



November 24, 2020

To the SUNY Poly Community:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his Morehouse College student newspaper, once wrote, “Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” While reflecting on my two-and-a-half years as Interim President of SUNY Polytechnic Institute, I am struck by the remarkable character of each student, faculty, and staff member that makes SUNY Poly more than just a place to attain a degree and conduct research.

During my time here, we have demonstrated that hands-on degree preparation, breakthrough innovations, and long-term partnerships flourish when there is unified purpose among focused, driven individuals like you catalyzing the future.

Now, as my tenure here concludes, I am honored to have served at SUNY Poly during this remarkable time of progress. Great opportunities appear on the horizon because of our hard work and collective efforts:

- In the face of a global pandemic, we boldly enacted a robust plan to protect the health of everyone on campus. Working together, we achieved high levels of compliance—mitigating viral transmission and providing in-person and hybrid academic and research opportunities.
- SUNY Poly’s [rankings by U.S. News & World Report](#) continue to soar, ranking in the top five for “Best Value Colleges” for Regional Universities-North, 2nd in “Top Public Schools” Regional Universities-North, 12th in “Best Regional Universities-North,” and 5th for “Best Colleges for Veterans.” MSN Money also highlighted [Stacker’s ranking of SUNY Poly](#) as being in the top 100 of “Public colleges with the best return on investment.”
- The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) [awarded SUNY Poly](#) reaccreditation for its College of Business Management programs. In 2020, SUNY Poly was proud to announce our new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, the first practice doctorate program based at our Utica campus.
- Cree, Inc., announced a \$1 Billion private-public [partnership with SUNY Poly](#) through the construction of a state-of-the-art silicon carbide wafer manufacturing facility at the Marcy Nanocenter. Cree is investing \$3.5 million into SUNY Poly through its Cree | Wolfspeed STEM scholarship program and two endowed faculty chair positions.
- SUNY Poly, Oneida County, the Air Force Research Laboratory—Information Directorate and Griffiss Institute have partnered to create the \$12 million [Open Innovation Campus research center](#). SUNY Poly will be a force behind the research and development of next-generation Quantum Information Science as the top minds



in government, academia, and industry partner to solve complex problems and advance research frontiers.

- SUNY Poly has made obtaining both baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees easier through increased online distance learning opportunities and partnerships with multiple institutions, including SUNY Upstate Medical University, Rome Memorial Hospital, Mohawk Valley Community College, Herkimer County Community College, and Schenectady County Community College.
- SUNY Poly's newest residence hall, [Hilltop Hall](#), opened this fall and is the first-ever zero-net, carbon-certified new building on a SUNY campus. Importantly, Hilltop Hall will use an amount of energy equal to or less than it can produce on-site through renewable resources.

During a most challenging time in this nation's history, facing a global pandemic and social injustice, we have seen how collective action can spur better outcomes for our faculty, students, and staff, as well as our larger community. In the midst of historic social change, the rapid pace of technological development, and uncertainty along a number of fronts, we have learned that just as Martin Luther King, Jr., dreamed of hope for the future, so too can we be the force for positive change.

We are students, researchers, innovators, and members of our community who have the knowledge and fortitude to make a difference in each other's lives—and the lives of those around us. This is SUNY Poly's story, and as we look forward to Thanksgiving, I am most grateful to have been a part of it.

As my tenure comes to an end, new heights for SUNY Poly are emerging. Best wishes to you and SUNY Poly for the best future possible.

With My Sincere Gratitude,

Dr. Grace Wang
Interim President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute