

SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines

Symposium on Financial Resilience and Mental Health

8:30 am – 3:15 pm, Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

Campus Ballroom A, Farmingdale State College

Check-in and Welcome

Time: 8:30 – 9:00 AM

Welcome Remark: Dr. Sean Lane, Provost of Farmingdale State College (8:45 – 9:00 AM)

Session 1- Lifelong Financial Literacy and Resilience

Time: 9:00 – 10:40 AM

- **Survey of the Challenges and Opportunities for Students Taking Personal Finance Courses**

Speaker: Louis Chan, Ph.D., Lecturer in Economics – Farmingdale State College

- **Empowering Financial Capability Through Community-Informed Video Financial Education**

Speaker: Amin Hernandez, Founder & CEO – Whealthy

- **Financial Resilience, Mental Health, AI Tools, Educational Awareness, Emotional Regulation**

Speaker: Alireza Ebrahimi, Ph.D., Associate Professor – SUNY at Old Westbury

- **FinLit for Life: Teaching Financial Literacy at a Community College**

Speaker: Derek Sadler, Professor and Head of Media Service and Web Services Librarian – LaGuardia Community College

- **The Hidden Risk Factor: Addressing Financial Stress in Student Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention**

Speaker: Kimberly Liao, Prevention Specialist – Campus Mental Health Services, Farmingdale State College

Panel Discussion: Financial Literacy and Challenges

Time: 10:45 – 11:30 AM

Panelists:

- **Adam Brown, Ph.D.** – Professor of Psychology, The New School for Social Research; Director, New School Center for Global Mental Health
- **Eric Farina** – Director of Veteran’s Affairs, Farmingdale State College
- **Alicia Lawson Cesar, Ed.D.** – Director, Educational Opportunity Program, Farmingdale State College
- **David Glodstein, Ph.D., CPA, CFE** – Associate Professor, Department of Accounting, Taxation, and Business Law, SUNY Old Westbury

Lunch

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Welcome Remark: Dr. Richard Vogel, Dean of School of Business – Farmingdale State College

Keynote Speaker

Time: 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Speaker: Antony Paul – Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Topic: *Financial Literacy and Mental Health*

Panel Discussion: Financial Resilience and Strategies

Time: 12:40 – 1:25 PM

Panelists:

- **Christopher M. Browne, Ph.D.** – Staff Psychologist, Campus Mental Health Services, Farmingdale State College
- **Debra Sabatini Dwyer, Ph.D.** – CEO, Deb Dwyer Analytics; Health and Labor Economist
- **Braeden Mayrisch** – Vice President, Impact and Culture; Vice President, Voya Foundation
- **Alex Nunez-Torres, Ph.D.** – Professor of Finance, Lehman College

Session 2 – Financial Resilience: Opportunities and Solutions

Time: 1:30 – 2:50 PM

- **Financial Vulnerability of the Working College Students: A Study of Farmingdale State College Students**

Speaker: Meeghan Rogers, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Finance – Farmingdale State College

- **Adaptive AI for Financial Decision-Making: A Reinforcement Learning Framework for College Student Behavior**

Speaker: Bruno Kamdem, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Farmingdale State College

- **General Overview of the NYS Division of Consumer Protection and Resources for Financial Education**

Speaker: Belia Jimenez, Director of Education, Outreach & Policy Unit – NYS Division of Consumer Protection

- **Behavioral Finance and Decision-Making: Enhancing Financial Literacy and Resilience in Higher Education**

Speaker: Dr. Charity Ezenwa-Onuaku, CEO – WealthyGen Solutions, Inc.

Closing Remarks

Time: 3:00 – 3:15 PM