

Below are a number of FAQ's regarding the recent announcement regarding the future of CCC. Should you have any questions that are not answered below, reach out to President Kowal at john.kowal@clinton.edu.

1. What prompted Clinton Community College's strategic review?

The strategic review at Clinton Community College (CCC) was prompted by a persistent decline in enrollment over several years, exacerbated by financial pressures. Enrollment went from a high of 2,249 students in 2012 to a low of 994 in 2022-23. While enrollment increased 2.1% to 1,015 for Fall 2023, first-year full-time student enrollment went down by 7.1%. In addition, a significant portion of the current enrollment consists of high school students taking advanced courses, rather than full-time matriculated CCC students. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education's warning in June 2022 about CCC's insufficient financial resources for maintaining desired educational quality further necessitated this review. CCC must provide a report to Middle States by January 16th.

2. Why weren't discussions held or information shared about these changes prior to the announcement?

The announcement we've just made is the starting point for a broader, inclusive conversation. We understand there are concerns about the timing and nature of the communication. However, establishing a clear and well-defined framework was crucial prior to initiating broader discussions. We are now moving into a phase where the input, insights, and collaboration from our community are not just welcomed but are integral to the process. We look forward to engaging with everyone as we navigate these changes together.

3. What does the new direction for CCC entail?

CCC's new direction will look to relocate its academic operations and develop a plan with SUNY Plattsburgh to use classrooms and other facilities on-site. Planning will include administrative services and granting students access to additional SUNY Plattsburgh academic and residential options, aiming to utilize faculty, academics, and student services more efficiently. This shift is a proactive response to the challenges highlighted by Middle States, aiming to maintain the high-quality education and accreditation standards essential for our students' success.

4. How will SUNY Plattsburgh be involved in Clinton Community College's new direction?

While CCC pursues its academic future independently, collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh is a key part of CCC's new direction. Relocation and collaboration will offer CCC students access to SUNY Plattsburgh's facilities, events, and certain academic programs. Joint planning will guide shared services and resource utilization, with SUNY Plattsburgh managing the physical plant and enhancing the overall student experience at CCC.

5. How will the shift affect Clinton's budget and resources?

The relocation is expected to generate significant savings, particularly in the costs associated with the physical plant and some shared services. These savings will be reinvested in CCC's academic programs and student services.

6. What shared services are being considered with SUNY Plattsburgh?

Discussions with SUNY Plattsburgh will determine which services we can share, taking into account institutional capacities and student interests. Specific functions are yet to be determined. Our intent is to ensure that the cost savings to CCC can be redirected to enhance student services, namely in improved academic programs, student services like tutoring, and other resources. CCC students could also have access to SUNY Plattsburgh's facilities, diverse meal options, and participate in its academic and extracurricular programs.

7. Will CCC's new direction help avoid probation or termination of accreditation?

One of the reasons why CCC is advancing this plan now is to inform the accrediting agency of how the college plans to supplement the resources that it devotes to its educational efforts. Middle States has placed CCC on warning for having insufficient educational resources. This plan is expected to address their concerns, and thereby avoid probation or accreditation termination, by showing how the campus will redirect its limited resources toward its academic programs.

8. Is there a timeline for CCC to implement its new direction?

Yes, during the spring semester, CCC and SUNY Plattsburgh will work on a potential agreement to move forward, which will include a plan with the SUNY Construction Fund to remodel certain facilities at SUNY Plattsburgh. CCC will ensure a smooth transition for students.

9. Will CCC involve the campus during this transition?

Yes, inclusivity is vital to CCC's transition, involving consultations with all college constituencies. These discussions will shape the transition's practicalities, fostering a collaborative environment and ensuring any concerns are addressed. CCC is also committed to transparent communication with its full community during this transition. Regular updates, stakeholder input, and open dialogue will be priorities. The college will proactively inform all parties about key decisions and maintain open lines for individual queries, ensuring everyone is well-informed and engaged.

10. Will CCC be absorbed by SUNY Plattsburgh?

No. CCC's relocation and reimagining is expected to preserve and strengthen its individual legacy. The move to SUNY Plattsburgh, with a designated CCC space, ensures the continued accreditation and program appeal that are crucial to attract new students and secure the college's future.

11. How will current students be impacted?

Students will not see any disruption to their program at CCC and no programs will be eliminated as a result of the new direction.

12. How will a relocation or collaboration benefit academic programs?

The relocation and collaboration with SUNY Plattsburgh will enrich CCC's academic programs by working with its faculty, expanding facilities, and adjusting program demands to align with student and workforce needs. The potential also exists to enhance our academic support services, like tutoring and counseling.

13. What will happen to the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing?

The Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (IAM) is recognized as an integral component of the economic landscape in the North Country. This 30,000-square-foot facility has been meticulously designed for adaptability, aligning with the evolving trends in manufacturing and industry. We are committed to fostering new collaborations that will not only support but also enhance the vision and mission of the IAM as an asset to the region. While specific plans still need to be developed, key stakeholders in economic development, including the county and its chamber of commerce, will be crucial in planning next steps.

14. What will happen with the other buildings used by the college?

The buildings currently occupied by CCC are county-owned. The county would be charged with reviewing and determining their best future use. In line with our comprehensive planning process, decisions will be made to ensure these buildings serve the best interests of the broader community.

15. How will the changes affect tuition and fees?

No tuition or fee increases are planned at CCC. Our commitment to maintaining affordability and access for our students is fundamental, in line with our sustainable and responsible approach to resource allocation. Expected savings from the relocation and collaboration should help stabilize tuition costs.