



SUNY Oswego Office of Workforce Innovation and External Relations (OWIER)

Fall 2025 Presentation to SUNY Oswego Faculty Assembly

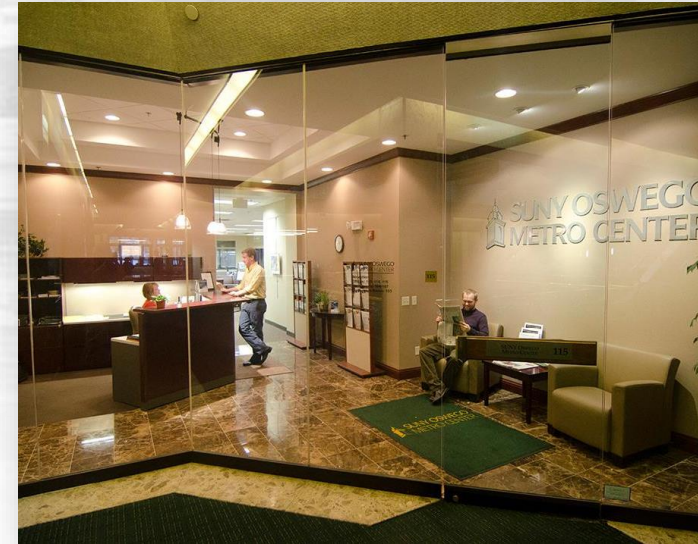
**Kristi Eck, AVP Workforce Innovation & External Relations
Kathryn Watson, Director of Workforce Innovation & Community Impact**

