

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



**HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PREPARES 300 MEALS
FOR LET'S CELEBRATE**



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From the Editor’s Desk

HCCC Happenings is on the College’s website at <http://www.hccc.edu>

Items for the July newsletter are due by Friday, June 12, 2020.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PREPARES 300 MEALS FOR LET’S CELEBRATE

Recently, chefs, professors and staff from the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Division of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management have been working with Broadway and TV star Tituss Burgess to prepare over 300 hot lunches for clients of Let’s Celebrate. The HCCC staff plated and served the to-go meals on Friday, May 22 at the Let’s Celebrate Square Meal Soup Kitchen, 46 Fairview Avenue in Jersey City.

Let’s Celebrate, Inc. is a nonprofit, community service organization that began feeding the homeless in Journal Square more than 30 years ago and has grown to include a network of soup kitchens and food pantries throughout Jersey City. The organization’s mission is to move people from hunger to wholeness by providing a comprehensive group of food security, rental assistance, financial management and transitional housing programs.

The gourmet meals included Tuscan-style Herb-roasted Chicken, Jus Lie (lightly thickened natural juices) and Braised Leg of Veal A La Normande (apple scented demi-glace sauce) served with Saffron Rice Pilaf, and Melange of Corn, Peas and Lima Beans O’Brien.

HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber said that while the food was donated by the College, organizing, preparing and serving was completely reliant on the goodness of the HCCC faculty and staff. “We commend Assistant Professor Chef Gary Bensky, and Business, Culinary and Hospitality Recruiter Janine Nunez for coordinating and preparing this compassionate outreach for our community. We applaud Chef/Professor Anuchit Pukdeedamrongrit (aka ‘Chef Puk’), Assistant to the Vice President of Planning and Development Mirta Sanchez, and Mr. Burgess, who spent two days preparing the meals, and Adjunct Chef/Professors Susan DaSilva and Victor Moruzzi, who assisted in serving them.”

Tituss Burgess made his Broadway debut in “Good Vibrations” in 2005, and went on to perform in “Jersey Boys,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “Guys and Dolls.” Mr. Burgess received four Emmy Award nominations for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy series as a result of his starring role in the Netflix comedy series, “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt.” He has appeared in numerous TV series, including “Blue Bloods,” “30 Rock” and

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ON THE COVER: *On Friday, May 22, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Division worked with Broadway and TV star Tituss Burgess to prepare over 300 hot lunches for clients of Let’s Celebrate, a nonprofit, community service organization. The HCCC staff plated and served the to-go meals on Friday, May 22 at the Let’s Celebrate Square Meal Soup Kitchen in Jersey City.*

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNUS NAMED A PHI THETA KAPPA GUISTWHITE SCHOLAR



Hudson County Community College (HCCC) alumnus Abderahim Salhi has been named a 2020 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Guistwhite Scholar based on his academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in the international

community college student, ever to become a Goldwater Scholar.

honor society’s programs.

The \$5,000 Guistwhite Scholarship for baccalaureate studies is the second highest scholarship offered by Phi Theta Kappa, the premier honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helps them grow as scholars and leaders. A panel of independent judges selected the 15 recipients from more than 3,400 applicants nationwide.

Mr. Salhi was also recently named a recipient of the nationally esteemed Goldwater scholarship, considered the leading award in Mathematics, Science and Engineering. He was the first student in HCCC history, and only the second New Jersey

community college student, ever to become a Goldwater Scholar. “Abderahim is not only an exceptional scholar, he is an extraordinary human being who is deeply committed to serving and assisting the people of Hudson County,” HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber said. “As a PTK member, he has been involved in several programs and events to benefit the community, and during the past several weeks he produced 3-D-printed face shields for local health workers on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic battle.”

An Algerian immigrant motivated to pursue his passion for technology, Mr. Salhi received his Associate in Science (A.S.) in Computer Science from HCCC in May 2019. He is currently working on his second degree at HCCC, an Associate in Science in Mathematics, and is serving a one-year term as the Student Alumni Representative to the HCCC Board of Trustees. He plans to earn his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Mathematics and pursue a career as part of a world-class academic research team.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNA AND STUDENT NAMED TO 2020 NEW JERSEY ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) announced that Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez and Rimsha Bazaid are among only 38 community college students who are members of the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team. Ms. Segovia-Vazquez was also named a Coca Cola Bronze Scholar and the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber said that each year, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges recognizes students from each of the state's community colleges for their commitment to scholarship, leadership and service as members of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society. Beta Alpha Phi, the HCCC chapter of PTK, has earned the distinction of Five Star Chapter Status, Phi Theta Kappa's highest level of recognition.

In March, Ms. Segovia-Vazquez and Ms. Bazaid were nominated for PTK All-USA Academic Team Scholarships awarded to high-achieving students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service.

"The entire Hudson County Community

College family joins me in congratulating Kailyn and Rimsha," Dr. Reber said. "Their academic achievements and service to our community are truly inspirational."

Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez is a 20-year-old Bayonne resident who earned her HCCC Associate of Arts degree in Theatre Arts in December 2019. Her HCCC leadership activities included Honors Institute events and Honors in Action projects. Ms. Segovia-Vazquez also served as Theatre Club President; Co-Chair of the Honors Council; Design Editor for the Rhapsody newsletter; and Public Relations Coordinator/Treasurer for Phi Theta Kappa. Outside of campus, she worked closely with Bayonne Nature Club and Hunger Free Bayonne. Today, she is a Presidential Scholar at New Jersey City University and is currently studying Biology, Entrepreneurship and Theatre Arts.

Rimsha Bazaid of Jersey City graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Assisting last month. She plans to transfer to New Jersey City University. Ms. Bazaid served as Director of Community Service Outreach for the



Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez



Rimsha Bazaid

Student Government Association, Treasurer of Sigma Kappa Delta, and Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa; HCCC Student Success Program mentor; and a volunteer for Earth Keepers and Hunger Free Bayonne.

The NJCCC is a 501 (c) 3 organization that provides leadership for the advancement of New Jersey community colleges, coordinates statewide efforts to improve student success, and performs sector coordinating efforts. NJCCC resources for students include the NJCCC Center for Student Success and Workforce Consortium.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE REBOOTS TO PREPARE FOR STUDENTS STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Chris Reber understands everyone's concerns for today and the future. "The COVID-19 pandemic has left us all with uncertainty about aspects of our everyday life, and what we will encounter in the days, months and years ahead," he said.

