



**SUNY Online Teaching Ambassadors Recognition**  
**2024**

<https://bit.ly/SUNYambassadors2024>



# Program Overview





## SUNY Online Teaching Ambassadors

- are outstanding SUNY online instructors and champions of online teaching & learning
- are nominated by their SUNY institution
- have the opportunity to engage in the SUNY Online Community of Practice in a variety of ways



## Community Engagement

Create a video overview of a teaching strategy for the SUNY Online YouTube channel.

Guest author a blog post on the Online Teaching Hub.

Volunteer as a SUNY Online Mentor.

Develop and share discipline-specific resources.

Lead a webinar.

Design a resource to share with the SUNY Online Community.



**385 SUNY Online Teaching Ambassadors  
representing 46 campuses  
over the past 9 years!**



**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



## 2024 Ambassador Cohort by the Numbers

36

Ambassador  
nominations

2

Health-related  
fields

2

Social/Behavioral/  
Social Justice

6

Humanities/  
Language/  
Communications

5

Business-related  
fields

20

Campuses

3

Computer  
Science/  
Mathematics

6

Science fields

6

Art-related fields

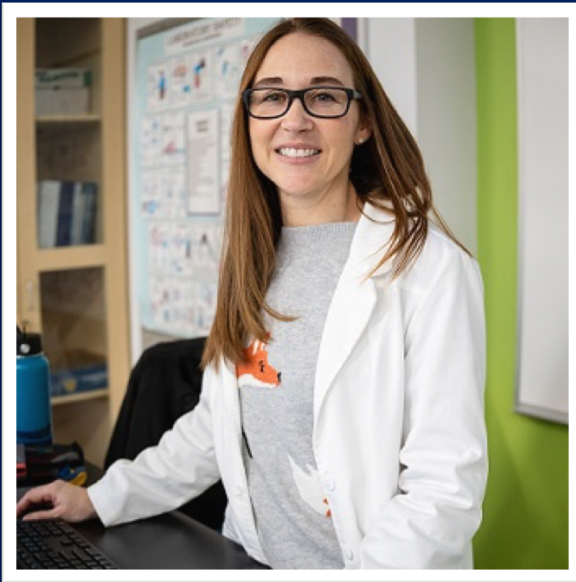
6

Education



# Presentation of the 2024 SUNY Online Teaching Ambassadors

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Doris Ostrander*

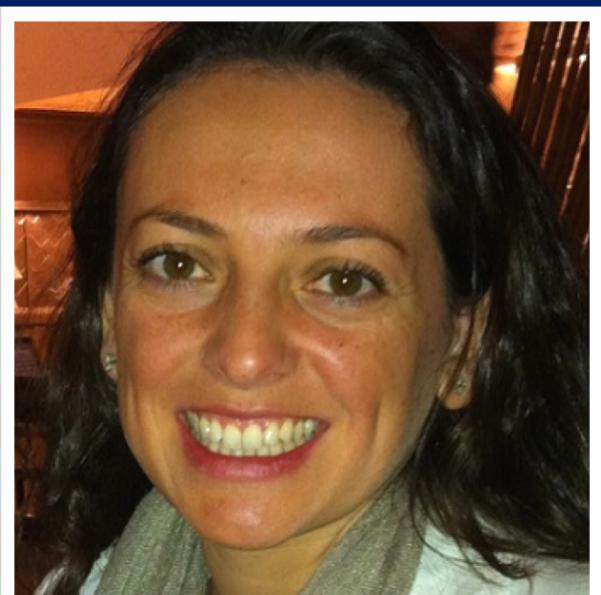


## Amy Macaluso

Biology/Science

*“Dr. Macaluso is always striving to improve her online classes and her students’ learning experience. She was the only SUNY Adirondack faculty member to participate in our Brightspace pilot semester. She developed and delivered several of our Brightspace workshops for faculty. Dr Macaluso is always willing to go the extra mile for her students and to help support her colleagues.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Doris Ostrander*



## Adriana Umaña Hossman

Foreign Language (Spanish)/Arts, Media and Culture

*"Dr. Umaña has incorporated images, VoiceThread, an OER textbook, and her own content into her online Spanish courses to create a rich and engaging learning experience for students."*



