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Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways & Onondaga Community College Host NASA Pioneer Col. Eileen M. Collins (USAF, Ret.) on April 22

Presented by M&T Bank, lecture and dinner tickets available for public purchase

Syracuse, N.Y. (April 7, 2023) — The [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Council](#) (GSNYPENN) and [Onondaga Community College](#) (OCC) are together hosting [“Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars: Col. Eileen M. Collins \(USAF, Ret.\)”](#) on Saturday, April 22 on the OCC campus located at 4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse. Presented by M&T Bank, the daylong event is an incredible experience highlighting one of our nation’s most prolific astronauts.



During her lecture, Col. Collins will speak on leadership skills needed to break barriers. It’s no coincidence that this event with one of America’s most admired women occurs on Earth Day and Girl Scout Leader’s Day—honoring the volunteers who work as mentors in partnership with girls in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

This special occasion includes multiple ways in which to support the OCC Foundation and GSNYPENN council. The day begins with classroom-based hands-on STEAM activities for Girl Scouts presented by OCC and GSNYPENN. Activities are free for girls and troops to attend and have already sold out!

Lecture: 4 p.m., SRC Arena & Events Center

Col. Collins will share how her career as an astronaut took shape. Listen as she discusses her Air Force experience from flight instructor and test pilot to her incredible achievement of being the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle and the first to command a Space Shuttle mission. Hear her story of leadership, challenges and success. Tickets are available for purchase at \$20 each (plus a convenience fee).

Media note: Press pool opportunity with Col. Collins will precede her lecture at 3:30 p.m. and 10-15 minutes of b-roll filming will be allowed at the beginning of her 4 p.m. lecture. See [campus map](#) for the location of SRC Arena (“A” on map). Media may park in YMCA-designated spots in front of lot 17 outside the arena. Contact jalvarez@gsnypenn.org to be added to the media list.

Girl Scouts Q&A With Col. Collins: 5 p.m., SRC Arena & Events Center

Col. Collins will take questions written and asked by local Girl Scouts while all other guests with dinner tickets transition to the next part of the evening.

Cocktail Hour & Dinner: 5:15 p.m., Great Room, Gordon Hall

Geared towards adults, this is the perfect way to wrap up post-lecture. Discuss Col. Collins’ achievements and knowledge with a cocktail and delicious plated dinner. As the guest of honor, she will give brief remarks in addition to hearing from Dr. Warren

Hilton, Ed.D., President of Onondaga Community College and Julie Dale, CEO of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways. This add-on is separate from the lecture. Tickets are available for purchase at \$150 each (plus a convenience fee).

For further event information and to purchase tickets, visit gsnypenn.org/ecollins. To become a sponsor, visit sunyocc.edu/eileencollins.

Special thanks to the event sponsors:

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About Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls in grades K-12. Our extraordinary journey began in 1912 when our Movement was founded by Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. Today, we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. We offer every girl the chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure and success. GSNYPENN is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to administer the Girl Scout program in 24 counties of New York and two in Pennsylvania. Learn more at gsnypenn.org.

About Onondaga Community College

Onondaga Community College, Central New York's partner in education for success, is a two-year college located on a 280-acre campus in Syracuse, NY. OCC is a SUNY (State University of New York) school and is locally sponsored by Onondaga County. We are the first public college in the nation to partner with Barnes & Noble College on the "Box of Books" program which provides students with flat-rate, predictable pricing for textbooks and technology. OCC is an Achieving the Dream college and was named "Military Friendly" and "Best For Vets" for our service to student veterans. The College's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility has earned recognition as a "Green College" by the Princeton Review, a "Cool School" by the Sierra Club and a "Sustainable Campus" by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. A report titled "The Economic Value of Onondaga Community College" shows students enjoy an attractive 21.7% rate of return on their educational investment. For every dollar of support from state and local governments, taxpayers see a return of \$3.90 on their investments. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is 9.3%. OCC's 16 athletics teams have won 16 national championships. Learn more about the College at sunyocc.edu.