



22 January 2021

Dear Heze:

The start of a new semester provides an opportunity for reflection on the good work we’ve done and the work that lies ahead. One 2020’s many lessons for the Upstate New York College Collaboration is that we are indeed “better together.” In fact, UNYCC and its members thrived during 2020 because of the hard work, creativity, and dedication of all participants. This year, the collective work of our thirteen members generated:

- 300 hours of continuing education, bringing the grand total to just over \$2M of value to institutions
- A \$150k projected savings across three UNYCC members joining [SpectrumU’s](#) cable initiative
- Avoidance of a 20% increase in auto insurance renewal pricing with a combined estimated savings of \$70,000 for eight participating campuses
- A dozen consortia-wide discussions focused on returning faculty, staff, and students to our campuses safely, as well as conversations about social justice activism, and intercession operations
- Featured segments in a Chronicle of Higher Education special feature publication, "[Financial Strategies for a Crisis and Beyond](#)" and in [University Business](#)

In the next few pages, I would like to outline to the specific engagement of Monroe Community College colleagues across UNYCC including in our:

Communities of Practices:

Chief Information Officers	Education Abroad
Environmental Health & Safety	Financial Management
Human Resources	Instructional Design & Technology
Provosts	Purchasing
Student Mental Health	Title IX

Special events (including but not limited to):

- [The New York Shield Act: What You Need To Know](#)
- UNYCC’s Fall Focus 2020: [“Equity and Inclusion as Everyday Practice”](#)
- [Small Teaching Online: A Conversation with Flower Darby](#)

Continuing Education Activities offered in partnership with The Bonadio Group:

- [Hot Topics In Student Financial Aid Programs](#)
- [Cybersecurity, Risks and Compliance](#)

MCC's UNYCC Membership: By the Numbers

During the course of this year, a thirteen MCC staff members attended events awarding continuing education units offered at no charge to members. Additionally, your institution saved a projected 11% off the expected renewal price for Auto Insurance by joining with colleagues in the region to address a common need with an effective and cost-saving solution.

Table 1.

CEU Value*	\$2,600
Auto Insurance Savings	\$5,091
Total Savings	\$7,691
UNYCC Dues	-\$7,500
Total ROI	\$191

*based on NACUBO cost per 1 hour for members at \$100

Beyond the calculable "return on investment," MCC has been one of the most active member institutions in all UNYCC events. Your colleagues participate heavily in our special events (Figure 1) and in our communities of practice where they foster information exchange and innovation. These communities are the foundation of UNYCC's work in building relationships that generate new opportunities.

Unique Participants by Event Type

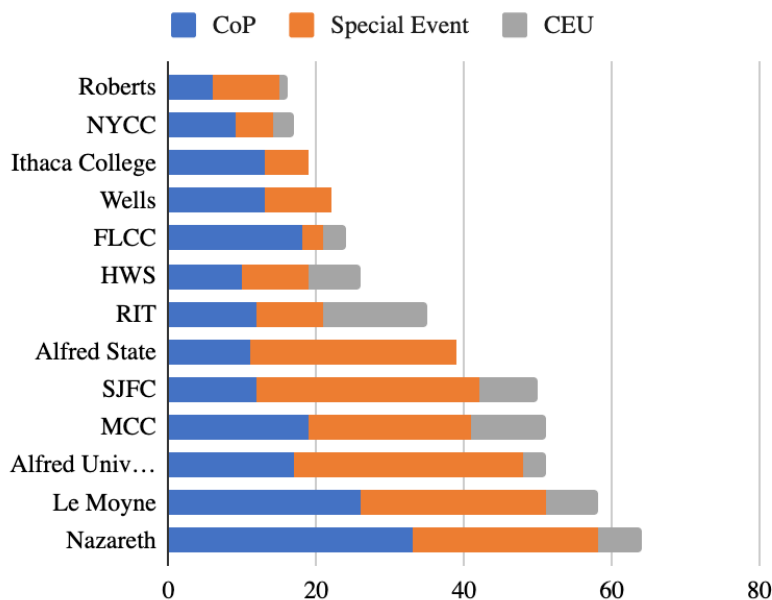


Figure 1

The commitment of your colleagues to UNYCC's communities of practice is underscored by their dedication and repeat participation (Figure 2, below) in regular meetings of the various groups.

