

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS 2024 BELLWETHER LEGACY AWARD



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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 May newsletter are due by Friday, April 12, 2024.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS 2024 BELLWETHER LEGACY AWARD

HCCC’s Hudson Scholars Program is named the winner of the 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award, the highest honor bestowed upon community colleges by the Bellwether College Consortium. The Hudson Scholars Program was honored for its sustainable impact on student success, particularly those from traditionally underserved groups including Hispanic and African American students. The competition for this coveted award is intense. It is awarded only once every five years and all finalists are previous Bellwether Award winners.

The nationally competitive Bellwether awards, presented by the Bellwether College Consortium, recognize trendsetting programs that address critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices. The Bellwether Awards were presented at the Community College Futures Assembly, held February 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas.

The Legacy Award is the Bellwether College Consortium’s “most prestigious recognition of a past Bellwether award-winning community college with a remarkably enduring and successful program. This award is presented to a college with sustained measurable achievements, such as high retention, graduation, transfer, and job placement rates.”

A major point of pride for the entire HCCC community, the Hudson Scholars Program

exemplifies the sustained achievement in retention and graduation for which the Bellwether Legacy Award stands. Initially developed under the leadership of HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, the Hudson Scholars Program expands academic access and promotes student success through an innovative and holistic approach, combining proactive student support, financial stipends, high-impact educational experiences, and early academic intervention.

Over 2,500 students are Hudson Scholars, and the program has made an immediate and significant mark. Hudson Scholars are significantly more likely to stay in school and continue their studies. Over the last three years, the ratio of HCCC students receiving intensive support from a counselor has increased by 575%, meaning that the program is now reaching exponentially more students.

Hudson Scholars students earned a credential within two years at three times the rate of students of the same academic profile not currently participating in the program. Hudson Scholars are effectively graduating within half the time of their historical peers, making the model a game-changer as time is often the enemy for community college students who juggle many competing priorities.

HCCC serves one of the most diverse communities in the United States – 55% of students identify as Hispanic, and 88% self-

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ON THE COVER: *The team from Hudson County Community College receives the Bellwether Legacy Award at the Community College Futures Assembly. Pictured from left: Karina Arango, Student Success Coach, Academic & Workforce Pathways Program; Sharon A. Daughtry, Instructor, Business; Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, Associate Dean of Advisement; Haley Puynko, Hudson Scholars Student; Dr. Christopher Reber, President, Hudson County Community College; Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources; Lori Margolin, Associate Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development; Dr. Heather DeVries, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Assessment; and Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.*

NJ SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION VISITS HCCC



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber hosted New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Brian Bridges, to provide insight into the Hudson Scholars Program. This program was recently recognized with the 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award. Also, in attendance are Stefani Thachik and Dr. Tamika Quick from OSHE, and Maria Heidkamp, NJCCC Chief Innovation and Policy Officer.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED FINALIST FOR SEVEN OF ELEVEN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2024 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Dr. Christopher Reber

Matthew LaBrake

Dr. Clive Li

William J. Netchert, Esq.

Jeremiah Teipen

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is a finalist in seven of eleven categories for American Association of Community College (AACC) National Awards of Excellence. HCCC's finalists include Advancing Institutional Equity and Belonging, Student Success, and, pictured here: CEO of the Year – HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber; Rising Star Manager – Matthew LaBrake; Faculty Member of the Year – Dr. Clive Li; Trustee of the Year – William J. Netchert, Esq.; and Faculty Innovation – Jeremiah Teipen.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC), its leaders, and faculty are finalists in seven of eleven categories for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) National Awards of Excellence. The finalist designations recognize HCCC's dedication and success in advancing equity, student success, and innovative teaching.

"No other college in the nation has finalists in so many of the AACC Awards of Excellence categories," said HCCC President, Dr. Christopher Reber. "We could not have come this far without the commitment and contributions of our trustees, faculty, staff,

and community partners. HCCC has set the standard for closing achievement gaps, collaborating to fulfill our mission, and helping students realize their dreams. Hudson County Community College works as a family to help everyone succeed. As our students often say, 'Hudson is Home'."

HCCC Award finalists, by category:

- Advancing Institutional Equity and Belonging - HCCC
The award honors a college that has contributed significantly and over a sustained period to advance equity in college leadership,

the community, and higher education, creating an environment where all students and employees are heard, seen, and recognized for their contributions.

- Student Success – HCCC
The award recognizes a community college that has demonstrated, through evidence, a sustained commitment to proactively advancing student success.
- Trustee of the Year - William J. Netchert, Esq., HCCC Board of Trustees Chair
The award celebrates a trustee who has made significant contributions to the college,

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 2024 NATIONAL 'INSPIRING PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS' AWARD FROM INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY

Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management received *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine's* 2024 "Inspiring Programs in Business" Award. The prestigious national award honors business schools that demonstrate outstanding commitment to encouraging and assisting students from traditionally underrepresented groups to enter the field of business.

