



THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT
THE MISSION OF RVCC, TO EXPAND THE COLLEGE'S IMPACT IN OUR REGION,
TO PROPERLY ACKNOWLEDGE ITS ROLE AS AN ENGINE FOR GROWTH,
AND AS A TRANSFORMER OF LIVES. WE INVITE YOU TO ENGAGE WITH US
AND TO EXPLORE THE PROMISE OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE.

Michael J. McDonough President, Raritan Valley Community College

The world and all of its inhabitants have never been more interdependent and that's no surprise: we face big challenges and bigger opportunities, that are best met and seized by collaborating, sharing resources, networks, and human capital. Across the higher education landscape, and particularly within the community college sector, the need for partnerships and shared responsibility has never been more striking. In New Jersey, 42.7% of the higher education student population is enrolled in community colleges. But New Jersey community colleges receive only 8.9% of the state's public higher ed funding, and less than 4% of higher ed funding from private philanthropic sources.

Within this stark context, we are celebrating some of RVCC's partners and partnerships, which represent a range of sizes, industries, and missions. Each of our featured partners is to be commended, for they have each discovered that community colleges truly are "America's best kept secret." For RVCC, these partners provide a compelling blueprint for engaging with others in pursuit of collaboration and resource and the transformative impact they enable.

Triad Tool Labcorp SCBP Sanofi Stoney Brook Grille Provident Bank





### TRIAD TOOL & DIE CO.

Located a mere 2.8 miles from the RVCC campus, it's no wonder a partnership has emerged between College and company—especially a company that's a multigenerational family business, with a genuine family "feel," which traces back to 1933, the year the business was established.

But this partnership is based on so much more than proximity, family,



FAMILY AFFAIR: Company leaders and RVCC grads now part of the Triad family.

and history. In fact, the bond between RVCC and Triad is all about the future.

In the last few years, Triad has hired eight talented grads from RVCC's Advanced Manufacturing program, all of whom continue to work at company, building on their foundational education from the College.

Says **Fred Carden,** Engineering Lead for the company, with 40 years of service, "Triad considers these employees to be a great asset and the perfect advertisement for the quality of the program at RVCC."

The company, whose primary markets are the Military and Commercial Aerospace segments, serves the entire country with its 60 employees. In addition to Mr. Carden, Triad's leadership team includes Eric Wichelhaus (President), Jim Wichelhaus (Vice President), Margaret Hurley (Secretary/Treasurer), and George Romanella (Director of Operations). From top-to-bottom, it is a company whose commitment to quality, total customer satisfaction, and continual improvement is unwavering.

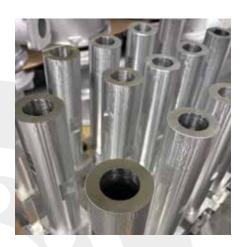
Triad first became engaged with RVCC when an article about trade programs at community colleges was passed onto George Romanella. George immediately recognized how beneficial a relationship with RVCC—the local community college—could be to Triad. He reached out to **Conrad Mercurius**, Coordinator of Advanced Manufacturing program at RVCC. As it turns out, this was the beginning of what is shaping up to be a long and fruitful relationship.

The beauty of the Triad-RVCC partnership is that it has allowed the company to not only hire RVCC grads with bright futures, but to also assist the Advanced Manufacturing program in the development of its curriculum.





NINETY YEARS: Precision machining at its finest, a few of the products of Trial Tool & Die Co.



Both Mr. Carden and Mr. Romanella serve as Advisory Board Members for the Advanced Manufacturing program, offering their significant expertise to RVCC.

In addition, Triad is currently sponsoring two employees as students in the Advanced Manufacturing program at RVCC. Adds Jim Wichelhaus, "Triad has always had an apprenticeship program. Our partnership with RVCC allows us to continue that legacy." Carden and Romanella have both expressed that the best part of having a relationship with RVCC is the satisfaction they get from seeing the RVCC program grow and improve. At this point in their careers, they are pleased to have a role in supporting machining and tool makers who are choosing to go into the trade.