However, he states that the one thing COVID-19 has underscored is the value of education, especially a college education. "With the re-engineering of the American economy there will be new challenges and opportunities, and we intend to prepare students for those new realities," Dr. Reber said.

The President stated that Hudson County Community College is dedicated to providing everyone with the opportunity to benefit from a HCCC education, and wants to accommodate the needs of all returning students and all newcomers, while ensuring their health and safety.

To address these priorities, the College recently formed the "Return to Campus" (RTC) Task Force, which is exploring timelines, data, models and recommendations for designing options for the Fall 2020 semester and beyond. The RTC Task Force will build upon the benefits the College offers HCCC students while determining the safest and most effective ways of providing instruction. These benefits include degree and certificate pro-

grams that lead to meaningful, well-paying careers with potential for growth; financial assistance and scholarships; robust online programs; state-of-the-art facilities that are close to home and centrally located; courses taught by nationally recognized and caring faculty; and award-winning, individual and group, free tutoring offered in-person and online.

HCCC offers more than 60 degree and certificate programs with credits that transfer to every major four-year college and university in the New Jersey-New York area. "We have exceptional, award-winning programs that lead to promising futures," Dr. Reber said. The HCCC STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management, Nursing and Health Sciences, English as a Second Language, and Fine and Performing Arts programs are all top-ranked.

Knowing COVID-19 is economically impacting the people of our community, the College implemented a tuition and fee freeze last month that will last through the 2021 Winter, Spring and Summer I sessions. Dr. Reber noted that HCCC has one of the most effective teams of Financial Aid experts in the area, with more than 80% of the College's students receiving scholarships from the HCCC Foundation and other sources as well as state and federal grants. Furthermore, current HCCC students may

Continued on page 4



Here is your opportunity to invest in the future of our community, one in which your generosity will be doubled and make a phenomenal, life-changing impact at an unprecedented time of challenge.

National Giving –

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) will match your donation, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000.

Your tax-exempt donation to the HCCC Foundation Giving Tuesday Match Drive will help HCCC students complete their education and make transformational changes in their lives.

You may donate at

www.hccc.edu/FoundationDonor

**For more information, contact
Nicholas A. Chiaravalloti, J.D., Ed.D.,
Vice President for External Affairs and
Senior Counsel to the President at
chiaravalloti@hccc.edu**

MILESTONES

*Congratulations to the following
on their anniversary with
Hudson County Community College!*

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Marta Cimillo
Mariel Shinnick

5 Years
Heather Devries
Paula Jnoville

15 Years
Gregory Burns

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Suri Hidalgo
Hillary Kouevi
Crystal Newton
Tyler Sarmiento
Abou Traore

5 Years
Edward Gotia Jr.

NEW HIRE

Callie Martin, Instructional Designer
(effective 6/1/2020)

For information and resources
about HCCC's response to the
coronavirus pandemic,
please visit our website:

[http://www.hccc.edu/
Coronavirus-Resources/](http://www.hccc.edu/Coronavirus-Resources/)

**CALLING HCCC FACULTY,
STAFF, STUDENTS
AND ALUMNI:**
Are you on the front lines,
performing needed community
service during the COVID-19
pandemic?

We want to hear about it!
Please send an email and photos
to communications@hccc.edu.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES



Dr. Jouma Jalou



Amaalah Ogburn



Dr. Clive Li

Dr. Jouma Jalou, an adjunct instructor for both Health Sciences and Biology, has been matched into a residency program at Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center and will begin his training July 1, 2020. He has taught many medical courses including Principles of First Aid and Anatomy and Physiology. Dr. Jalou is a medical doctor currently involved in the fight with COVID 19. Residency training is a stage of graduate medical education. In many jurisdictions, successful completion of such training is a requirement in order to obtain an unrestricted license to practice medicine, and in particular a license to practice a chosen specialty.

Congratulations to Amaalah Ogburn, Coordinator, North Hudson Campus, who has graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University in May 2020.

The article "Can the argon plasma 'Grafting-From' approach be used for the modification of nanoparticle systems?" has been published in *Colloid and Interface Science Communications*, a publication of Elsevier. The article is a collaboration between Saint Peter's University and Hudson County Community College; authors and collaborators are Dr. Clive Li (Instructor, STEM) of HCCC and Dr. Christian Traba (Associate Professor of Chemistry) of Saint Peter's.

HCCC REBOOTS TO PREPARE FOR STUDENTS STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

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register for Summer and Fall classes even if they have a balance with the Bursar or are waiting for final grades to be posted.

Another plus the College affords Hudson County residents is that the College is easily accessed, with campuses, fully online programs, and state-of-the-art facilities in Jersey City, Union City and Secaucus, all of which have transportation hubs. "This certainly eliminates any worries about long-distance travel that may have upset some individuals' plans for starting or returning to out-of-town and out-of-state colleges and universities," Dr. Reber said.

Experts believe that community college educations are a good value, costing only about one-third of studies at a public college or university in New Jersey. Dr. Reber says the proof of that may be found in HCCC students and alumni. "Our students are awarded national scholarships, and go on to complete their baccalaureate and graduate degrees at some of the nation's most prestigious institutions, including Princeton, Columbia, Fairleigh Dickinson, Rutgers and New York University. HCCC students participate in exclusive, nationally acclaimed programs like the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholar program. Virtually all of our nursing graduates are employed in their profession. HCCC offers a great start to address the changing times ahead in America," he said.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHOWCASE: ARE YOU STUDENTS READY?

Registration is now open for a free, virtual conference - "Community College Showcase: Are You Student Ready?" that will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. In addition to plenary speakers - Dr. Tia McNair (AACU & author of *Are You Student Ready?*) and Dr. Margaret McMenamin (President of Union County College), there will be numerous breakouts, and networking sessions.

Detailed program and registration link can be found at www.njcu.edu/ccshowcase.

The Ed.D. in Community College Leadership Program at New Jersey City University is proud to host this conference and is thankful to NISOD, Stylus Publishing, and Innovative Educators who are sponsors. There will also be giveaways.

