



CHANCELLOR'S **LEADERSHIP** PROJECTS

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY | SCHOLARSHIP IN ACTION

Syracuse University's vision, Scholarship in Action, draws upon our institution's traditional and emerging strengths, connecting our academic excellence to ideas, problems, and professions in the world as we engage pressing issues of our time. The Carnegie Corporation of New York explicitly cited this bold vision in bestowing a 2008 Academic Leadership Award upon Chancellor Cantor, along with a \$500,000 grant to support her highest priorities for its continued pursuit. Concurrently in both time and purpose, the John and Maureen Hendricks Foundation awarded the University \$1 million. Chancellor Cantor determined that the most effective means to fulfill the spirit of these generous grants was to combine them, along with additional support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and an anonymous donor, to support faculty-led projects that exemplify SU's vision. The result is the Chancellor's Leadership Projects described in these pages.

The 19 Chancellor's Leadership Projects recognized here span the academic disciplines yet resonate with common purpose: to bring faculty and students together in collaboration with communities of experts from many sectors in addressing critical questions and challenges facing society.

Some of the projects are new; others expand existing initiatives. Their focus areas are far-reaching and varied, from environmental sustainability and global collaboratories to cultural entrepreneurship and inclusive urban education. As Chancellor's Leadership Projects, however, they each share several defining characteristics: They are interdisciplinary, with contributors from at least two SU schools or colleges; they incorporate student learning opportunities as integral components of their work; they integrate outside experts into scholarly activities with students and faculty; they advance faculty excellence and scholarly distinction; and they will make a strong impact.

By investing "seed money" in these projects, the University affirms the mission of each as well as their potential for enriching the student experience while making a difference in the world.



# impact



These innovative projects represent the vanguard of Scholarship in Action: They seed sustainable opportunities for our scholars and students to cross boundaries, work on the frontiers of their disciplines, and collaborate with communities of experts to make an impact on the world.

Nancy Cantor  
*Chancellor and President*

# creative arts

partnerships

technology

design



## THE LOCAL: LABORATORY OF COMMUNITY, ARTS, AND LEARNING

**Project Leaders:** Jan Cohen-Cruz, *University Professor/Imagining America*; Tim Bond, *Drama/Syracuse Stage*

In searching for solutions to society's most vexing problems, local communities may need to look toward new avenues to inspire, enlighten, and unite. The LOCAL project will explore the arts as a means for collective problem solving through campus-community partnerships in community workshops and performances. Performance workshops (or community dialogues) will be a vehicle for stakeholders from multiple disciplines and social contexts to identify the most pressing concerns and their solutions. Using the cultural assets of such facilities as Syracuse Stage, touring productions will emerge through the work of community members, performing artists, and student and faculty partners, seeking to address the common goal. Productions will showcase the findings in public spaces, including venues along the Connective Corridor. LOCAL will develop community engagement curriculum to draw in students from various disciplines, matching their skills to the specific issues to be solved.

## SU IN LA

**Project Leaders:** David Rezak and Ulf Oesterle, *Bandier Program for Music and the Entertainment Industries*; Michael Schoonmaker, *Television, Radio, and Film*

In the competitive world of the entertainment industry, graduates need crucial real-world insights for professional advancement. SU in LA will establish a full-semester experiential program in Los Angeles that focuses on the entertainment industry, engaging students with SU's accomplished community of experts in Southern California. The program will provide the foundation for a dedicated Los Angeles campus experience to serve the engagement initiatives of other schools and colleges at SU. The Los Angeles semester will immerse students in day-to-day operations at various entertainment industry sites and offer specialized coursework and targeted internships, while creating an environment for new discovery and exchanges among students, alumni, industry leaders, and faculty. The S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and the College of Visual and Performing Arts will lead this pilot phase of the residency program.

## TRANSDISCIPLINARY MEDIA STUDIO

**Project Leaders:** Mark Linder, Jonathan Massey, Brian Lonsway, *Architecture*; Gregg Lambert, *English/Humanities Center*

Digital media, the Internet and mass communication media, and virtual environments shape the world in which we live, but they do not map easily onto such familiar design categories as “furniture,” “architecture,” or “city.” A nexus of humanities research, design communications, architectural design, and the geographical imagination, the Transdisciplinary Media Studio (TdMS) will enable new modes of collaboration in teaching and research on the media/space environment. Through a combination of digital media, studio pedagogy, and collaborative practice, TdMS will generate innovative knowledge and practice to reshape the production and experience of environments, including cities, social computing environments, interiors, and products. Collaborative projects will integrate faculty and students from the School of Architecture, the Humanities Center, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, other academic units, and non-University participants. The TdMS will also host a range of events, including conversations with students, faculty, and communities beyond the University on space, media, and design of built and virtual environments.