*Nominated by: Ron Good*



## Garth Grantier

Chemistry

*"Garth's online courses are well organized and show a strong attention to detail. His courses are an appropriate mix of professional third-party textbook content mixed with his own self-created material. Garth was one of the first teachers to attend workshops on using the new Brightspace LMS. His students had the experience of a "well-oiled course" even in the first semester of a brand-new technology."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Meghan Pereira*



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

## Kelly Frothingham

Geography

*"Dr. Frothingham is a strong advocate for quality online/hybrid courses. She created a detailed plan for faculty to obtain credentials for teaching online/hybrid and participate in the online course design review process using OSCQR. Since becoming associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences in 2018 and now Dean, 123 faculty have credentials to teach online, 28 courses have met all OSCQR standards and 27 courses are currently participating in an OSCQR review."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Meghan Pereira*



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

## Gary Solar

Geosciences

*"It is obvious that Dr. Solar values his students. He incorporates multiple means of representation with the course content allowing students to sort through data, images of earth materials and terranes, and diagrams. He also incorporates instructor presence throughout the course and humanizes the online environment. His "voice" is present throughout the course, helping to guide students as they interact with the content and engage with learning activities. Dr. Solar is also an enthusiast about the course design review process."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Jeanne Myers*



## Charles Lindsey

Marketing

*"Dr. Charles Lindsey has been a significant contributor to the online teaching and learning initiatives with the UB School of Management. Not only has he modeled good online teaching, course design and contributed his expertise to the formation of both a hybrid and fully online MBA program; but he selflessly assists others in their efforts to deliver high-quality online learning experiences."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Jennifer Rosenberg*

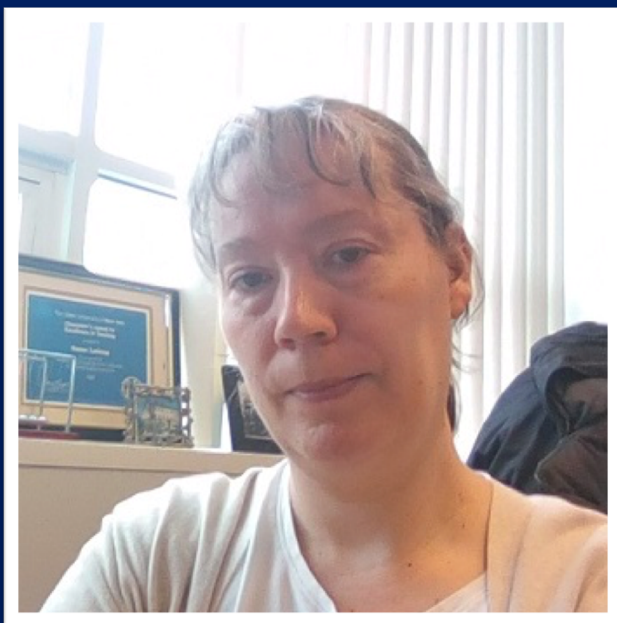


## Carrie Hoefer

Pharmaceutical Sciences

*"Carrie comes to UB with a plethora of knowledge in the online environment as someone who has previously opened two successful programs in the Pharmacy space. She has also adapted several courses for our newly approved online microcredentials. She volunteers a lot of her time into the Educational Design Collaborative and UB TaLCK groups that address numerous online difficulties."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Chrisie Mitchell*

**DUTCHESS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Renee Lathrop

Physical Sciences

*“Renee has worked tirelessly to create a welcoming and interactive culture in her online classes through the pandemic and beyond by scheduling check-ins with her students over Zoom or even in person if the student wants. She did this because she found that it was extremely easy to just fade away in online classes and she wanted to make sure her online students had the best experience possible, just like her face to face students.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Chrisie Mitchell*

**DUTCHESS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Michael Boden

History, Government & Economics

*"Mike's organizational and structural skills create an environment for his students where they always know what they should be doing next and where they stand, but also that he is available and willing at any time to help them out. He has enthusiastically embraced any new technology that has come along and has been an ambassador for Brightspace in his department, even helping fellow faculty with the conversion."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Christine Paige*



