

D' MENSIONS

THE D'YOUVILLE MAGAZINE / WINTER 2021
SPECIAL EDITION



DYU

D'YOUVILLE THROUGH THE AGES

D'Youville University is an institution with a rich history in higher education and a dedication to honoring our mission, through every aspect of the student experience.



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1908

Liberal Arts & Sciences

- Teaching women
- Addressing access & equity

1940s

+ Nursing Degrees

- Meeting societal needs
- Increasing WWII nursing capacity

1980s

+ Masters & Professional Degrees

- Meeting professional needs
- Filling other workforce gaps

2000s

+ Doctoral Degrees

- Developing specializations
- Preparing high skill workforce

2020s

Becoming a Comprehensive University

- Building community & entrepreneurialism
- Linking scholarship to enterprises

D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY

Opening our doors for the world

For more than a century, D'Youville has been a leader providing a forward-thinking approach to education.

The promise of transformational experiences aligning with student's trajectories which build vibrant futures has been the backbone guiding our evolution for more than a hundred years. When we first began the process of elevating our institution to university status, we had a clear and direct path to achieving our goals. The depth and breadth of our academic programs have expanded, and our facilities have grown to accommodate our bold and comprehensive vision. Beginning today, I am honored to announce the next chapter: D'Youville University.

At its core, this title is an acknowledgement that best represents the prestige of earning a degree at D'Youville. It is a testament to our shared mission

and vision, which is being elevated to a global stage. It is our promise to remain forward-thinking about how we operate and prepare students for the jobs of today, as well as for jobs which have not yet been created. It is a statement of who we truly are.

As we begin our next chapter, the value of this university designation will reverberate beyond the walls of our institution and our Western New York region. The international recognition stemming from university classification will attract students and employees from outside our immediate community, and contribute to a more diverse region of scholars. New professional and intradisciplinary opportunities will be cultivated to improve the overall learning experience. We can help push the boundaries of our time, catalyzing new avenues for job creation and community advancement. Additionally, this reclassification allows us to look ahead and respond to the evolving world around us with a new emphasis on research and the creation of knowledge.



“As we begin our next chapter, the value of this university designation will reverberate beyond the walls of our institution and our Western New York region.”

As you read the different stories within this special issue of D'Mensions, you will see this achievement was no small feat. It has been a pursuit spanning over 15 years, and challenges have presented themselves along the way. The COVID-19 pandemic specifically presented unprecedented levels of disruption, challenging us to continue to provide best-in-class education and learning experiences which allow our students to thrive.

There are so many people to thank. Our journey began with the D'Youville Board of Trustees and Sister Denise Roche '67, GNSH for their vision of creating a university structure in 2007. The Honorable New York State Senator Timothy M. Kennedy '99 has been instrumental in helping us navigate the state-mandated legislative requirements. Joggeshwar (Jogy) Das, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning, helped keep us on track to complete the many milestones required for this reclassification. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our faculty, staff, administration, student body, and alumni for all of the countless hours of advocacy put into this process. Each of you embodies the core tenets we set forth, furthering the very values for which this university is being recognized.

D'Youville University has always been somewhat non-traditional in comparison to other institutions. Throughout history, we've experienced some tremendous milestones, including our early emphasis on education equity, with a focus on women and students from under-resourced communities. D'Youville carved out its niche in the health sciences early on, beginning with the development of the region's first four-year nursing degree in the 1940s. This



trend of progressive change has continued straight through to today, with the recent unveiling of the Health Professions Hub, which provides an unprecedented intersection for students, professionals, and community members here in Western New York.

University designation will complement past achievements and showcase our path into the future. We are so excited to share this historic moment with you.

Welcome to D'Youville University.

Sincerely,

Lorrie A. Clemo, PhD
D'Youville President

YOUR WORLD, Bigger

Shattering the stereotypes typically associated with the “college” title

When Joggeshwar “Jogy” Das, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning, was tasked with the goal of bringing D’Youville to university status, he knew challenges lay ahead.

“The new designation is going to allow D’Youville to become a global campus with vibrant internationalization,” Das says. “And it is going to help us market our strengths, not just in terms of internationalization, but in terms of our program deliverables.”

Buffalo’s proximity to the Canadian border also promotes D’Youville’s attractiveness for international students. Das explains some international families will immigrate to Canada rather than the U.S. due to Canada’s relatively relaxed immigration policies. “Although they are coming into Canada, many still want an American university education. Having D’Youville University right across the border is huge for providing students this educational access.”

But attracting international students was not the only impetus for working toward the change. At the heart of the effort, Das says, is the opportunity to expand upon D’Youville’s student and faculty experience.

“Within the last four and a half years, we have realized many significant accomplishments. Whether it is the streamlining of student support services in our Student Success Center, the wide-spread campus modernizations of our learning environments, moving from NCAA Division III to Division II, or building the Health Professions Hub.”

“Hard labor makes the fruit sweeter. I’m glad it was a difficult path because, we learned a lot and grew from the experience. We made it. I’m excited for the university, what our institution has been doing, and where we are headed.”