leveraging strengths

sustainable

innovate

## SYRACUSE ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

**Project Leaders:** Edward Lipson, *Physics*; Craig Watters, *Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises*; Kevin Lair, *Architecture*; Lee McKnight, *iSchool*

In an era when cities nationwide seek innovative ways of revitalizing their urban centers, new visions that incorporate sustainable ideals and technologies into long-neglected neighborhoods offer some of the most transformative solutions. The Syracuse Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development (SEED) project offers one such vision, by seeking to develop technologies to support a prototype of an urban farm for multi-ethnic, under-resourced communities. The prototype, which will be developed on the city's Near West Side, will establish the preferred crops and farm program that meet community needs and desires, and it will incubate the SEED technologies and businesses. It also will promote and develop volunteer and entrepreneurial opportunities for both neighborhood residents and SU students. The project will build critical collaborations with the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems; UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry; and the Near Westside Initiative. Project leaders expect to market the successful prototype in under-resourced urban communities beyond Central New York.

## SYRACUSE SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE ACTION CENTER

**Project Leaders:** Don Torrance, *Broadcast Journalism*; Bruno F. Battistoli

As breakthroughs in sustainable science intensify, the diffusion of information in the field becomes even more important to advance the understanding of innovation that matters. The Syracuse Sustainable Science Action Center (SSSAC) will create a clearinghouse of information to disseminate the work of SU and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) researchers in sustainable science. A web site, modeled on the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems (CoE) site, will serve as the primary platform. This “living community” of researchers, students, and thinkers will further the discourse on sustainability and increase the visibility of sustainable science and technology generated by SU and ESF. The site will be a resource for science journalists and serve as a vehicle for the publication of sustainable scientific research and scholarship. It will also link to the University's Tech Transfer database and expand the presence of the Syracuse CoE in the sustainable science community. Cultivating settings for the exchange of ideas, SSSAC will organize the SU/ESF Sustainable Climate Communications Symposium.

## STORING CARBON IN RANGELAND SOILS TO MITIGATE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

**Project Leaders:** David Driesen, *Law*; Jane Read, *Geography*; Peter Wilcoxon, *Public Administration*; Mark Ritchie, *Biology*

Global climate change could be slowed by increasing the amount of carbon removed from the atmosphere and stored in soils of rangelands that cover nearly a quarter of the earth's surface. Improvements in land management—appropriate grazing by livestock and wildfire controls—would enhance carbon storage, and the resulting soil carbon credits could be sold to benefit farmers, especially in developing countries. To address such an initiative, this project will develop a computer model of grazing and soil carbon storage; determine the appropriate mechanisms for selling carbon credits on global carbon markets; and develop remotely sensed satellite imagery interpretation for validating carbon storage. Drawn from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the College of Law, the interdisciplinary team will consist of an ecologist, an economist, a geographer, and an expert on climate change law. Graduate students from SU and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania will assist in the research, which will result in change in various international settings.



*Creating a Recipe for Entrepreneurial*  
**community**

**empowerment**

**collaboration**

## BUILDING A START-UP COMMUNITY IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

**Project Leaders:** Michael D'Eredita, *iSchool*; Nasir Ali, *Syracuse Technology Garden*; Craig Watters, *Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises*; Suresh Santanam, *Engineering and Computer Science/Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems*; Lucinda Havenhand, *Design*

In today's knowledge-driven economy, technology entrepreneurship can be a powerful career starter for young people—and a substantial asset for the communities in which they live. This project envisions a revitalized City of Syracuse fueled by a thriving community of students and recent graduates passionate about innovation and entrepreneurship. Designed to create a local culture of start-ups and growth with the ability to attract and retain talent, the project has four phases: The first connects start-up minded students across schools at SU; the second connects those students with start-up minded students from other institutions in the region; the third connects the combined group to the regional business community; and the final phase connects the established start-up community to the global community. The interdisciplinary effort currently includes the iSchool, the Whitman School of Management, the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems. It envisions the involvement of all SU schools in addition to the already engaged Syracuse Technology Garden and the Syracuse community at large, and with the support of Kauffman Initiatives.