HCCC was recognized for its comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) recruitment, retention, and educational initiatives including curriculum development, industry-based student activities, faculty professional development, and best practices that support and nurture the College's diverse student body.

"Our School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management utilizes a multifaceted approach to instruction and facilitating the growing needs of our local business community," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "We proudly accept this honor that acknowledges the transformational

impact HCCC makes in the lives of our students and our community."

All HCCC curricula embrace the importance of DEI:

- Courses in Business and Management highlight recruitment and workforce diversity; accommodate diverse groups of employees; and examine the expanding global marketplace, human resources management, workplace discrimination and sexual harassment laws, pay equity, and business ethics, among others.
- Economics courses examine economic inequities, mobility, and international trade.
- Business Administration electives include Global Business, Entrepreneurship, and Business Internships.
- HCCC's Accounting program collaborates with four-year colleges and universities to offer scholarship information and help students transfer seamlessly.
- Learning tools are accessible to accommodate students with diverse learning needs.
- Student-centered, DEI-focused activities include Implicit Bias Workshops, Speakers, and Alumni Panels.



Prospective students of Hudson County Community Colleges tour the kitchens of the College's award-winning Culinary Arts program with Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

- HCCC's Hudson Helps Resource Center offers services and programs to address students' holistic needs and help them achieve success, including on-campus Food Pantries, Physical and Mental Health and Wellness Services, Career Closet, Emergency Funding, Accessibility Services, and more.

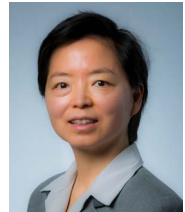
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IN MEMORY OF DOROTHEA GRAHAM- KING

Hudson County Community College is incredibly saddened to learn of the transition of Dorothea Graham-King, who passed on Feb. 18, 2024. Dorothea served the College from Nov. 1, 1999 through her retirement on Jan. 31, 2023, as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Institutional Research, and she was the former president of the Support Staff Federation.



HCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AWARDS TENURE TO FOUR FACULTY DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



The criteria for tenure include excellence in teaching, scholarly achievement, service to the College and community, and in the fulfillment of professional responsibilities. Applications for tenure are reviewed by a Tenure Review Board and recommendations are

forwarded through the Chief Academic Officer to the President for approval and presentation to the Board of Trustees. The following faculty earned tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor effective Academic Year 2024-25:

Heather Connors, Instructor,
English- Academic Foundations

Karen Hosick, Instructor,
Personal Fitness/Exercise Science

Laura Samuelson, Instructor,
Academic Foundation Mathematics
Carrie Rong Xiao, Instructor, Accounting

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Leymi Abreu

Five Years

Deliana Acosta
Nouara Oubraham
Tejal Parekh
Paola Valcarcel
Jing Yang

10 Years

Hardik Sanghavi

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Hafeda Benounane
Jailyn Bermudez
Stephanie Hernandez
Carmine Salerno
Lawrence Squicciarri
Maryam Syed

Five Years

Christian Dominguez
Lisbeth Romero
Marco Scherillo
Reynel Zamora

WOMEN'S FORUM



On Friday, March 8, 2024, the Office of Human Resources had the honor of hosting its third Annual Women's History Month Panel—a gathering that left a lasting imprint on our hearts.

With grace and wisdom, the panelists—Josianne Payoute, Saudia Reid, and Danielle Lopez—led us through a journey of introspection and shared understanding. Their insights, paired with the guiding hand of Andrea Goodwin, our dedicated Coordinator of Human Resources, illuminated the many facets of our experiences as women in the workplace.

The panelists explored topics ranging from career aspirations to the complexities of motherhood, there was an undeniable energy in the room—a mix of laughter, tears, and genuine smiles. But amidst these

emotions, what truly resonated was the sense of connection that bound us together, fostering an environment of authenticity and mutual support.

To each of you who contributed your voice, your presence, or simply your open heart, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your willingness to engage, to listen, and to empathize speaks volumes about the strength of our community.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPO- RARY FULL-TIME STAFF:

Daniella Araoz, Administrative Support Specialist,
Effective March 16, 2024 – May 15, 2024

Luisa Carranza, Administrative Support Specialist,
Effective March 16, 2024 – May 15, 2024

FACULTY TENURE

EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 - 2025

Heather Connors, Assistant Professor, Tenured
Karen Hosick, Assistant Professor, Tenured
Laura Samuelson, Assistant Professor, Tenured
Carrie Rong Xiao, Assistant Professor, Tenured

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE:

New Title: Associate Director of Hudson Helps,
North Hudson Campus
Salary Grade 115 Effective Date March 16, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

S.T.A.R (Special Thanks And Recognition)

April 3, 2024, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Professional Development Day

April 12, 2024 10 a.m. -3p.m. (virtual)

New Hire Orientation

April 12, 2024 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (In person)

Administrative Professionals Day

April 24, 2024, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Professional Development Series

Book Launch featuring Prof. Katie Sweeting
April 24, 2024 - 2 p.m.

