



**MOLLOY
UNIVERSITY**

Mission Integration Impact Report

2025-2026



Mission

Molloy University, an independent, Catholic University rooted in the Dominican tradition of study, spirituality, service, and community, is committed to academic excellence with respect for each person. Through transformative education, Molloy promotes a lifelong search for truth and the development of ethical leadership.

Mission Integration Statement

Through academic excellence, our values and guiding virtues, leadership, and collaboration, Molloy University strives to identify barriers for members of our community. Molloy University will actively work to dismantle all barriers, ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are recognized and honored as integral to the institution's success.

The University is committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment in keeping with our Catholic and Dominican heritage and mission, defined by an understanding that our community draws strength from its diversity. Molloy seeks to nurture attitudes and behaviors that promote global awareness, inclusive sensibilities, and respect for individuals' diverse experiences as informed by race, religion, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, (dis)ability, ideology, and other expressions of human difference and allow for respectful dialogue (disputatio) on issues of importance. As part of this commitment, Molloy denounces all forms of bigotry and bias.

Consistent with the above declaration and Catholic and Dominican values, Molloy asks every member of the community to recognize their responsibility to promote the Values and Guiding Virtues of the community. Recognizing that our institution has work to do to achieve our goals, all members of the Molloy University community are collectively responsible for actively:

- promoting our Values and Guiding Virtues in all planning, policy, decision-making, procedural, administrative, and academic operations throughout the University.
- standing up against any behavior or action that is diversity-intolerant, exclusionary, and/or discriminatory.
- promoting a campus environment that continuously works for greater equity through leveling access of opportunity for all.



Land Acknowledgment

We pause to acknowledge that Molloy University is located on lands once home to Indigenous Peoples, including the Lenape, the Montaukett Indian Nation, and Indigenous Peoples who resided in the Massapequa, Merrick, and Rockaway territories. We recognize the long and complex history that has brought us to these lands, and we seek to understand the ongoing impact of settler colonialism and its influence on the cultures and heritages of Indigenous Peoples. We remember and acknowledge our connections to Indigenous Peoples and appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on this land. We honor Indigenous Peoples of the past, today, and generations to come.

Table of Contents

06	Message from the President
07	Message from the Vice President for Mission Integration
08	Mission in Practice: Learning, Service, and Community Impact <i>The Office of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement</i>
10	"Veritas in the Modern World": Dominican Educators Gather at Molloy <i>18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities</i>
13	President Lentini and Molloy University Honored for Creating Inclusive Spaces
14	Mission Moments from Across the University <i>New and Continuing Initiatives</i>
18	Mission in Action: From One Idea to a Community of Lifesavers <i>Molloy Named Inaugural HEARTsafe Campus</i>
22	Rooted in Tradition, Responsive to the Times <i>The Office of Mission and Ministry</i>
24	Dr. Freida Pemberton Receives the Bartolomé de las Casas Award
28	Molloy Speaks: Voices That Inspire

About the Cover Photo: Molloy Alum Katie Sandoval '23 poses with a camper from her group during a service trip to San Salvador, El Salvador. Every year, at the end of the trip, participants take the campers on a field trip as a reward for their hard work and dedication. During the 2025 trip, participants took students to "El Museo Tin Marin," the only children's museum in the country.

Sandoval graduated in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in political science. She is currently working in immigration law at CARECEN, where she focuses on asylum seekers in removal proceedings. The El Salvador service trip has played a huge role in how she views her work. The trip inspired her to create her own program where she prepares standby guardianship documents for families who are at risk of detention, arrest, or deportation to protect their children and make sure they aren't placed in the foster system. In every child, she sees her campers whom she has worked with for years.

Accessibility

For a more accessible version of this report, please contact mi@molloy.edu.



Message from the President

Welcome to Molloy University's latest *Mission Integration Impact Report*. When I reflect on the past year, I am continually inspired by the countless mission-centered moments that define our campus. At Molloy, our foundational values are not just concepts we study; they are principles we live out every day through our commitment to community, service, and transformative education.

This past June, we had the distinct privilege of hosting the Dominican Colloquium. Welcoming scholars and leaders to our campus was a powerful reminder of our shared dedication to truth and compassionate service. The vibrant discussions and shared sense of purpose during the event truly illuminated the enduring strength of our Dominican heritage.

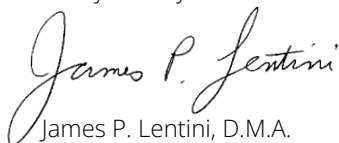
That same spirit of active engagement is a hallmark of our student experience, driven in large part by our Office of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. We are incredibly proud of the prestigious recognitions we have received, including the highly selective Carnegie Community Engagement Classification and honor from *Insight Into Academia*. These accolades validate our deep institutional commitment to civic responsibility.