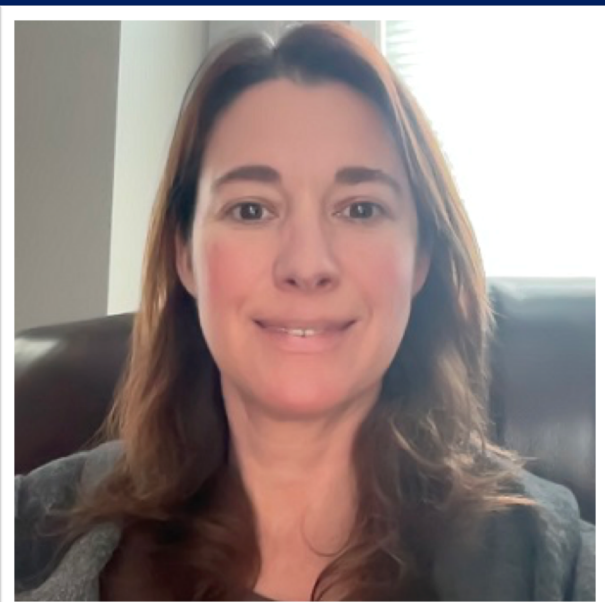
**EMPIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

## Tom Mackey

School of Arts and Humanities

*"As a leader of the Metaliteracy Learning Collaborative, Tom has a reflective, empowering, and self-directed approach to teaching and learning. He is an exemplary instructor in the online learning environment because he possesses a combination of skills, qualities, and practices that contribute to effective and engaging virtual education."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Christine Paige*



**EMPIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

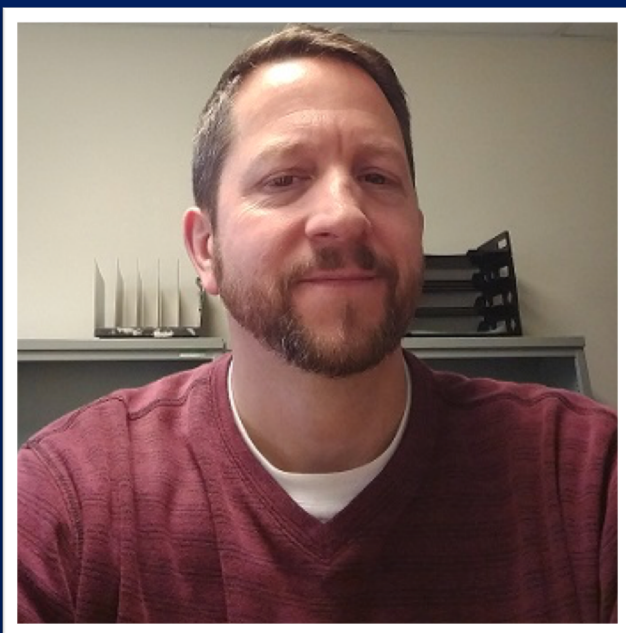
## Karin FitzGerald

Human Development

*"While relatively new at it, Karin excels in her role as Academic Coordinator. She keeps a large number of courses organized and updated and is responsive to faculty needs while also supporting Empire Online in our charge to optimize course quality. She understands and applies effective online teaching strategies and pedagogical techniques to the courses in her area."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Brandi So, Maya Benz and Kathy Mitra*

**Farmingdale  
State College**  
State University of New York

## Douglas Gallaway

History, Politics & Geography

*"Besides the many students who've benefited from his tireless efforts as an online educator, Farmingdale State College is indebted to Doug for his years-long service on the Distance Learning Advisory Council and ongoing contributions to the Online Education Task Force. Dr. Gallaway's contagious enthusiasm and incredible work ethic are hallmarks of his career at FSC. He inspires us every day to keep growing in our mission and vision for supporting student success."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Brandi So, Maya Benz and Kathy Mitra*

**Farmingdale  
State College**  
State University of New York

## Meeghan Rogers

Business Management

*"We treasure Meeghan for her many gifts as a teacher and for her service at the college on behalf of online learners. Professor Rogers's ability to create an authentic presence in any modality is one of her many super-powers, which she readily shares as a mentor and advocate for distance learning at Farmingdale."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Jeff Dugan*



## Delia Ackerman

American Sign Language/Humanities

*"Delia brings a contagious passion for ASL to her online classroom. Her interactive teaching methods, incorporating creative and high quality video instruction, foster a vibrant learning environment where students of all levels thrive. Delia's unique skill lies in creating a sense of immersion even from a distance. Beyond online design proficiency, Delia cultivates a deep respect for ASL culture and its impact on communication, inspiring her students to become not just skilled signers but also cultural ambassadors."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Jeff Dugan*