For professional development workshops, opportunities,
and other resources, please visit the Office of Faculty and Staff
Development page at <http://my.hccc.edu>

AUTHENTIC ACUE COURSE REFLECTIONS

By Paula Roberson

This month, full- and part-time faculty participants completed the first half of the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Effective Teaching Practices course under the purview of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation. This year-long online professional development investment by the College prepares, credentials, and provides evidence based instruction on effective teaching practices. Upon successful completion, faculty members will earn a certificate in effective college instruction endorsed by the American Council of Education. Our first cohort has endured the challenges of COVID-19 while balancing family and work-life under quarantine. For the next few weeks the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation will highlight the learning experiences of participating faculty members in this initiative.

One enthusiastic participant, Lori Byrd, has been a stellar participant during the entire first half of the course. Her reflection on implementing the flipped classroom approach describes one technique.

"After attending the ACUE seminar, I decided to implement the Flipped classroom to identify student's readiness for learning. The main goal in instituting this pedagogy is to cultivate richer active learning experiences for students when the instructor is present to coach and guide them. My professional goal is to engage and enhance the student's learning experience."

This pedagogy is a hybrid approach to learning, moving the classroom lecture to "homework status" and using face-to-face classroom time for interactive learning and supports self-directed learning. Students gain the necessary knowledge before class by having a pre-lecture quiz and review of a short video on the material to be covered in the class. Students are required to come to class having completed the pre-lecture assignments.

This blended approach was instituted with the material on pancreatitis lecture. Prior to class, students were required to complete a ten question pre-lecture quiz and watch a five minute video on pancreatitis. During class, a traditional lecture took place on the subject matter for about twenty minutes, and then a case study was discussed and students had to think critically on the most important

information they needed to know which is to take care of a patient with pancreatitis. After class, a ten-question quiz was given to the students.

Another technique that was implemented was syllabus reconnaissance. It was implemented in the weekend division of the nursing program since it only has 18 students. The students were divided into groups of 3 and just like the video they were asked to identify 5 key components from the syllabus and shared them. This technique allowed the early engagement of students and for them to embrace the syllabus from the beginning instead of me reading it to them. They enjoyed this activity. I plan to bring this technique to the remaining faculty to implement in their respective classes. It really did not take a lot of class time and the students picked out the same key points.

I do recommend this course to be assigned to all new faculty and even seasoned faculty because even being seasoned you can still learn new things or make revisions on how content is being delivered to the students."

Another participant, Victor Moruzzi finds the course to be enlightening and has offered several useful ideas, inspiration, and tips. The course's main concept so far has been that focusing on how students learn is as important as what we want them to learn. It's our job to provide a road map to let students know what they need to do to be successful and then we need to supply the scaffolding for students to build their success on. Being clear and concise in our expectations goes a long way in facilitating student success.

Victor states, "one thing I focused on in my classes this semester was the importance of taking good notes. I touched on this in every class to help students understand how important good note-taking was to their success. Another idea I used was to have students participate in small-group activities during class. This has helped to keep students engaged during our three-hour classes and has lead to more dynamic discussions than in the past.

The course provided several different ways to solicit student feedback. I look forward to using these concepts when we get back to class and to the second half of the course. The more I know about students, the more I can help them learn what they need to know."

UPDATE ON HCCC'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS: ACHIEVING THE DREAM

Hudson County Community College's Achieving the Dream Dream Team has resumed its regular meetings. The Dream Team's primary focus is working on its Student Success Action Plan. Central to HCCC's Student Success Action Plan are overarching goals. The Dream Team is in the process of developing two overarching student success goals. One goal is likely to focus on improving student success metrics such as early engagement, momentum, persistence, completion, and transfer. The second goal is likely to focus on continuing to foster a culture of care at HCCC through initiatives such as Hudson Helps and the Care Team. Goals will be achieved through the implementation and assessment of specific initiatives that directly influence student success metrics and students' qualitative experience at the College. Both goals will have associated metrics for the purpose of evaluation. HCCC's Student Success Action Plan will also account for the unprecedented changes and challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Student Success Action Plan will be completed by mid-Summer and will be shared with the college community.

SAVE THE DATE
for Dr. Fifield and Dr. Garcia's
Year 2 Visits!

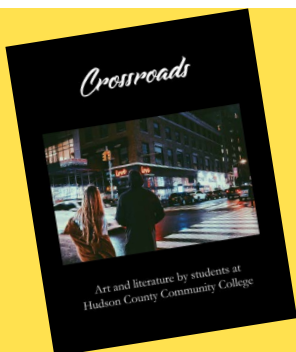
October 13 & 14, 2020
March 11 & 12, 2021



Please join HCCC President
Dr. Chris Reber
for a
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING
on **Tuesday, June 23**
at **12 p.m.**

JOIN THE SESSION AT:
Conference Call Phone:
1-888-363-4734
Access Code: 9751220#

*Learn about important updates
and have your questions answered
in real time.*



The Spring 2020 edition of **CROSSROADS**, the art and literary magazine by students at Hudson County Community College, is now available!

To read online, please visit myhudson.hccc.edu under Student Publications.

GRADUATION SPOTLIGHTS



Crystal Newton
Business Administration

Deciding to start over at HCCC as a 'Later-in-Life student' was the best decision I ever made. After getting over my initial fears, I began to gain the confidence to become more

Involved. I became a Peer Leader and a CSS Mentor which has given me the opportunity to be a leader and a resource to my peers. I had the great honor of being selected as a participant in the highly competitive Golden Sachs Local College Collaborative and a student representative for the Achieving the Dream-Dream Team. I have been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and will be inducted in the National Society of Leadership and Success and Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society this semester. As I end this chapter of my story, I will take along with me the additional skills I've acquired that will assist me in achieving my next set of goals. On to the next chapter!



Brian Ribas
Computer Science

I made some of my best friends at HCCC. I am grateful for the leadership and extracurricular activities that I was able to get involved by taking roles in meaningful projects. I am

leaving HCCC more confident in my ability to communicate and work well with other people. Two demanding skills in today's workforce!



Diego Villatoro
Business Administration

At HCCC, I found lifelong friends, mentors, and an education that will last a lifetime. My time at HCCC stands as a fundamental stepping stone and a building block to my future success.

