

The SUNY Shared Governance Award is a SUNY-wide honor conferred on a campus for outstanding achievements in shared governance. This award underscores SUNY's commitment to academic excellence and public good through collaborative models of governance. Shared governance, for the purpose of this award, is a formal system of inclusive and participatory decision-making through established and formally agreed upon procedures and structures.

It is my honor to present the SUNY Shared Governance Award to the State University of New York at Cortland. This award recognizes SUNY Cortland's exceptional commitment to fostering a culture of inclusive, collaborative, and effective shared governance, which has been a long-term hallmark of the institution.

Let me quote the review committee in their recommendation of SUNY Cortland for this award: *"SUNY Cortland's leadership and Faculty Senate, with the assistance of students, faculty, and staff, have worked intentionally and collaboratively for a number of years to establish a shared governance ecosystem that now permeates throughout Cortland, touching every governance entity and process. Respect and responsiveness have guided several efforts, helping to nurture an institutional culture that encourages collaboration, and ultimately advances Cortland's mission to educate engaged students who benefit from outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service. Cortland realizes that successful shared governance relies on long-term commitment to clear procedures, well-defined roles, and committee structures. At Cortland, many academic policies are improved by Faculty Senate groups, including the Education Policy Committee, the College Curriculum Committee, the General Education Committee, and the Graduate Faculty Education Committee. The work of the Academic Faculty Affairs Committee has been instrumental in establishing better communication regarding continuing appointment, reappointment, and promotion for academic faculty. Commitments to communication, transparency and inclusion also highlight Cortland's system of shared governance, starting at the top. Committee work often involves student participation, including a student co-chair of the Joint Committee on Student Interests."*

Cortland's application focused on governance examples that demonstrated:

- Clear Bylaws and procedures
- Well-defined roles and committee structures
- Commitment to collegiality, inclusion, collaboration, and respect of formal processes
- Open communication and transparency
- Material support for governance
- Recent improvements that they highlighted in their application include:
  - o Revised committee and leadership structure to align with current and future needs
  - o Adherence to shared governance principles in the development of significant decision-making bodies and campus-wide policies

It is with great appreciation that we honor SUNY Cortland with the SUNY Shared Governance Award. This recognition is a testament to the university's unwavering dedication to fostering a culture of inclusivity, collaboration, and shared accountability in pursuit of its mission and goals. Congratulations to the entire SUNY Cortland community for this well-deserved achievement.