## Jamie Rotter

Culinary/Business

*“Jamie's dedication to high-quality online instruction is truly inspiring. He creates an engaging online experience for his students, using detailed instructions, interactive discussions, and a unique presence. He goes beyond basic instruction and design, incorporating his own experience with business management and food science concepts, preparing his students for both personal and professional success in the culinary world.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Tamara Cupples*



## David Drogin

History of Art

*“Professor Drogin is dedicated to excellence in online teaching and works tirelessly to make his online courses effective and dynamic. He is always thoughtful about new ways to deal with challenges such as AI or students adapting to a new learning management system.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Judith Littlejohn*

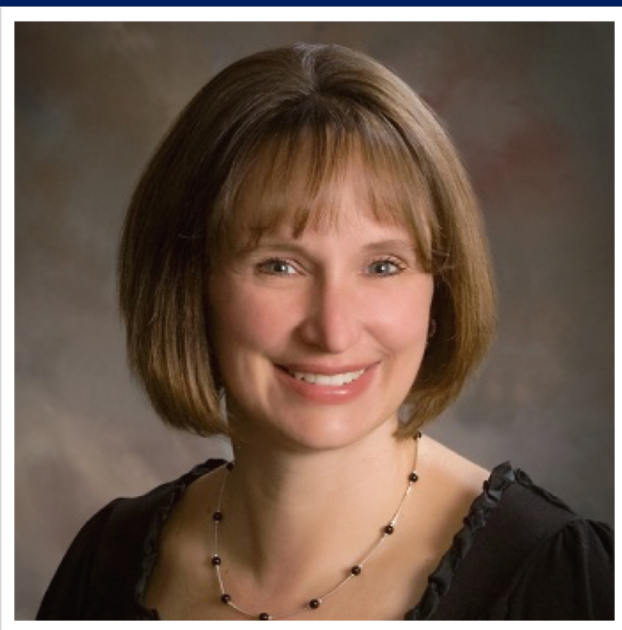


## Donna McGrew

Business Logistics

*"Donna McGrew is an exemplary, student-focused online instructor who is always willing to teach the Supply Chain courses we need online and engages in faculty development at every opportunity."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Judith Littlejohn*



## Karen Wicka

Criminal Justice

*"Karen Wicka is an outstanding online instructor who willingly teaches in any modality needed and regularly assists adjuncts and new faculty members with course materials. Karen also engages with SUNY opportunities to learn about new technologies, and runs the College's Honors Program."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Elissa Baker*



## Heather Chase

Computer Science & Mathematics

*"Heather boasts a wealth of experience as an esteemed online instructor at HVCC, where she has dedicated several years to fostering a dynamic learning environment. In addition to her role as an online faculty mentor, Heather has consistently crafted conscientious and student-centered courses across various disciplines."*





*Nominated by: Elissa Baker*

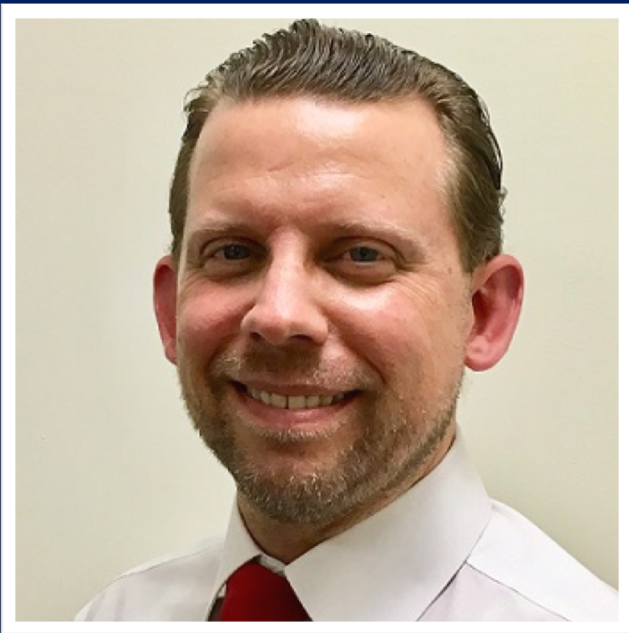


## Scott Bianco

Computer Science & Mathematics

*"Scott showcases his passion for technology by employing innovative methods to captivate students in the realm of mathematics through student-centric asynchronous online math courses. These courses are enriched and interactive with the seamless integration of OER and the utilization of Brightspace tools and features. Scott actively shares his wealth of knowledge and expertise with others throughout the college."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Andrea Gilbert*