We see our dedication to community well-being in action through initiatives like our HEARTsafe campus designation. Recently, it was a proud moment for our university to partner with the American Heart Association to host a campus ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new mobile hands-only CPR training kiosk. It is a vital resource that empowers our students, faculty, and staff with the skills quite literally to save lives.

Our mission extends far beyond the borders of our campus and into the neighborhoods we call home. I was humbled to be named an honoree at the 2026 RVC Blue Speaks Gala right here in Rockville Centre, as well as at the Hispanic Counseling Center Gala in 2025. I view these personal recognitions not as individual achievements but as reflections of Molloy's broader, unwavering commitment to partnering with and elevating vital community organizations.

As you read through the featured stories in this report, I hope you feel the same sense of pride that I do. The impact detailed in these pages is a testament to the dedication of our entire community, which includes our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, who work tirelessly to make a difference in the world.

Thank you for your continued support of Molloy University and our mission.


James P. Lentini, D.M.A.
President, Molloy University



Message from the Vice President for Mission Integration

Dear members of the Molloy community and friends,

As we reflect on the year behind us in this impact report, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege I have of advancing the spirit of St. Dominic and the vision of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville in my role. Their courageous commitment to truth, justice, compassion, and community continues to animate who we are and who we aspire to become.

Guided by the Dominican pillars of study, spirituality, service, and community, Molloy's mission is brought to life each day by **YOU**—our dedicated students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. In classrooms, offices, gathering spaces, and more broadly, throughout the world, members of our community embody our Values and Guiding Virtues through thoughtful dialogue, meaningful service, intellectual curiosity, and care for the dignity of every person.

This year's report offers just a glimpse of our mission in action. I invite you to explore its pages, celebrate the work represented here, and consider how you might further engage in mission work. Every contribution—large or small—helps strengthen our shared commitment to educating compassionate leaders and building a more just and humane world.

Thank you for helping to carry the Dominican tradition forward with purpose, hope, and conviction.

In Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DJ Mitchell".

Donald "DJ" Mitchell Jr., Ph.D. (he/him/his)
Vice President for Mission Integration



Mission in Practice: Learning, Service, and Community Impact

The Office of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Molloy University's Office of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (OELCE) received two national recognitions for its commitment to service, partnership, and student learning. Molloy earned the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement—led by OELCE—and the 2026 Civic Engagement and Community Service Award from *Insight Into Academia* magazine for the OELCE Rising Star Program. Together, these honors reflected Molloy's mission to prepare students to use their knowledge, skills, and compassion in service to others.



The Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, awarded to only 277 institutions nationwide in 2026, is the national standard for colleges and universities that embed community engagement in their mission, culture, and academic practices. Achieving the classification was a milestone goal in Molloy's Strategic Plan 2028.

"This recognition affirms Molloy University's longstanding commitment to service and engagement as central to our identity," said President James P. Lentini, D.M.A. "Through partnerships with local organizations, experiential learning opportunities, and faculty-led initiatives, we strive to prepare students to be leaders who make a difference in the world."



The Carnegie self-study process brought faculty and staff together to examine how community engagement was supported and how it could be strengthened throughout the University.

"The Carnegie self-study process highlighted the many ways our faculty and students integrate community engagement into our curriculum, research, and service," said Dr. Gina M. Florio, Dean of Molloy University's School of Arts and Sciences. "It allowed us to recognize the meaningful partnerships that enrich student learning while addressing real community needs. This work reflects our belief that education is most powerful when it extends beyond the



classroom and occurs as a reciprocal relationship between Molloy and our community partners.”

“The Carnegie self-study process was a valuable opportunity that brought together faculty and staff to examine how community engagement is carried out across Molloy,” said Sarah Shin, director of the Office of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement. “It deepened our understanding of how this engagement is supported and sustained institutionally.”

Rising Stars Recognized

The Rising Star Program celebrated its 27th year of providing academic enrichment, mentorship, and leadership development to local youth. In partnership with local Title I school districts, the program offered a five-week summer

camp and year-long academy supporting students’ transition to middle school.

During 2025–2026, Rising Star served 90 campers from three school districts and awarded seven Rising Star scholarships. A \$150,000 grant from The New York Community Trust’s Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund supported expanded educational access and college awareness.

Molloy student mentors gained leadership and professional development experience while supporting younger students. In recognition of its longstanding service and deep community collaboration, the program received the 2026 Civic Engagement and Community Service Award from *Insight Into Academia*. Molloy was featured alongside 51 other honorees in the magazine’s April 2026 issue.

Through partnerships with local organizations, experiential learning opportunities, and faculty-led initiatives, we strive to prepare students to be leaders who make a difference in the world.”

Mentorship and Engagement

The Mentoring Latinas Program marked its 20th year of supporting Latina youth through mentorship, leadership development, and college readiness. The program served 20 high school students, pairing them with 10 Molloy student mentors and providing additional support through a graduate assistant.