“

It is putting D’Youville on the world map.



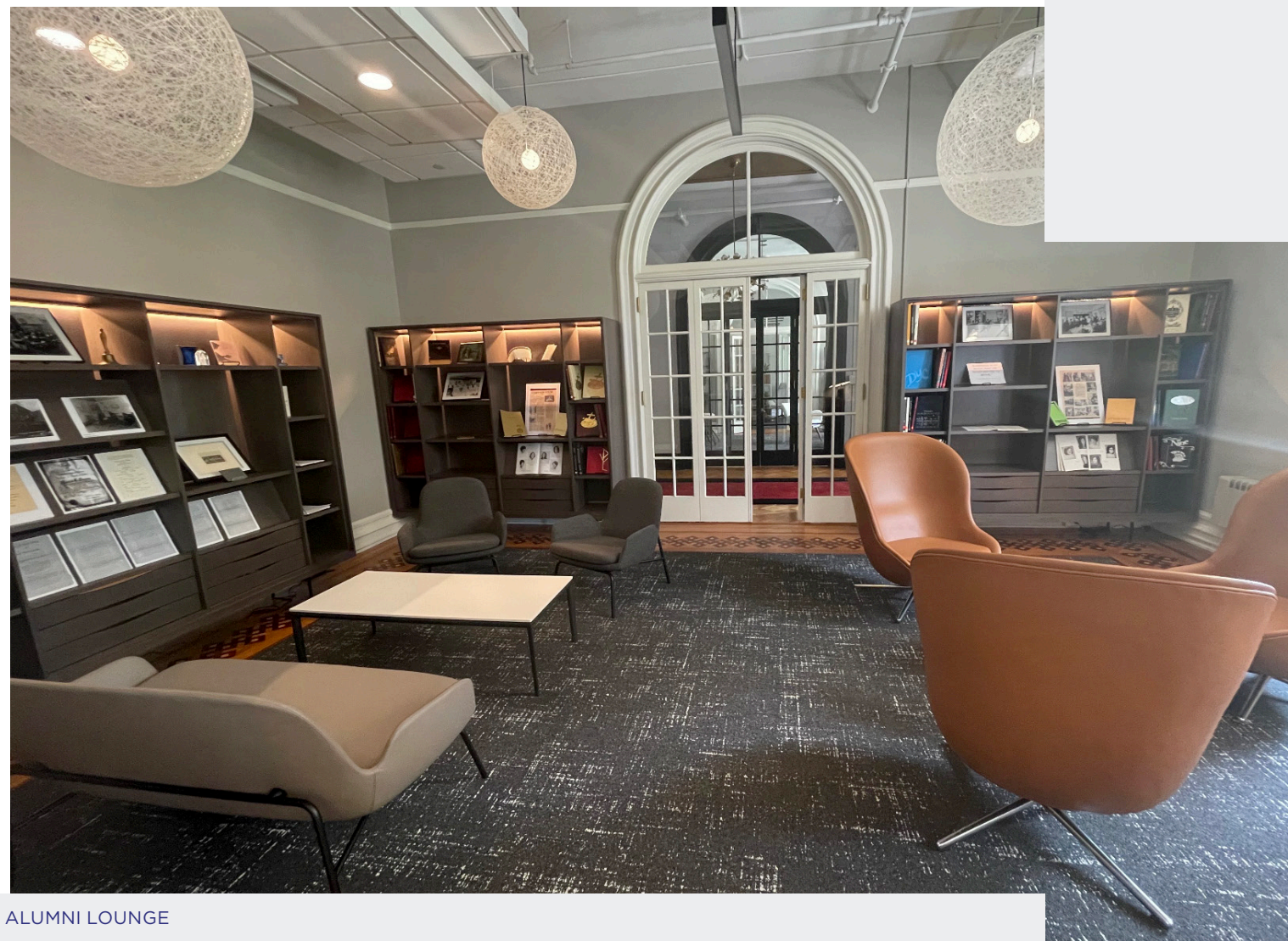
– JOGGESHWAR (JOGY) DAS, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning

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He also knew the new identity of D’Youville University would reap exponential benefits in terms of enrollment, reputation, and institutional pride.

“We approached New York State to change the designation because we believed we were approaching the standards recognized for university status,” Das says, “due to the number of graduate and doctoral degrees being offered at D’Youville.”

Das explains the importance of university status as being something that helps break down communication barriers. For international students “the word ‘college’ means a two-year school, like a community college.” Typically, when students abroad look at the U.S. rankings for universities and colleges, their understanding is that a college provides a two-year experience and an associate’s degree, not a four-year baccalaureate, advanced studies, graduate or doctoral degree. Because of this, recruiting as a college came with unique challenges.



