



# Gabriel J. Basil

President – Schenectady County  
Community College



**Success Magazine: How do you define success?**

*Gabriel Basil: I would define success as meeting your goals and setting new ones.*

**SM: Why is education important to you?**

GB: Education is the key to success in career, citizenship, family and lifelong learning.

**SM: How has your own education prepared you for a successful career?**

GB: Each degree provided not only increased knowledge and experience, but also the key to the next step in my career ladder.

**SM: Why did you choose to go into higher education administration?**

GB: I wanted to play a leadership role in higher education and to be an effective communicator with students, faculty and the community.

**SM: Why did you choose Schenectady Community College as opposed to another institution?**

GB: I chose the community college because of its mission (accessible, innovative, community-oriented and centered on student learning) and Schenectady because of this opportunity and the location (family).

**SM: How has your past work experience built a foundation for your position as President of SCCC?**

GB: My work as a computer scientist, teacher of mathematics, and Academic Dean all played a significant role in my leadership style and capabilities.

**SM: What are your goals for the future of SCCC?**

GB: I would like to see enrollment growth and diversity via student housing implementation, as well as local, regional and statewide recognition for program effectiveness.

**SM: What advice would you give to a student considering attending SCCC?**

GB: SCCC is an institution where student learning is the highest priority in your chosen field of study.

**SM: SCCC has recently been awarded \$39.3 million from the state budget. What does that funding include?**

GB: It includes our Master Plan covering facility needs and projections for the next five years.

**SM: You will need to match that in order to get the projects underway. How are you planning to raise those funds?**

GB: The matching funds must be locally based and include support from the County, Metroplex, the SCCC Foundation (fundraising), as well as individual/business donations.

**SM: What are your plans for the renovation/expansion?**

GB: It includes a walkway and expansion across Washington Avenue (a business center, the Armory), infrastructure/HVAC work, athletic fields, and renovations.

**SM: Angelo Mazzone is obviously an alumnus of your college. To what do you attribute his success?**

GB: He is committed to customer service and has a willingness to take a risk. He is also committed to hiring the most effective employees.

**SM: What are the some of the most popular programs that SCCC offers?**

GB: Culinary Arts, Music, Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Liberal Arts and Science, Teacher Education, Computer Information Systems, Aviation Science, Human Services

**SM: How many students are full time? How many are part time?**

GB: In our full-time program, we currently have 2,100 students. The enrollment of our part-time program right now is 2,700 students.

**SM: It is a mission of the college to provide affordable and accessible education. What are some of the programs that you have in place to help students (who may not otherwise be able) to obtain an education?**

GB: Our Developmental Studies Department features a variety of courses to prepare students for college-level work. We offer many support services including tutoring, counseling, financial aid, GED courses, and workforce training.

**SM: What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

GB: I am proud of the recognition by alumni and the community that SCCC is effective in meeting its mission.

**SM: In 2001 you joined the Labor Department to help the education system better meet the needs of area business. Is this collaboration still in effect, and how have programs at SCCC changed accordingly?**

GB: New program development is highly dependent on community/business partnerships.

**SM: Why do you believe that SCCC is a good option for students looking to secure a successful future?**

GB: At SCCC we are committed to meeting student goals (transfer, employment, enjoyment, upward mobility, specified learning/training).

**SM: How have your goals for the college changed since you were first named President?**

GB: The goals have shifted from program development, enrollment increases, and image enhancement to program enrichment, enrollment expansion/diversity, and maintenance of a quality image.

**SM: What do you want people to know about SCCC?**

GB: SCCC is truly a great place to learn and to meet your educational goals.

# Schenectady County Community College – Education That Works

At Schenectady County Community College, one of 30 community colleges in the State University of New York system, you'll get an Education That Works.

Over 13,660 students have graduated from SCCC and thousands more have taken courses at the College.

## NEWS FLASH

### NEW CULINARY ARTS ADDITION

Work is finished on a new \$6.3 million Culinary Arts Addition which includes two new labs, a new gourmet dining room (Casola Dining Room), a dedicated kitchen for the dining room, and a seminar room. The Addition will allow SCCC to welcome even more students in the College's popular Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism courses.

### SCCC NOW OFFERS INTERCOLLEGIATE WOMEN'S CREW

SCCC is one of only two community colleges in the United States to offer Women's Crew as an intercollegiate sport. The new team is an excellent opportunity for rowers from high school who are interested in continuing their sport at the college level.

