Alcohol use focus of SUNY program

NEW PALTZ — The State University of New York at New Paltz is one of 13 SUNY campuses selected to participate in the first alcohol prevention project coordinated by SUNY system administration.

The New Paltz campus has received a $9,800 grant that will kick off the school’s summer program, “Impacting Alcohol Use on Campus: Harm Reduction/Early Intervention, Health Promotion and First-Year Student Education.”

Staff members will be trained and all incoming freshmen will participate in an online interactive educational program, which asks students questions about their drinking habits and general background.

The college will reach out to New Paltz students and student-athletes during the coming year.

The project’s goal is to encourage students to make healthy decisions regarding their personal choices with alcohol use, college spokesman Eric Gullickson said.

The effort will reach about 18,000 SUNY freshmen statewide this fall.

The $100,000 project was funded by The Century Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting underage drinking, and the Michael Andretti Foundation and Jim Beam Brands.