As a lifelong tradesman himself, Romanella notes, "People have expressed the opinion that the trades as career opportunities were disappearing. The RVCC program and programs like it give us a glimmer of hope for the future of manufacturing in New Jersey and the United States."



"The Labcorp-Raritan Valley Community College partnership is an excellent example of what is possible when the corporate community invites us in to assist with their talent pipeline challenges or other areas of need for which natural synergy exists with RVCC," says RVCC President, Michael McDonough. "In fact, this is one of the unique roles community colleges play: helping to drive local and regional impact while demonstrating the value in public-private partnerships."

It started with students—specifically students in RVCC's "Authentic Engineering Experience" class who were working on a project at the Labcorp Raritan facility, which is headquarters for the company's Northeast Division, the largest laboratory by footprint across the enterprise. As it turns out, the students were not only great problem-solvers, they also brought a youthful energy into the facility, which led to a discussion about other ways the College could assist Labcorp.

What was looming, in the not-toodistant future, was a talent pipeline challenge that companies across the country are facing: the "aging out" of an appreciable portion of the employee population and a critical need to fill the pipeline with the next generation of workers.

For Labcorp, a critical need was growing the talent pool of Medical Laboratory Technicians—a need that Raritan Valley Community College was uniquely suited to assist with. Flash







IMMERSION DAY: For students in the inaugural class of the Medical Laboratory Technology AAS degree program at Raritan Valley Community College, a two+ hour tour of Labcorp's stunning facility, included stops at accessioning (a.k.a., the specimen receiving space), propel serum splitting automation, chemistry, hematology, urinalysis, specialty immunoassay, molecular and microbiology.

Labcorp is a leading global life sciences company that provides vital information to help doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, researchers, and patients make clear and confident decisions. Through its unparalleled diagnostics and drug development capabilities, the company provides insights and accelerates innovations to improve health and improve lives. Labcorp has over 80,000 employees serving clients in more than 100 countries.

forward through months of dialogue between Labcorp and RVCC, leading to the completion of program design, curriculum development, licensing approval, staffing, and program promotion—all supporting the launch of the College's new Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

The company's commitment to the partnership with RVCC is multifaceted and includes direct support to students through the *Labcorp MLT Scholarship* at RVCC. MLT students will also have the opportunity to complete their clinical rotations a few miles away from the RVCC campus at the Labcorp Raritan regional laboratory.

"Labcorp is proud to partner with RVCC to support their new Medical Laboratory Technology program," says Dr. Mary Williamson, PhD, Vice President, Laboratory Operations. "Once enrolled in this program, students will have the opportunity to train with our team of incredible laboratory professionals during their clinical rotations, and upon completion, explore the many opportunities for qualified can-



didates to join our team of over 1,000 laboratory personnel at Labcorp's Raritan laboratory."

Says **Bill Haas**, Labcorp Senior Vice President, Northeastern US & Canada, "Every day Medical Laboratory Technicians are helping healthcare providers treat millions of patients by giving them accurate results so they can make clear, confident decisions. Our partnership with RVCC's new Medical Laboratory Technology program will ensure a consistent flow of qualified candidates to continue the essential work performed every day at Labcorp."

INAUGURAL: Incoming MLT program students gather with staff from Labcorp and RVCC.





BUILDING PARTNERSHIP: Quality time at Labcorp to discuss the formal launch of the Medical Laboratory Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree program at Raritan Valley Community College. With the MLT program launch imminent, the Labcorp-RVCC partnership is focused on promotion to both current and future RVCC students whose interests might align with the promising careers that await at Labcorp and other firms in this sector.

In frame, with (left to right): Mike Marion (Chief Development Officer, RVCC Foundation) Bill Haas (Senior Vice President, Northeast Operations, Labcorp), Siddra Dar (Director, Medical Laboratory Technician Program at RVCC), Sarah Imbriglio (Dean, STEM and Health Sciences, RVCC), Elise Wagner (Vice President, Laboratory Operations, Labcorp), Mary Williamson, PhD (Vice President, Lab Operations, Northeast and North Central Divisions), Matt Christianson (Associate Vice President, Marketing and Commercial Strategy, Labcorp), Jesse Greenberg (Talent Acquisition Manager, Labcorp), and Inieka Stafford (Director of Health & Technology, RVCC)

### SOMERSET COUNTY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

The mission of the Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) is to lead the business community to a prosperous and sustainable future; its effectiveness is the result of a partnership among Somerset County's major employers, small and medium-sized business, nonprofit organizations, Somerset County Board of County Commissioners, and the 21 local municipalities. The organization is small (6 employees) but has a wide reach, serving Somerset County with a membership that boasts some 800 companies and organizations.