**Monroe Community College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## Michael Weingart

World Languages & Culture

*"Michael teaches American Sign Language (ASL) courses online and has recently gone through the SUNY CPD Online Teaching Certification Course to update his course using Brightspace. His course is well designed, organized, and has so many videos to support students and provide students with a great learning experience. He is always looking for new ideas to improve his practice."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Andrea Gilbert*



**Monroe Community College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## Brigitte Martineau

Mathematics

*"Brigitte has been an enthusiastic supporter of online learning. She was one of our pilot faculty in Brightspace in 2022. She has utilized parts of Brightspace that make her course well organized and engaging for students. She most recently opened her course for students that are in juvenile detention centers and worked hard to figure out ways to communicate and support students that are in restricted environments."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Rich McElrath*



## Steve Raleigh

Music

*"Steve takes his students on a journey starting with the World Before Rock all the way through Indie Music utilizing multimedia-rich lectures that include genre samples, illustrations, and more. Professor Raleigh does all this with best practices of OSCQR in mind and delivers a consistent easy to navigate course, complete with orientation resources and onboarding materials, all with a passion for his subject matter."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Donna Simiele*



## Glory Fox

Education/Humanities

*“Glory is an exceptionally hardworking individual, consistently going above and beyond to ensure the success and engagement of her students. She invests time and effort in building meaningful connections with each learner, understanding their unique needs, and fostering a supportive and inclusive online community. She meticulously structures her classes to accommodate different learning styles, ensuring that no student is left behind.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Donna Simiele*

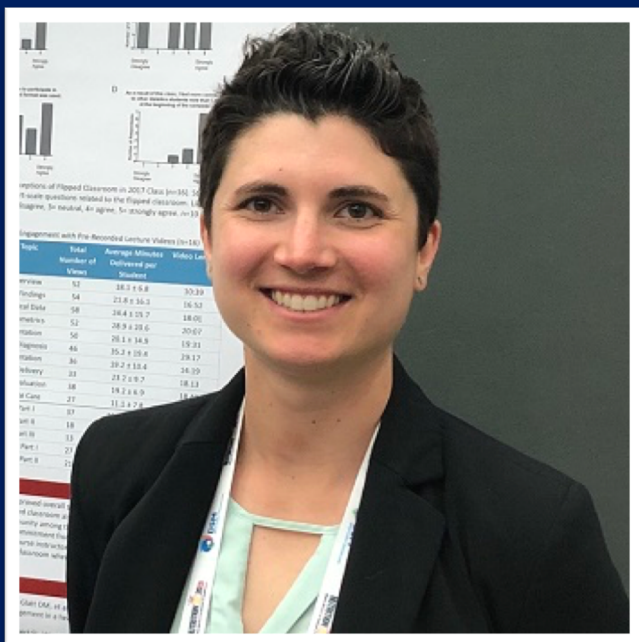


## Julianne Masocco

### Education

*“Julianne demonstrates exceptional dedication to her students and a commendable commitment to enhancing the online learning experience. Her proactive approach to building connections is evident in her efforts to establish rapport, particularly with second-year students who transitioned from one instructor to another mid-program. She strives to ensure her students receive the most effective and versatile learning experiences.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Nominated by: Ed Beck

