

PROJECT CHALLENGE

For Immediate Release

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SUNY Cortland, Tully Central School and LaFayette Central School will continue to collaborate on Project Challenge, a grant funded program to support students in grades 4-8.

The grant, in excess of \$257,000 annually, is funded and overseen by the New York State Education Department. According to N.Y.S Education Commissioner John King, Jr., the grant is meant to help students build college and career readiness. Project Challenge is a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant project.

The program, which is in its second year, serves approximately 220 students in the Tully and LaFayette Central Schools. Project Challenge will focus on supporting academics through project-based learning endeavors in the summer months for 4th through 8th graders in the two districts. During the school year, the Onondaga Nation School of the LaFayette district will expand their after school program supported with education students from SUNY Cortland. Additionally students in both the Tully and LaFayette Junior-Senior High Schools will have academic support during the school day by SUNY Cortland education majors at each location available for homework help, academic interventions and other learning assistance.

This July, grades 4-8 students will work on math and ELA skills through research and data analysis, which they will do at their home schools, as well as on site in SUNY Cortland Science Center and the Onondaga Nation School. The LaFayette and Tully teachers will work closely with the Cortland faculty and representatives from the Onondaga Nation to foster the sense of community, knowledge and learning, and help facilitate those aspects to the students that are part of this opportunity.

The mission of this collaboration program is to take each student from where he or she is and provide appropriate resources at the school and family level to help him or her to address their learning difficulties and grow.