The lessons learned and the hands-on finance and business experience I gained has been instrumental to my continued success. Most importantly, the network I have built and the friends I have gained continue to enrich my personal life and my professional portfolio. Truly, my experience has been life-changing.



Kimberlin Loor
Special Education

"I am very happy for having studied at HCCC. I arrived to the United States in 2015 dreaming about pursuing a career that impassions me, and this College became my

second home to start with my dream. I feel proud of myself and all those who are achieving one of their goals in life, which is graduating from HCCC. THANK YOU! "



Menfies Zavala
Radiography

I would like to say a big thanks to the professors and Kathey Rodriguez, the program director assistant, who have worked so hard for each one of the radiography program students,

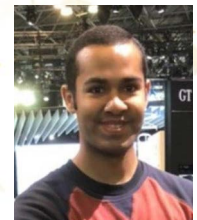
and that I will miss so much all my classmates.



Rimsha Bazaïd
Medical Assisting

"HCCC gave me the opportunity to guide, motivate and inspire incoming freshmen as their CSS mentor. It was also a huge honor being selected as fellow for the Goldman Sachs

Program. This program molded me into a high performing individual. Through all the opportunities HCCC has given me, friendship is the most valuable aspect. I have gained friendships that will last forever. I truly cherish all the memories and experiences we all have together. HCCC offers so much more than academic excellence; it offers leadership, fellowship, scholarship and service opportunities as well. "



Ebrahim Mostafa
Business (Liberal Arts)

I've been at HCCC for three years now, and it has taught me a lot. I learned that there are people that I must trust and have support with. At my first

semester, I joined the EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) department of the College. This year, I've been doing some graphic designing activities online, and I plan to do something with graphic designing and business alike. I'm going back to NJCU to do my major of business/marketing and perhaps getting an art designing certificate. I can't thank EOF and some of my professors enough for the wonderful months I've had at HCCC.



Alcia Batchelor
Medical Science

During my time at HCCC, I've had so many wonderful experiences and met some of the most beautiful people who will no doubt be in my life for all time. I found more than an education here.

I found a family and created bonds that will never be broken. I am confident that they will continue to support me through life's journey. So I would like to take this opportunity to share that I received my official acceptance letter to FDU's Nursing Program that I will start in the Fall!! I am Alcia Batchelor, Medical Science Major, your Student Government Vice President, and Class of 2020!

Stay close to
home this Fall
– begin
at HCCC!

Whether we are your first choice or you are considering postponing enrollment at another institution, **keep moving forward this fall at HCCC.**

- **No increase in tuition and fees for 2020-2021 year**
- **HCCC Foundation and Hudson County Government Scholarships available**
- **Courses available in more than 60 degree and certificate programs**
- **Credits transferable to four-year institutions**
- **Free Tuition for Eligible Students through the Community College Opportunity Grant**
- **Appeal for more Financial Aid!**
Special considerations due to change in income

APPLY NOW
for Summer and Fall classes!
www.hccc.edu/apply

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
admissions@hccc.edu
text (732) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200

TO VIEW ALL OUR REMOTE
ONLINE RESOURCES, GO TO:
www.hccc.edu/remoteservices

GRADUATION SPOTLIGHTS



Ashleigh Sanderson-Ritchie
Culinary Arts

HCCC's culinary program gave me something I had been looking for my entire life and didn't even know it. I was given the tools and instruction to pursue my dream; but

what was more effective than any book, research paper, class discussion, or assignment was the support of my HCCC family. I built a support group and a family with people who share the same passion as myself and dedicate themselves to helping people reach their dreams. HCCC taught me how to step out of my comfort zone and try new things; helped me find the courage to stand out and how to keep on trying when you get knocked down.



Lydia I. Rentas-Santiago
Criminal Justice

My major in HCCC is Criminal Justice. My dream is to become a trial attorney. Along my journey at HCCC, I've met amazing friends and professors,

including my awesome academic counselor Jonathan Bowman. Thank you, HCCC for helping me achieving my dreams anything is possible as a mom of four boys.



Amy Loor-Aguayo
Special Education

I remember taking my first ESL courses to learn English. Even though it has been a long way, it feels like it was only yesterday that I started because I still feel

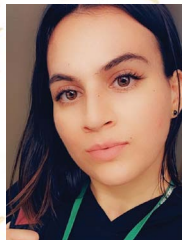
that same motivation that keeps me chasing my dreams. I leave HCCC with more confidence, more knowledge, and with so many amazing experiences in my memory that I can tell people about. Thank you Hudson County Community College for giving us astounding opportunities.



Shakeema Hardnett
Psychology

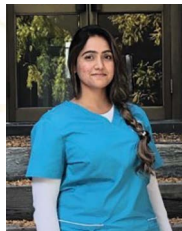
Being a mom of three and working made it extremely hard for me to do my studies; however, with the support of outstanding professors, I pushed through and got it done. I am a graduate of the

Class of 2020. Congratulations to me, I did it! To upcoming graduates: NEVER GIVE UP even when it gets tough. It's not about when you finish but "To Finish."



Krystal Chavarria
Environmental Studies

It was difficult at first adjusting to going back to school after some years whilst working full-time, yet HCCC has the most caring professors who really want to see you thrive. I surprised myself by making the Dean's List! Couldn't have left with a better honor.



Sidrah Chaudhry
Nursing

When I started at HCCC I wasn't sure I would be able to finish nursing school, but here I am today as a graduate nurse! I got a chance to make lifelong friends here,

who were always there for me and they believed in me. Big thanks to our Nursing Professors and instructors.

Available Now for Fall 2020
and Spring 2021!

Community College Opportunity Grant



Eligible students will receive
FREE TUITION
and fees.

(for students with an adjusted gross income
of \$65,000 per year or less)



For more information contact :

freetuition@hccc.edu

201.714.7200 | Text: 201-744-2767

ATTENTION Rising Juniors and Seniors
in Hudson County!
(Future 2021 and 2022 Graduates)

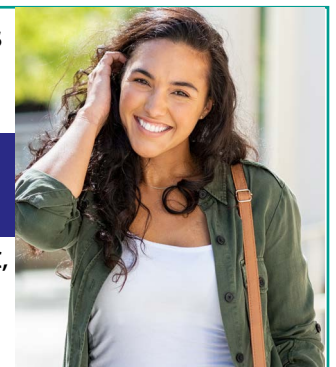
Get an early start on your college degree
with Hudson County Community College!

