New Leaders Appointed for SUNY Plattsburgh, Niagara County Community College

Congratulations to Dr. Alexander Enyedi and Dr. William J. Murabito, who both received presidential appointments last month.

Dr. Enyedi will succeed Dr. John Ettling as President of SUNY Plattsburgh. He comes to us from Northern California where he currently serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Humboldt State University. His appointment is effective January 21, 2020. We can't guarantee that he's going to love the Plattsburgh weather on day one, but we can promise that we will welcome him to the SUNY family with open arms.

Dr. Murabito's promotion to President of Niagara County Community College (NCCC) has been long-awaited. He's served as Interim President at NCCC for the last two years. In that role, he led the college to successful regional accreditation from Middle States, as well as program accreditation for nursing and surgical technology. On December 1, he officially became NCCC's permanent President. No stranger to SUNY, Dr. Murabito previously served in interim presidential roles at SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Sullivan, and SUNY Cobleskill. We're lucky to have him.

NYS Mesonet Helps Accurately Predict Dangerous Flooding

While December may have started with a snowstorm, the month of November began with heavy rain that caused dangerous flooding in communities across Upstate New York. That flooding was more accurately predicted thanks to the New York State Mesonet. Headquartered at the University at Albany and with 126 weather-detection stations around the state, we've built the most advanced and largest early warning weather-detection system in the country.

With a storm bearing down on Halloween night, Mesonet meteorologists were able to detect an additional two inches of rain in Hamilton and Herkimer Counties between October 31 and November 1. They did this by measuring soil saturation, which is an important predictor often missed by traditional weather radar. This information helped forecasters at the National Weather Service predict the resulting flooding. Those predictions inform everyone from emergency managers to utility companies to community leaders—people responsible for making quick decisions with residents' safety and wellbeing at stake.

Our ability to provide this information connects directly to our core values. Here, SUNY knowledge and expertise is being used to benefit the people of New York State. It's all possible through a key partnership with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. And for UAlbany meteorology and atmospheric science students, this is an applied learning opportunity that's hard to match. They get to see firsthand the real-world impact of the work they aspire to do.