ALUMNI LOUNGE

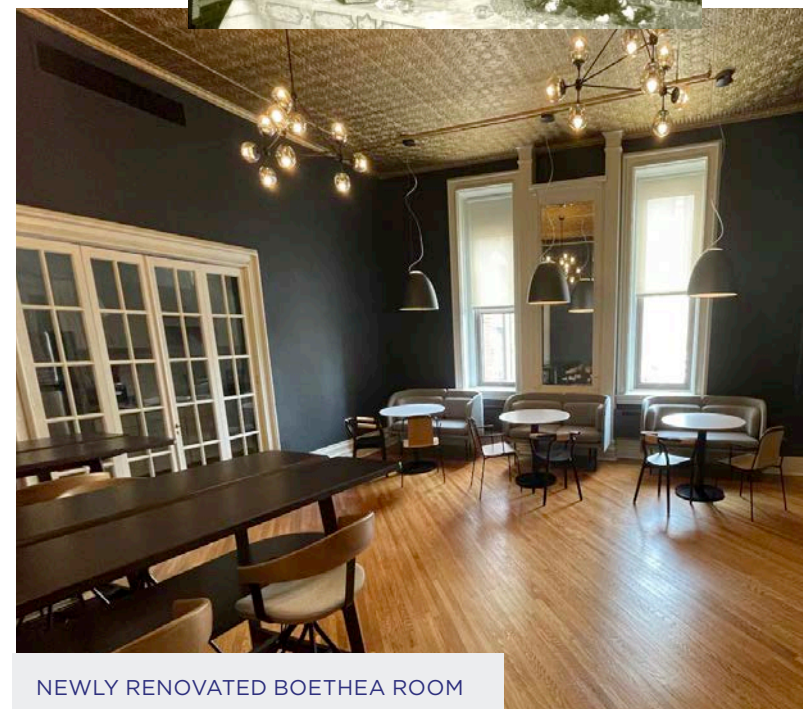
Our new alumni lounge, former location of the president’s conference room in Koessler Administration Building

BECOMING A UNIVERSITY

While the path to university status came with its challenges, it's been well worth the wait, and no one knows that better than retired President, Sister Denise Roche, GNSH. In the fall of 2007, she reported that the Board of Trustees had approved beginning the process for D'Youville to become designated as a university. Her inspiration and drive prompted new degree programs, and a strategic plan to meet the New York State Department of Education (NYSDE) standards for university status.



REFRESHMENTS IN THE BOETHEA ROOM - MID CENTURY



NEWLY RENOVATED BOETHEA ROOM

VOICES AROUND CAMPUS



“It’s a cultural shift, not just a name change. New generations of students are inheriting a world where there are serious social, environmental, economic, and structural problems. They want to be part of change. By placing a strong focus on research grounded in our already existing commitment to improving life in our communities, D’Youville can emerge as a first choice.”



- JULIA HALL, PhD, director and professor of educational leadership and chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB)

It is a huge step for the institution, and I could not be more excited.

- JOGGESHWAR (JOGY) DAS, vice president of institutional effectiveness and planning

However, when the official application was made in 2018, D’Youville ran into a significant roadblock in its progress. While D’Youville had added many progressive programs, such as pharmacy and a doctoral degree in education to its offerings, the application was denied.

NYSED, the governing body responsible for the designation, was reconsidering how to weigh advanced degrees in the application process, and found that, at the time, D’Youville was not meeting the requirements.

The disappointment was met like any other challenge at D’Youville; head on. Following the denial, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education added D’Youville to its ranks of Doctoral/Professional Universities in 2018. Following that, the U.S. News and World Reporting reclassified D’Youville College as a National University in its annual report in 2020.

Following that, in 2020, D’Youville led a campaign along with other colleges in New York’s Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) the college worked to encourage NYSED to reconsider

its standards. “We wrote so many petitions, so many letters, there was so much reaching out to senators, representatives... you name it, we did it.” Das says.

State Senator Tim Kennedy was instrumental in helping us through the process.”

The campaign worked, and after so much time spent pushing for proper recognition, Das reflects on the outcome.

“Up until now, people may have felt ‘we were a small, regional, Western New York institution’.” Das says. “We have redefined it. It’s a university of the future. We are doing everything that big institutions do.

We are going to keep focusing on the programs we are great at, and we are going to continue to focus on being best-in-class.”

Das says he can sense the excitement students have for the new status. “They can now say they belong to a nationally ranked university. ‘I belong to a doctorally qualified institution.’ It’s about our reputation.

Many people thought this was not going to happen. There were significant barriers. So, there is, of course, a sense of pride.”

“Now people see D’Youville University in national universities lists, including The Carnegie Classification, and that’s how word gets out.” Das says. “Once word gets out, you can recruit the best of the best, and continue to improve. That’s our trajectory.”

“It means a lot. It’s a huge step for the institution, and I could not be more excited about it.” Das says.

THE PROMISE OF POSSIBILITY FOR YOU

D'YOUVILLE UNIVERSITY is the start of our next chapter. The recognition that comes with the university designation is for you, our students. It turns the page to a new era that bridges years of advocacy with the promise of possibility ahead.



SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE TIME



A perspective from Sister Julia Lanigan '73, Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart (GNSH)

It's hard to imagine someone who has witnessed more of D'Youville's history than Sister Julia C. Lanigan '73, GNSH. Since her days in grammar school being taught by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and journeying to D'Youville for higher education, her presence has been a constant blessing for the institution. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1973, served on D'Youville's Board of Trustees from 1993 to 2002, and in 2018, accepted an invitation to serve on the board once again. D'Youville has been a constant in her life, and over the years, she has watched the school develop and adapt in response to an ever-changing world. Now, as D'Youville enters the next phase of its history as a university, Sister Julia reminds us that as special as this recognition is, it's been D'Youville's strategy since the beginning to advance itself as an educational institution.

"The university designation is a natural next step for D'Youville's advancement," Sister Julia says, adding that the school always aimed to evolve its programs alongside the communities it serves.

As the school offered more accredited graduate programs, she said the progression to pursue the advanced title felt due, especially since it helps clarify what exactly D'Youville provides its students. For Sister Julia, the name "university" communicates that D'Youville has a recognized, expanded scope of educational offerings, including a strong range of undergraduate programs plus fully accredited graduate and doctoral programs. She believes D'Youville's "reputation for excellence in education would be enhanced" by the designation moving forward.

Because of decades spent building a solid foundation of programs with an emphasis on hands-on learning, D'Youville has been able to expand its programs beyond the baccalaureate college level, which this name designation makes clear. According to Sister Julia, D'Youville's commitment to advanced studies will be the game-changer for the next generation of young people looking to develop their careers. "The university title is immediately attractive to students seriously pursuing higher learning," she confidently declares. She believes the D'Youville University name will become synonymous with a certain degree of education and that prestige will be associated with the institution for decades to come.

As with every development in D'Youville history, Sister Julia observes that, in the end, it's always been about D'Youville's goal to provide support for the community and that the key to its success has always been to focus on "serving the needs of the time." She notes that in today's world, there is a demand for leadership in so many important fields, especially healthcare, and the best leaders always do more than their job; they are there to inspire others to also help our society. For Sister Julia, this new name will help inform that legacy, and she states without reservation, "the university designation means D'Youville is a place prepared to develop such leadership."

VOICES AROUND CAMPUS



"It will provide students with more choice and quality options for their investment. We must continue to welcome creativity and solid rationales that energize student intellect so they will have a full university experience."



- BEVERLY WHITEHEAD, assistant director and counselor for the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)



STUDENTS WORK IN HANDS-ON ACADEMIC CHIROPRACTIC LABORATORY

More than a title change, D'Youville continues to evolve and expand its impact.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL IN THE NEW AUXILIARY GYM

Since the mid-2000s, D'Youville has been setting the stage for this major evolution, first by shifting the direction of the college from a traditional liberal arts institution to one which focuses on professional and specialized degree programs, including new emphasis toward doctoral studies and research. With the breadth of academic degrees offered across a wealth of disciplines, along with nine doctoral programs, D'Youville is well-prepared to embrace this distinguished status.

"Achieving university designation for us is the fulfillment of a vision shared by many people over many years," says Lorrie Clemo, president of D'Youville. "D'Youville has been putting in place all of the pieces we thought were important to be able to pursue our mission on a larger stage. We started by building the programs, the infrastructure, and the architecture around a university well in advance of applying for university status."

AN UNDENIABLE IMPACT ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Earning university designation means that an institution is maintaining a comprehensive academic portfolio and working to build a complete education pipeline which positively supports our society.

A diploma that says 'university' as opposed to 'college' also has more prestige in the marketplace. Our students understand the value it brings to their degree, and they have been supportive and involved in the advocacy journey which brought us to today" says Clemo.



KUHRT DINING HALL LOCATED IN THE COLLEGE CENTER

"From this respect, it will certainly help bring more students, which offers a direct economic impact to the community," says Clemo. "Because of our strategy to grow interdisciplinary programs, we'll be in a position to impact problems in our community."

D'Youville, already known for offering transformational experiences in the health sciences, created the Health Professions Hub to support the community and simultaneously provide students with meaningful experiential learning opportunities. It plans to add similarly structured programs for engineering and technology career training in the coming years.

"Our plan is to keep helping society. By doing the same thing we have done with healthcare,

we also want to support the high-growth fields of engineering and technology," confirms Clemo. "Developing hands-on programs in high-demand fields is an essential strategy for diversifying the student body and attracting the best and brightest from across the globe."

Along with program expansion, students can expect improved services and spaces for learning.

"Students are at the center of everything we are doing," President Clemo explains. Her goal is to give students the richest, most timely, and diverse learning experience one can have while at D'Youville and throughout their lifetime.



"D'Youville College becoming D'Youville University is an amazing opportunity. As we continue to expand our programs and as a forward-thinking institution, the change in name is needed. It will allow students to see D'Youville as a force to be reckoned with in Western New York."

- JOHNNY QIU '19, D'Youville Alumni Association Board of Directors and research assistant at the University at Buffalo



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT CENTER LOCATED IN KAB



AWARD WINNING MODERNIZATION OF OFFICE SPACES IN KAB

GROWING GRADUATE PROGRAMS WITH A UNIVERSITY MINDSET

Natalia Blank, PhD, vice president for academic affairs, talks about how the new university designation will evolve D'Youville's graduate programs even further at the master and doctorate levels.