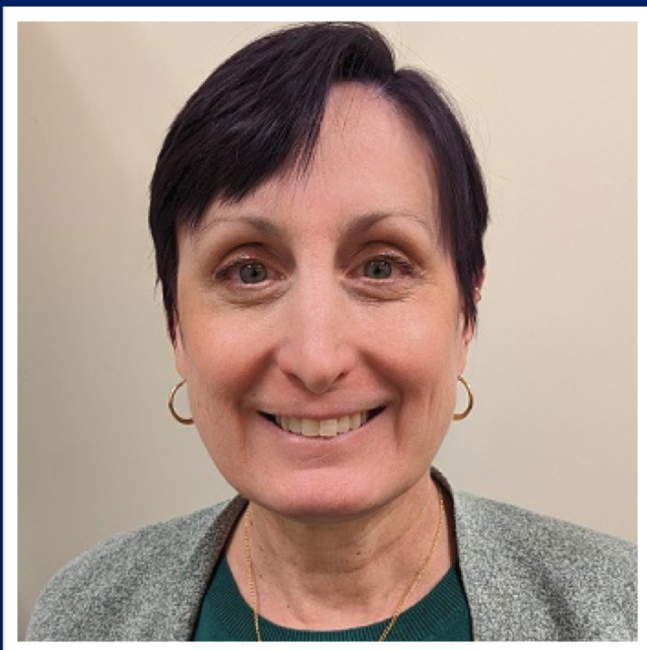
**SUNY  
ONEONTA**

## Emily Riddle

Food and Nutrition

*“Dr. Riddle is well known for her excellence in teaching, and I have been particularly impressed with her ability to work with students on their capstone projects. One impressive project she led was mentoring students that were creating a nutrition course for the external audience of Law Enforcement Personnel. She mentored students through the creation of content, building interactives with H5P, and creating a full online course for that external audience.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Ed Beck*

**SUNY  
ONEONTA**

## Kirsten Robbins

### Education

*“Dr. Robbins has immediately impressed her colleagues with the way she integrates multiple technologies into her online courses, inviting students to create videos, interactive presentations, and her ability to craft assignments which give the students space to determine the final outputs while holding them to the same high standards.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Michael Phillips*



## Robert Hinckley

Politics

*"Rob has taught engaging online courses for more than ten years and has recently lead the development of our first undergraduate Distance Learning Program (Politics). He collaborated with colleagues to identify tools and content that could be scaffolded into an integrated program that would help students deepen their understand of politics and government."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Michael Phillips*



## Laura Carbone

Advanced Studies in Education

*"Laura has developed and delivered exceptional online courses that are essential for our Inclusive & Special Education CAS, and our Special Education MSED distance learning programs. All of her courses are centered around building and sustaining professional learning communities, applying UDL concepts, and Constructivist Design, giving students optimal learning opportunities and promoting synthesis and application of best practices in educational research and strategies."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Sukbin Song*



## Patricia Szobonya

Paralegal Studies

*"Professor Szobonya does a wonderful job utilizing her prior experience as a successful attorney when she teaches our paralegal students. She helps them learn about the law in innovative ways that help prepare them for paralegal jobs."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Sukbin Song*



## Egbert “Bert” Shillingford

Sports Management

*“Dr. Shillingford teaches Sports Management, and Sports Facility and Event Management classes online. He utilizes his prior knowledge as a former athletic director at a large, four-year college and combines it with his experience in teaching and management to help educate his students and ensure they enjoy learning.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Peter Diplock*



## Thomas McDonald

Higher Education Administration

*"Tom is one of our most dedicated faculty. He reaches out when there are students of concern in his classes and truly cares about their well-being and success. Tom proactively gets his online materials ready for each semester, communicates regularly with students, and actively participates in each course. He is also very quick to respond to student questions and provides high quality, timely feedback to students on their written assignments."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Peter Diplock*



## Ken Forman

Educational Leadership

*"Dr. Forman is truly dedicated to the success of his students. Throughout his course, students have the opportunity to learn and apply new strategies, problem-solve, collaborate, and engage in ongoing conversations. Dr. Forman's course allows students to apply personal experiences to newly learned strategies. Dr. Forman is personable, understanding, accessible, and communicative."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





*Nominated by: Rick Shelton*



**SUNY POLY**

## Zhanjie Li

Engineering

*“Dr, Li works diligently to improve and design multiple online courses. He works closely with the campus instructional designers to ensure the courses meet the OSCQR standards. He exhibits attention to detail and has a passion for his courses.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Anne Miller*



**SUNY SULLIVAN**

## Kathena DeGrassi

Liberal Arts

*"Kathena has been teaching online for years and has some of the highest-rated feedback from students. Her courses are organized, effective and keenly aware of the fundamental pedagogical differences between face-to-face and online distance teaching. She is also a member of the Online Advisory Committee, which seeks to advance online learning at SUNY Sullivan."*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



*Nominated by: Anne Miller*



**SUNY SULLIVAN**

## **Dani Weber**

Liberal Arts

*“Dani has worked tirelessly to advance our use of technology and the LMS for not only her teaching but also for campus and program assessment. She created and taught the first HyFlex course at SUNY Sullivan; she is a member of the Online Advisory Committee, where she is working to train other faculty in offering successful HyFlex courses and to leverage the LMS for robust assessment.”*

**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



# Congratulations!

## 2024 Online Teaching Ambassadors



**SUNY** THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK





Learn More and Meet the Ambassadors:  
<https://bit.ly/SUNYambassadors2024>