TODAS (Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work)

April 25, 2024

For more information, contact: hr@hccc.edu

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF:

David Ayoub, Support Analyst,
Effective March 16, 2024

Samuel Fernandez, Support Analyst, Effective
March 16, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY:

Joanna Karnicka, Instructor, ESL (Non-tenure
Track), Effective March 16, 2024 – May 14, 2024



APRIL IS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

April is a time to celebrate the invaluable role community colleges play in shaping the educational landscape and empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds. As we mark Community College Month, we honor these institutions as hubs of opportunity, innovation, and accessibility. From providing affordable education and vocational training to fostering a supportive environment for non-traditional students, community colleges serve as catalysts for social mobility and economic growth. Join us in recognizing the profound impact of community colleges and their unwavering commitment to creating pathways to success for all members of our communities.

HCCC RECEIVES 2024 NATIONAL 'INSPIRING PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS' AWARD FROM INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY

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Dr. Reber shared that HCCC's targeted recruitment efforts and unique academic programs led to increases in the number of students from historically underrepresented groups. The number of Black or African American students in the HCCC School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management disciplines increased about 150%, from 54 to 134 students (12% of HCCC's total enrollment in business programs); and the number of Hispanic students increased 170%, from 249 to 676 (60% of program total enrollment).

"We know that business programs are not always recognized for their success, dedication, and mentorship of underrepresented students," said Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine*. "We want to honor the schools and organizations offering programs that inspire and encourage young people interested in a future career in business. We are proud to honor these programs as role models to other institutions of higher education and beyond."

HCCC AT MARCH CONFERENCES



Pictured from left: Joycelyn Wong-Castellano, Student Success Coach, Early College Programs; Dr. Christopher Conzen, Executive Director, Secaucus Center and Early College Programs; and Jenny Henriquez, Associate Director, Advisement attended the 2024 Annual Conference of NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) in Seattle, WA.



Pictured from left: Director of Hudson Helps Resource Center, Katherine Morales; HCCC President, Dr. Christopher Reber; Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, Dr. Lisa Dougherty; and Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. David Clark at the Hope 2024 Conference in New Orleans, LA.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE INITIATES HEARINGS FOR 2024-25 STATE BUDGET

The New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hosted its first hearing in person on Tuesday, March 19 at the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Campus Center Atrium, 150 Bleeker Street, Newark, NJ.

Pictured from left: Veronica Gerosimo, Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership, and student leaders Najwa Essaki, Sergio Herrera-Nunez and Shemia Superville.



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a **TOWN HALL MEETING** on **Thursday, April 25** at **12 p.m.**

Lunch will be served.

In-person at: North Hudson Campus
4800 Kennedy Blvd., Multipurpose Room, Union City, NJ

Virtual at:
<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m764ba345f323f47b751ea376c05dd747>
Meeting number: 2634 403 6041
Password: AprTH2024

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

HCCC STUDENTS VISIT EDUCATIONAL THEATER OF NEW YORK



On Friday, March 15, HCCC ESL students, faculty, and staff went to New York City to see two plays presented by the Educational Theater of New York (ETNY). *The Landlady* and *Lamb to the Slaughter*, short stories by Roald Dahl, were adapted and

directed by Barbara Bregstein, Artistic Director at the ETNY. The plays, which are offered seasonally, are designed specifically for English language learners and provide an interactive experience where audience members can ask for scenes to be repeated, respond to questions posed by the presenters, and can ask questions of and speak directly to the characters in post-performance discussions. Students from schools within the New York metropolitan area were also in attendance.

For more information about the ETNY, <https://etnyarts.org>.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,900+ works is installed in the public areas of campus buildings. 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 works are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

Donor Acknowledgments

Thank you to Anne Q. McKeown for her generous donation of the art book, *The Be-Cause Look Book*, a copy of which is also in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Thanks to Dennis C. Hull for the gift of the six boxes of art books for our art library.

News

The deadline for the Foundation's annual Student Art Awards contest is April 11. If you'd like an application (any student enrolled for Fall 2023 - Spring 2024 can apply), please email Andrea Siegel, Foundation Art Collection Coordinator at ASiegel@hccc.edu.

Each year a distinguished panel of judges chooses two students to win \$500 awards. The chosen works are then framed and installed on campus. You can see many student art award winners' art works in the Journal Square Student Center, on the 5th floor of the Gabert Library, and on the North Hudson campus 4th floor. The judges also award four \$150 gift certificates for art supplies to students.

We give many tours at the Foundation Art Collection. Just last month we gave a Collection tour to the Future Art Leaders of America, a program run by Mana Contemporary in Jersey City. This mentorship initiative is designed for Jersey City high school juniors and seniors who are passionate about the arts. During the event, Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, talked to the group about HCCC's Dineen Hull Gallery and career paths in the arts; Program Coordinator and Professor of Fine Arts, Laurie Riccadonna, spoke about arts education; and Andrea Siegel, Coordinator of the Foundation Art Collection, took the students on a tour of the Foundation

Art Collection installations at the Gabert Library.

