

SUNY New Paltz picks new names for buildings previously named for slave owners

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NEW PALTZ – The SUNY New Paltz College Council has chosen new names for the buildings in what has long been known as the Hasbrouck Complex.

The college is changing the names because of the namesake families' association with slavery.

The changes must now be approved by the Board of Trustees.

If they are, the Hasbrouck Dining Hall would be changed to the Peregrine Dining Hall, after the falcons that fly above the area around the college campus.

Peregrine also refers to a wanderer from foreign lands, and the college notes it has always accepted students from all points of origin.

The five residence halls in the complex - Bevier Hall, Crispell Hall, Deyo Hall, DuBois Hall and Lefevre Hall - would be renamed using Native American terms, as follows:

Shawangunk Hall, after the ridge visible from campus, is a Munsee Lenape name meaning "in the smoky air."

Awosting Hall, adapted from a Munsee word for "place of grassy hills," would share its name with a lake on the ridge.

Minnewaska Hall, after another lake on the ridge, is a name that combines two Dakota or Sioux words meaning "many" and "water".

Mohonk Hall, from a Delaware Indian word believed to mean "lake in the sky," shares its name with a lake and a 100-year-old resort.

Ashokan Hall, from an Iroquois word for “place of fish,” shares its name with a nearby reservoir and an educational, conference and retreat center that used to be part of the SUNY campus.