SAVE MONEY: Pay half the cost of in-county tuition at HCCC,
significantly lower than tuition at four-year institutions.

Credits transfer to four-year institutions

Earn up to 36 credits toward an Associate Degree

Start your journey this summer!
www.hccc.edu/early-college



SAVE
THE
DATE!

COMMENCEMENT 2020

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 12 p.m.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center - Newark, NJ

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Cynthia Criollo and Pedro Moranchel volunteer at Liberty State Park on May 2.



Chapter members Bashir Bivins (left) and Pedro Moranchel volunteering at Hunger Free Bayonne on May 2.

New Jersey Community Colleges Honor Outstanding Student Scholars and Leaders: Thirty-Eight Students Named to the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team

Even amid the COVID-19 crisis, New Jersey's community college students have maintained their unwavering commitment to scholarship, leadership, and service. In recognition of achievement and excellence, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) and the state's 18 community colleges have named 38 students from across the state to the 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team.

"While due to the current pandemic we were unable to host a celebration in-person this year, the state's community colleges are committed to recognizing and celebrating the outstanding achievements and exceptional service of 38 students to their communities and colleges as members of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society," said NJCCC Chair Phil Linfante, Ph.D. "The 38 amazing students truly reflect the strong spirit of optimism, resolve, and commitment and the rich diversity of our state," said NJCCC President Aaron Fichtner, Ph.D.

Each year, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) honors students from each of the state's 18 community colleges who are named to the New Jersey All-State Academic Team at an Annual Community College Scholars Celebration. The celebration was scheduled to occur at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton on April 30, 2020.

In addition, nine New Jersey community college students were honored by Phi Theta Kappa and the Coca-Cola Foundation with scholarships as part of the USA All-State Academic Team com-



Darciane Barbieri Eltz, 2020-2021 Chapter President volunteered at Liberty State Park on May 2.



Bashir Bivins volunteering at Hunger Free Bayonne on May 9.

petition. Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez of Hudson County Community College received a \$1,000 scholarship for being named a Coca-Cola Bronze Scholar.

The 2020 New Jersey All-State Academic Team members include Hudson County Community College students Kailyn Segovia-Vazquez of Bayonne and Rimsha Bazaid of Jersey City.

In addition, recently, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced the 50 high-achieving community college students from across the country that were selected as recipients of the prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Four of these students attend New Jersey community colleges. The highly competitive national scholarship will provide selected students with up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelor's degrees. The New Jersey recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship include Abdellah Amrhar from Hudson County Community College.

Service Projects

On May 2, Phi Theta Kappa members Bashir Bivins and Pedro Moranchel volunteered at Hunger Free Bayonne. The food distribution benefits about 900 families each Saturday.

On May 2, Liberty State Park reopened. The gardening program resumed. Only a small number of volunteers will be accepted each week. Everyone must wear a face mask and follow social distancing rules.

Bashir Bivins volunteered at Hunger Free Bayonne and Cynthia Criollo and Pedro Moranchel volunteered in the gardening program at Liberty State Park on May 9.

VIRTUAL EXERCISE POP-UPS

Exercise science students and professors have created some short videos describing and demonstrating exercises. These exercises can be performed at home to either assess and/or improve your physical fitness. This week the focus is on flexibility, cardiorespiratory and resistance exercises which are all important components of physical fitness. Improving overall physical fitness can help you to reduce stress, maintain a healthy weight, improve strength and endurance, reduce fatigue, and improve your overall health.

- **Balance exercises**
<https://youtu.be/6QvZ-Nynq1A>
- **Beginner core exercises**
<https://youtu.be/KG-AMLdaOs8>
- **Advanced core exercise 1**
<https://youtu.be/AxoGbAOYtQI>
- **Advanced core exercise 2**
<https://youtu.be/-MuY425UDEY>
- **Advanced core exercise 3**
<https://youtu.be/dNRUOmN4ksI>
- **Measuring low back and hamstring flexibility**
<https://youtu.be/GGvk9XowVhg>
- **Hamstring & low back flexibility exercises**
<https://youtu.be/CSKgKWUsh74>
- **Exercise frequency recommendations**
<https://youtu.be/EWUWu6rIlos>
- **Cardiorespiratory & resistance exercises**
<https://youtu.be/dPdk1r-RR-U>

HCCC Is Freezing Tuition

for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

The College is committed to helping students achieve their goals while exercising care and concern for their well-being.

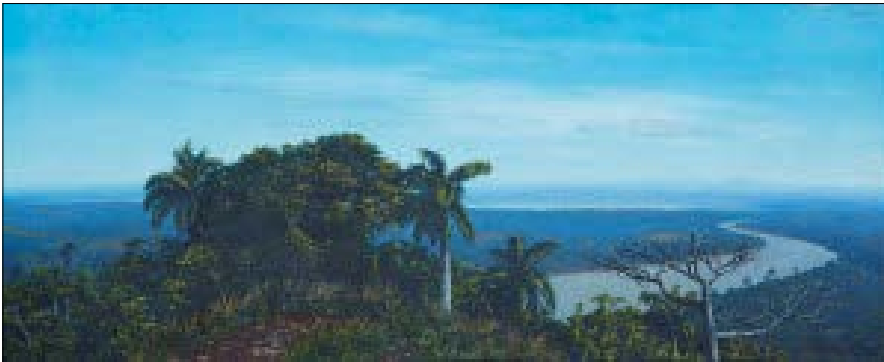
Tuition and Fees for 2020-2021 academic year will remain at the same levels currently in place for 2019-2020.

We Are Still Here for You!

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1250+ works is installed in the public areas of ten campus buildings so the entire College is an educational art museum. This Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural history from the Hudson River School period to today. In recent years, the College's acquisition efforts have focused on strengthening its American and New Jersey modern and contemporary collections.

Each month, this page in HCCC Happenings provides updates on artists whose work is in the collection, and new additions to the collection.



