



**PRESIDENT  
KENNEDY  
FEATURED  
IN HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
PUBLICATION**

People have taken notice of SUNY Canton President Joseph L. Kennedy's successes over the last 18 years. His numerous accomplishments earned him a feature article in a higher education publication designed to inform and educate industry experts and executives.

The article in *Education Executive* magazine's July edition gave Kennedy the chance to discuss the difficult task he faced when he arrived in 1993, and why he said yes to the role when most people wouldn't have entertained the notion of taking on the challenge.

"I say yes all the time," Kennedy said. "Want to know why? Because you have to be open to new ideas and willing

to take risks if you want to keep moving forward. What we've achieved didn't come from my efforts alone. It came from the hard work of our faculty and staff to develop new programs and come up with new ideas. I just had to be willing to support them."

Throughout the article, Kennedy discussed the reason why he's enjoyed the work he's done and continues to do it: he is always looking for ways to improve the learning experience for students.

*Education Executive* covers topics such as management, new technologies, marketing programs, security, facilities and operations, as well as financial and legal issues.

**SUNY CANTON  
EARNS BRAGGING  
RIGHTS**

SUNY Canton students, faculty, staff, and alumni recently celebrated a big milestone! The College was ranked among the Top

Regional Colleges in the 2012 edition of "Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

"As far as I know, this is the first time SUNY Canton has been included in these prestigious rankings, and we are extremely happy and proud to be among the select colleges honored," said President Kennedy. "This recognition reflects the perennial dedication of our faculty and staff members who provide outstanding opportunities for all of our students. We've seen our successes play out in our classrooms, in our student groups and organizations, and on our athletic fields. It's encouraging to know those successes are being acknowledged by others, too."

The 2012 rankings include fewer than half of all colleges in the country. *U.S. News & World Report* has been compiling rankings and publishing them for 28 years, grouping schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Colleges are compared against their peer institutions on a variety of factors including graduation and retention rates, class size, and selectivity.

**SUNY DROPS PLAN TO MERGE  
CANTON-POTSDAM PRESIDENTS**

State Senator Patty Ritchie announced in early December that SUNY administrators have pulled the plug on a controversial plan to eliminate one of two president's positions at either SUNY Canton or SUNY Potsdam. SUNY officials notified Senator Ritchie of the decision just days prior to her appearance on campus.

"I am pleased that SUNY has dropped this idea, which threatened the identity and independence of both the Canton and Potsdam campuses," Senator Ritchie said, as she announced the decision to a group of faculty and staff. "This move will go far to relieving the uncertainty and anxiety that overshadowed the colleges' futures."

Senator Ritchie helped lead the effort to preserve separate identities for the two colleges by ensuring that each maintained independent leadership. She introduced legislation (S.5581) that would require a president at each SUNY campus.

"There is a need to continue to cut costs and expenses throughout state government—including SUNY—and I strongly support efforts to increase collaboration and shared services between campuses to make sure that more tuition and tax dollars stay in the classroom, so that students get the quality instruction they need, and employers demand. But preserving both colleges' unique identities and independence requires strong, local and accountable leadership that only separate presidencies can provide.

Senator Ritchie immediately rejected the shared presidents plan when it was unveiled last spring, calling it a threat to the colleges' independence that would have unraveled much of the progress and growth that had occurred in recent years, particularly at SUNY Canton.



**COLLEGE WELCOMES  
NEW PROVOST**

Both SUNY Canton and the North Country community recently welcomed back a familiar face in Carl C. Schiffner, Ph.D., who once served as President Kennedy's Chief of Staff but returned to the College in July as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"Both Carl's prior work with our campus community as well as the leadership experience she's gained since is serving her well in this high-demand role,"

President Kennedy said. "The College has grown drastically in recent years and we have placed our trust in Carl to continue that growth by creating more in-demand four-year programs and supporting our exponential increase in online offerings and international programs, all while encouraging the continued academic excellence of our students and faculty."

Schiffner came to SUNY Canton in 2003 as an assistant professor in the History department. In May 2005, she assumed the role as Chief of Staff for President Kennedy but also maintained her faculty position at the College. She continued to work as a faculty leader in the areas of distance learning, institutional strategic planning, curriculum development, and accreditation. Schiffner served as the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Yakima Valley Community College after leaving SUNY Canton in August 2007.

Schiffner received her bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., in 1996, her master's degree in 1998 from Drew University in Madison, N.J., and her doctorate from Washington State University in 2004.

The new Provost keeps people informed and uses her new blog (<http://www.canton.edu/provost/blog/>) and Twitter (@CantonProvost) to do so.



**BEST  
COLLEGES**

**U.S. News**

REGIONAL COLLEGES  
NORTH  
2012