Office of Workforce Innovation and External Relations

Located in both **Oswego** and at our **SUNY Oswego Syracuse Campus**



34 E. Bridge Street
Oswego, NY

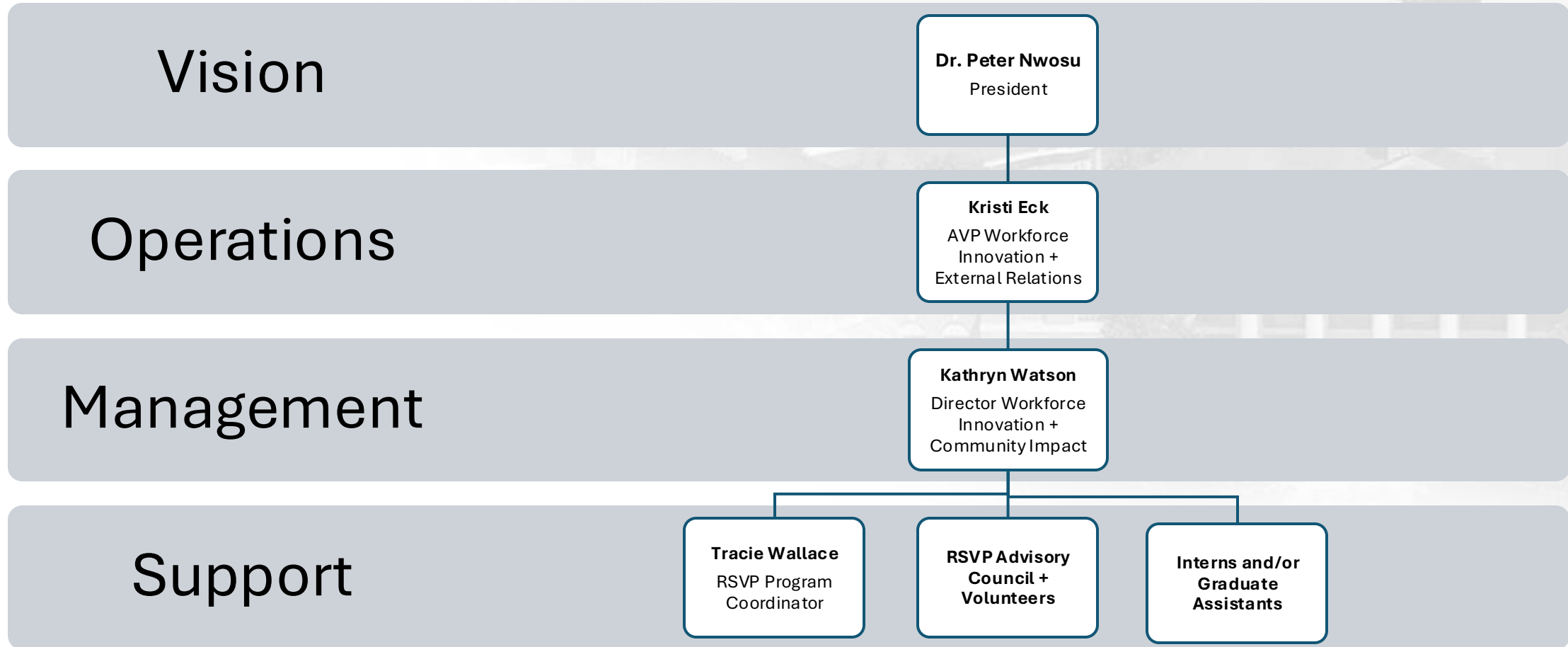


2 S. Clinton Street
Syracuse, NY

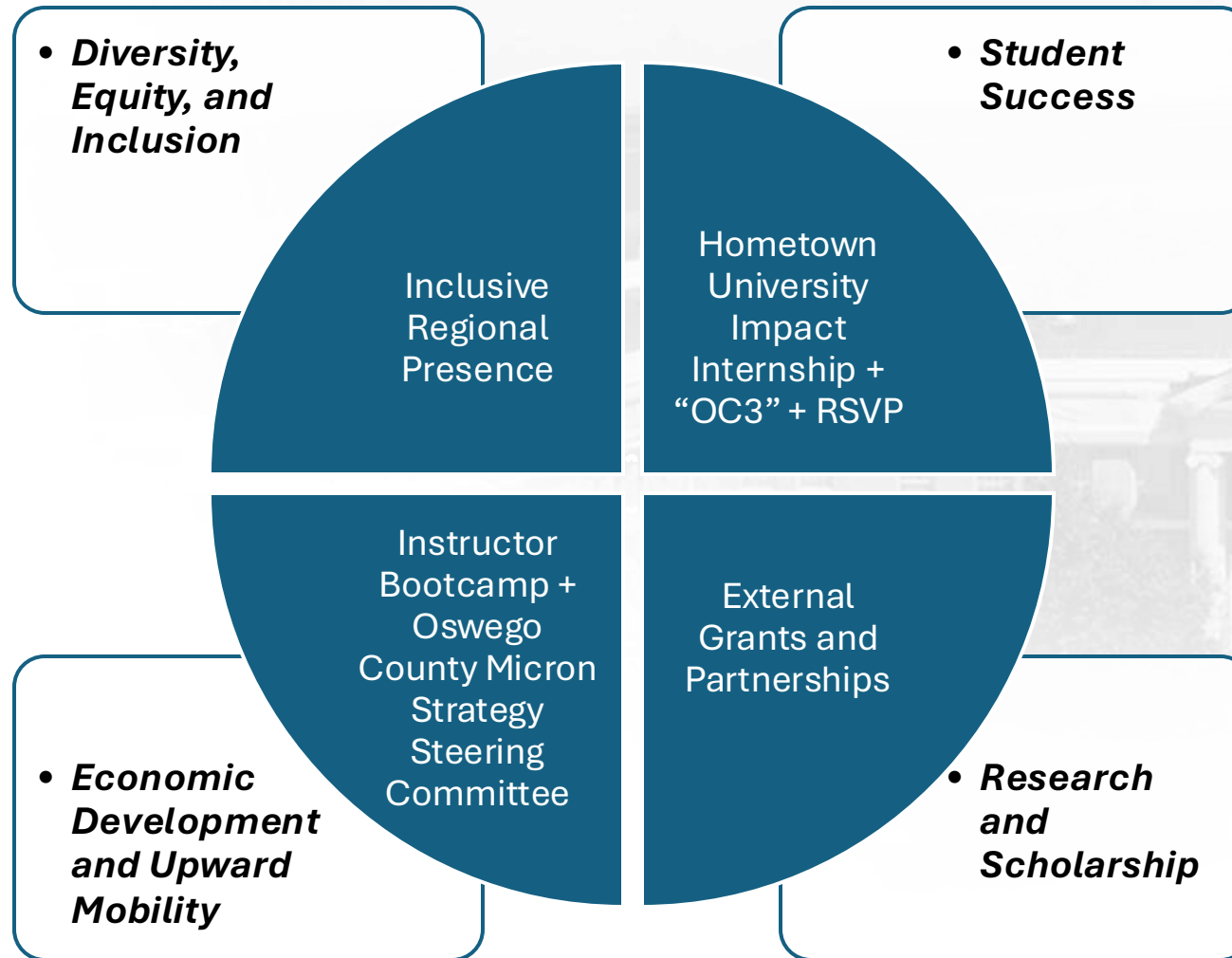
OWIER Purpose

*The Office of Workforce Innovation and External Relations (**OWIER**) provides a designated point of entry into SUNY Oswego for industry, non-profit, public, private, and