In the third year of its \$25,000 annual sponsorship from Ocean Financial Federal Credit Union, the program awarded two Mentoring Latinas scholarships. Participants learned from Molloy and community leaders in financial literacy, immigrant rights, educational pathways, leadership, and career development.

The Community Work-Study Program further connected students' professional growth with community service. Sixty-two students contributed approximately 8,100 hours of service at 13 community-based organizations. Through federal work-study funding, participants earned \$145,722 while helping organizations address community needs across Long Island.

Service Beyond Campus

OELCE extended its work beyond Long Island through its annual Alternative Spring Break service trip to Puerto Rico. Ten students, accompanied by Dr. Liz Suter, associate professor of biology, chemistry, and environmental science, partnered with ISER Caribe and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville on environmental and community-based projects. The experience invited students to consider more deeply the connection between service and Molloy's mission.

Closer to home, OELCE partnered with Bethany House to offer workshops in mindfulness, job readiness, financial literacy, and creative expression. Rayaz Khan of OELCE also facilitated a four-session drum-circle experience that promoted intercultural exchange, well-being, and community building.

Through these initiatives, OELCE continued to make Molloy's mission visible in the lives of students and community partners—connecting learning with service, strengthening relationships, and preparing students to lead with purpose.



“Veritas in the Modern World”: Dominican Educators Gather at Molloy



18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities

June 8–11, 2026, Molloy University welcomed faculty, staff, and mission leaders from Dominican colleges and universities across the country for the 18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities. Centered on the theme *Veritas in the Modern World*, the gathering offered an opportunity to reflect on the enduring relevance of Dominican values in higher education.

Sponsored by the Dominican Higher Education Council, the biennial colloquium brought member institutions together for dialogue, collaboration, and shared reflection on the future of Dominican higher education. Established in 1996 by the presidents of Dominican colleges and universities, the Council supports the shared Dominican and Catholic mission that connects its member campuses.

Hosted on Molloy’s Rockville Centre campus, the colloquium featured plenary sessions, concurrent presentations, prayer, liturgy, and community-building events. Discussions explored topics including artificial

intelligence, immigration, justice, leadership, student belonging, ethics, art, and the role of truth-seeking in contemporary academic life.

The gathering opened with a keynote session featuring Sr. Colleen Mary Mallon, director of adult mission formation at Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy in Pasadena, California. Throughout the program, participants considered how Dominican institutions could respond thoughtfully and courageously to the signs of the times while remaining grounded in the tradition of *Veritas*—truth.

“Molloy University was honored to host the 2026





colloquium and welcome participants from across the Dominican academic community,” said Dr. James Lentini, president of Molloy University and chair of the Dominican Higher Education Council. The gathering reflected the strength of our shared tradition and our commitment to truth, dialogue, and service.”

Molloy stepped forward to host the gathering when the event’s original plans changed, demonstrating the University’s commitment to collaboration and its close connection to the broader Dominican family.

“We are deeply grateful to Molloy University for stepping forward to host the 2026 Dominican Colloquium,” said Catherine Tully Muscente, executive director of the Dominican Higher Education Council. “The colloquium offered an important opportunity for Dominican colleges and universities to renew connections, exchange ideas, and affirm the legacy of St. Dominic that unites our institutions.”

Dr. DJ Mitchell, vice president for mission integration at Molloy University, chaired the 18th Biennial Colloquium. Working with a dedicated planning team, he helped bring nearly 160 colleagues from across the country to Molloy and Rockville Centre for several days of learning, fellowship, and reflection.

“It was an honor to welcome our Dominican colleagues from across the country to Molloy and Rockville Centre,” said Dr. Mitchell. “The Dominican Colloquium was an important opportunity to bring Dominican educators together in a spirit of shared mission and thoughtful engagement. I could not have led this effort without my outstanding colleagues who worked alongside me over the

past year. Their dedication reflects the very best of Molloy.”

The colloquium reflected the continuing work of Dominican colleges and universities to live their shared educational mission in a changing world—forming communities grounded in truth, committed to service, and prepared to meet today’s challenges with faith, purpose, and hope.







President Lentini and Molloy University Honored for Creating Inclusive Spaces



During the 2025–2026 academic year, Molloy University President James P. Lentini, D.M.A., received recognition from the Hispanic Counseling Center and RVC Blue Speaks for his and the University's commitment to building inclusive, supportive communities.

The Hispanic Counseling Center honored President Lentini at its 48th Annual Gala, recognizing Molloy's support for its growing Hispanic and Latino student population. Hispanic students represented 31% of Molloy's undergraduate student body in fall 2025, and the University achieved Hispanic-Serving Institution designation in 2024. Molloy also continues to build partnerships with the Hispanic Counseling Center, 100 Hispanic Women, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and other community organizations.

