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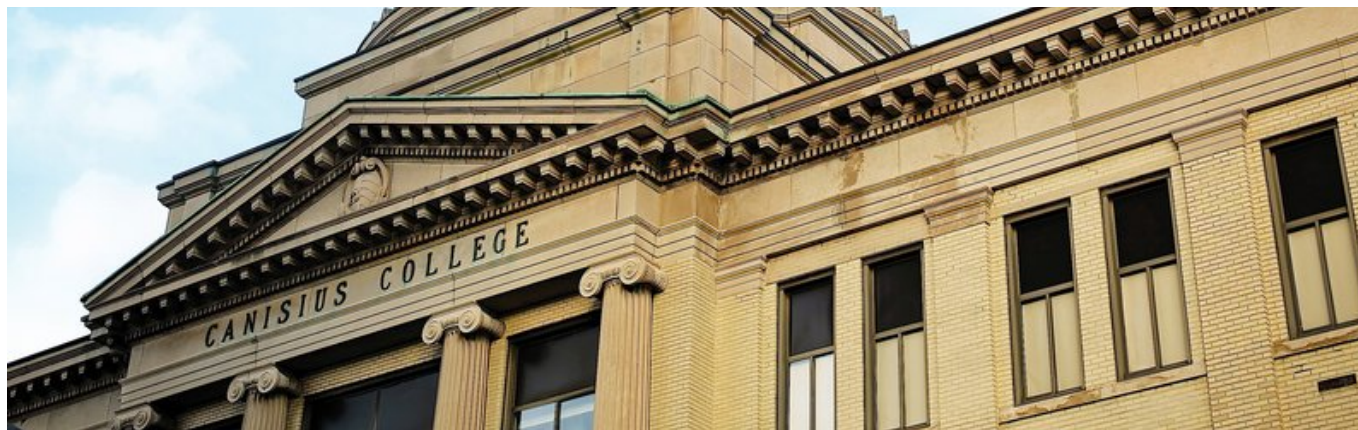
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New programs, sponsorships coming to Canisius, Niagara University, SUNY Erie this fall

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Canisius College in Buffalo.

Canisius College will offer two new academic programs this fall: a bachelor of arts degree in anthrozoology and a master of arts degree in informal education and interpretation.

The undergraduate program, anthrozoology, will be a comprehensive study of the “historical, cultural and ethical relationships between humans and non-human animals,” according to a news release.

The program will help fill positions in zoos, animal rescues and wildlife rehabilitation centers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there’s a growing need for animal workers and advocates in the Buffalo Niagara region, with a projected 29% increase in jobs over the next decade.

Canisius already offers and master’s degree program in anthrozoology.

The new graduate degree in informal education and interpretation is an online degree for students that want to teach in environmental education, historical preservation or museum curation, according to the release. The program, which includes studies in nonprofit leadership, research methods and grant writing, requires a one-week residency prerequisite.

The graduate program will be led by Simon Bird, who has a doctorate in insect ecology and has spent the last 20 years working as a naturalist and professor of conservation. Bird formerly was an adjunct professor of geography at George Washington University and previously served as director of urban sustainability at the University of the District of Columbia.

Niagara University offers new accounting program

This fall, Niagara University will offer a new master's degree in accounting for students who already have an undergraduate degree in the field.

The 33-credit study in accounting; auditing and internal controls; taxation; and corporate financial policy will give students the preparation needed for the certified public accountant exam, according to a news release.

SUNY Erie partners with local HVAC company

Starting this fall, SUNY Erie students seeking certifications in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technology could save \$7,000, thanks to a local HVAC company.

MJ Mechanical Services Inc. of Tonawanda wants to sponsor students in that certificate program to help build a workforce pipeline in that field, according to a news release.

"Programs like this benefit the industry because it adds more HVAC technicians to the workforce, which our communities depend on to help build new buildings, schools, hospitals and promise to our local economy," said Kyle Wood, director of training for MJ Mechanical, in a statement.

"It's a great option for those who may not have the means to pay for training, but within one year, could launch a whole new career in HVAC and make an impact in the field right away," said Erikson Neilans, vice president of enrollment management at SUNY Erie, in a

statement.



Katie Anderson

Reporter - *Buffalo Business First*

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