community partners to connect with institutional assets. Partnerships formed will generate economic and social benefits for the region that align with the priorities and vision of SUNY Oswego and contribute to the long-term, sustainable vitality of the university and the Central New York region.*

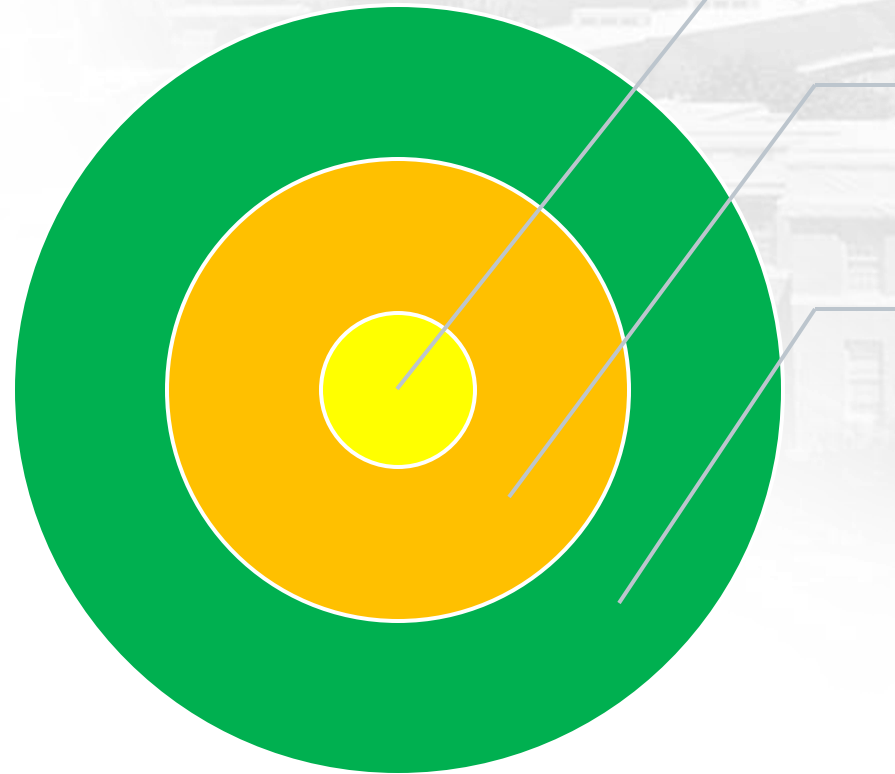
OWIER Team



SUNY Pillars: OWIER Priorities



Strategic Drivers: OWIER Pillars



Thrive:

Community
Impact

Connect:

Workforce
Innovation

Grow:

External
Relations

Thrive – Community Impact

- **Engaging Seniors 55+ Since 1973: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oswego County**: sponsored by SUNY Oswego and staffed by OWIER (project director and program coordinator roles with support from RSVP advisory council)
- **Sharing Goals + Space to Advance Partnerships**: SUNY Oswego subleases office space to 3 staff members (soon to be 4) in the OWIER location at 34 E. Bridge St. (Oswego) to **North Central NY Small Business Development Center** and to the **Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce**
- **Collaborating Across Sectors for Economic Growth: Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee** lead convener (since 2023)
- **Telling SUNY Oswego’s Story of Workforce + Community Impact: “OneCity.OneCampus.OneCommunity” Photojournalism Project** (since 2023)

Connect – Workforce Innovation

- **SUNY Oswego Instructor Bootcamp** (July 2023 – December 2025)
- **Hometown University Impact Internship** (launched this Fall 2025)
- **Lead and/or support the development/writing of workforce development focused grant proposals** with SUNY Oswego colleagues and external partners

Grow – External Relations

Local:

Campus Community Relations Committee

CenterState CEO Government Relations Committee

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Designee – President Nwosu

City of Oswego Promotion + Tourism Advisory Board

Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Advisory Council

Micron Future-Ready Workforce Innovation Consortium

Oswego County Micron Strategy Steering Committee

Oswego County Tourism Advisory Council

Oswego County Transportation Advisory Committee

Oswego County Workforce Development Board

Central New York Community Engagement Committee

WNCY Community Advisory Board

State:

Kristi Eck serves as SUNY Oswego’s State Legislative Representative, Association of Council Members and College Trustees (ACT) Liaison and leads external outreach to elected officials and their staff members

Federal:

Kristi Eck serves as SUNY Oswego’s Campus Federal Relations Representative and leads external outreach on all Congressionally Directed Spending/appropriations requests and SUNY-aligned federal lobbying efforts to elected officials and their staff members

Office of Workforce Innovation and External Relations (OWIER)

2024-2025 Highlights

- OWIER staff directed/coordinated **awarded grants totaling \$602,963** in funding (2023 – 2027 award period)
- OWIER staff led and/or contributed to the writing of **9 grant proposals exceeding \$6.4 million** in requested funds. To date, **6 of the 8 grants awarded -- totaling \$581,000** in funds (2024-2027 award period)
- OWIER staff partnered with a total of **16 faculty members, 10 staff members, 6 deans, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs staff on 9 grant proposals** and/or projects across the university (Art, Biological Sciences, English, Marketing, Political Science, Curriculum and Instruction, CTE, Technology Management, Engineering, International Education, Rice Creek Biological Field Station, and the Triandiflou Institute)
- OWIER staff managed **293 RSVP of Oswego County volunteers who completed 43,486 volunteer hours at 38 volunteer partnering stations** for an economic value of **\$1.67M**.
- OWIER staff **oversaw 2 graduate assistants (Instructor Bootcamp) and selected 5 interns** for the inaugural (Fall 2025) cohort of the **Hometown University Impact Internship** with community partner sites: Operation Oswego County, Oswego County Department of Workforce Development, Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning, and City of Oswego's Water Treatment Plan and Clerk's Office.

OWIER Program Spotlight: SUNY Oswego Instructor Bootcamp

www.oswego.edu/instructor-bootcamp

Grant: \$340,963 from Empire State Development Office of Strategic Workforce Development

PI: Kristi Eck, **CO-PIs:** Dr. Benjamin Ogwo and Anneke McEvoy.

