

SYRACUSE, NY – Connie Monteleone Whitton, Vice Chair of the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees, was awarded an honorary Associate of Arts degree at Onondaga Community College's 46th Commencement Ceremony held May 16, 2009 in the Onondaga County War Memorial. Ms. Whitton, who resides in Manlius, New York, was originally appointed to the Onondaga Community College Board of Trustees by Governor George Pataki in 1996. She has also held board positions of chair and secretary.

The Honorary Degree is the highest form of recognition from Onondaga Community College, recognizing persons of exceptional distinction who have demonstrated meritorious service to the College, the State of New York, the United States, and the community at large, as well as persons whose lives serve as examples of the College's aspirations for its students. A total of four honorary degrees were presented at the 46th Commencement by Onondaga Community College Trustee Margaret M. O'Connell, SUNY Trustee Aminy I. Audi, and Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. In addition to Ms. Whitton, honorary degrees were presented to William F. Allyn, Oren R. Lyons and Ralph R. Whitney Jr.

"Connie Whitton's exemplary leadership in a number of arenas is of tremendous importance to this community. Her great support for higher education and Onondaga Community College pays significant dividends to us all," said Board Chair David W. Murphy.

"Trustee Whitton's numerous accomplishments both personally and professionally have created a legacy that will benefit students to come," said Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D. "Connie is a true champion for the College and our students, and we take great pleasure in extending her this honor."

Ms. Whitton is a partner in Productivity Leadership Systems, an executive coaching and organizational development firm located in Syracuse. A recognized leader of strategic planning and business development, with experience directing sales, marketing, operations, engineering and process improvement, she has served in executive positions at Carrier Corporation/United Technologies, HSBC and Alliance Bank. In addition, she has served on the boards of a wide range of non-profit organizations and educational institutions, including the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, the United Way, and was a charter member of the Onondaga Lake Commission. As Chair of the Onondaga County Planning Board, she directed the county's land use plan through 2010 and was part of the project team responsible for establishing the Onondaga County Convention Center. Ms. Whitton is a previous recipient of the Syracuse Post-Standard Achievement Award for business. Contact her at connie@productivityleader.com.