolling at Fredonia. She is an outstanding student engaged in a number of activities on campus. After graduating from Fredonia in the Spring, Mia will enroll at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to pursue an M.D. I am so proud of Mia. Please join me in extending congratulations to her. I also want to extend my thanks to all the faculty and staff members across our university who have worked with Mia throughout her Fredonia educational journey.

Pink the Rink

I want to give a shout-out to the Fredonia Hockey team, their coaching staff, and the Department of Athletics for hosting the 16th Pink the Rink.



For 16 years, this event has drawn hundreds of community members to our campus and raised more than \$120,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society. This is among the exemplary ways that students, faculty, staff, and supporters of SUNY Fredonia help to improve the human condition.



That's what I had to share with you this Thursday evening. I heard that Dunkirk Dave predicted an early spring for 2025. I think we can all appreciate that, given the amount of snowfall we have had this winter.

Stay warm.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.

President and Professor