We also prepared an art tour about Women, Art, and Social Justice for the Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice at Hudson County Community College.

In addition, we gave tours for the "Night of Ideas" events: As many of you know, the Centre Pompidou in Paris is scheduled to open a satellite art center in HCCC's former classroom building, also known as "Historic Pathside," across the street from the Student Center on Sip Avenue in 2026. On March 1, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of our own Michelle Vitale and dozens of HCCC student volunteers and community members, HCCC participated in the wonderful, free, open-to-the-public event, "Night of Ideas" which was co-curated by Villa Albertine and Centre Pompidou. The event included performances, readings, and art tours of the Foundation Art Collection.

If you would like your own private tour of the collection, contact Coordinator Andrea Siegel, PhD, at 201-360-4007 or email ASiegel@hccc.edu.

One of the favorite artists whose work is in the Foundation Art Collection is **William Wegman**, whose fanciful photographs of his pet Weimaraner dogs bring a smile. You can see his work in the new North Hudson Café and the Welcome Center, in the nursing lounge at 870 Bergen Avenue and at the Gabert Library on the 1st Floor. If you enjoy his work, you might like to see a retrospective of 35 years of dog photographs, now on exhibit at Sperone Westwater gallery at 275 Bowery in New York City, in a show called "WILLIAM WEGMAN Favorite Models" through April 20.



William Wegman, B is for Baker (2013), Photographic Print, 24" x 21" in the Gabert Library



William Wegman, Sno Glo (2021), Archival Inkjet Print on 100% Cotton Rag Hahnemuhle Fine Art Baryta Paper, 14" x 11" in the North Hudson Cafe.

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.

To make a monetary gift in support of the Foundation Art Collection, please contact Nicole Bouknight Johnson at (201) 360-4069 or nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu.

To donate artwork, find detailed information here:
www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html.

Explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools!
Go to www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html.

SAVE THE DATE



22nd Annual

**GOLF
OUTING**

**JULY
15
2024**

10:00 a.m. SHOTGUN START
Forest Hill Field Club
9 Belleville Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

In Memory of Philip Johnston

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents



HCCC HOSTS NIGHT OF IDEAS JERSEY CITY



© Jennifer Brown

Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber (right) delivers remarks to the Night of Ideas audience.

On Friday, March 1, Villa Albertine, Centre Pompidou, and Hudson County Community College (HCCC), with the support of the City of Jersey City, presented the Night of Ideas. For the first time, this free and open-to-all event came to Jersey City, one of the fastest growing and most diverse urban centers in the United States, and the future home of the Centre Pompidou's first American branch. The event addressed urban growth and the future of cities through debates, installations, multimedia pop-ups, and workshops that prompted the 800 attendees to consider the impact of urban growth through lenses of inclusivity, sustainability, arts and culture, education, and food.



© Jennifer Brown

Pictured from left: Joseph Gallo, Associate Professor, Theatre and Film; Dr. Alison Wakefield, Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Academic Foundations English (AFE); Laurie Riccadonna, Professor | Coordinator, Studio Arts; and Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Follow Us

For more information, email: mvitale@hccc.edu or visit www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc Instagram: www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

HCCC'S HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS 2024 BELLWETHER LEGACY AWARD

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identify as nonwhite. Furthermore, 80% of degree-seeking students qualify for federal financial aid. It is especially heartening to see that the program has made significant strides in supporting students from historically marginalized communities, including Hispanic and African American students.

The term-to-term persistence rates of Hispanic or Latino students in the Hudson Scholars Program increased by over 40%, while Black or African American students increased their likelihood of persisting by over 60%. Additionally, the two-year completion rate for traditionally underrepresented Hudson Scholars represents a threefold increase compared to 2018-20.

While the program is resource-intensive – including the costs for personnel who are managing smaller caseloads, as well as stipends disbursed to students – Hudson Scholars' capacity to increase a student's likelihood of persisting not only covers these costs, but has actually resulted in increased net revenue and a return on investment (ROI) of approximately 30%. This financial sustainability means that the Hudson Scholars model is viable for replication by community colleges nationwide.

On winning the prestigious award, Dr. Christopher Reber stated, "This is a proud moment for our entire HCCC family. We are

ecstatic to be recognized with this tremendous honor. Best of all, the work that won us this national accolade is all about increasing retention, completion, and success for our inspirational students."

The Hudson Scholars Program previously won the 2023 National Bellwether Award for Instructional Programs and Services and was honored by The League for Innovation in the Community College with that organization's 2021-22 Innovation of the Year Award. Adding the 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award to this list of accolades is an honor, but it is not the end game. HCCC will continue to build on the success of the Hudson Scholars Program by scaling it further to create more transformative outcomes, with adaptations to support returning adult students, nursing students, culinary students, student parents, and others.

In addition to winning the Bellwether Legacy Award, HCCC was a finalist in two other award categories at the College Futures Assembly. The College's "Transformational Learning Pathways Model for Justice-Involved Students" was a finalist in the Instructional Programs and Services category. Additionally, HCCC's "Framework for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scalable Best Practices" was a finalist in the Planning, Governance and Finance category.