Says **Chris Edwards**, President & CEO, who has been at the SCBP for over a decade, "The number one issue that comes up with mid and large-sized employers in the area is talent. Whether is attracting or retaining talent, RVCC plays a pivotal role in the number one asset any of these businesses need." He adds, "Our job



START YOUR ENGINES: Employers and RVCC students engage in an "Employer Speed Networking" organized by the SCBP in collaboration with the College and held at the RVCC Event Center.

at the SCBP is to make the business community aware of the services that RVCC provides and help their students get in front of those employers."

Edwards is most proud of the collaboration agreement that RVCC and the SCBP forged in January, 2022 that connects students with employers through a variety of events and programs. In November of the same year, the first ever "Employer Speed Networking" event was held that matched some 25 employers with 25 students looking for mentorship in Somerset County. Notes Edwards, "I think what

In preparation for the Employer Speed Networking event, RVCC Office of Career Success & Experiential Learning helped me create a successful elevator pitch, and coached me on my resume and how to network. And the Employer Speed Networking event helped me land an internship at RRBB, an accounting firm in Somerset. I can say I am confident in my abilities to speak with an employer and get future internships or jobs!

Cesar Vicuna (RVCC Class of 2023; attending Rutgers Business School in Fall 2023)

we did in 2022 is the catalyst for even stronger programs moving forward."

According to Edwards, his SCBP mentors-past President Mike Kerwin and County Economic Development Officer John Maddocks—were big advocates for RVCC. Edwards adds, "Both of them were always adamant that RVCC have a seat at the table when we engage the business community about their needs."

Edwards added that the best part of having a partnership with RVCC is that it is reciprocal: both entities see the value they can offer each other. "At most companies we tend to have

one or two contacts," says Edwards. "At RVCC, we probably have 15-20 people who have been involved in the organization, and it starts at the very top with President Mike McDonough and his involvement on our Executive Board."

Mr. Edwards is bullish on the College and says RVCC's importance to the business community cannot be overstated. "There are so many areas that RVCC impacts currently and could impact going forward," he says. "And I've always appreciated how the leadership at RVCC has been very

> in the community. RVCC not only has to help young adults get ready to join the business community, but also help the business community train their current employees for highly skilled and ever-evolving positions."



PROMOTIONAL MUSCLE: For the last two years, the SCBP served as a significant "amplifier" of the RVCC Giving Day message. In 2022, their "Coffee with Dan" series (hosted by then Director of Business Services, Dan Fahrer) featured a 45-minute interview with Mike Marion (Executive Director of RVCC Foundation) from "Bliss Coffee Lounge" that highlighted both the College's successes and the upcoming Giving Day event. For RVCC Giving Day 2023, SCPB marketing associate Suzanne Leger came to campus on Giving Day and created innovative promotional messaging that was posted into both the SCBP and RVCC Foundation's social media streams.

Suzanne Leger (3rd from left) with RVCC Foundation's Cindy Haddad, Janet Dunne, and Mike Marion



### **SANOFI**

Sanofi is an innovative Paris-based, global healthcare company, driven by one purpose: improving people's lives. The company has 100,000+ employees spread across some 100 countries, including 13,000 in the U.S., with flagship offices in Bridgewater (NJ) and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company is dedicated to transforming the practice of medicine "by working to turn the impossible into the possible." Sanofi provides potentially life-changing treatment options and life-saving vaccine protection to millions of people around the world, while putting sustainability and social responsibility at the center of the company's ambitions.

