



JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

Onondaga County Legislature

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DEBRA J. CODY, CHAIR
COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

JOINT MEETING OF THE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AND COUNTY FACILITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 22, 2025

WAYS & MEANS MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Romeo, Ms. Hernandez,
Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

COUNTY FACILITIES MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Knapp, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hernandez
ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Ms. Fiato, Mr. McCarron; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:49 a.m.

1. **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Dr. Warren Hilton, President
 - a. **INFORMATIONAL:** Adoption of Annual Budget for Onondaga Community College for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026, and Authorizing the County Executive to Enter into Contracts With Other Governmental Units in Which Appropriations and Revenues are Approved by the Adoption of the 2026 Budget
 - b. **INFORMATIONAL:** A Resolution Authorizing Information and Technology Upgrades at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$4,500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,250,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$2,250,000)
 - c. **INFORMATIONAL:** A Resolution Authorizing Renovations and Upgrades to Buildings at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,750,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$875,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$875,000)
 - d. **INFORMATIONAL:** A Resolution Authorizing Renovations to the Gordon Student Center at Onondaga Community College in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Total Maximum Estimated Cost of \$22,500,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$11,250,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Part of the Costs Thereof (\$11,250,000)

(2025-2026 Onondaga Community College Tentative Budget on file with the Clerk)

Onondaga Community College Budget Presentation to the Joint Meeting of the Facilities and Ways & Means Committee May 22, 2025



**Onondaga County Legislature
Facilities Committee
Visit to OCC
April 15, 2025
New Micron freight elevator**



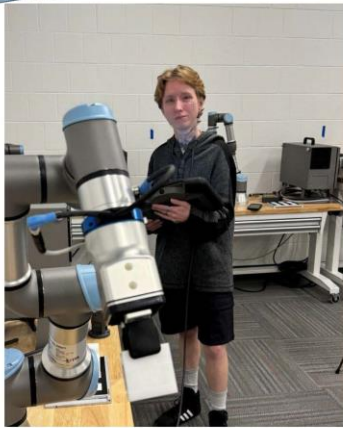
**Helping students
achieve their
dreams helps our
County thrive.**

*Anthony Mancini '24
Humanities & Social Sciences*



**Helping students
achieve their
dreams helps our
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*RJ Tinsley '25
Electromechanical Technology*



**Helping students
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*Dio Brown '25
Electromechanical Technology*

OCC Proposed Budget 2025-2026

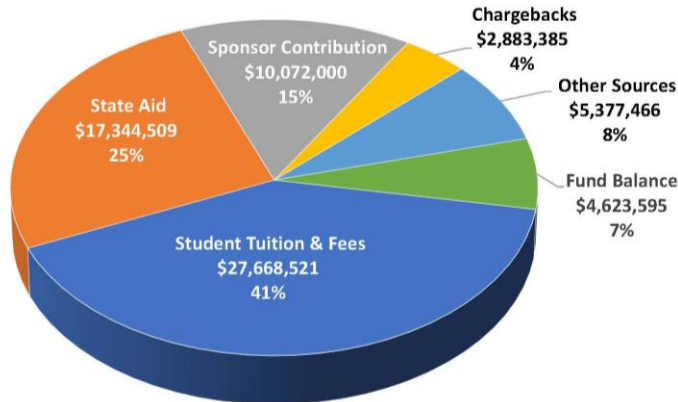
**The OCC Board of Trustees approved the
following operating budget at the meeting
on May 13, 2025 for:**

\$67,969,476

**OCC 2025-2026 Operational Budget
request: No Increase**

**Support from Onondaga County will
remain at \$10,072,000**

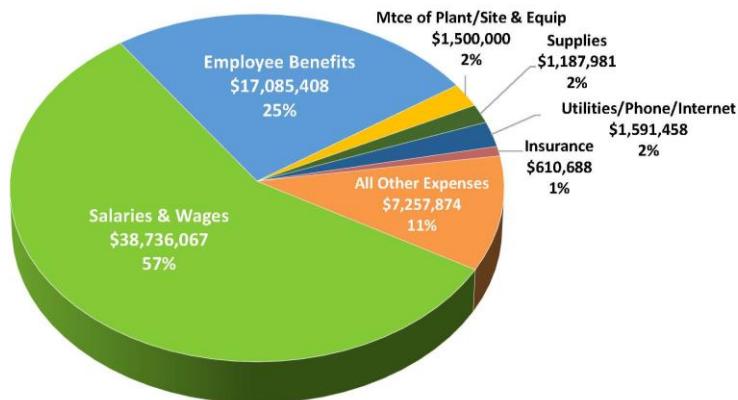
Proposed Budget – Revenue



2025-26
\$67,969,476

To Note:	
Tuition & Fees	Total FTE's = 4,785
State Aid	2021-22 Funding Floor
Chargebacks	Rate \$3,860 / 745 FTE's