Additional information about the Hudson Scholars Program is available at <https://www.hccc.edu/student-success/advisement-transfer/hudson-scholars/index.html>.

For an in-depth look at how the Hudson Scholars Program has become a national student success model, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/news-media/news/03072024.html>

OUT of the BOX

PODCAST



Tune in to our monthly podcast for a timely discussion about education, people, programs, events, issues, and solutions that affect those who live and work in Hudson County.

To listen, visit www.hccc.edu/outofthebox.

CLUB ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

Each month in HCCC Happenings, you will meet faculty and staff who serve as advisors to student clubs and organizations at Hudson County Community College. To learn more about student clubs and events, please visit <https://involved.hccc.edu>

Carmen G. Pelardis

Advisor, Nursing CARE Club
Years of Service 1-Year



What is the mission and goal of the club you currently advise?

The Nursing Club promotes holistic well-being by emphasizing mental health within our student community. Our mission is to create a supportive environment where students can openly discuss mental health, share experiences, and access resources. Through educational initiatives, workshops, and events, we aim to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and provide a platform for students to connect and support one another. By fostering a sense of community, we strive to enhance our nursing student members' overall mental health and resilience, recognizing its crucial role in their academic and personal success.

Please share your advising style.

I like to think of my advising role as an "appreciative" style. I collaborate with the student members to assist them in optimizing their educational experiences and achieving their dreams, goals, and potential. Our role is to support our student leaders.

Please share your best advice for future HCCC Advisors and student leaders.

Our role is to support our student leaders. We must be flexible and find the best approach to do this.

Please share an experience with your club or organization of which you are most proud.

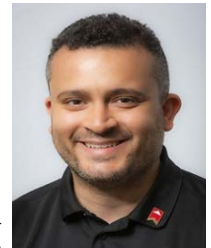
There are many moments that I am proud of this club, but the one that stands out is the "meet and greet" members conducted for incoming nursing students. They planned a social event allowing first-year nursing students to interact with second-year nursing students. The event provided refreshments and a sense of community.

What events, gatherings, and activities does the club or organization host that have positively impacted our diverse student populations?

The Nursing Care Club hosts various impactful events catering to our diverse student population. Community drives, where we engage in philanthropy and support local causes, foster a sense of shared purpose. Blood drives contribute to the well-being of the broader community. Social gatherings provide a space for students to connect and form meaningful relationships. Nursing educational conventions offer valuable insights and networking opportunities. Celebratory experiences, such as recognizing achievements, enhance the overall student experience. These diverse activities contribute to a vibrant and inclusive community, positively impacting students from various backgrounds and creating a supportive atmosphere within our organization.

Raffi Manjikian

Advisor of the American Chemical Society
and Girls Who Code Club
Years of Service-1 Year



What is the mission and goal of the club you currently advise?

For the American Chemical Society (ACS), the objective of the ACS Chapter is to provide opportunities for students to become better acquainted with the STEM field, to obtain experience in preparing and presenting technical material to a chemical audience, and to foster a professional spirit among members. The Girls Who Code Club aims to help close the gender gap in the technology and coding fields.

Please share your advising style.

My advising style is providing advice and guidance whenever possible. The students know that I am there for them if they need me. I let them run the meetings and plan events; if they need any help, I am there to assist as best as possible.

Please share your best advice for future HCCC Advisors and student leaders.

Be truthful, honest, open, and transparent with the executive board and all the members. Communicate with all the members as much as possible.

Please share an experience with your club or organization of which you are most proud.

Seeing students from the clubs graduate from HCCC at Commencement.

What events, gatherings, and activities does the club or organization host that have positively impacted our diverse student populations?

The Women in STEM Speaker Series.

WOMEN IN STEM DISCUSSION



On Tuesday, March 12, Dr. Yosra Badiei, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Saint Peter's University, served as guest speaker at a "Women in STEM Discussion" jointly sponsored by Hudson County Community College's School of STEM, the HCCC American Chemical Society, President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), and the Department of Chemistry at Saint Peter's University. Pictured with Dr. Badiei (foreground second from left) are, from left, Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, Chemistry; Dr. Clive Li, Assistant Professor, Engineering Science; Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean, STEM; Dalia Poblano, HCCC student and President of the HCCC American Chemical Honor Society and Girls Who Code Club; and Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President.

THEATRE ARTS ALUM SUCCESS



Joseph Gallo, Associate Professor, Theatre and Film (left) with Jonathan Drayton, a graduate of HCCC's Theatre Program, on opening night of *Sight and Sound Theatres'* world premiere of *Daniel*. Jonathan was featured as Ezekiel on *Sight and Sound's* 2,000-seat stage!

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Alyssa Sisk, Karen Velasquez, and Joanne Rivera volunteered at the New York Road Runners Open Run at Lincoln Park on Feb. 25.



Prof. Ted Lai (second from right onstage) receives the Continued Excellence Award for Advisors at the PTK Middle States Regional Convention in March.