While D'Youville's university designation certainly generates prestige and recognition across the nation, it also creates a distinct advantage to the students of the graduate programs, according to academic vice president Natalie Blank.

More opportunities for engaging in scholarship, increased funding, and expectation for research, additional online degrees – Blank dreams big when speaking about what lies in store for D'Youville in the coming years. “I would really like to provide every student who graduates from a D'Youville graduate program every type of opportunity available.”

D'Youville has been investing in its post-graduate programs since the 1980s. Now, with the title of university attached to the name, D'Youville has even greater plans for those looking to advance their careers. In an effort to keep up with the ever-changing job market, many of the graduate programs offered at D'Youville include different modalities to give options to the diverse student body. For example, for the first time this year, a completely online pathway towards the Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) was made available. For Blank and the rest of the faculty, it's these types of developments that make it an exciting time. “We will be the first one in the nation to offer the three-year online pharmacy degree, which would allow [graduates] to be in the workforce sooner than they would otherwise be in a different program.”

For D'Youville, evolving their graduate programs and embracing their new status as a university is tied fundamentally to understanding where industries are headed and preparing students for the future job market. “I think what distinguishes our programs is that we link opportunities to earn advanced degrees within specific professions,” says Blank. “So, for example, our Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree is a post-professional doctoral degree for occupational therapists. It's designed for professionals who are already working in the field and are looking to advance.” Every program offered at D'Youville has been designed to support specific career goals for individuals aiming for the next level within their profession. It's a priority that has made their programs sought-after nationwide and which they suspect will attract more global talent with the new university designation.

By having an adaptable strategy for their graduate program, D'Youville hopes to keep its students ahead of the curve once they hit the job market, especially when it comes to qualifications and certifications, a side of education Blank considers when talking about the future of D'Youville post-graduate programs. “Industries have started moving to require more credentials. It's what happens within professions. As the profession progresses, so more education is needed. If you look at D'Youville's portfolio, we have programs at every level. This makes us a university – not only specific

degrees but degrees at every level. Our graduates can come back to D'Youville for the next degree once they are ready to take their career to the next level.”

With all the advancement and change coming up for the graduate programs, D'Youville students might be wondering what remains the same after the name designation. For Blank, who believes it's D'Youville's character that got them here in the first place, there are no plans to change D'Youville's hardworking, hands-on, community-immersed culture. “We

are still very much a service-to-the-community oriented institution. Most of our programs have some kind of community engagement through clinicals, internships, or projects. It's the idea of experiential education that we are committed to – our students would have lived-in, industry-relevant experience at the end of their education.” Though the university title will bring global attention, Blank has no plans to change the tight bond students build by learning and practicing various skills within their community.

“Many students are exposed to community engagement through clinicals, internships, or projects. We are committed to *experiential education* and our students have real-world experience at the end of their studies.”



NEW PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LAB IN THE D'YOUVILLE ACADEMIC CENTER

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES:

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ONE WORD



"Even the word collegio, in Spanish, means high school. Whereas universities have been viewed as larger, more robust, more expansive programs that offer degrees beyond the undergraduate degree," explains Joe Cozzo, chairman of the D'Youville Board of Trustees.

"One reason I came is the typically generic answer of 'it's close to home,'" he admits. "Choosing D'Youville and actually coming to campus and seeing the culture that's been created here, not only by the students but also by the faculty, staff, and administrators, has been something that's really been astounding to me."

Rizk recognizes the immense advantages of the name switch. Cozzo anticipates the endless benefits associated with the updated classification.

"For the students at D'Youville, we've always been a university. This name change is not going to change who we are as an institution and how we feel about our institution," says Rizk.

"The word 'global' is a common thread that keeps coming up because it puts D'Youville on a global map," Cozzo says. "When you bring in foreign students, you bring in rich cultural traditions and perspectives that everybody can learn from. The foreign students wanting to come here are interested in the American education system, and certainly, our American students are benefitting from being in a community with a diverse population."

The shared enthusiasm also touches upon the future of the workplace, the types of challenges society might face and how D'Youville University will prepare students for it all.

"I think if there's one thing that we have learned over the past number of years, it is that

we need people in our workforce who are not only technically proficient but who are ethically proficient. And, people who have a sense of giving," shares Cozzo.

The D'Youville value of social responsibility is the standard by which all students are taught, and Rizk says it has influenced his experience throughout the last three years.

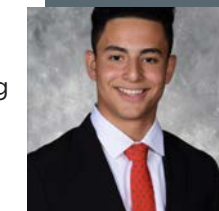
"D'Youville taught me to be a better student, and they are teaching me how to be a better pharmacist. Most fundamental, they're also teaching me how to be a better person. That growth is something that you don't get at every institution," Rizk says. "I'm grateful I am a part of it."

"Just examine it from that point of view, colleges have traditionally and historically been seen as more narrow-viewed, smaller, undergraduate programs."