RVC Blue Speaks also recognized President Lentini for advancing acceptance and support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Molloy's Center for Neurodiversity includes the CONNECT Program, which promotes academic and social competency, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, independent living, and social integration for neurodivergent students. Molloy also offers the Molloy Opportunity for Successful Transition Program, in collaboration with the Mary Quinn's Mark Foundation, which helps individuals with



developmental disabilities acquire social and academic skills while participating in an inclusive college experience. The University's Rebecca Center for Music Therapy further advances this work through clinical services, training, education, and research aimed at reducing barriers for

individuals with developmental challenges.

Together, these recognitions reflected Molloy's Catholic, Dominican commitment to ensuring that every individual is welcomed, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.



Molloy's Center for Neurodiversity includes the CONNECT Program, which promotes academic and social competency, self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, independent living, and social integration for neurodivergent students."



NEW AND CONTINUING INITIATIVES

Mission Moments from Across the University



Dr. Hwa Young Caruso

► Art and CAP21 Musical Theatre students shared their work with residents of the Rockville Centre Sandel Senior Center during spring 2026. Art students discussed their creative process on February 3, and CAP21 students performed for residents on Founders' Day, April 21.

► During 2025–2026, Campus Ministries offered the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, coordinated four Midnight Run donation drives and direct outreach in Manhattan, hosted an Oxfam Hunger Banquet with Student Affairs, and organized approximately 12 Service Friday visits to the Soup to Nuts Soup Kitchen in Freeport. Together, these programs engaged students and community members in faith formation, sacramental preparation, awareness of hunger and homelessness, service, and solidarity with people in need.

► The Civic Pluralism in the Core Curriculum grant, a partnership between First-Year Experience and Campus Ministries, entered active implementation during 2025–2026. Student mentors and facilitators supported the first Bridging the Gap module in selected First-Year Studies classes, helping students build skills in active listening, reflection, and respectful dialogue.

► Dr. Hwa Young Caruso, professor of art, represented Molloy University in the group exhibition *AAPL 2026: Best of Both Worlds* at the Cinema Arts Centre in Huntington, New York, from May 7–31, 2026. Presented in recognition of AAPL Heritage Month by the United Asian American Alliance, the exhibition earned her a Certificate of Appreciation and New York State Assembly citations from Assemblymembers Kwani B. O'Pharrow and Steve Stern.

► The Educational Leadership Department hosted six programs—four book talks, a fireside chat, and an Ed.D. Research Series talk—focused on educational equity and advocacy.

► During spring 2026, graduate business students, under the guidance of Dr. Brian O'Neill, adjunct faculty member, partnered with EAC Network on capstone projects focused on program-performance reporting and grant-management





Latino/a/x/e Affinity Group

systems. Student teams presented recommendations to the organization's executive team and board of directors.

► Sister Alice Byrnes, O.P., D.A., professor of English, invited William Kiley, author of two children's books on immigration, to speak with students in all her Children's Literature classes.

► During fall 2025, graduate business students, under the guidance of Dr. Brian O'Neill and Dr. Carolyn VanWormer, adjunct faculty members, completed capstone projects for Girls on the Run Long Island. Working in teams, students developed proposals to strengthen the nonprofit's brand awareness and financial sustainability.

► The Heritage Month Calendar Committee, co-chaired by Kisha Chandler, director of the LHVCCUC LSAMP Program, and Patricia Rossi, J.D., tutor and adjunct professor in the Learning Commons, JET Library, collaborated with more than 20 campus partners to deliver more than 15 events during 2025–2026.

► Rose Lavelle, professor of practice in the School of Business, with support from Dr. Donna Iucolano, assistant professor of business, developed the Institute for Social Impact & Innovation. Supported by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, the Institute connected students with Long Island nonprofits for faculty-led consulting projects and convened nonprofit leaders, elected officials, and University stakeholders through its inaugural Legislative Breakfast.

► The Latino/a/x/e Affinity Group organized an employee outing to Ballet Hispanico at New York City Center. Twenty employees attended.

► Kisha Chandler, director of the LHVCCUC LSAMP Program, received the Club Appreciation Award at the Mary

E. Lilly Awards Ceremony for her leadership in supporting cultural clubs, increasing student engagement, and advancing inclusive, culturally responsive programming. She also participated in the April 9, 2026, panel, "Para Nuestro Pueblo: How Administrators Drive Belonging, Retention, and Institutional Change."

► Kisha Chandler, director of the LHVCCUC LSAMP Program; Dr. Michelle Martin, director of mission and ministry; Thomas Flynn, associate director of student involvement; and Dr. Karl Koepfel, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students, presented "Living Veritas Through Collaboration" at the 18th Biennial Colloquium of Dominican Colleges and Universities. The workshop highlighted cross-campus collaboration to advance Dominican values, diversity, leadership, and inclusion.