Blood Drive

A big thank you to Graciela Belmonte, Brianna Borrero, Joshua Escobar, Brandon Estrada, Ashley Flores, Natalie Jimenez, Clarisse Lozano, Jada Reed, Nina Resurreccion, Valentin Tissera Doncini, and Marolla Youakim, who volunteered at the joint blood drive with the Nursing Club on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Middle States Regional Convention

Congratulations to the following Beta Alpha Phi chapter members and alumni who received recognition at Phi Theta Kappa's Middle States Regional Convention, held in Harrisburg, Pa. March 8-10:

- Five Star Chapter
- Walk of Fame Chapter

- Hall of Honor Chapter Member: Birva Pinto
- Hall of Honor Chapter Officer: Najwa Essaki, Shemia Superville
- Chapter President Recognition: Shemia Superville
- Continued Excellence Award for Advisors: Prof. Ted Lai
- Denifer Garcia, Vice President of Service, played the national anthem and Phi Theta Kappa Song
- Shemia Superville (Chapter President) served as voting delegate
- Denifer Garcia and Shemia Superville served as Social Media Ambassadors

HCCC NAMED FINALIST FOR SEVEN OF ELEVEN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES 2024 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Continued from page 3

including but not limited to demonstrating exceptional leadership and initiative, supporting professional development, contributing to strengthening governance, advocating data- and results-driven student success initiatives, and effectively representing the college at state and local levels.

- CEO of the Year - Dr. Christopher Reber, President of HCCC
The award recognizes a leader with a strong track record in effectively participating in shared governance; supporting professional development; implementing results-driven student success initiatives; advocating for the institution and its students; participating in statewide initiatives and national dialogues; serving on local, state, and/or national boards; and demonstrating courage under challenging circumstances.

- Faculty Member of the Year - Dr. Clive Li, Assistant Professor of Engineering Science
The award acknowledges an individual who continuously seeks to integrate evidence-based strategies into the classroom, and is highly engaged in college committees and with organizations dedicated to student success. The Faculty Member of the Year has stellar student evaluations for his courses, and participates in external student and community activities.

- Rising Star: Manager - Matthew LaBrake, Executive Director of the HCCC Center for Online Learning
The award recognizes an effective leader of programs and services that makes a difference for students, embraces change and innovation, seeks to improve existing processes, programs and services, demonstrates solid engagement on internal and external committees, and supports student success.

- Faculty Innovation - Jeremiah Teipen, Professor/Coordinator, Computer Arts and Digital Art and Design
The award honors a faculty member who demonstrates leadership in the development and implementation of a campus program that positively impacted students' learning and resulted in improved student completion numbers within a course or a degree field.

One winner in each of the eleven awards categories will be announced at the AACC Awards of Excellence Gala on April 8 during the AACC Annual Convention to be held April 5-9 in Louisville, Kentucky.

TEACHING AND LEARNING SYMPOSIUM FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



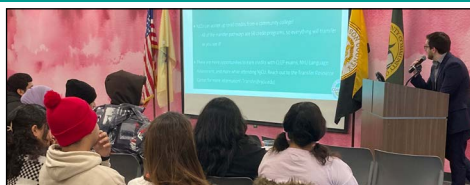
Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh delivers greetings to the on-ground assembly on Friday, March 1.



Dr. Paula Roberson (left), Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, with Pamela Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer of HCCC's Board of Trustees.

ESL READING IV CLASS ATTENDS HCCC-NJCU CONNECT SESSION

On February 8, Professor Rodiger's ESL Level 4 Reading class made meaningful connections: by attending the 'HCCC NJCU CONNECT' Information Session. Students discussed the program's objectives, benefits, and the transfer process from Hudson County Community College to New Jersey City University. The session included details about the transfer agreement signed by HCCC President, Dr. Christopher Reber, and NJCU Interim President, Andres Acebo, and offered insights on how participating in the CONNECT Program can enhance educational opportunities for HCCC students looking to transfer to NJCU. Professor Rodiger's students were excited to learn that they will soon be eligible to



participate in this outstanding program. The exhilarating prospect of being a student at HCCC and NJCU simultaneously was grounds for extensive discussion with presenters at the event as well as among peers. An additional perk of having attended this informative and motivating event: Two students won \$50 Visa gift cards in the raffle!

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Transformative Partnership: ACCESS Program and St. Joseph's School for the Blind

In a groundbreaking collaboration, The Center for Adult Transition's ACCESS Program, designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, has teamed up with St. Joseph's School for the Blind, the only one of its kind in New Jersey since 1891. This dynamic partnership underscores HCCC's commitment to inclusivity and showcases the power of teamwork in fostering a conducive learning environment.

As a result of this partnership, the ACCESS Program welcomed two new students into its 5th and 6th cycles.

St. Joseph's School for the Blind, dedicated to supporting its students in the ACCESS Program, has played a pivotal role by assigning aides to assist these individuals in navigating their new classroom setting. Complementing this support, Mobility and Orientation lessons

have been implemented, highlighting essential skills for confident navigation around the campus.