This 17" x 31" painting, *As a Large Snake*, by Roberto Alfonso, won a Foundation Student Art Award in 2015. It is permanently installed in the Gabert Library, in the lower-level foyer, which is devoted to art about nature. At this moment, when many of us are spending so much time at home, art can provide a welcome view into a greener and more relaxing natural world. Or it can give us a glimpse of the bustling city life which many of us enjoy. For a look at Foundation Art Collection works that include the natural and urban landscape, go here <https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/hudson-county-community-college-foundation-art-collection/collection/landscape>

ARTIST NEWS

Art by Sol LeWitt is installed on the fifth floor of the Culinary Conference Center and in the North Hudson Library. Recently Child's Gallery in Boston featured the work of Sol LeWitt. They noted, "Sol LeWitt was a pivotal proponent of Conceptual art, focusing on the idea behind his work rather than its actual execution." LeWitt made a strange pronouncement: "A blind man can make art if what is in his mind can be passed to another mind in some tangible form." Do you agree with him?

Work by Agnes Martin is installed in the North Hudson Library. She was recently quoted in a short video celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Pace Gallery. Many years ago, the artist said, "We have a choice: Either embrace the positive beauty in life or succumb to its negative sorrows." The gallerist Arne Glimcher says that we find ourselves in similar circumstances today, "Hopeful that the power of art will give us comfort and solace, and be a beacon lighting the way through this most difficult time." He continues by saying he believes that art can guide us to a world "of unexpected wonders and possibilities." If you'd like to see the video: <https://www.pacegallery.com/journal/arne-glimcher-60-years-pace-gallery/>

Congratulations to the artist Joan Snyder on her recent 80th birthday! Her work, *Serene/Cries*, a 2005 limited edition print, is installed in

We welcome anecdotes and information about how the art collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the art collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact ASiegel@hccc.edu and tell us the story of how the art collection works for you.

the Nursing Program student lounge on the first floor of the Cundari Building. We hope to install four more Foundation Art Collection works by Snyder when we return to campus later this year. Here's a link to an image of her 2018 painting, *Milk and Roses*, which was featured on the cover of the Comstock Review last winter. <http://comstockreview.org/>

Two works by Mickalene Thomas are permanently installed on the first floor of the Gabert Library. At the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans, the artist had installed an exhibition just prior to the pandemic. Like museums across the nation, and many museums throughout the world, this is now closed for reasons of public safety. However, the artist did an interesting thing in this exhibition, called, *Mickalene Thomas: Femmes Noires*. Usually museum art shows are in what's called a "white cube," which means art is installed in a room with high white walls and a white ceiling. The floor is usually unadorned. It might contain one uncomfortable modern bench. Thomas chose to create a highly colorful, patterned "living room" installation which she called "Living-Room Tableaux", where the public could sit on colorful sofas and enjoy the art on the walls. *Hyperallergic* reviewer Megan N. Liberty notes, "Living-Room Tableaux' and its assorted elements reframe the gallery space, allowing (and perhaps impelling) viewers to alter their behavior from what's expected in an art institution. A place that usually requires distance now welcomes touch and intimacy. Thomas also reframes with her portraits and figurative works. Her artworks ask the questions she draws from the performers: "Who is a Black woman? What is a Black woman?" Hand-in-hand, these unexpected installations ask: What is a gallery space? Who is it for? And what can it be instead?" You can check out the show (and the



This painting, *Morning Spring* (1991) by Judy Taylor, is located in the fifth floor Follett Lounge in the Culinary Conference Center. The artist came and spoke at the College for the Foundation Artist Talk in 2012 about art and censorship, specifically addressing the controversy around Maine's then-governor taking down her commissioned Maine State House murals celebrating the working people of Maine. The state has a new governor and the murals have been re-installed. Taylor is featured in this month's issue of *Maine Women Magazine*. For more information about the artist, check out this article from the May 2020 issue. <http://mainewomenmagazine.com/artist-judy-taylor-painter-neighbor-and-teacher/>

included living room!) here virtually: https://issuu.com/cacno4/docs/mickalene_thomas__femmes_noires_digital_gallery_v1

Works by Fred Wilson are installed on the third floor of the Gabert Library and on the 2nd floor in the Computer Lab at North Hudson. In these works he critiques the absence of African American art in contemporary museums. Recently, he has been working in Italy with black glass and has made, among other things, a black glass arachnid and a chandelier. Here are some comments by the artist about this: <https://www.pacegallery.com/journal/fred-wilson-his-glass-works/>

Recently, Alex Greenberger of ArtNews wrote about the 20 best environmentalist artworks of the last 50 years. Three of the artists mentioned are also featured in the Foundation Art Collection. In 1970, Robert Rauschenberg, whose work is installed on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library, made a poster in honor of the first Earth Day to benefit the American Environment Foundation. It featured "an image of a bald eagle surrounded by photographs of deforested lands and machines turning up dirt, casting a dark image of what had been done to the world's land." Sales provided funding for environmental causes. Christo, whose work is installed on the first floor of 2 Enos Place, has used sustainable materials in his work since the 1970s. He and his wife Jeanne-Claude were the first artists to release environmental impact reports regarding their work. The third artist mentioned is Maya Lin, whose work is on the first floor of the Gabert Library. For her work *Storm King*

Continued on page 12

DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
presents



HCCC's Department of Cultural Affairs will continually provide art information and activities for all ages to enjoy whether you are working remotely, learning from home or just want to connect socially with people in our community. Our focus now is the same as it's always been — ensuring you are experiencing a variety of arts-related educational programs that help unite our greater community. We will continue to provide social interactive experiences by establishing a grander arts online presence during this time while our department and the Dineen Hull Gallery remain closed to the public.

Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and soon on LinkedIn and Twitter as we expand Live from Dineen Hull Gallery. Join us for a Daily Art Dose each day to be inspired by following all of our social media accounts. For monthly updates, sign up for our MailChimp newsletter here.

To view our online exhibitions, please visit: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dineenhullgallery/>

As part of our mission to stay open to the public, we have moved our May and June gallery exhibits online for people to enjoy.

www.hccc.edu/cultural-affairs/exhibition/



Image: HCCC Art Student, Grace Kagne

HCCC 2020 Spring Student Art Exhibition, curated by Laurie Riccadonna and Jeremiah Teipen

The HCCC Art Department offers a wide variety of classes in computer and fine arts taught by professional artists living in the New York metropolitan area. HCCC celebrates the artistic talents of our community with a bi-annual student exhibition in the Dineen Hull Gallery.



