



December 9, 2019

To SUNY Poly's Faculty, Staff, and Students:

As an exciting year for SUNY Poly concludes, I want to convey my gratitude for our collective work that has catalyzed this institution's solid progress.

Reflecting on the many successes SUNY Poly has seen throughout 2019, we have all played a role in positively impacting the Mohawk Valley, Capital Region, New York State, and beyond, including:

- SUNY Poly continues to show strong *U.S. News & World Report* rankings and was named 12th for its 2020 list of Best Colleges in the Regional Universities North category, moving ahead six positions from its 2019 ranking. *U.S. News* also ranked SUNY Poly 2nd in "Best Value Colleges" and 2nd for "Top Public Schools" in the same category.
- We have seen robust enrollment continue, with more than 3,000 students comprising our student body.
- We are working closely with our partners, including Applied Materials, which recently announced the opening of the META Center on our Albany campus, and Cree, which is building the world's largest SiC fabrication facility at the Marcy Nanocenter site. Cree has already provided students with interviews for internship and future career opportunities, in addition to donating \$25,000 to the SUNY Poly Foundation in support of FIRST robotics. Other key partnerships with IBM, the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, Griffiss Institute, Tokyo Electron, Rome Memorial Hospital, and GlobalFoundries are enabling innovation-based academic and research opportunities.
- We are working toward building even more academic partnerships that will complement those established this year, including with SUNY Upstate Medical University and Albany Law School.

Throughout the year, our SUNY Poly community has also played a significant role in uplifting others. Students donated more than 200 care packages to victims of domestic violence as part of the "SUNY's Got Your Back" program. The SUNY Poly community also helped raise more than \$150,000 at the Annual Strin Stars & Stripes Run/Walk, held at SUNY Poly's Utica campus, to assist local veterans. At our Albany campus, we are continuing the annual holiday tradition of supporting a family in need through the Adopt-A-Family program.

We continue to be strongly committed to further strengthening diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts at SUNY Poly. DEI is part of our institution's DNA. Starting with my Executive Cabinet, we will seek additional training and educational opportunities that will be expanded to all SUNY Poly faculty, staff, and students. I have also directed the immediate re-engagement for a permanent Chief Diversity Officer as well as expanded efforts for direct student interaction and engagement with existing DEI staff.



Because of your efforts, countless people in our communities have experienced SUNY Poly as a force for good. Whether it's our incredible outreach, growing academic offerings, or the impactful research being conducted each day, I look forward to seeing even more success in 2020 as a result of what we can accomplish together.

As we spend this time of year connecting with those who are closest to us, I wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyous holiday season and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Wang
Interim President
SUNY Polytechnic Institute