## CNYSpeaks

**Project Leaders:** Tina Nabatchi, *Public Administration*; Grant Reeher, *Political Science*; Greg Munno, *The Post-Standard*

One of the most reliable measures of community leadership is the degree to which policies and priorities correlate to citizens' concerns. In an effort to encourage responsive leadership, CNYSpeaks has created mechanisms by which citizens can participate in constructing Citizens' Agendas, the first of which is a "Citizens' Agenda for Downtown Syracuse." Individual agenda items, along with background and potential solutions, are to be published in *The Post-Standard* over a period of months. Once the draft agenda is complete, CNYSpeaks will host a series of public forums with elected officials and candidates for city offices to discuss agenda items and monitor implementation and public action. Students will contribute to the process by helping to create public relations campaigns, interning in government offices, or leading dialogue or focus groups. The project's goal is to naturalize the role of citizens in speaking directly to government in order to promote public communication and enhance democracy.

## LA CASITA CULTURAL CENTER

**Project Leaders:** Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, *Latino/Latin American Studies/Spanish*; Silvio Torres-Saillant, *Latino/Latin American Studies/English*

As an anchor institution in the local community, Syracuse University recognizes the critical importance and value of expanding its boundaries beyond campus and engaging diverse publics in ways that enrich students and community alike. La Casita Cultural Center seeks to establish a physical gathering place on Syracuse's West Side to foster multi-modal, multi-generational campus-community conversations and serve as an intellectual and artistic bridge linking various communities, including Latino populations across and beyond Syracuse. The project, whose board of advisors includes faculty, students, and administrators from schools and colleges across the University, will work in partnership with a variety of community organizations and with institutional support from the Near Westside Initiative. La Casita will aid the revitalization of the West Side by rehabilitating unused urban spaces and fostering scholarly and creative activities in the areas of art, culture, entrepreneurship, and education.

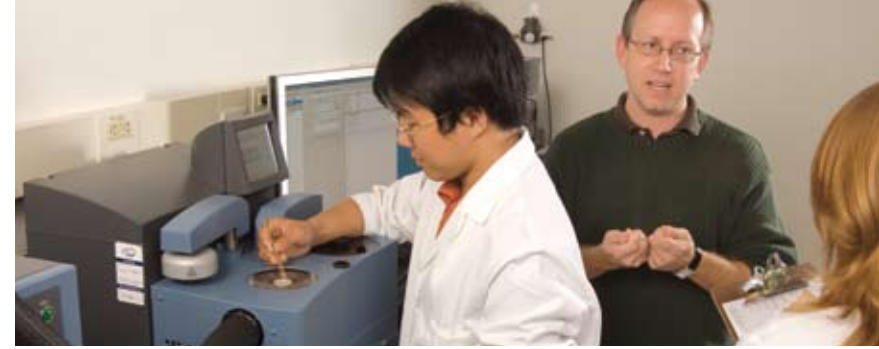


## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FAMILY, CHILD, AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Proposed Master of Science in Family, Child, and Community Health

**Project Leaders:** *The Faculties of the College of Human Ecology and the School of Education*

Families and children can face complex health challenges— infectious diseases, chronic illnesses, and psychosocial issues, compounded by ecological and cultural factors—that studies show affect children’s social and educational outcomes. The master of science degree in family, child, and community health will develop professionals who can address health issues through a broader understanding of family and childhood development. This interdisciplinary program will build on the expertise of faculty from the College of Human Ecology and the School of Education, with support from the College of Law and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Students will explore such topics as physiological, social, and psychological impacts on well-being and achievement; prenatal and postnatal health disparities; and challenges of children and families with emotional, behavioral, and physical disabilities. Students will engage in internships, and broad communities of experts will join with faculty and students in scholarly and practice-oriented pursuits. This initiative will develop alongside community partners, including the law clinics, social services providers, and local educators, and will apply the development of professional expertise to local enterprises such as the Golisano Children’s Hospital and Say Yes to Education.