Proposed Budget – Expenses



2025-26
\$67,969,476

2025-26 Tuition & Mandatory Fees

Rate	Full-Time	Part-Time
Tuition	\$2,700/semester	\$225/credit hour
Technology Fee	\$270/semester	\$18/credit hour
Student Activity Fee	\$65/semester	\$40/semester
Rec & Wellness Fee	\$125/semester	\$85/semester
Total	\$3,160/semester (\$6,320/year)	-----

2% increase over 2024-25
 • \$55/semester Full-time
 • \$5/credit hour Part-time

- Fees are level and have stayed the same; no increase to student housing
- Meal plans go up every year
- Last time raised tuition was the fall of 2023
 - Tuition went from \$2,595/semester to \$2,645/semester for fulltime students; stayed the same the last 2 years
- OCC is in the bottom third for costs of community colleges

Capital Projects

Campus Initiative College-wide Enhancements

PROJECT	Gordon Student Center Upgrades
DESCRIPTION	An overhaul of the current student services delivery methodology within the GSC will require the renovation of the main floor of the building to provide a more student-centered experience. Enhancements to student support systems including access to mental health resources, upgraded technology, and improved accessibility to student service areas like Financial Aid, Student Central, Admissions, Student Accounts, etc., along with upgrades to the cafeteria for stronger student health and engagement.
PROJECT DETAILS	Capital funding for student support services and cafeteria upgrades is not an expense—it's an investment in student success, campus community, and economic growth. Prioritizing modern infrastructure will create an environment where students thrive academically, socially, and personally, ensuring that the community college remains a vital resource for years to come. With these upgrades, we can transform education from simply accessible to truly empowering and attainable.
PROJECT COST	\$22,500,000 – Onondaga County Share \$11,250,000

Project Details – Gordon Student Center

Enhancing Student Support Services – Core to a student-first environment

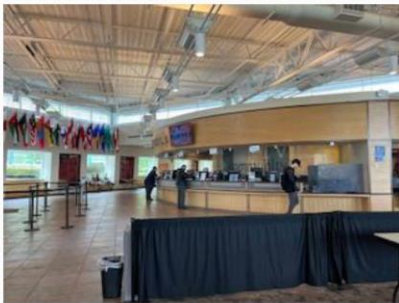
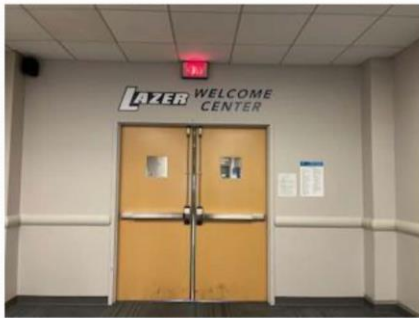
Investing in modern facilities would allow:

- **A student-first configuration**, allowing a more visible and robust student support structure.
- **Expanded access to mental health resources**, ensuring students have a safe space to seek guidance and support.
- **Upgraded technology and study spaces**, fostering a more interactive learning environment.
- **Improved accessibility**, making services more inclusive for students with disabilities.

Upgrading the Cafeteria for Student Health and Engagement

Capital funding for cafeteria upgrades would enable:

- **Healthier meal options**, accommodating diverse dietary needs and promoting better nutrition.
- **Improved seating and layout**, fostering community, encouraging social interaction, and reducing overcrowding.
- **Sustainable practices**, such as energy-efficient appliances and waste reduction programs