► The fourth annual Long Island High School Theatre Festival, held November 7, 2025, welcomed nearly 200 students from 13 high schools. Participants attended workshops led by CAP21 Musical Theatre program faculty and industry professionals and heard from CAP21 alumnus and Broadway performer, Diego Enrico.

► A Mission Integration Grant supported Jackie Rodriguez's presentation, "Enhancing Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Speech-Language Pathology: Supporting Bilingual and Multilingual Clients," for 104 students, alumni, and practicing speech-language pathologists. The program equipped participants with practical strategies for culturally responsive care.

► Molloy University's Communitary initiative expanded community partnerships by collaborating with the Rockville Centre Chamber of Commerce and SIBSPlace. Debra



Molloy Team Presents at the 2026 Dominican Colloquium

McCarthy, development associate and Communitary liaison, Adrienne Carroll Conlon, graduate program director and professor of practice, and Kelly Maier, business career coordinator, met with Rockville Centre leaders to explore business-capstone opportunities; McCarthy, Athletic Director Michael Grasso, and athletics staff also hosted “Hoops for Hope” for eight area high schools.

► Funded by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Molloy’s Healthcare Workforce Development initiative served more than 1,900 people across Nassau and Suffolk counties in 2025. The program expanded access to healthcare education and careers through scholarships, job-coaching workshops, individual support, mental-health programming, and health-equity training.

► Molloy’s High School Scholars Program enabled nearly 4,000 students from 47 Nassau, Suffolk, and New York City high schools to earn college credit at a reduced rate. Of the 732 participating seniors, 711 applied to Molloy and 115 confirmed enrollment or began the registration process for fall 2026.

► Molloy University hosted pre-college experiences for students from 36 schools and organizations during the 2025–2026 academic year. Students participated in campus tours, admissions presentations, specialized programming, and meals, introducing them to Molloy’s academic programs and campus community.

► Molloy University’s Summer Academies held July 14–17, 2025, engaged 60 students in programs led by faculty from

the Schools of Business, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Education and Human Services. Of 31 rising high school seniors, 29 applied to Molloy and seven registered for fall 2026 classes.

► The Mother Cabrini Community Care mobile clinic served 3,050 individuals at 79 Long Island locations in 2025. At Hope Day in Roosevelt on June 6, 2026, the clinic partnered with local organizations to provide screenings, health education, referrals, and other community services.

► The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy hosted its 7th Annual Unity Through Diversity event, featuring nearly 100 performers and community partners including The Backyard Players, Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, The Nicholas Center, and Molloy’s CONNECT program. Neurodivergent leadership was central, with alumnus Kyra Ganci-Barnes and student CJ Allen co-hosting, while accessibility was prioritized through sign language interpretation and a sensory-friendly room. President James P. Lentini and Provost Michelle Piskulich joined the celebration alongside Legislator Scott Davis, reflecting the event’s continued mission to advance neurodivergent leadership, community partnerships, and access to the arts.

► The School of Arts and Sciences Art Gallery and Department of Art presented “Claiming the Sky: Art and Activism after Ringgold,” curated by Dr. Jenny LaMonica, associate professor of art, from January through March 2026. The exhibition centered on Faith Ringgold’s *Tar Beach* from Molloy’s permanent collection and featured work by the Long Island Black Artists Association.

► The School of Arts and Sciences, Honors Program, and Philosophy Department sponsored two Braver Angels debates during 2025–2026. Molloy Honors students led parliamentary-style discussions on censorship and immigration for Molloy and high-school audiences.

► The School of Arts and Sciences and the History and Political Science Department presented the Mischlinge Exposé on April 14, 2026, in observance of Yom HaShoah. Featuring pianist and Molloy alumna, Carolyn Enger '00, the multimedia program explored the experiences of people classified by Nazi racial laws as Mischlinge.

► The School of Education and Human Services faculty collaborated with school districts and community partners to deliver five conferences during 2025–2026, each serving approximately 150 to 350 attendees.

► The School of Education and Human Services secured two grants totaling \$250,000 to support graduate education students with financial need and programs serving under-resourced communities.

► The School of Education and Human Services Mental Health and Wellness Center provided affordable, high-quality psychotherapy to an average of 1,320 clients annually. Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate students delivered services under the supervision of licensed clinicians and mental health professionals.

► Dr. Anna George and Dr. Randy Pellew, associate professors of nursing, partnered with the Office of International Education to lead 16 students on a January 2026 program in India focused on developing cultural competency in nursing practice.

► Dr. Anna George, associate professor of nursing, received a Nassau County Legislature citation on May 9, 2026, recognizing her service as advisory board chair of the Indian Nurses Association of New York. Holy Cross College of Nursing in Kottiyam, Kerala, India, also recognized her service as a resource person at its January 2026 conference.

► The Social Work Department hosted four events for students, faculty, practitioners, organizations, and community members, including the Changemakers Meetup and “Beyond the Exam Room: A Holistic Approach to Maternal Healthcare,” a panel with NYC Health + Hospitals’ Women’s Health Maternal Home team.