Over the years, the company has become one of the top corporate supporters of Raritan Valley Community College, primarily through the Sanofi US Corporate Mentor Program at RVCC, Sanofi Galileo Scholarships (which provide greater access to STEM education), and during COVID-19. the RVCC Science Education Institute's work developing virtual science instruction for school districts across

Raquel Mura, Head of R&D North America Global Operations and a board member of the RVCC Foundation, appreciates the value the Raritan Valley Community College and its offering of affordable, high-quality

### sanofi

"Growing up I was never given much help or guidance when trying to piece together my future, so I became reluctant to ask for help. After entering the Sanofi Mentorship Program that all quickly changed. After just a few short minutes of conversation with my mentor, I could tell that they genuinely cared about me and wanted to benefit my future. I would not be the person I am today without this program."

Luke Ingenito (RVCC Class of 2020; Rutgers Engineering School, Class of 2023)



FUTURES AT WORK: Last fall, mentors and mentees of the Sanofi Corporate Mentor Program at Raritan Valley Community College kicked off a nine-month long schedule of interactive and face-to-face sessions that are all about "futures."

Renewed with another \$50,000 award from Sanofi for the 2023-24 Academic Year, this program continues to provide the rarest of things: exceptional opportunities for select RVCC students to accelerate their growth and professional development.

Amazing to think of the number of futures that have been encouraged, enriched and empowered through the magic of these mentor-mentee relationships. It's well beyond the paid internships and employment at Sanofi that many mentees have benefitted from; in fact, the multiplier effect of this partnership exceeds our ability to fully measure it. How do you capture a mentee "paying it forward" somewhere ahead in their journey?

Raquel Mura, Head of R&D North America Global Operations



education to its students. "Supporting an institution that can make a difference in the lives of so many students who may not otherwise have had an opportunity to pursue higher education is inspiring," she notes.

One of the most impactful programs Sanofi works with RVCC on is the Corporate Mentorship Program. With its sixth year just completed, the program has provided some 65 RVCC students scholarship support and an opportunity to receive personalized career coaching from Sanofi employees throughout the course of an entire school year. "Watching mentees grow and reach heights they never thought

were possible is inspiring," says Diana Blankman, Head of U.S. Corporate Social Responsibility. "But this program is just as rewarding to Sanofi employees as it is for the students." This year, as part of a grant awarded to RVCC from The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals intended to make underrepresented minorities aware of the opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry, Mura agreed to partner with the College to host students during a half day event at the Bridgewater campus, allowing them the opportunity to network with industry professionals and get a first-hand look



into the work that Sanofi is doing "to chase the miracles of science."
"Diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM is a matter very close to my heart," says Mura. "And it is personally rewarding to interact with the students and help them better understand what their careers could look like in the STEM field."

Mura adds, "It is truly a privilege for a company such as Sanofi to be able to help students, especially those coming from underrepresented backgrounds, as they navigate their career paths, and for us to help nourish the next generation of scientists and professionals in the STEM field."



**RVCC**, with its strong reputation and high-quality educational offerings, plays a very important role in our community by helping provide a pipeline of talent in STEM disciplines, and by providing workforce training and career tracks. This positively impacts the lives of students and local companies that can tap into highcaliber talent and grow. When local communities prosper, society gains. Sanofi US is proud to be a partner of RVCC. We recognize the value of RVCC, and we appreciate its role in the community in which our employees live and work.

Diana Blankman, Head of U.S. Corporate Social Responsibility

### STONEY BROOK GRILLE

He is a constant presence—whether seated in a booth having a business meeting, mingling with customers at their tables, or just making the rounds from kitchen to back office to the bar, and all points in between. In fact, Simos Kontos, owner of the Stoney Brook Grille, is present at his beloved restaurant some 100 hours a week. "I am here because I care about our customers," says Simos, "and I want to be sure they're taken care of." So do his daughters, loanna and Katina, both of whom have been students at RVCC and now help run the business, which opened in 2009.

As suggested in the restaurant's moto, "where neighbors wine and dine," Stoney Brook Grille has become a local "go to" place: a popular Branchburg establishment, located less than a mile from the campus of Raritan Valley Community College. In fact, the college's employees often lunch there or gather to celebrate

anniversaries or other team-related milestones.