Campus Initiative

College-wide Enhancements

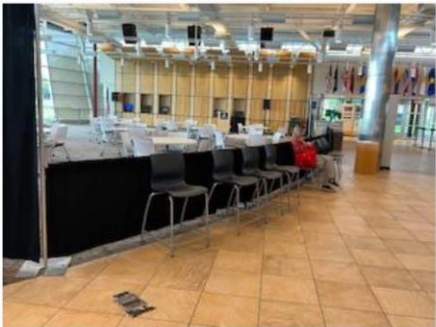
PROJECT	Refurbishment and Interior Upgrades
DESCRIPTION	Focuses on critical interior finishes that require renewal due to wear and aging, including entrance doors, stair treads, flooring, wall finishes and elevator cabs.
PROJECT DETAILS	These renovations are vital for maintaining a welcoming and secure learning environment. Worn fixtures can pose safety risks, reduce accessibility, and negatively impact student morale. Upgrading these interior finishes will increase safety and accessibility, improve the college's aesthetic appeal, and extend the lifespan of key infrastructure.
PROJECT COST	\$1,750,000 – Onondaga County Share \$875,000

Project Details

Refurbishment & Interior Upgrades

The proposed upgrades focus on critical interior finishes that require renewal due to wear and aging. Specifically, we seek funding for:

- **Entrance Doors:** Replacement of outdated or damaged doors to improve security and accessibility.
- **Stair Treads:** Upgrades to worn stair treads for enhanced safety and durability.
- **Flooring :** Installation of new flooring in high-traffic areas to improve safety, aesthetics and durability.
- **Wall Finishes-** Upgrades to finishes to improve aesthetics and durability.
- **Elevator Cabs:** Modernization of elevator interiors for a cleaner, more functional & durable design.





Campus Initiative College-wide Enhancements

PROJECT	Information Technology Infrastructure
DESCRIPTION	Focuses on wireless technology upgrade, network infrastructure enhancement, firewall and cybersecurity measures, and data center modernization.
PROJECT DETAILS	Currently, our IT systems face challenges such as outdated network equipment, insufficient wireless coverage, and an aging data center. These limitations hinder online learning, slow down administrative operations, and pose security risks. Without investment in updated technology, the college risks falling behind in its ability to support modern educational needs, industry partnerships, and workforce development initiatives.
PROJECT COST	\$4,500,000 – Onondaga County Share \$2,250,000

Project Details Information Technology Infrastructure

Project Scope:

- **Wireless Technology Upgrade:** Expanding campus-wide Wi-Fi coverage and increasing bandwidth capacity to support high-speed internet access for students and faculty.
- **Network Infrastructure Enhancement:** Installing modern networking equipment, including upgraded routers, switches, and fiber-optic connections, to improve data transfer speeds and reliability.
- **Firewall and Cybersecurity Measures:** Strengthening cybersecurity protections with advanced firewall solutions, threat detection systems, and security monitoring tools to safeguard student and institutional data.
- **Data Center Modernization:** Updating servers, storage solutions, and cloud integration to enhance data processing capabilities, minimize downtime, and support digital learning platforms.

Capital Projects Summary 2025

Project Name	County Share	State Share	Total Projects
Gordon Student Center	\$11,250,000	\$11,250,000	\$22,500,000
Refurbishment & Interior Upgrades	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$1,750,000
Information Technology Infrastructure	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$4,500,000
Total Capital Projects for 2025	\$14,375,000	\$14,375,000	\$28,750,000

- State budget – SUNY Reconnect is free Community College for adults
 - Beginning to promote and market the program to draw more students for fall

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- Please elaborate on what is included with capital, as the CIP for the county indicates less of a request than what has come over for the Gordon Student Center
 - OCC:
 - Incorrect amount was put in last year - \$13M was for learning upgrades approved last year
 - It was supposed to be \$18M with \$9M for IT infrastructure
 - After looking at the needs at Gordon and for IT, reallocated the dollars
 - Will email the reconciliation for what was asked for in 2022
 - Not asking for additional dollars; a couple things changed and there was a mistype in CIP
- Will Ms. Smiley look at this and verify if there are any impacts on the county finances because of the changes?
 - Finance:
 - Yes
 - From the CIP book to what is in front of the committee, there is an additional \$2.5M for the county share
 - Will confirm the dollar change
 - OCC:
 - It was a typo and is equivalent to the original ask several years ago
- Please confirm that housing is not included in tuition and fees
 - OCC:
 - Confirmed
- Will the price be the same for housing?
 - OCC:
 - Yes, the room will be the same as last year
- Is housing a self-sustaining enterprise? (meaning revenue covers the costs)
 - OCC:
 - Yes
- Is there an obligation to hold all the accounting under one umbrella?
 - OCC:
 - Housing is a separate entity from the college
 - The community college cannot take on debt
 - Housing has requirements on the amount of money to pay on debt – meeting and exceeding those requirements
 - All the auxiliaries (or entities) get separate audits
 - Dorms are financed with bonds
 - OCC gets rated annually by Standard & Poors – this year is BB+; if continue with trends, will become investment grade next year
 - Meeting debt service requirements and maintaining the buildings
 - This summer will be doing \$3.5M in capital upgrades using reserves for Res Hall B
 - Plan is to do Res Halls A and C over the next 2 summers with existing cash reserves