► Dr. Orsolya Várkonyi, assistant professor of clinical mental health counseling, advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion through scholarship, national and international presentations, and campus programming during 2025–2026. She co-authored a 2026 textbook, published six peer-reviewed pieces, presented at eight major conferences, facilitated two Molloy workshops, chaired a Mission Integration Dialogue Circle, and co-facilitated a national Chi Sigma Iota webinar.



Unity through Diversity Celebrating All Abilities in the Arts



Mission in Action: From One Idea to a Community of Lifesavers

Molloy Named Inaugural HEARTsafe Campus



During the 2025–2026 academic year, Molloy University became an inaugural HEARTsafe Campus through the St. Francis Heart Center HEARTsafe accreditation program, a Catholic Health initiative. The designation recognized Molloy's years of work to strengthen cardiac-emergency response through CPR education, automated external defibrillator (AED) accessibility, and a culture of preparedness across campus and throughout the Rockville Centre community.

Molloy's HEARTsafe journey began with Dr. Mary McCormack, associate professor of nursing and director of Molloy's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. As part of her doctoral work, completed in 2017, Dr. McCormack developed a project to train student-athletes in CPR and AED use, recognizing the importance of preparedness for sudden cardiac arrest.

What began as a focused effort soon expanded.

Dr. McCormack was joined by Dr. Carole Zarcone, associate professor of nursing and cardiology nurse practitioner at St. Francis Hospital. Together, the co-directors of HEARTsafe at Molloy extended CPR and AED training to faculty and staff before incorporating the instruction into the first-year experience program. Their guiding principle was clear: lifesaving skills should be available to everyone, not solely healthcare professionals.

“At Molloy University, our mission is rooted in service, compassion and the well-being of the communities we call home,” said Dr. James P. Lentini, president of Molloy University. “Being recognized as a St. Francis Heart Center HEARTsafe Campus reflects our deep commitment to public health, education and preparedness. Through our partnership with Catholic Health, we are empowering our students, faculty, staff and neighbors with lifesaving skills that can make a critical difference in moments of emergency and ultimately help save lives across Long Island.”

A Culture of Preparedness

The initiative transformed both Molloy's emergency infrastructure and its campus culture. The number of AEDs increased from nine to 26, with units placed strategically throughout the University. Molloy's HEARTsafe team also trained more than 1,000 individuals in lifesaving skills, including students, faculty, staff, student-athletes, and community members.

“This designation is a powerful reflection of the unwavering dedication of the HEARTsafe Team at Molloy to advancing cardiac safety both on campus and far beyond it,” said Dr. McCormack. “Their efforts extend into the broader community, impacting not only Rockville Centre but also the many communities where the more than 1,000 individuals trained in lifesaving skills live, work, and travel. This ripple effect strengthens preparedness and response in countless settings.”

The team's work helped the Village of Rockville Centre achieve designation as a HEARTsafe Community. Through partnerships with municipal leaders, volunteer fire departments, emergency medical services, schools, and local organizations, HEARTsafe education reached residents where they lived, learned, and worked.

Hands-Only CPR Access

During the Spring 2026 semester, Molloy also hosted the region's first Hands-Only CPR training kiosk, launched by the American Heart Association as part of its national *Nation of Lifesavers* initiative. Made possible through sponsorship from Webster Bank, the interactive kiosk gave students, employees, visitors, and Long Island residents an approachable opportunity to learn and practice Hands-Only CPR.

The kiosk's placement in Molloy's Public Square made it a visible and accessible learning tool for the campus community and guests attending programs at the Madison Theatre at Molloy University. Designed to be mobile, the kiosk also traveled to locations across Long Island, expanding access to CPR education throughout the region.

“Working toward achieving the HEARTsafe Campus designation for Molloy University and the HEARTsafe Community designation for Rockville Centre was a challenging and multifaceted process that required significant coordination and collaboration,” said Dr. Zarcone. “Educating our community in Hands-Only CPR enhances overall safety and significantly improves survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.”

What began as a doctoral project grew into a model of community-based health innovation—demonstrating how education, partnership, and sustained commitment could strengthen an entire community.

Molloy's HEARTsafe Team:

Dr. Mary McCormack, Dr. Carole Zarcone, Dr. Elizabeth Cotter, Dr. Geraldine Moore, Kathleen Lapkowski, Anthony DiDio, Dr. Jacqueline Flannery, Dr. Heather Reens, and Dr. Dorothy Veron.

This designation is a powerful reflection of the unwavering dedication of the HEARTsafe Team at Molloy to advancing cardiac safety both on campus and far beyond it.”