Jersey City Arts High School Program (JC Arts), Weiling Pan

Jersey City Arts High School Senior Exhibition, curated by Jessica Ward

This semester Dineen Hull Gallery is thrilled to partner with Jersey City Arts High School. The students' art work is exceptional. The exhibition features 23 students and is curated by Jessica Ward. Jessica's JC Arts colleagues, fellow senior teacher, Peter Yuscavage, and underclassmen teachers Julia DiFeo and Alex Martinez, are all part of the success of the current students in this exhibit.



Dineen Hull Gallery Turns Five!, Featured Art in our 2019 HCCC Student Art Exhibition

Dineen Hull Gallery Turns Five! An Ongoing Tribute to All Who Visited And Inspired

HCCC's Dineen Hull Gallery opened its doors to the public on September 13, 2015. Department of Cultural Affairs pays tribute to all involved through the years. The virtual exhibition will continue to evolve all summer long, leading up to our celebration on September 13, 2020.

www.hccc.edu/cultural-affairs

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

MailChimp:

www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc/app/100265896690345

HCCC Remote College Placement: You Have Options!

When enrolling at HCCC, students can choose from three options to determine their college placement:

1. College Placement Exemptions

You may be eligible for college-level coursework by submitting qualifying High School transcripts, SAT, ACT, TOEFL, and AP scores.

2. Online College Placement Test

You can take the College Placement Test through Examity's online proctoring services.

3. Directed Self-Placement

You will review course descriptions/expectations followed by a brief questionnaire. At the end of questionnaire, you will select preferred course placement.



For more details and instructions go to www.hccc.edu/remoteplacement

We are still here for you!

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Hudson County Workforce Leadership Academy held a special COVID-19 session with the Fellows on Tuesday, April 28. The session focused on the impact of COVID-19 for Hudson County and also included guest faculty member, Rob Garcia, from the National Skills Coalition, to brief the Fellows on the federal CARES Act and the implications for workforce development. Fellows had an opportunity to reconnect and review their Collaborative Leadership projects in the current COVID-19 environment.



Scenes from CE's Virtual English as a Second Language (ESL) semester-long class and one-hour refresher course in reading, writing, and pronunciation.

GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY 2020



Q&A

DEMOS

ACTIVITIES

RESOURCES

WOMEN IN TECH PANEL

JUNE 4TH

3:30PM - 5PM
100% VIRTUAL

SECURE, LIVE & INTERACTIVE

First 200 attendees receive a free backpack & LED light tumbler!



REGISTRATION REQUIRED
EMAIL: cfarrell@hccc.edu

This event is password protected and not open to the general public. Students will not be seen on camera.

JUNE CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Learn more at www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation

CLASS	START DATE	END DATE	START TIME	END TIME	PRICE
Life Coaching Certificate	6/1/2020	6/15/2020	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	\$45.00
The Urban Entrepreneur	6/2/2020	6/4/2020	6:00 PM	9:00 PM	\$45.00
Intermediate Excel	6/3/2020	6/17/2020	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$55.00
ESL Practice Reading Comprehension	6/3/2020	7/1/2020	7:00 PM	9:00 PM	\$99.00
Conversational English for ESL	6/9/2020	7/14/2020	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	\$120.00
Self Publishing Master Class	6/16/2020	6/23/2020	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	\$35.00
Public Speaking Tips for ESL	6/22/2020	6/22/2020	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	\$15.00
Choking: First Aid for Adults and Infants	6/17/2020	6/17/2020	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	\$15
Bleeding Control and Common Injuries	6/22/2020	6/22/2020	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	\$15
Key Steps for First Aid	6/24/2020	6/24/2020	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	\$15

HCCC Department of Continuing Education

Summer Youth & Teen Programs

VIRTUAL

CREATE NEW EXPERIENCES at HCCC!

Welcome to our VIRTUAL Summer Youth & Teen Program!



This virtual camp is a home-based alternative for families seeking to keep children engaged at home during the peak hours of a work day.

At Continuing Education's virtual Summer Youth & Teen Program, both middle school and high school students will experience a variety of engaging and enriching programs. We will have live instructors running arts and crafts activities, creative workshops, and educational classes for both middle school and high school students, as well as College Readiness classes for high school students. These unique programs are specifically designed to run from the safety of your home.

For more information, you may email Carmen Guerra at cguerra@hccc.edu.



CREATIVE WRITING

July 7, 8 & 9, 2020
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Price: \$60

2D MIXED MEDIA

July 7 & 9, 2020
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Price: \$40

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I

July 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2020
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Price: \$120

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II

July 13, 14, 15 & 16, 2020
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Price: \$120

SAT LANGUAGE ARTS

August 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, 11, 12, 13, 2020
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Price: \$240

SAT MATH

Duration: 8 days
(Monday thru Thursday) - 2 weeks
August 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10, 11, 12, 13, 2020
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Price: \$240

Foundation Art Collection

Continued from page 8

Wavefield (2007-08) at the outdoor sculpture park, Storm King, in upstate New York, "she worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to turn a mass of land once filled with gravel into a ridged field that appears to undulate. To maintain the work... the artist installed a natural drainage system intended to have minimal impact on the surrounding environment." Having seen the grassy waves in person, I'm obliged to report they're wonderful. Storm King is currently closed due to the Governor's orders during the crisis. However, you can learn more about Maya Lin and the other artists at: <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/artists/best-environmentalist-artworks-1202684574/>

To make a donation to the Foundation Art Collection, please contact Nicholas A. Chiavaralloti, J.D., Ed.D., Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President at nchiavaralloti@hccc.edu, or (201) 360-4009.

For detailed information regarding donating artwork, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/foundationart/>

Would you like to explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools? Go to www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections

CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 2

Last day to drop classes for Summer Online Session A

Thursday, June 4

Girls in Technology Symposium, 3:30 p.m., to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 9

Meeting of Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.; dial 1-866-390-1828 and enter access code 1768607 #.