### SCCC NANOSCALE MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM PERFECT FIT FOR TECH VALLEY

SCCC is now preparing students for employment as highly qualified technicians in the emerging semiconductor and superconductor manufacturing and research and development field. The SCCC Nanoscale Materials Technology A.A.S. program is a perfect fit with New York's Tech Valley as cutting-edge companies (nanotech, information tech, biotech, and superconductor) move into the Capital Region. The Nanoscale Materials Technology program is part of a joint venture with SuperPower and Union College. SCCC received a \$1 million grant from the New York State Senate to renovate two laboratories for physics/electronics and vacuum science, and to purchase an atomic force microscope, as well as optical microscopes, computers, and software.

### DEGREE PROGRAM IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPARES FOR CRITICAL SITUATIONS

Students interested in careers in homeland security and public safety can enroll in the College's A.A.S. degree program in Emergency Management. The program addresses the organization, coordination and integration of first responders, deals with their preparation to understand, analyze and manage critical situations, and augments the Criminal Justice and Fire Protection Technology programs, as well as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses.

### SCCC CONTINUES TO SERVE OUR STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY

• SCCC has over 4,500 students. SCCC offers over 40 transfer degree, career degree, and certificate programs which include Accounting, Aviation Science, Business Administration, Chemical Dependency Counseling, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Drama, Early Childhood, Electrical Technology, Emergency Management, Fire Protection Technology, Health Studies, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Human Services, Liberal Arts: Humanities/Social Sciences, Mathematics/Science, Music,

### NANOSCALE MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY, PARALEGAL, SCIENCE, TEACHER EDUCATION TRANSFER, TEACHING ASSISTANT, TOURISM, AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT.

• SCCC is one of 30 community colleges in the SUNY system. Our relationship with SUNY entitles our students with A.A. or A.S. degrees guaranteed admission to a SUNY senior college. We also have transfer agreements with over 30 institutions.

• SCCC is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education. The College is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music. Our Paralegal program is approved by the American Bar Association; Business programs are accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs; and the Culinary Arts A.O.S. degree program is approved by the American Culinary Federation Accrediting Commission. The Culinary Arts Baking Concentration is approved by the Retailer's Bakery Association.

• SCCC has intern partnerships with over 80 organizations and businesses where students work with professionals in their chosen field. These include Walt Disney World, the Kentucky Derby, the New York State Senate, Site Solutions Worldwide, Schenectady Community Action Program, the Chamber of Schenectady County, and Bethesda House.

• The College offers over 30 online courses through ANGEL, the College's online course management system.

• Students have greatly benefited from the successful partnership between SCCC and SUNY Delhi which allows SCCC graduates to take all courses on the SCCC campus in two Delhi programs: (1) Hospitality Management B.B.A. degree with concentrations in Travel/Tourism and Hotel/Resort Management and (2) the Business and Technology Management B.B.A. degree. The two colleges are also collaborating on developing additional Bachelor's degree programs to expand the baccalaureate options available at SCCC.

• The College is an active partner with area high schools through Tech-Prep programs, University in the High School courses, distance learning, and transfer agreements to assist students in making a smooth transition to SCCC and other colleges and universities.

• Partnerships with local business, industry, and other organizations provide ongoing employee training, and customized programs to meet a variety of individual needs.

### THOUGHTS FROM SCCC STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

"After I finish taking classes at Schenectady County Community College I plan on going to a four-year Liberal Arts institution. I'm so well prepared for future college endeavors."

– LIZ WINGFIELD, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

"From going solo to going on cross-country flights with our instructors, right now I have just about 100 hours (of flight time). The whole experience is absolutely amazing."

– NICHOLAS LIGON, AVIATION SCIENCE, A.S. MAJOR

"I chose SCCC because I knew it had one of the best music programs in upstate New York. The faculty are amazing. They're always energetic and ready to teach."

– KENDRA JONES '08, PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC, A.S.

"The courses I took in Visual Basic and C++ are very helpful when we need to make adjustments in some of our inspection systems."

– GEORGE SCHWAB '05, COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS, A.A.S., QUALITY CONTROL PROCESS TECHNICIAN AT SUPERPOWER INC.

"I heard SCCC was a nice, small campus. The professors get into conversations with you. They allow you to debate them. They love it when you interact. They're open to you going to visit them."

– JONATHAN LAJAS, LIBERAL ARTS: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, A.A.