Rooted in Tradition, Responsive to the Times

The Office of Mission and Ministry

Molloy University's Dominican mission is always constant, yet ever-changing. While St. Dominic's tradition and the foundation provided by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville continue to guide Molloy University, its contemporary world demands new ways to engage and live out the mission. Dr. Michelle Martin, director of mission and ministry, has worked to expand the ways Molloy's mission is infused throughout campus through programs such as Lead Like a Lion, Brewing Understanding, and Leaders for Racial Justice.



The Lead Like a Lion program, a collaboration between Mission and Ministry and Student Involvement, is a mission-focused leadership development initiative that combines leadership education with the University's Dominican mission and charism. Since 2024, Dr. Karl Koeppel, assistant vice president of student affairs and dean of students, and Dr. Martin have woven the Dominican tradition into contemporary leadership practices, including the Leadership Challenge, Clifton Strengths, and last lectures.

One student emphasized that "every workshop provided valuable lessons that I can apply not only in leadership roles but also in my everyday life" and that "each time I leave one

of the Lead Like a Lion workshops, I genuinely feel inspired to make a change to better my life or the lives of others around me."

The Office of Mission and Ministry also collaborated with the Center for Multicultural and Intercultural Affairs to establish Brewing Understanding as a staple of spiritual programming on campus. Brewing Understanding is a conversation-based series that fosters meaningful connections through personal stories, faith, and cultural experiences. Kisha Chandler, director of the LHVCCUC LSAMP Program, and Dr. Martin's goal was to create a comfortable space for students, faculty, and staff to come,



build community, and connect over every day spiritual experiences.

When talking about the program, Leigh Weilandics, testing center coordinator in the Center for Access and Disability, and regular attendee of Brewing Understanding, said, “To be able to take some time out of your regular schedule, sit down with a cup of coffee, and learn something new, gain a new perspective, or engage in enriching conversation with others at Molloy is one of our strongest examples of the Dominican Pillar of Community.”

Community is also the focal point of Mission and Ministry’s Leaders for Racial Justice program. Since 2020, Leaders for Racial Justice has provided students with opportunities to engage in sustained dialogue, education, and action around issues of race and equity. This program also allows students to address the signs of the times by developing new programming each year to fit the needs of the Molloy community today.

This year’s cohort of students planned the “Your Story. Our Story.” campaign, featuring an interactive display at the Center for Multicultural and Intercultural Affairs and dialogue sessions in which participants were encouraged to share their families’ stories and what culture means to them. This program was designed to make today’s controversial immigration discussions a more approachable point of connection for the Molloy community.

Lead Like a Lion, Brewing Understanding, and Leaders for Racial Justice are just a few examples of how the work in Mission and Ministry continues to bring Molloy’s mission

and tradition into contemporary contexts. These programs, along with the long-standing Appalachia Project service trip, Experience El Salvador service trip, Mission Ambassadors program, Laudato Si’ Action Plan, and Four Pillars Week collaborations, will continue to provide the Molloy community with opportunities to engage with mission in unique and transformative ways.





Dr. Freida Pemberton Receives the Bartolomé de las Casas Award

During the 2026 President's Awards Ceremony, Molloy University recognized Dr. Freida Pemberton as the recipient of the Bartolomé de las Casas Award. The President's Awards Ceremony, held each spring, is the University's highest employee-recognition event.

A full professor of nursing in the Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Dr. Pemberton has devoted over 30 years to leadership, advocacy, and the advancement of equity and inclusion to Molloy University and broader communities.

Named for Bartolomé de las Casas, O.P., an early advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples in the New

World, the award honors faculty and staff members who make significant strides in helping Molloy become a more inclusive and reflective community. Dr. Pemberton's lifelong commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity exemplifies the spirit of this recognition.





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Molloy's Mission Integration Committee

Membership and Charge

The Mission Integration (MI) Committee comprises faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students. While there is no set number of committee members, diverse representation across Molloy's various schools and departments is essential during committee selection. After a university-wide nomination and application process, the Vice President for Mission Integration selects committee members in consultation with the President's Cabinet. Terms last up to two academic years. The Vice President for Mission Integration chairs or co-chairs the Committee. Co-chairs may be appointed by the Vice President for Mission Integration after committee formation.

The MI Committee is responsible for advising the Vice President for Mission Integration and supporting, developing, and making recommendations to the Molloy community and its Governance Committees concerning university-wide MI initiatives, planning, policies, and procedures.