That proximity and his daughters' connection to RVCC inspired a promotional relationship, which now spans four years, and centers on the college's annual "Giving Day" campaign. "We approached several local businesses about becoming involved with our Giving Day efforts, but no one responded as enthusiastically as Simos," notes **Janet Dunne**, Development Associate of the RVCC Foundation.





**DRIVING FORCE: Simos Kontos** 



From an initial conversation about a partnership sprang on-premise RVCC Giving Day promotional displays, discounts at the restaurant for Giving Day "donors", as well as other prizes and cash donations to help the cause. Mr. Kontos, who attended Stevens Institute of Technology and worked for AT&T for 22 years before entering the restaurant industry, appreciates the value of education and the impact of RVCC. "I love the college," he notes. "It is a wonderful and an important part of our community and I'm happy to help it in any way I can."







**FAMILY AFFAIR: Daughters Ioanna and Katina** 

### THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

Samantha Plotino, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation, describes her team as "small but mighty." That description feels particularly apt given her three-person staff (Samantha, along with Kristy Koos, Associate Program Director and Donna Abbott, Foundation Associate) which-backed by their "mission driven" board of directors-awarded Raritan Valley Community College a \$100,000 "Signature Grant" as part of the 2022-23 award cycle. It was the Foundation's first Signature Grant award in Somerset County and the largest gift ever to RVCC from The Provident Bank Foundation.

The Provident Bank Foundation is committed to strengthening and sustaining its relationship with communities in Provident Bank's marketplace—this includes 14 counties in New Jersey, three counties in eastern Pennsylvania, and Queens County, New York. Though the Foundation's office is in Woodbridge, NJ, the small and mighty team is often on the road, meeting community partners where they are. The Provident Bank Foundation's mission is centered on enhancing quality of life across its geographic footprint and does so by investing in 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations focused on community enrichment, education, and health, as well as vouth and families.

The Foundation's relationship with RVCC began nearly 10 years ago, mostly with small grants and sponsorships, including of the RVCC Foundation Golf Classic. "But I personally began my relationship with the RVCC Foundation in the summer of 2021," says Plotino. "I was invited by Mike

Marion, Chief Development Officer & Executive Director, RVCC Foundation, to come to the college for a tour and have a conversation about what RVCC was currently engaged in and where they hoped to take the College in the future."

"Right off the bat I could tell that the College had a vested interest in improving quality of life for its students and opening doors to new and exciting opportunities," added Plotino. "And that meshed well with our funding goals at The Provident Bank Foundation."

According to Plotino, The Achievement Center at RVCC was unlike any other program, as it focused on the educational advancement, profes-



sional development, and economic self-sufficiency of young adults with special needs and different abilities.

"The Achievement Center's partnership with The Arc of Somerset County only serves to strengthen what RVCC can offer its students through this innovative program," says Plotino. "In our short time working together on this initiative, our staff and Board have been incredibly impressed by RVCC's genuine investment in the students served by The Achievement Center."

"RVCC is a cornerstone of higher

### A perspective from THE PROVIDENT BANK extended team:

"Upon arriving at the Raritan Valley Community College for the first time, I was amazed by the campus. Not only for its sheer scale but also for its stunning setting. Nestled beautifully within open and expansive green spaces, it had the feel of a modern university with the facilities to match. Seeing really is believing, it's so much more than "just" a community



college campus. What moved me even beyond the impressive grounds, was the impactful nature of the work of The Achievement Center. I had the pleasure of observing a class in session and yet again I was moved. Captivated by the style of teaching showcased by the instructor, Bob Hulit; lessons were delivered with real-world practicality, care, and enthusiasm. There's a warmth that embraces you the moment you walk in and a connection between the staff and the students that's truly tangible. We can ALL learn something from the approach The Achievement Center takes to teaching, learning, and skills development that will live on for a lifetime."

Matthew May, Creative Director, Believeco

education in New Jersey," says Plotino. "As a funder, what I appreciate most about RVCC is the College leadership's transparency and their willingness to dream big alongside us. They view The Provident Bank Foundation as a partner in attaining their goals and in shaping a better future for their diverse student body."









