

# COLLEGIATE CORNER

Taylor Kelly – NYSSMA/NAfME Collegiate President 24-25 - SUNY Fredonia



## Let Us Gather in Harmony

As the holiday season approaches, one of my favorite traditions is gathering with family and friends to share the warmth and joy that this time of year brings. While the holidays can be a source of stress for some, especially as we conclude this academic semester, there's something truly magical about coming together to celebrate.

This year, I'm especially excited for the annual NYSSMA® Winter Conference in Rochester, which will be held once again at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center from Thursday, December 5 to December 8 2024, where we have the chance to gather with our professional music education family for a shared experience of learning, inspiration, and festivity. Let's come together and embrace this truly special occasion!

### Collegiate connections

That being said, if you are reading this prior to the conference and haven't had the chance to register yet, you can easily do so by visiting the winter conference information page located on [nyssma.org](http://nyssma.org). In addition to a diverse range of enriching sessions and performances, the Executive Board is excited to present a variety of opportunities for collaboration specifically tailored to us as collegiate members. We encourage you to take full advantage of these opportunities outlined below:

#### Thursday, December 5

7:00 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"I'm a New Music Teacher ... Now What!???"**

With Dr. Anthony M. Romero II

#### Friday, December 6

9:30 a.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Everyone Belongs: The Accessible Music Classroom for All"**

With Brian Wagner-Yeung

1:15 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Music Educators: Shepherding Tomorrow's Leaders to Artistry"**

With Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

2:30 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Meet Your State Collegiate Executive Board: Learn About Collegiate and Chapter Engagement"**

With the NYSSMA® Collegiate E-Board

3:45 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Stepping into the Job Process: Mock Interviewing Event with NYSCAME Members"**

With Dr. John Gallagher

6:00 p.m.

**Collegiate NAfME/NYSSMA® Dinner and Meeting**

With the 2024-2025 State E-Board

(Note: Dinner is FREE!)

7:00 p.m., CC Exhibit Hall

**"Don't Wait to Be Great!"**

With Michael Brownell

#### Saturday, December 7

8:15 a.m., CC Riverside Court

**"What I Learned in My Three 'First Years' Teaching"**

With Gregory Sisco

9:30 a.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Taking The Extra Step: Getting the Most Out of Your Student Teaching Experience"**

With Jason Giachetti

1:15 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"The Student Teaching Placement: Creating a Mutually Beneficial Experience"**

With Daniel Albert

2:30 p.m., CC Riverside Court

**"Everything You Need To Know To Be a Successful Student Teacher: From The Perspective of the Cooperating Teacher"**

With Maureen Edwards

### Strengthening bonds

The Winter Conference is not just a time for learning and professional growth; it's also an opportunity to gather and connect. It offers a chance to strengthen bonds with fellow collegiate members from across the state and forge new relationships with those who will guide and support us as we embark on the next steps in our musical and teaching careers.

With that in mind, we especially invite you to join us for the Collegiate Dinner on Friday, December 6 at 6 p.m., generously provided by NYSSMA®. Let's come together, not only to learn but also to celebrate this momentous gathering and the friendships gained along the way.

### Financial assistance available

For those planning to attend the conference, NYSSMA® is offering numerous opportunities to ensure your experience is both enriching and affordable. To help make your attendance possible, NYSSMA® is providing scholarships to a limited number of collegiate students who are members of their school's NAfME chapter and can lend a hand at the conference. This may include assisting at the collegiate booth or presiding over sessions.

To learn more about applying for this scholarship, please contact your collegiate advisor. Additionally, students carpooling with three or more collegiate members to the conference are eligible for gas reimbursement through NYSSMA®. To apply for this reimbursement, come visit us at the collegiate table upon check-in to the conference.

As the conference draws near, I'm filled with excitement for the opportunity to come together and continue developing our craft through meaningful growth and collaborative learning. Meeting new colleagues, reconnecting with friends, and sharing our passion for music is what makes this gathering truly special.

This season, take time to reflect on the relationships and moments — big or small — that bring meaning to our lives. I wish everyone a warm, safe holiday season filled with joy, gratitude, and lasting memories.

See you in Rochester! ||