2025-2026 Mission Integration Committee

Donald “DJ” Mitchell, Jr., Vice President for Mission Integration, *Chair*
Kristin Altmann, Grants and Research Specialist, Grants and Sponsored Programs
Melanie Arvanitis, Undergraduate Student, Psychology and Art
Brian Bajzek, Assistant Professor, Theology and Religious Studies
Smirna Yoc Bautista, Undergraduate Student, Accounting
Anisa Bhatti, Professional Advisor, The Hub
Kritika Bedi, Undergraduate Student, Political Science and Philosophy
Courtney Dalfonso, Senior Director, Learning Services; Doctoral Student, Educational Leadership for Diverse Learners
Helen Dang, Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science
Kelly Sullivan Dennis, Assistant Professor, Social Work
Carlos Dos Santos, Director, Residence Life
Mary Flowers-Burke, Graduate Student, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Tashia Green, Senior Assistant Registrar, Registrar’s Office
Alexandra Hamilton, Assistant Director, Human Resources for Recruiting
Kimberly Johnson, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Lucijan Jovic, Doctoral Student, Educational Leadership for Diverse Learners
Azad Khan, Assistant Director, Network Administration, Information Technology
Meta Miller, Creative Services Coordinator, Strategic and Digital Communication
Chandler Patton Miranda, Assistant Professor, Education
S. Maureen Muir, Administrative Coordinator, Campus Ministries
Natalie Nieves, Instructor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling
David Nochimson, Access Service Librarian, JET Library
Randy Pellew, Associate Professor, Nursing
Jeannine Perrin, Administrative Assistant, The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy
Erin Reilly, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Allison Roda, Associate Professor, Education
Mary Monica Ryder, Instructional Designer, Online and Blended Learning
Layla Saied, Undergraduate Student, Music
Julie Sargeant, Development Officer and Scholarship Specialist, Development and Alumni Affairs
Janet Schwenk, Instructor, Nursing
NyJon Sheffey, Undergraduate Student, Nursing
Jeremiah Thornton, Undergraduate Student, Biology
Katelyn Tierney, Undergraduate Student, Education
Orsolya Várkonyi, Assistant Professor, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Special thanks to Jacqueline Williams, Executive Assistant for Mission Integration for her assistance throughout the year.



Molloy Speaks: Voices That Inspire

Launched during Community Day in Fall 2024, Molloy Speaks has created a welcoming space for members of the University community to share the stories, scholarship, experiences, and ideas that bring Molloy's mission to life. Sponsored by the Siena Center for Social Justice, the monthly forum highlights voices connected to the University's institutional pillars, values, and guiding virtues.





Students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate as featured speakers, offering personal journeys, research projects, and reflections that inspire conversation and deepen community connections. By placing diverse voices at the center of the program, Molloy Speaks celebrates the many ways individuals live out the four Dominican Pillars: spirituality, study, community, and service.

A Growing Tradition

Molloy Speaks is traditionally held on the first Wednesday of each month. The lunchtime program includes food and is recorded and archived so its messages can continue to reach members of the Molloy community.

For speakers, the experience offers an opportunity to engage the campus community, build public-speaking skills, contribute to a growing tradition, and receive a custom recognition gift. For attendees, it is an invitation to listen, learn, and be inspired by the people who make Molloy distinctive.

Voices in Conversation

During the 2025–2026 academic year, several faculty members shared scholarship and experiences that reflected Molloy's mission in distinct ways. Featured presenters included Dr. Dena Alberti, assistant professor of nursing; Dr. Brian Bajzek, assistant professor of theology and religious studies; Dr. Raymond Blanchard, assistant professor and clinical coordinator of clinical mental health counseling; Dr. John Carpenite, professor of music therapy and founder and director of The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy; Dr. Alex Chan, assistant professor of business; Dr. Donna Iucolano, assistant professor of business; Roseanne Lavelle, professor of practice in business; Dr. Mary McCormack, associate professor of nursing; Dr. Chandler Miranda, assistant professor of education; Dr. Lisa Nelson, assistant professor of nursing; and Dr. Allison Roda, associate professor of education.

Their presentations demonstrated the breadth of Molloy's mission in action—from theology, nursing, business, and education to music therapy and mental health counseling—while inviting the campus community into thoughtful dialogue and shared learning.



2025-2026 Mission Integration Grant Program

Sponsored by the Office of Mission Integration (MI), the MI Grant Program allows Molloy faculty, staff, and students to request financial support for mission integration initiatives. During the 2025-2026 academic year, five grants were awarded:

Grant Proposal: *High School Students and Extracurricular Activities: A Dialogical Thematic Narrative Inquiry into the Stories of Students' Experiences with After School and Extracurricular Activities*

Recipient: Janae Baine, Ed.D. Candidate

Amount: \$300

Grant Proposal: *Enhancing Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Speech-Language Pathology: Supporting Bilingual and Multilingual Clients*

Recipient: Dr. Kaitlin Brooks, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders

Amount: \$300

Grant Proposal: *Reaching Diverse Learners in Science and STEM*

Recipient: Mary Goldberg, Adjunct Faculty, Education

Amount: \$300

Grant Proposal: *International Education Week*

Recipient: Cindy Hu, International Education Coordinator

Amount: \$300

Grant Proposal: *From Advocacy to Allyship: Building Belonging and Health Equality in Neurodivergent Communities*

Recipient: Dr. Judith James-Borga, Associate Professor of Nursing

Amount: \$300

2025-2026 Mission Integration Impact Report

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