A simple wording change makes a great deal of difference, as does its programming, culture, and community, according to John Rizk, a pharmacy student in D'Youville's six-year accelerated PharmD program.

As an Egyptian-Canadian born in Canada who grew up in Saudi Arabia before attending boarding school in Ohio, Rizk relishes the opportunity to participate in an accelerated and well-known Doctor of Pharmacy program right across the border, near his family.

"D'Youville has been able to provide for what the students need but doing it at such a fast pace and staying ahead of the game with innovation, adaptability, and all the challenges tht come forth is really a huge deal."



- JOHN RIZK
Third-year pharmacy student President of the student government



NEW RENOVATIONS OF MARGUERITE HALL



STUDENTS IN MARY AGNES HALL RESIDENT HALL ROOM 1968

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE



“Working together to help create knowledge, find better ways of doing things, and moving to spin off those ideas in entrepreneurial ways which improve society and create jobs.”



Chief of staff and associate vice president for operations
Jason MacLeod, PhD, speaks about what’s next.

Jason MacLeod, PhD, chief of staff, and associate vice president of operations, says D’Youville’s new designation as a university will resonate with student needs and what the college offers. “People will recognize the depth and breadth of the academic programming and research taking place at our institution.” he says.

D’Youville has always been somewhat progressive and adaptive compared to the norms of the times. “If you look at the history of D’Youville, we started as an institution promoting equity, focusing on increasing access to education among women, students of immigrant status, and individuals living in under-resourced communities,” MacLeod says. “Later, D’Youville expanded into nursing to assist with WWII-era demands, catalyzing a whole new trajectory for the institution.”

D’Youville has continued expanding into a wide variety of high-need healthcare fields over the last several decades, prior to achieving this university designation. “The next step in becoming a more comprehensive university is an expanding focus on research and applied scholarship.” MacLeod says. “It’s no longer just about providing society with skilled individuals who are helping in areas of demand. It’s about having highly skilled, highly specialized faculty and students working together to help create knowledge in their respective fields, finding better ways of doing things, and moving to spin off those ideas in entrepreneurial ways which improve society and create jobs.”

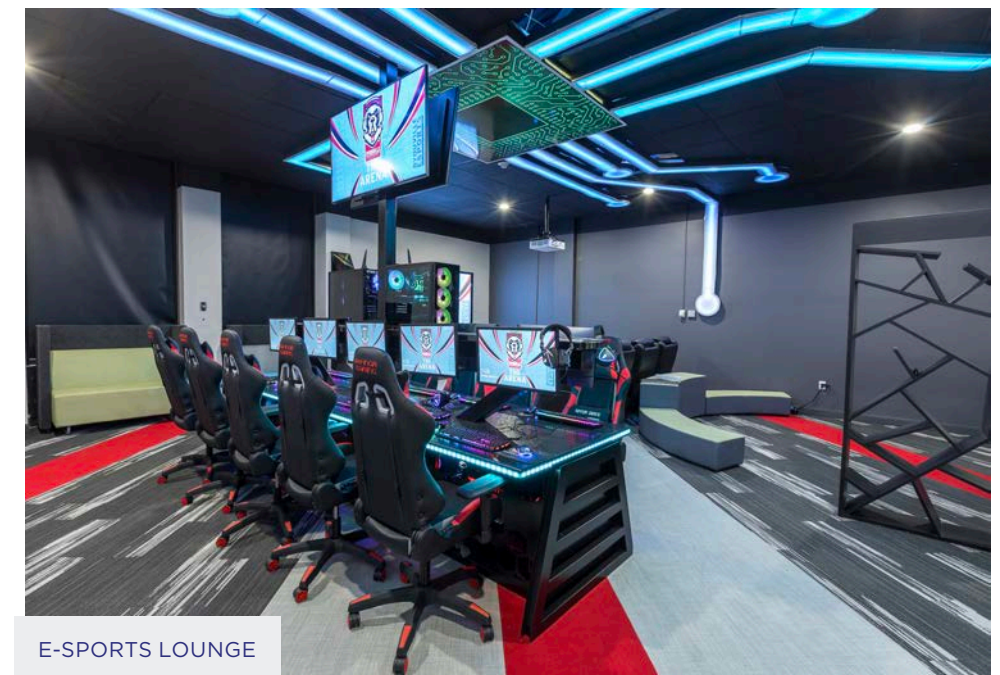
The new identity will not only benefit future students; current students will now graduate with university status, increasing the value and status

of over 20,000 alumni diplomas. “Your degree will now read ‘D’Youville University, instead of D’Youville College.” MacLeod confirms. As the distinction can impact graduates entering the workforce, there was signification motivation to get the formal name change accomplished in time for the graduating class of 2022.

MacLeod believes having an international faculty and student body is “the next step to creating more diverse learning spaces and environments.” Comparing it to the experience students have traveling abroad, he sees D’Youville’s campus becoming a collection of students and faculty from around the world coming together and learning from one another.

So, what’s next? “The first step is already in progress: the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research.” Beyond that?