To facilitate a smooth transition, the ACCESS Program staff has worked closely with the Transition Coordinator at St. Joseph's School for the Blind. Their collaborative efforts ensured the coordination of all necessary assistive technology well before the students' start date in the program. This proactive approach guarantees that the students are well-equipped from the onset, setting the stage for their academic success within the ACCESS Program.

The transformative partnership between The Center for Adult Transition's ACCESS Program and St. Joseph's School for the Blind exemplifies the power of collaboration in education. This union creates a future where



ST. JOSEPH'S
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

every student, regardless of diverse abilities, can thrive with support, is empowered to flourish. Thank you to the leadership and staff from St. Joseph's School for the Blind for entrusting the Center for Adult Transition to serve our community.

Our upcoming enrollment date is June 24, 2024. Organizations seeking partnerships or individuals wishing to enroll as students are encouraged to get in touch by contacting us at cat@hccc.edu or 201-360-5477.



Project-Based Internship Program

Join our team of small business student consultant interns and gain an invaluable learning experience while being paid a stipend for your technical assistance.

Degree and non-degree students are encouraged to apply, no matter your area of study.

Are you reliable? A self-starter?
Do you take initiative?
Have you completed at least one semester?
Are you unsure if this is for you?

We are accepting applications on a rolling basis and projects are assigned based on client need and student skill sets. Compensation is \$20.00/hour. ****Internship starts this April****

For questions contact:

Natalie Brown, Internship Coordinator nbrown@hccc.edu | 201-360-5475

Scan or click on the link below to sign up for an Information Session:



<https://forms.office.com/r/CW27yjtCS>



Citizens
Philanthropic Foundation



CONTINUING EDUCATION Upcoming Programs

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (ONLINE)

Mondays & Thursdays (36 Hours)
Monday, April 1, 2024, Through Thursday, May 9, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Instructor: Susan Serradilla-Smith
Price: \$1,200 (Payment Plans Are Available for Students & May Be Covered by Your Employer)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-online-project-management-certificate-program-summer-2023-registration-577598070377>

MICROSOFT EXCEL BEGINNER LEVEL (ONLINE)

Tuesdays - April 2, 2024 - April 23, 2024
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi
Price: \$120
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microsoft-excel-beginner-level-registration-796129644197?aff=oddtcreator>

MICROSOFT EXCEL INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (ONLINE)

Tuesdays - April 9, 2024 - May 7, 2024
6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi
Price: \$145
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microsoft-office-excel-intermediate-level-registration-796140085427?aff=oddtcreator>

BASIC ARABIC LEVEL 1 (ONLINE)

Mondays & Wednesdays - April 15, 2024 - April 29, 2024
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. | Instructor: Mohamed Sarrouti
Price: \$98
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-arabic-level-i-online-course-registration-780340789307?aff=oddtcreator>

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS

Wednesdays (Live Sessions Only)
April 17, 2024 - June 26, 2024 (no class on 4/24)
7 p.m. - 8 p.m. | Instructor: Jessica Wohlstetter
Price: \$150
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/american-sign-language-for-beginners-registration-837955767257?aff=oddtcreator>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development
161 Newkirk Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 360-4224 | CE@hccc.edu
www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:

<https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary.html>

REGISTER SOON

for Summer/Fall 2024

Classes at HCCC!



**HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Hudson is Home!



HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities
On-Campus, Online, Remote, Hybrid (On-Campus/Online), Hybrid (Remote/Online), and Immersive Telepresence Video (ITV)

Regular Registration
Begins Monday, April 1
Eligible Students: All
Students can register online, in-person, or remotely!

CLASSES BEGIN:
Summer 1 classes begin on: Monday, May 20, 2024
Summer 2 classes begin on: Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Fall classes begin on: Wednesday, August 28, 2024

View Course Schedule at www.hccc.edu/schedule
APPLY NOW! www.hccc.edu/apply
For more information on how to register, go to www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes
For more information contact:
admissions@hccc.edu | **text (732) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200**

FREE TUITION 
for Eligible Students
through the Community College Opportunity Grant (for those who qualify) For more information, go to: www.hccc.edu/freetuition



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

Hudson County Community College cares about you and wants to help.

Please complete the General Concern Form click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care> or scan the QR code.

The form is NOT monitored 24/7. A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours. **If you need immediate help call or text 988 or visit <https://988lifeline.org>**




HUDSON HELPS RESOURCE CENTER'S CAREER CLOSET FASHION SHOW PRESENTED BY STEVE MADDEN IS A MAJOR HIT

The Fashion weeks in Paris and Milan may have to step aside and make room for a new fashion event that burst onto the scene right here in Jersey City ... The Hudson Helps Resource Center's Career Closet Fashion Show Presented by Steve Madden.