### **MAKING HISTORY**

An extraordinary 'Giving Tuesday' visit to campus by The Provident Bank Foundation, whose leader, Samantha Plotino, brought a creative team from Toronto-based Brightworks Interactive Marketing (now called Believeco) to film the work of The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College.

As one of three of the Foundation's "Signature Grant" recipients, the \$100,000 investment in The Achievement Center recognizes the unique collaboration between the Arc of Somerset County and RVCC, which provides a college experience and pathway to employment for those with intellectual and development disabilities. In short, brilliant.

While on campus, Samantha also lent her voice to RVCC Foundation's FUTURES campaign, filming her part at the RVCC Foundation's historic offices (circa 1743), which were transformed into a "pop-up" production set. It, too, was brilliant.

### RVCC RECEIVES \$100,000 SIGNATURE GRANT FROM THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

Raritan Valley Community College is the recipient of a \$100,000 Signature Grant from **The Provident Bank Foundation** (PBF) for the 2022-23 academic year. The generous gift, in the Education funding priority area, is the Foundation's first Signature Grant awardee in Somerset County and one of three statewide.

RVCC was selected for the work of "The Achievement Center" (TAC)—a unique collaboration between the College and the Arc of Somerset County. The Center provides a certificate-based, post-secondary program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they can continue academic study, experience college life, and gain important skills for entering the workforce.

"The collaboration between Raritan Valley Community College and the Arc of Somerset County is inspiring," said **Samantha Plotino**, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation. "And their collective impact is so

evident in the students whose lives are enriched through the work of The Achievement Center."

The multi-year award will support the expansion of the courses offered at TAC, specifically in the STEM disciplines, and allow the TAC model to be amplified more broadly across the state.

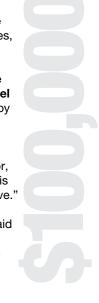
"We applaud both the vision and the generosity of The Provident Bank Foundation," said RVCC President **Michael McDonough.** "Their commitment to the students served by The Achievement Center at RVCC is unprecedented."

"We're honored by the endorsement by The Provident Bank Foundation and excited by the impact this support will enable," said **Christopher Corvino**, Executive Director, the Arc of Somerset County. "The growth of our program is the best evidence of our value to the communities we serve."

"This a wonderful example of what is possible when important work gets noticed and appropriately valued," said **Mike Marion,** Executive Director, RVCC Foundation. "It's also a wonderful example of incredible generosity and the leadership of The Provident Bank Foundation."



**BIG CHECK:** (L-to-R): Mike Marion, Executive Director and Chief Development Officer, RVCC Foundation; Samantha Plotino, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation; Christopher Corvino, Executive Director, the Arc of Somerset County; Michael McDonough, President, Raritan Valley Community College





### INTERESTED IN DEEPENING YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH RVCC?

Here are just a few examples to get the discussion going:

TRAINING: Uptraining for employees—we can train, re-train, fill knowledge gaps, and upgrade competencies of employees in a variety of content areas, customized specifically to address your goals.

TALENT: Want to offer industry-tailored instruction to grow your talent pipeline? We might already have what you're looking for—and if we don't, we can start working on it.

BRAND BUILDING: Engage in a dialogue with our nearly 6,000 students, 800 full and part-time faculty and staff, and 15,000 alumni. You can even put your brand on a variety of physical assets on the RVCC campus.

GOODWILL: Equipment and technology that your company has outgrown might qualify as part of a 'gift-in-kind' donation.

**VOLUNTEERISM:** Themed-speaker series, guest lecturers, career panels and a host of other campus programs can take your employee volunteer opportunities up a notch.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT: Mentoring, internships, job-shadowing, apprenticeships, and recruitment for full or part-time employment are wonderful ways to support the development of our students.

PHILANTHROPY: There are an unlimited number of ways to make an impact at RVCC with your corporate giving—from student scholarships to supporting the College's critical initiatives and strategic priorities.

Opportunities abound at Raritan Valley Community College and we're here to help you navigate them!













### TO EXPLORE THE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT RVCC, PLEASE CONTACT:

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