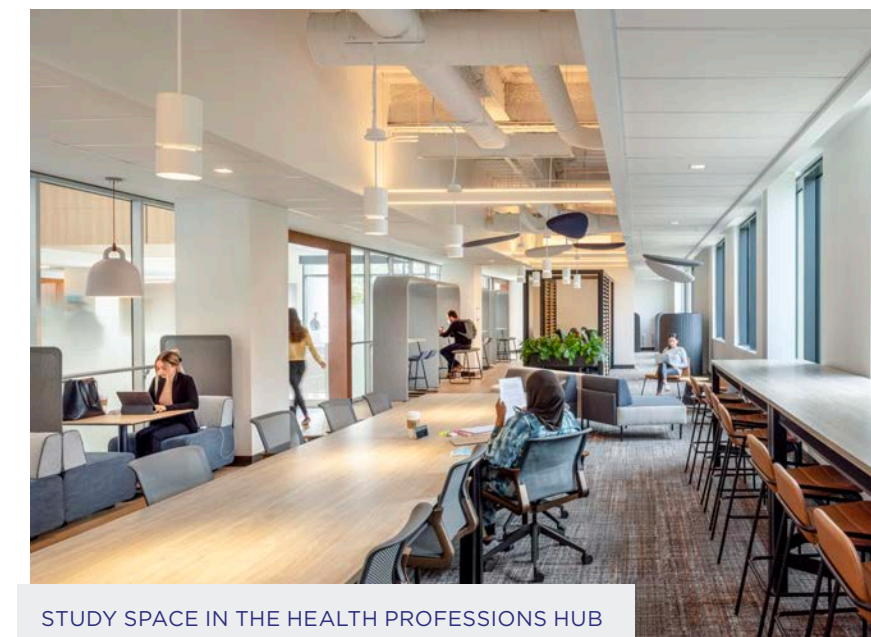
MacLeod says there are branding issues to consider, of course. “You’ll see some new banners and there will be different swag in the bookstore,” he says, “but in terms of spaces and facilities, our goal has been to continue making upgrades. We want to keep investing in programs which allow graduates to enter promising fields of work that help people and put them on a trajectory to be productive and positive contributors to society.”



