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Times Herald-Record

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September 30, 2015 8:31PM

SUNY New Paltz renames center after founding director

NEW PALTZ - The Benjamin Center got its christening Wednesday.

More than 125 people joined in renaming the Center for Research, Regional Engagement and Outreach – CRREO – after the center’s founding director Gerald Benjamin.

The crowd offered congratulations in the auditorium of the Student Union at SUNY New Paltz, the college that houses the center under both its former and new names. The college is also the home, so to speak, of Benjamin’s professional life, though he is widely recognized at the state and national level as well as the local level as an expert on government and politics.

The assemblage included Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, a SUNY New Paltz graduate who also served with Benjamin in the Ulster County Legislature in the 1980s. SUNY New Paltz President Donald Christian announced during the ceremony that Cahill has secured \$250,000 for the center.

“It is an extraordinary honor for me to be recognized in this way at the college that I love, and have had the great good fortune to serve for 50 years,” Benjamin said.

The center will continue to develop and implement new governing models, Christian said.

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