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<u>**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**</u>

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SUNY Schenectady Partners with
Brown School on Early College Program
Students can earn college credits, associate degrees while still in high school

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — Students at Brown School can earn college credits and an associate degree while still in high school through a new Early College partnership with SUNY Schenectady. This is the first college partnership for Brown School, a K-12 private school located in Schenectady.

Students in 10th and 11th grades began taking SUNY Schenectady courses online this spring. Students who will begin ninth grade this fall will be able to start on their path toward earning an associate degree. They will take advanced high school and college course work at Brown School in 9th and 10th grades and then take courses on the SUNY Schenectady campus during their junior and senior years. The new partnership enables these students to earn between 48 and 60 credits toward an associate degree while they are still in high school. SUNY Schenectady tuition, books and supplies will be covered by the cost of attendance at Brown School.

Adriana Fatato, a 10th grade student at Brown School, is currently taking classes at SUNY Schenectady and is hoping to receive her associate degree by the end of high school. She has completely embraced this new program.

"I love that I have the opportunity to complete an associate degree by the time I graduate high school. I'm excited to explore new classes to learn more about my interests. This provides students the opportunity to get a head start on their degrees and careers," Fatato said.

Officials from both institutions recently signed an MOU outlining the new partnership. Dr. Steady Moono, president of SUNY Schenectady, noted that the College is pleased to have Brown School students among its student population and to form a relationship with the school, which has a long history in the city of Schenectady.

"Students at Brown School can now jumpstart their college careers while they are still in high school because of our new partnership," Dr. Moono said. "We are very proud to be able to offer them this early pathway for their college careers and this opportunity to earn their degrees at the same time they are earning their high school diplomas."

"Our newly formed partnership with SUNY Schenectady is game-changing on many levels. We are thrilled to partner with a cutting-edge college that has the ability to advance our students and improve the region through this new initiative. Our current high school students are embracing and enjoying this experience and we look forward to meeting new students who are interested in

exploring this opportunity," said Teresa Burke, director of the middle and high school at Brown School.

Information regarding the Early College program can be found at www.sunysccc.edu/chs and also at http://brownschool.org/SUNY.

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About SUNY Schenectady

Founded in 1969, SUNY Schenectady County Community College (SUNY Schenectady) is one of 30 community colleges in the State University of New York system, the largest comprehensive university system in the United States. SUNY Schenectady is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Through transferable degree and certificate programs, affordable tuition, strong student support services and a personalized approach to learning, SUNY Schenectady provides students with a regionally acclaimed education that empowers them to take the next step in their lives. SUNY Schenectady offers degree and certificate programs through the:

• School of Hotel, Culinary Arts, and Tourism
• School of Music
• Division of Business, Criminal Justice, and Law
• Division of Liberal Arts
• Division of Math, Science, Technology, and Health

SUNY Schenectady also offers an array of Workforce Development and Community Education services and non-credit courses. Learn more by visiting: www.sunysccc.edu.

About Brown School

Helen "Nellie" Brown founded Brown School in 1893 as an alternative to public schools. She envisioned a school where an individualized approach to learning would foster self-confidence, intellectual curiosity, and a life-long love of learning.

The school's mission is to mindfully educate all students to pursue their individual potential in a nurturing, collaborative environment through the arts, humanities, mathematics and sciences.

Brown School educates students from preschool through high school and offers college credits through a partnership with SUNY Schenectady. Teachers at the school work to identify and develop the strengths of individual students, thereby stimulating discovery, imagination, and critical thinking. Small classes, a dedicated staff, and an innovative curriculum, combine to motivate children to reach their potential both academically and socially.

Brown School, a non-sectarian independent school in Schenectady, New York, has an absolute charter by the New York State Board of Regents, is accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools and is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools. School policy is determined by the Board of Trustees and implemented by the Head of School and Brown School staff members.

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