- Please provide more detail into the state's (reconnect) program with who is eligible, and how it will work
 - OCC:
 - Enacted in the NYS budget was free Community College
 - Covers tuition, fees and books for individuals 25-55 years old at the start of the fall semester
 - It is for in-demand programs
 - Technology, Computer Science, Cybersecurity
 - Health Care including (i.e.) Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Health Information Technology, Surgical Technology, Health Sciences, Paramedics
 - Welding
 - Applied engineering
 - Education pathways – Early Childhood Education and transfer degree in Adolescent Education
 - For full list of degrees and the program details, visit: <https://www.sunyocc.edu/freecc>
 - Anyone can fill out an inquiry form
 - OCC team will let them know if they are eligible and work with them through application and onboarding for fall semester
 - Will be administered by SUNY, who will get the bill
 - Fulltime and part-time students eligible having at least 6 credits
- What is the graduation rate?
 - OCC:
 - Federal government has community colleges report graduation rates by defining it as fulltime students who start with the community college for the first time in their college career (most OCC students are part-time)
 - Based on that, the graduation rate is 25%; went up 2% last year and anticipate another 1% this year
 - Roughly 55% or more of OCC students either secure a degree, transfer somewhere, or are still enrolled at OCC
 - More consistent with a 4 year comprehensive institute graduation rate (national average around 50%)
 - Part-time stories do not fit into the federal government graduation rates
- OCC has counselors that work hard to help ensure students are engaged and finish; necessary to keep contact with as many students as possible
- The free Community College program requires students to apply for financial aid, and SUNY will supplement the extra money needed for loans
- When were the last upgrades to the Gordon Student Center?
 - OCC:
 - Believe there was a partial cafeteria upgrade in the early 2000's
 - Actual Gordon area was ~20 years ago
 - Regarding the free Community College, students will be required to apply for financial aid through TAP
 - OCC is taking the approach to ask individuals to also apply for federal grant aid before free tuition kicks in
- Is the Social Services Department aware of this program, as they have NextGen that works with families to get them into jobs or get them the education needed?
 - OCC:
 - OCC is working with the NextGen program
- Is the uptick on downstate NYC students continuing?
 - OCC:
 - Continue to market downstate
 - Admissions Counselor that was in NYC recruiting, took a job at another institution at the beginning of recruitment season
 - Hired new Admissions Counselor at end of March/early April, so a little behind
 - President Hilton will be in NYC meeting with perspective students in the pipeline
 - OCC got a SUNY grant to operate a summer precollege semiconductor program
 - Students will get college credits
 - About 36 NYS resident students will be in that program
 - Person overseeing said there will be 12 from NYC in that program

- Students will live on campus for 5 weeks and take college courses
- Continue to look downstate as recruitment strategy for OCC
- Explain the treats brought from OCC
 - OCC:
 - Culinary Management Program made the treats
 - Thankful for the Legislature's support of the Culinary Program and love to share their work
 - These students are gainfully employed here in CNY when leaving the program

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMIE McNAMARA, Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **JOINT WAYS & MEANS AND COUNTY FACILITIES
COMMITTEE**

DATE: **MAY 22, 2025**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Mark Manning	OCC
Sarah Gathug	OCC
Cary Oberman	OCC
Amy Proulx	OCC
Nicole Watts	Candidak
Warren Hiltner	CEL
Kristi Smiley	FINANCE
BEN YOUS	LAW
BRIAN DONNELLY	CE
DARCIE LESNIAK	LEG
Jim BEERBE	LEG
JOHN DESANTI	LEG