A BRIEF HISTORY AND CHRONOLOG
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE FINGER LAKES
Community College of the Finger Lakes  
A Brief History and Chronology

Three groups of people have combined to create and promote Community College of the Finger Lakes, now in its sixth year of full operation as one of the thirty-eight associate degree granting institutions within the higher education complex of the State University of New York. These groups are the area community, students, and staff of the college.

Initially, as far back as 1953, interested Ontario County citizens began to consider the feasibility of establishing a post-high school institution for continued vocational, technical, and liberal arts education. In 1958 the Loveless Report, and in 1960 the Hetherington Report, recommended favorably the founding of a community college in order to enhance further the economic, social, and political growth of the Ontario County region.

The nation and New York State in the late 1950's and early 1960's were experiencing an increased demand for higher education facilities when the post-World War II baby boom matured dramatically as a large college-age population. Governor Nelson Rockefeller's Neaald Commission Report (November, 1960) urged that many innovations take place in New York State's program for education beyond high school including the expansion of state supported community colleges and the establishment of a large upstate university center for twenty thousand students. When it became apparent that Canandaigua would not be selected as the site for the mentioned university center, interest in a community college for county and nearby county residents languished for three years (1961-1964).

In 1964, interested local residents and county politicians once again began to critically survey the potential need for a community college. The Ontario Board of Supervisors appointed a new Education Committee chaired by Arthur Hawkins. The Hawkins Committee, after fifteen months of study and research, issued a report endorsing plans for a college. This recommendation furnished the impetus and basis for the historic action taken by the Ontario Board of Supervisors in September, 1965, to sponsor a community college. So it was that the hopes of many who envisioned the college as an important addition to serving the educational needs of area residents and contributing further to the growth, strength, and prosperity of Ontario County were initially realized.

Since that historic decision the supervisors, College Board of Trustees, local advisory committee boards, and area residents have continued to examine the role a community college can and should play in the future. Belief and faith in the worth of a sound educational program for the varied needs and interests of area citizens have resulted in not only the growth of the college and its course offerings but also the support necessary to undertake the construction of a multi-million dollar campus (with completion scheduled for late 1974 or early 1975).
The college opened its doors to students in September, 1967, prior to opening the new institution acquired its name, selected a College Board of Trustees, and hired a faculty and administration. Officially, the Community College of the Finger Lakes (CCFL), with four faculty members and four administrators, began instruction by offering non-credit, community interest classes to ninety-eight part-time students in the then new wing of the Canandaigua Senior Academy. In January, 1968, the first full-time students enrolled and that summer the first summer school session was implemented. The awarding of the first degrees bearing the new college seal occurred in June, 1969, for a graduating class of twelve. Four years later the college boasts a student body of over fourteen hundred full and part-time students attending classes at the main instructional centers in Canandaigua and at the six extension centers in outlying areas. Nearly sixty faculty serve these students in a variety of curricula housed under three two-year Associate Degree programs, three one-year Certificate programs, and other shorter programs.

A new campus en route to completion, the addition of new curricula and area studies concentrations, a fully staffed, active college faculty under new administrative direction, an inventive, interested, purposeful student body; and, community support at various levels, all point the way toward continued progress and service to the county and region from Community College of the Finger Lakes.

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September, 1965
Community College established by Ontario County Board of Supervisors.

May, 1966
State University of New York Board of Trustees approved College.

March 27, 1967
College designated Community College of the Finger Lakes.

April 13, 1967
Dr. Roy I. Satre, Jr. appointed first President of Community College of the Finger Lakes.

September 25, 1967
College opened for classes - Non-credit courses offered evenings at Canandaigua Senior Academy.

October 12, 1967
State University of New York Board of Trustees authorized College to award Associate in Arts degree, Associate in Science degree, and Associate in Applied Science degree. Curricula approved: liberal arts, mathematics and science, accounting, business administration, secretarial science.

December 14, 1967
State University of New York Board of Trustees authorized nursing program (Associate Degree).

March 14, 1968
Lincoln Hill approved as college campus site by Ontario County Board of Supervisors.

April 11, 1968
Lincoln Hill Site approved by State University of New York Board of Trustees.

June 24, 1968
First Summer Session opened.

September 19, 1968
Dr. Roy I. Satre, Jr. - inaugurated.

June 8, 1969
First Commencement at College - 12 received degrees.

July 30, 1969
Lincoln Hill property purchased by Ontario County.

February 10, 1970
85 nursing majors honored in first capping ceremony.
April 29, 1970
Associate in Applied Science Degree in Natural Resources Conservation approved by State University of New York Board of Trustees.

June 7, 1970
141 received degrees during second Commencement Ceremony.

September, 1970
College launched Certificate Program in Police Science.

November 9, 1970
College trustees approved permanent campus construction program for 1250 full-time students.

January 4, 1971
College joined with American Institute of Banking to offer banking courses.

February 11, 1971
Supervisors agreed to permit spending of $10.5 million for campus at Lincoln Hill.

April 1, 1971
Supervisors and Trustees approved basic concept for new campus.

April 28, 1971
Associate in Applied Science in Police Science approved by State University of New York Board of Trustees.

June 6, 1971
170 received degrees during third Commencement Ceremony.

August 9, 1971
Dr. Charles J. Meder named acting president.

August 12, 1971
Supervisors approved preliminary design for campus.

November 12, 1971
Groundbreaking — preliminary work underway on site.

January 18, 1972
Halt in construction plans for several new community colleges, including Community College of the Finger Lakes announced by Governor Rockefeller.

March 30, 1972
Supervisors approved plans for permanent campus in "preparedness" move pending legislative passage of thirty year bonds through the State Dormitory Authority.

April 10, 1972
College Board of Trustees approved final plans for $10.5 million campus at Lincoln Hill Site.
May 18, 1972
Announcement of $644,024 federal grant to defray costs of campus construction.

May 30, 1972
Governor Rockefeller signed into law bill authorizing state to borrow funds from State Dormitory Authority necessary to finance its share of costs for construction of new campus.

June 4, 1972
204 received degrees during fourth Commencement Ceremony.

June 12, 1972
College Trustees approved revised architectural plans for new campus increased to $11.1 million due to anticipated increased construction costs during delay period.

June 29, 1972
Dr. Charles J. Meder appointed second president of CCFL by State University of New York Board of Trustees.

July 25, 1972
Bids for campus construction called in and revealed to be $1.4 million over the budget.

July 28, 1972
Dr. Robert Pennock appointed acting Dean of the College.

August 10, 1972
Board of Supervisors formally rejected all construction bids.

September, 1972
Second set of bids solicited for campus construction after second reduction of campus specifications; opened on the twenty-second.

November 3, 1972
Campus building program approved in a weighted vote by County Board of Supervisors.

June 3, 1973
221 received degrees during fifth Commencement Ceremony.

July, 1973
Dr. Ralph Miller assumed duties as new Dean of the College.

October 1, 1973
Dr. Charles J. Meder inaugurated as President of the College.