## TRANSFORMATIVE ALLIANCE ON CELLULAR ENGINEERING (TrACE)

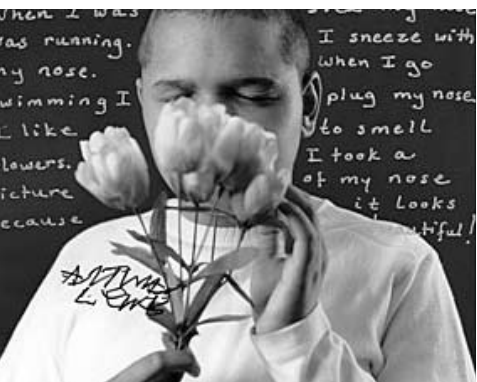
**Project Leaders:** James H. Henderson and Patrick T. Mather, *Biomedical and Chemical Engineering/Syracuse Biomaterials Institute (SBI)*; Martin B. Forstner and M. Cristina Marchetti, *Physics/SBI*; Steven R. Goodman, *SUNY Upstate Medical University*

Regenerative medicine seeks to regenerate damaged tissues and organs and holds the realistic promise of developing therapies for previously untreatable diseases, such as heart disease, osteoporosis, and spinal cord injuries, while creating jobs and growing a new sector of the health care industry. Future progress in regenerative medicine will depend largely on understanding how stem cells sense and respond to their local environment, but the proteins stem cells use to “feel” their local environment are largely unknown. SUNY Upstate Medical University (Upstate) will co-fund this interdisciplinary team from the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute at SU and from Upstate, bringing together innovative approaches from engineering, physics, and molecular biology to identify these proteins and bridge a fundamental gap in knowledge that is critical to the future of regenerative medicine while establishing an exciting new level of collaboration between SU and Upstate.

## SMART KIDS-VISUAL STORIES

**Project Leaders:** Sari Biklen, *Cultural Foundations of Education*; Michael Schoonmaker, *Television, Radio, and Film*

Work to revitalize urban schools is often responding to external evaluation or expectations rather than the voices within the community or the school building itself. Attempts to attend more carefully to those voices—particularly the voices of young and prescient students—bring narratives of change to the fore. Smart Kids-Visual Stories will foster partnerships between Syracuse City School District middle school students (Levy Middle School, grades 6-8) and students from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and School of Education to create youth-made digital videos that represent the experience of urban education. Adolescents will be encouraged to express their knowledge and perceptions about school through their own stories and to develop their visual storytelling and narrative skills, which can influence how communities, scholars, and educators envision and transform schools.



## SYRACUSE SAY YES TO EDUCATION COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Project Leaders:** Douglas Biklen, *Dean, School of Education*; Steven Masiclat, *New Media*; Mary Anne Schmitt-Carey, *Say Yes to Education*

Increasingly, the road that our children must follow to participate fully in the global economy runs through college, yet for many students in urban schools the goal of college attendance remains at the far edge of their vision. Syracuse Say Yes to Education is building a bridge across this yawning opportunity gap. A coalition of partners catalyzed by Say Yes to Education and Syracuse University aims to alter the life course of students in an entire urban school district—Syracuse—by dramatically increasing the rate at which they go to college. A pivotal strategy in this multi-faceted program is cultivating a pervasive, college-going culture in urban neighborhoods. The Syracuse Say Yes to Education Community Outreach project aims to do this through a coordinated, city-wide program of awareness assessment, education, coalition building, and cross-sector engagement that will help fix the gaze of Syracuse families and neighborhoods on the attainable and affordable goal of earning a college degree. The project will draw upon a community of experts led by faculty, staff, and students of the School of Education and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, integrating educators and communications professionals from across the city.



engagement

justice

resonance

local-global

## TRANSNATIONALIZING LGBT STUDIES

**Project Leaders:** Andrew London, *Sociology*, and Margaret Himley, *Writing Program*, co-chairs of *LGBT Studies*

One of the most exciting and vital developments in the expanding field of LGBT/Queer studies is recognition of the need to move courses and scholarship beyond national borders to engage the questions of sexual identities, theories, communities, diasporas, and politics from a global perspective. This project will focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of transnational research across campus and among faculty, and help position the program for a leadership role in transnational LGBT/Queer curriculum and pedagogy. Activities to further those objectives will include a yearlong speaker series to stimulate faculty interest; a faculty reading group; and a regional workshop to stimulate interest in transnational research, curriculum development, and pedagogy. The workshop will also serve to develop materials in preparation for a conference in Madrid in the second year of the program. The weeklong Madrid workshop will feature keynotes by leading U.S. and European researchers and curriculum and pedagogy workshops. It aspires to attract faculty from Spain and other European countries; build the relationship between SU LGBT Studies and the SU Abroad center in Madrid; and expand the program's capacity for leadership in the field.

## DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE: PRODUCING INCLUSIVE PUBLICS

**Project Leaders:** Linda Carty, *African American Studies/Sociology*; Margaret Himley, *Writing Program/LGBT Studies*; Chandra Talpade Mohanty, *Women's and Gender Studies*; Silvio Torres-Saillant, *Latino/Latin American Studies/English*

Often in institutions of higher education, projects of difference, justice, and citizenship reproduce traditions that are experienced as individualized and exclusionary. This project poses a specific set of challenges to the reproductive models of knowledge in order to transform the organization of knowledges and culture at Syracuse University and beyond. Working in concert with the Center for Public and Collaborative Humanities, and working with a diverse and far-flung group of students, scholars, and intellectuals, the initiative will draw on, support, and bring together existing interdisciplinary projects as it works to move intellectually marginalized work from the periphery to the center of the University's intellectual agenda. It also will engage the SU community in conversations and events geared toward building and sustaining an inclusive campus culture and expanding the reach of transformative knowledges to make visible and public understandings of difference, identity, equality, justice, citizenship, and democracy.

## MAPPING GLOBAL INSECURITY

**Project Leaders:** William Banks, *Law/Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism*; Bartosz Stanislawski, *Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs*

One of the greatest challenges facing the international intelligence community today is the difficulty in monitoring the activities of, and potential threats posed by, criminals and terrorist groups based in regions located outside effective governmental controls. These areas, known as “black spots,” are largely invisible to the outside world yet present a considerable challenge to world security as breeding grounds for criminal activity and terrorist operations. This project, a collaboration of faculty and students in SU’s College of Law, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, will develop methods of detecting, mapping, and analyzing these “black spots” in order to track the movement of criminals and terrorists, as well as their financial assets, weapons, skills, and expertise. The project aims to develop an early warning system and principles for managing potential threats arising from these areas and, further, to share that information and develop research and development networks at a conference during the 2009-2010 academic year.



## FORECASTING CHANGE AND SOCIETAL THREATS

**Project Leaders:** Pramod Varshney, *Electrical Engineering and Computer Science/CASE*; Margaret Hermann, *Political Science/Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs*

The first decade of the 21st century has posed substantial challenges to our ability to forecast significant events in the socio-political world. From the emergence of global health pandemics, to financial bubbles, energy interdependence and insecurity, and transnational terrorism and migration, social scientists have been far better at explaining why an event has occurred than they have been at forecasting when such events might occur. This initiative will create a proof of concept in which a faculty team of social scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and information technology specialists experiment with new forecasting techniques, methods, and technologies designed to use social science data as a predictive mechanism. Project leaders aim to make the models and forecasts user-friendly for first responders, workers in critical infrastructure organizations, intelligence analysts, and others, and to seek feedback from those groups that could help further refine the forecasting methods.

## COLD CASE INITIATIVE

**Project Leaders:** Janis L. McDonald and Paula C. Johnson, *Law*

One of the foundational tenets of our democracy is the principle of equal justice for all. Yet justice has proved elusive for many touched by violence during the Civil Rights era. The Cold Case Initiative was developed to contribute to the recently reignited investigations into unsolved racially motivated murders from that period and participate in activities intended to hold those responsible—individuals, organizations, or institutions—legally and publicly accountable for the crimes. The Cold Case Initiative, which began with a request from family members to reopen an investigation into the 1964 murder of an African American business owner in Louisiana, assists in the leveraging of University and community resources in these efforts. Students from law, journalism, and other disciplines bring their varied perspectives to the initiative, and key collaborative relationships also have been fostered with federal and state law enforcement, journalists, and other institutions—including the law schools at the University of Alabama and Louisiana State University.

## REGIONAL HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE INITIATIVE: RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE, AND RESPONSIBILITY

**Project Leaders:** Alan Goldberg, *Counseling and Human Services*; Rachel Brown, *Reading and Language Arts*

The human catastrophe of genocide scarred the 20th-century world and tragically continues to open wounds old and new in the 21st, but it remains conspicuously understudied in K-12 curricula. The Regional Holocaust and Genocide Initiative seeks to enhance education, cultural production, and public memory about the incidence of genocide—past and present. Faculty and graduate student participants will conduct curriculum research and develop coursework for grades K-6, and implement existing curriculum in grades 7-12, with support from the Spector/Warren Fellowship, which prepares SU students to teach about the Holocaust and genocide. Music, visual, and dramatic arts events, including collaborations with the College of Visual and Performing Arts, will broaden the project beyond the curriculum into public dialogues on law, justice, and ethics. This phase of the project will culminate in a master symposium, titled “Resistance, Resilience, and Responsibility,” that will showcase student and faculty projects and performances.





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