On February 28, HCCC faculty, students, and staff strutted down the runway showing off the latest styles in business casual and formal wear with clothing donated to the Hudson Helps Resource Center's Career Closet. There was even a category of 'What Not to Wear' to a job interview, which may have been the biggest hit of the night (think Professor Christopher Cody in a throwback Michael Jordan jersey and construction boots, or Professor Benny Youssef showing off a Panama hat and beachwear combination straight out of *Miami Vice*). Professor Jonathan Cabrera skillfully emceed the event with energy and aplomb that helped to get the crowd into it.

While there were plenty of laughs, the event benefitted an important cause. The Hudson Helps Resource Center's Career Closet provides students who may otherwise have trouble affording professional and formal attire with professional outfits that they can feel good about wearing to job interviews, new jobs, or



Hudson Helps Director, Katherine Morales, and Career Closet Coordinator, Ariana Calle, with guests from the event's namesake sponsor, Steve Madden.

other important events. Many people take for granted having professional attire for work, but for many students, the Career Closet is a vital lifeline.


The Hudson Helps Resource Center received a generous \$5,000 donation, along with designer clothing and accessories, from the event's sponsor, Steve Madden, which was coordinated by Raffi and Beata Manjikian. Other sponsors included the event's silver sponsor, Follett Education, which donated \$3,000, and Richard P. Zaborowski, the event's bronze sponsor, who donated \$1,500. Altogether, the fashion show raised over \$16,000 for the Hudson Helps Resource Center.



HCCC Professor Benny Youssef shows off the latest in business casual on the Career Closet runway.

The event was a major success and played out in front of a packed house of students, donors, other members of the HCCC and local community who all bought tickets to support the cause. In addition to the fashion show itself, attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception beforehand, as well as a raffle and a silent auction.

Judging by the event's success, the Career Closet Fashion Show may become a future fixture on the fashion world's calendar.



COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date information, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/calendar>.

Hudson County Community College reserves the right to modify the calendar as necessary.

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 Phone (201) 714-7100

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

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Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of
 the Hudson County Schools of Technology
 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094
 Phone (201) 360-4388

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**Invest in the education of an
 HCCC student by making your
 gift of any amount today.**

www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html

ALUMNI CORNER

Amaalah Ogburn, Class of 2017 A.S. Health Services

Amaalah Ogburn is the Director of Faculty and Staff Development at HCCC. She was previously Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus. Amaalah has a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Rutgers University. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Southern New Hampshire University.



How did you decide to attend HCCC, and what made it the right choice for you?

In 2013-2014, over the course of 10 months, I experienced three major life events. I became a mom, I lost my mom, and I left a job that I had for over 10 years. I realized that while I had skills and experience, I did not have any credentials, so I made a deal with myself -- "If I can get my tuition paid, I'm going to go to school and figure out what's next for me." I also knew I needed to set an example for my son. I needed him to know that college would be a requirement for him, which meant I had to lead by example. HCCC was within walking distance from my home and would not keep me away from my son more than necessary. HCCC was the only school I applied to, and once financial aid was approved, the decision was made. I began my studies in Spring 2015.

Initially, HCCC was the right choice because it was affordable and convenient. Thankfully, it turned out to be so much more. Hudson is where I realized my intelligence. It's where my unique perspectives were welcomed and embraced. Hudson made higher learning accessible to me and created space for me to dream, explore, and grow personally and professionally.

Any favorite memories or classes at HCCC?

Being here for nine years as a student and employee, I have many fond memories. One is of my favorite class, Comp 101. The professor empowered students to think outside the box. He encouraged us to look at our stories more deeply. His approach really opened my eyes to a whole new world. Rather than having us regurgitate information, he pushed us to use our imagination and welcomed our perspectives and interpretations. I had never experienced that in an academic setting.

What inspired you to earn your MPA?

Like many of my decisions, I was winging it when I pursued my MPA. It was a decision made in survival mode. I needed credentials to make more money and provide for my child. But like my experience

at Hudson, my MPA program opened my eyes to the world of politics, civil service, and government operations. It helped me understand many of the things my mom used to talk to me about as a kid. It helped me to understand what she meant when she talked about systemic oppression or social constructivism.

What advice do you have for HCCC students?

Stay curious, explore everything, and remember that every experience is meant to teach something. I would also share that education is more than what you learn from textbooks. It's the people you meet, the conversations you have, and your lived experiences.

You are now pursuing a Master's in Mental Health counseling – what inspired you to do that?

During a conversation with a colleague, I was asked, "What's your brand? What are you known for and do well?" I spent two years reflecting on those questions and realized that from a young age, people often felt safe confiding in me and looked to me for advice and perspective. Additionally, while looking for my own mental health professional, I realized that there is a lack of representation for marginalized folks in the mental health field. After that experience, I decided to pursue a Master's in Mental Health so that I can incorporate mental wellness into my work at HCCC, help to develop other mental health professionals and support my community with their mental wellness.

What do you like about faculty and staff development?

What I LOVE about faculty and staff development is hearing my colleagues' stories. I enjoy learning about their experiences and passions. I love that I can encourage and empower colleagues to share their knowledge with the larger College community and that I get to witness them light up with excitement when they have either learned something or shared something that feels good to them.

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