Wednesday, June 10

Year Up & HCCC Virtual Information Session, 3:30 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/hcccyuinfo>.

Thursday, June 11

Advanced Manufacturing Virtual Information session, 4 p.m. Register at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e14b042274586548d86eb503261b2d888>

NISOD Online Symposia. Register at <https://www.nisod.org/online-convenings/classified-staff-symposium/>

Thursday, June 18

Last day to complete official withdrawal for Summer Session I and Summer Online Session A

Tuesday, June 23

Virtual Town Hall with President Reber, 12 p.m. Conference Call Phone: 1-888-363-4734; Access Code: 9751220#

Tuesday, June 30 and Wednesday, July 1

Final exams for Summer I

HCCC CULINARY ARTS CHEFS AND STAFF PREPARE, SERVE 300 MEALS FOR LET'S CELEBRATE

Continued from page 2

"The Good Fight," and is starring opposite Jennifer Hudson in the Aretha Franklin biopic, "Respect."

The HCCC Division of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management offers degree and certificate programs that provide students with the knowledge and skills needed for in-demand employment sectors. The HCCC Culinary Arts and

Hospitality Management program is nationally recognized and accredited by the American Culinary Federation Accrediting Commission and the American Culinary Federation Educational Foundation, a prestigious designation held by only a select number of schools in the U.S.

DO IT THIS SUMMER!

Get ahead on your current degree.

SUMMER II

begins Monday, July 13

ONLINE B

begins Wednesday, July 8

- Save hundreds of dollars as you lighten your course load.
- Credits transfer to four-year colleges and universities.
- Eligible students can attend with Pell Grant funds.
- Earn up to 12 credits over the summer!



APPLY NOW

for Summer and Fall classes!

www.hccc.edu/apply

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

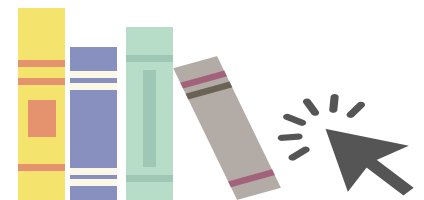
admissions@hccc.edu

text (732) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200

TO VIEW ALL OUR REMOTE ONLINE RESOURCES, GO TO: www.hccc.edu/remoteservices

TO REGISTER: www.calendly.com/hudsoncass

LIBRARY VIRTUAL OFFERINGS



Librarians are available daily via chat, email, and live via video conferencing.

Reach out to us with assistance with moving to remote instruction.

Visit <https://library.hccc.edu/remote> or email librarian@hccc.edu.

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70 Sip Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Phone (201) 714-7100

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4800 Kennedy Boulevard
 Union City, NJ 07087
 Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of
 the Hudson County Schools of Technology
 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094

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Princess Ezra Abardo

Class of 2016

Associate in Science

– Science & Mathematics, Mathematics

**What factors led you to decide to attend
Hudson County Community College?**

I moved to the East Coast from Houston, Texas to experience living near New York City. When I moved here, I happened upon an apartment in Journal Square, Jersey City. HCCC was just behind the room I was renting, so I decided to enroll in some classes. What originally started off as part-time enrollment to keep myself busy, had soon turned into a full-time commitment with extracurricular activities on the side.

**What is your favorite memory of the College,
in or out of the classroom?**

My favorite memory was volunteering with Phi Theta Kappa, and I'm not just saying that because it'll be in the newsletter! I truly had so much fun helping out with Mud Run, AIDS Walk, City Challenge, and more. As mentioned, I am not originally from the East Coast, so joining PTK helped me make a lot of new friends while experiencing what the East Coast had to offer at the same time!

How did you become interested in mathematics?

At HCCC, my major was in math, because I really enjoyed solving problems and puzzles. I later went on to finish my undergrad in math from Rutgers University New Brunswick, and ultimately decided on getting a master's in teaching in TESOL from the University of Southern California.

**How did your time at HCCC prepare you for
your career/ life now?**

I took almost all of my core classes at HCCC as a math major, and I am really glad that I did. When I got to Rutgers University, main subject classes had huge auditoriums, and it wasn't often that I was able to ask teachers questions. It also wasn't extremely common that I was able to have the same classmates. This was quite different compared to my time at Hudson, as my classes were small enough so that teachers could give each student attention if they needed it. Also, I had many familiar faces in my classes throughout my program. That aspect of HCCC was immensely beneficial, because it set me up to continue successful learning at a university.

What is a typical work day for you?

I had just finished my master's this year, so my work schedule consists of mainly part-time teaching and freelance work. I concentrate on subjects such as math and English as a Second Language. When it comes to either subjects, I try to make learning enjoyable so that my students have positive experiences with those particular subjects.



**What has been the most memorable project/
case you have worked on?**

The most memorable work I did was to go to Japan for a TESOL program, and there, I was able to teach Japanese students English and experience their culture firsthand. It was such a great experience, because although their culture and language is so different from the United States', the students I worked with and I were able to learn so much from each other and appreciate our differences.

Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work in some way?

One of my biggest inspirations is my environment. I currently live in the North Bergen/Union City area in which many students have trouble with subjects such as English and Math. Unfortunately, at the high school I worked at for my master's program, there was an extremely low college proficiency rate in both subjects. Despite this, I admired the teachers and tutors who work really hard to give these students equal opportunity. Even in the current situation, teachers are still working hard to deliver quality education online.

**What advice would you give to recent
HCCC graduates?**

I would advise to never be afraid of asking questions! You'll never know who could help you reach a new opportunity. I would say the majority of jobs I have gotten have been through referrals and word of mouth, so you may never know what is fully out there unless you ask!

**What advice do you have for those students who
are just starting their college careers?**

I would say to find an organization or a group that you can be a part of from the jump. It was so much more motivating to study when I had friends that I met from extracurricular activities who wanted to meet up for some study sessions. As I mentioned previously, some of these people whom I've met at groups at HCCC were able to give me really insightful and useful information even beyond graduation, so it's really important to cultivate good friendships and relationships with people during your college career.

**HCCC
Alumni:
Get
Involved!**

Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC?

Are you willing to contribute time?

Do you want to inspire others with your success stories?

Are you looking for career support?

If so join, socialize and network!

For information about the College's Alumni Association or membership benefits, please email alumni@hccc.edu.