Total Participants By Event Type

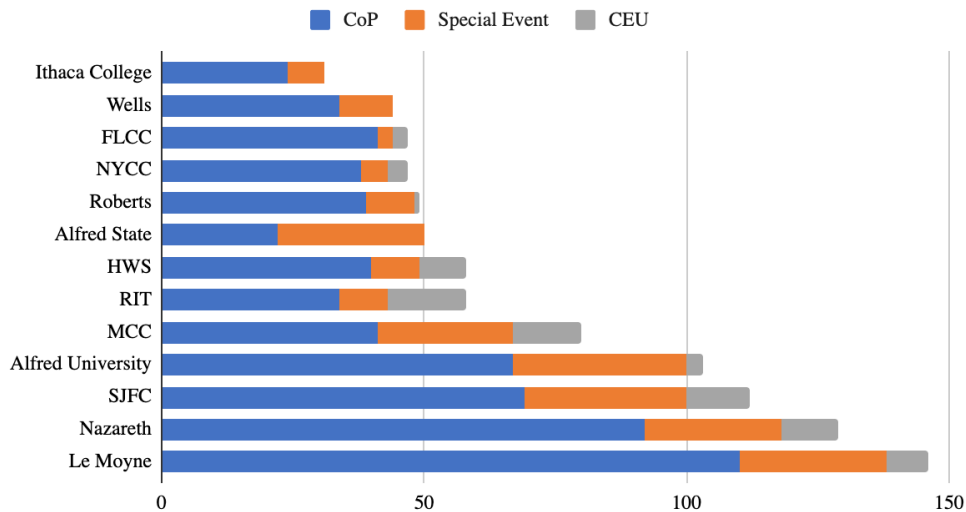


Figure 2

MCC colleagues are particularly engaged in discussions of interest to the CIOs, Student Mental Health, HR and Purchasing (Figure 3). One of UNYCC's shared successes in 2020 was the work of the Purchasing Group which rallied to share expertise, resources, and ideas for securing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as the region's campuses struggled to secure inventory in spring and for startup in the fall. Combining our efforts built a collective resilience for all involved.

CoP Engagement

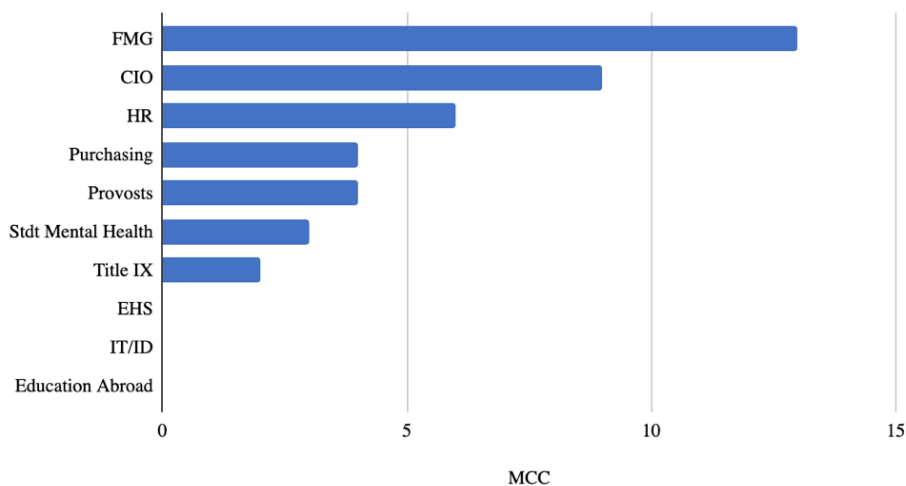


Figure 3

In 2020, MCC developed strong participation across UNYCC (Fig. 4, below). A new semester, and a new year, provide opportunities leverage these existing connections so that your institution derives all the benefits of membership. I'll be reaching out in the coming weeks to strategize about ways to establish contacts with appropriate representatives of Environmental, Health and Safety, Instructional/Instructional Design and Education Abroad.

Total Unique Individual Engagement UNYCC-Wide

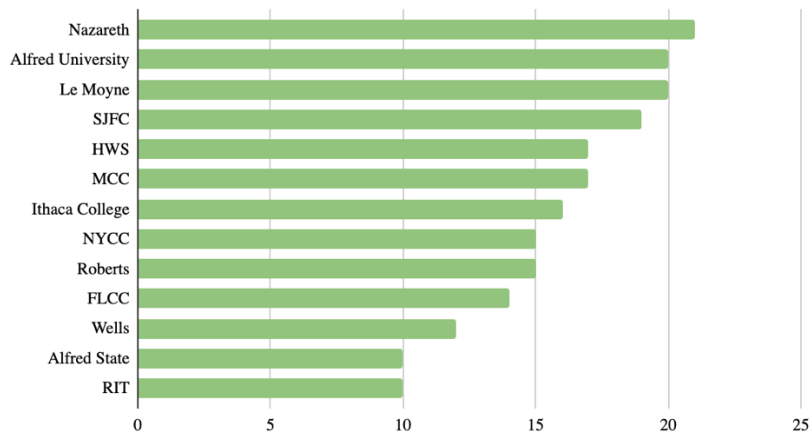


Figure 4

Additionally, I am personally grateful for the many new connections I've developed with colleagues at your institution and their generous spirit of shared mission. Beyond participating actively in our communities, individuals from MCC have taken on leadership roles within UNYCC:

- **Calvin Gantt** provided critical guidance on establishing partnerships across member institutions as we move the *Essential Discussions* series to a shared model. We also continue to develop UNYCC's relationship with the Western New York Diversity Officers (WYNDO) group.
- **Shiela Strong & Joel Frater** were generous with their time in sharing the principles and structure of MCC's leadership programs.
- **Christina Lee**, with faculty members **Jonathon Little & Jasna Bogdanovska**, organized a program on Collaborative Online International Learning to take place in Spring 2021.
- **Andrea Wade** is an advocate for our work and a partner in helping forge connections to academic affairs.
- **Shannon Glasgow** recently assumed a leadership role as co-chair of the Title IX CoP.
- **Katherine Ghidiu** helped plan UNYCC's first community read (*From Equity Talk to Equity Walk*)

I look forward to our continued good work and to discussing strategies to further engage your campus.

Best wishes for a productive and healthy new semester!

Suronda Gonzalez, Executive Director
Upstate New York College Collaboration (UNYCC)