E-SPORTS LOUNGE



MEN'S BASKETBALL



STUDY SPACE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS HUB

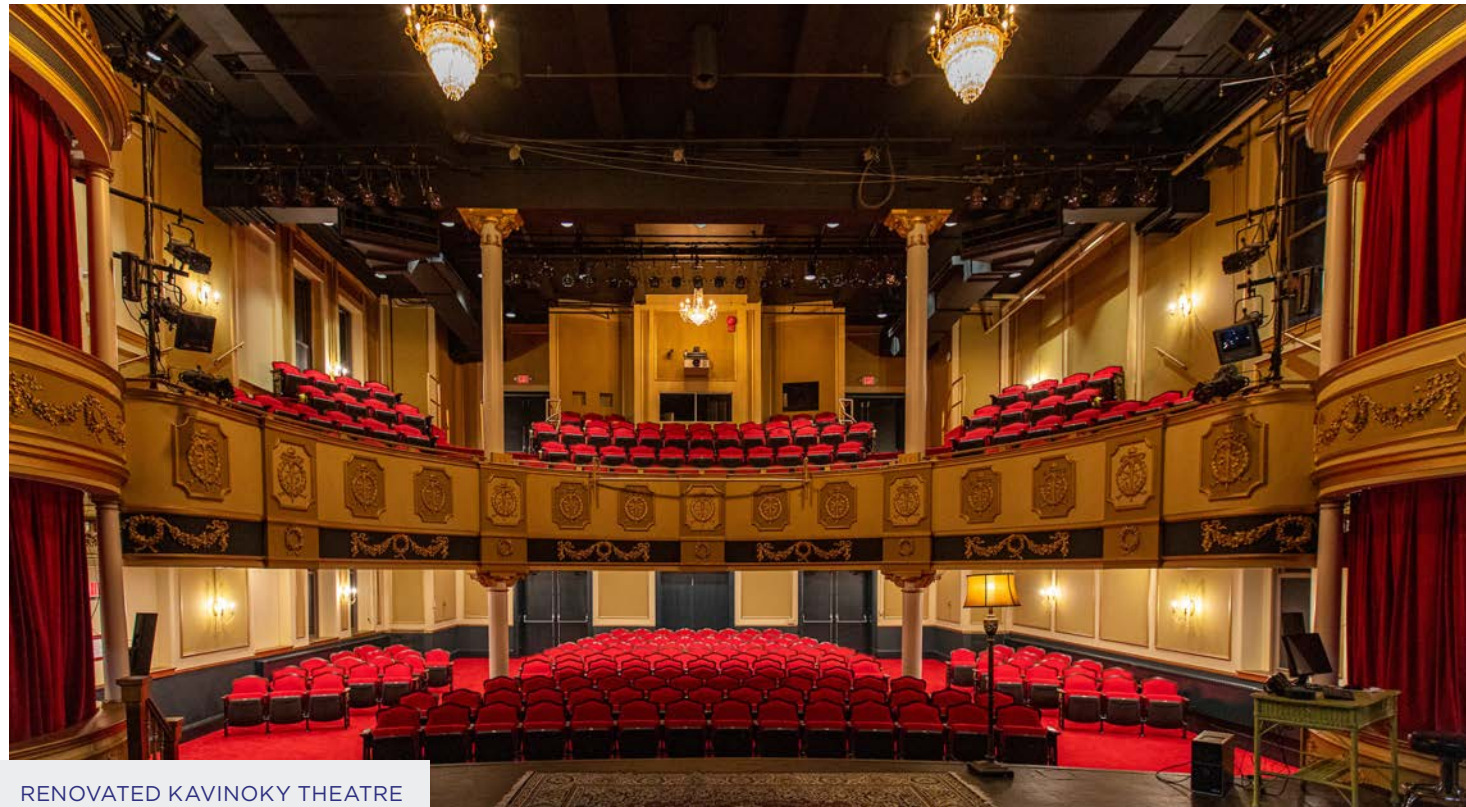


SOCCER AT DOBSON FIELD

“Athletic and academic excellence. Those two qualities are what we hope to provide to our student athletes. Transitioning to NCAA Division II competition facilitates this growth.”

– COREY L. NASH
Coordinator of Marketing & Brand Management
Women’s Assistant Soccer Coach





RENOVATED KAVINOKY THEATRE

Working Together for the Greater Good

Senator Tim Kennedy '99 is happy to embrace the reality of the new university status.

A lifelong Western New Yorker, Senator Tim Kennedy has always stepped up for D'Youville.

As an alumnus of D'Youville, class of 1999, he's also part of a D'Youville legacy - his mother, Mary, is an alumna. As a graduate from the class of 1968 and a clinical associate professor at the D'Youville School of Nursing, Kennedy calls her "D'Youville's secret weapon."

With roots as deep as Kennedy's, it's no wonder he's stepped up to help keep D'Youville heading in the right direction. And while his time on campus ended more than 20 years ago, he always knew D'Youville was destined for something bigger.

"I started at D'Youville in the fall of 1994 and graduated in 1999 with my dual degree in occupational therapy. And D'Youville was a much different place than it is today," Kennedy explains.



When he reflects on just how far the school has come, with institutional advancements and curriculum, robust doctoral programs, and state-of-the-art buildings, Kennedy is pleased D'Youville is finally getting the recognition it deserves.

"It's something that has been one of those elusive initiatives for many years. And throughout my career, whether it was through my work with the Alumni Association, my work with the school, with my positions in government or as a New York State senator, [becoming a university] was one of those items that was continually talked about and vetted around. It was a conversation piece, but not necessarily a reality," he said.

The long, arduous process began years ago, with plenty of leaders contributing along the way to bring the vision to life.



Mary Catherine (Wilson) Kennedy '68 (left)
President Lorrie Clemo (middle)
NYS Senator Tim Kennedy '99 (right)

"This is another historic milestone which sets D'Youville apart showcasing progress, modernization and the benefits it brings."

- D'YOUVILLE PRESIDENT DR. LORRIE CLEMO

"I've got to thank the leadership at D'Youville, first and foremost, for actually envisioning this university designation," Kennedy begins. "Sister Denise Roche, who was the President of D'Youville College for over three decades, who I initially discussed this with back in the day, and current president Dr. Lorrie Clemo, and her leadership, were really extraordinary in making this a reality. Her work, along with Jogy Das and Nate Martin at D'Youville College, and many of the alumni that work so hard to make sure that D'Youville is on the map."

While he's eager to acknowledge everyone who had a role in it, Clemo says Kennedy himself is one of the reasons the school is where it is today.

"Senator Kennedy has been instrumental in helping us navigate both the legislative portion of this as well as the State Education Department," she said.

Clema credits Kennedy and the countless others at the helm. But she's not surprised that their efforts have been successful. She said that with more than 25 baccalaureate programs, as well as several graduate and doctoral programs, D'Youville has been on its way to a university for some time.

"I think, well in advance of the state giving us a designation, that we have essentially been operating as a university because of the addition of the programs we have as well as the hiring of very



specialized faculty," she says. "It's been an evolution. We've forged a path forward, and the state is lagging behind where the rest of the world has recognized what we are for a very long time."

Now that the state is finally on board with its efforts, Kennedy and Clema are grateful for the team responsible for the new designation.

"You know, this is something that became a real community effort. And folks like Dr. Catherine Collins were instrumental in working with me in Albany to cut through the red tape," Kennedy shares. "We fought with the State Department of Education Leadership, with the Commissioner to make sure that this got the proper attention that it deserved."

And with the big change to university comes big advantages for the school.

"That growth that we've seen over many decades, both institutionally and in the investment and growth of the footprint of D'Youville, is going to expand to a whole other level, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what that looks like," Senator Kennedy says. "It's something that D'Youville has earned. It's something that D'Youville deserves. And I'm proud to have played a role in making it happen."

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