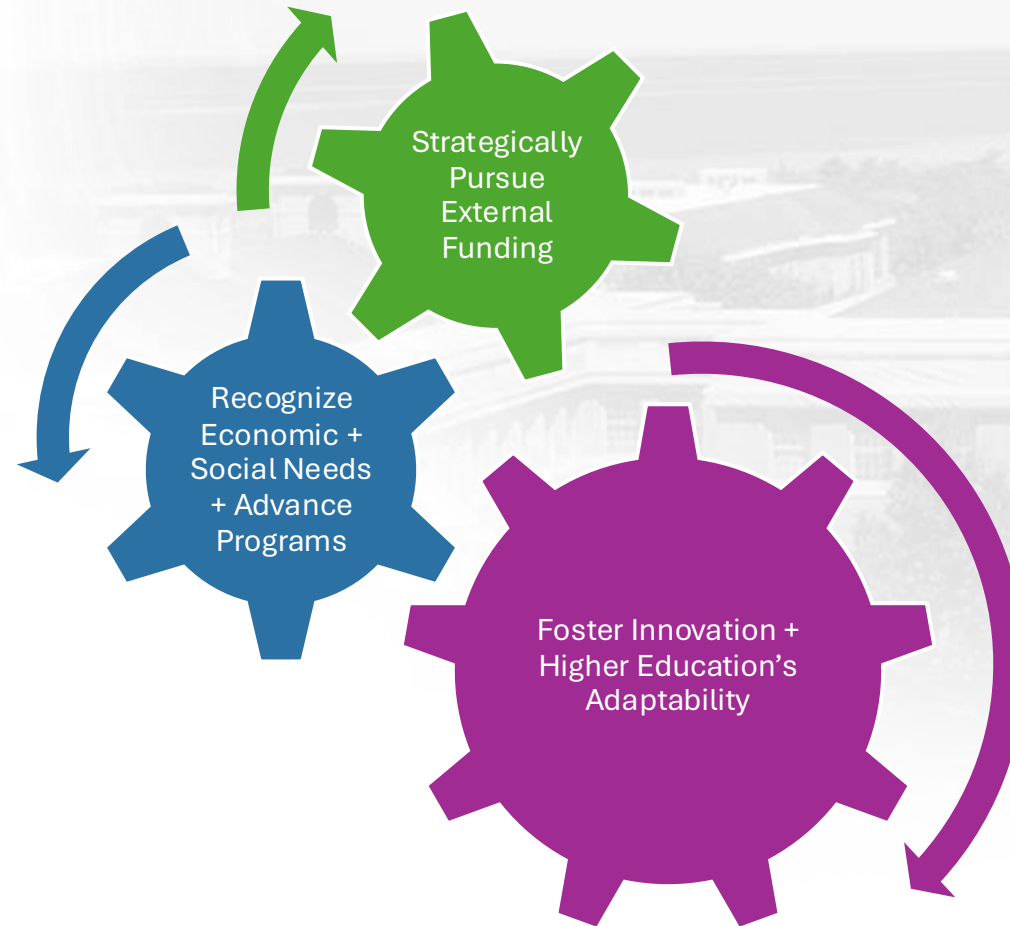
Grant partners: CenterState CEO, Cayuga Community College, SUNY SYR EOC, and TradesFutures

Curriculum designed and taught by SUNY Oswego Faculty: Dr. Donna Matteson, Dr. Star Matteson, Dr. David Parisian, Dr. Ritu Radhakrishnan, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Dr. Jan Woodworth, and Dr. Najah Zaaed

Success Metrics:

- 76 participants and 68 graduates, 89.5% graduation rate (Cohorts 1-6)
- 55 of 68 graduates (81%) hired or retained as instructors by 19 workforce development partners across NYS
- 7th and final cohort launching Sept. 22, 2025

OWIER staff collaborate with SUNY Oswego colleagues and external partners to:





Thank you, please reach out:

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www.oswego.edu/owier