

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



Hats Off to the Success of Hudson County Community College Foundation's Annual Holiday Gala





INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HR News 4

Phi Theta Kappa News..... 9

Continuing Education Programs10

Alumni Profile12

From the Editor’s Desk

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

Items for the February newsletter are due by Friday, January 14, 2022.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

Communications Department
162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 201.360.4060
Fax: 201.653.0607
communications@hccc.edu

PLEASE NOTE:

Digital photos must be high resolution JPG. This means 300 dpi at actual print size.

Images in this issue used for other purposes is strictly prohibited without the express advance consent of the Communications Department. Permission to use these photos may be requested by submitting a detailed summary to communications@hccc.edu.

HATS OFF TO THE SUCCESS OF HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION’S ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation Chair Joseph Napolitano, Sr. announced that the Foundation’s 24th Annual Holiday Gala was a very enjoyable evening that raised \$200,000 for scholarships. The December 2, 2021 festivities, entitled, “Hats Off to Hudson’s Heroes,” recognized the extraordinary achievements and caring provided by individuals and organizations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The evening included world-class cuisine prepared and served by students and chef instructors of the College’s award-winning Culinary Arts Institute (CAI).

The Gala began with a Culinary Tour at the HCCC Culinary Conference Center in Jersey City, NJ. The College’s inaugural Student Poet Laureate, Natalie Akel, then established the perspective for the evening with the reading of her original poem, “The Body, a Well.” The work commemorates the heroism parents – especially mothers – and others demonstrated throughout the pandemic.

Nicole Bouknight Johnson, HCCC Vice President for Advancement and Communications, welcomed guests and introduced HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, who spoke about the many heroes present that evening – HCCC Foundation Directors, Trustees, and students, faculty, and

staff; Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise and County Commissioners, Mayors, and Legislators; and HCCC Foundation donors and supporters.

Dr. Reber also acknowledged the frontline individuals whose services made it possible for HCCC to operate safely during the pandemic, and presented the 2021 HCCC Foundation Distinguished Community Service Award to José “Pepe” Garcia, Founder and President of Maverick Building Services, Inc. “The story of the man we honor this evening is truly inspiring and mirrors the lives of many Hudson County Community College students,” Dr. Reber stated.

After emigrating from Cuba in 1968, Mr. Garcia settled in Union City, NJ, where his mother worked three jobs to support her sons. Mr. Garcia started his own cleaning business while attending Seton Hall University. Today, Maverick Building Services provides facilities services to college campuses, corporate parks, office buildings, ferry terminals, high schools, transportation centers, banks, and many municipalities.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Garcia said he owed the award and his success to the

Continued on page 7

On the Cover: Scenes from Hudson County Community College Foundation’s “Hats Off to Hudson’s Heroes” Gala on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. CHRIS REBER RECOGNIZED WITH HUDSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2021 ‘LEGENDS SPIRIT AWARD’

The Hudson County Chamber of Commerce honored Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Chris Reber with the inaugural “Spirit Award” at the Legends 2021 Gala, held at the Harborside Atrium on December 9, 2021. Twenty HCCC trustees, cabinet officers, faculty, staff, and Foundation directors joined in celebrating him that evening.

Dr. Reber was nominated by former New Jersey Assemblywoman Joan Quigley, the President and Chief Executive Officer of North Hudson Community Action Corporation. Assemblywoman Quigley said she nominated Dr. Reber because of his generosity to North Hudson Community Action Corporation during its vaccination campaign, his thoughtfulness in waiving \$4.8 million in outstanding financial balances for nearly 5,000 HCCC students, and the culture of care he has woven into every aspect of the HCCC experience.

The Assemblywoman said that although Dr. Reber had not been in Hudson County long enough



HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber was presented with the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce’s inaugural “Spirit Award” at its Legends 2021 Gala. (Photo courtesy of Marie Papp Photography)

to be considered a “Hudson County Legend,” the Chamber Nominating Committee created the Spirit Award because its members were so impressed with all he has accomplished. The Spirit Award will continue to be presented annually to a person in Hudson County who inspires forward thinking and quick action to meet special needs.

Continued on page 11

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (PACDEI)

October 2021 marked the second anniversary of the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI). The Council’s co-chairs shared the 2021-2024 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan with the College community during the month. The anticipated action plan closely aligns with all other strategic priorities for the College, such as the Student Success Action Plan, the Academic Master Plan, and the Hudson Is Home 2021-24 Strategic Plan. The DEI Plan aims to foster an institutional climate where every student, employee, and community member feels included and can succeed. The Plan outlines four overarching goals and multiple subsequent initiatives that guide the work of the Council and all its collaborations in and outside the College. The PACDEI membership holds regular monthly meetings to discuss plans and update the status of achieving the stated initiatives and objectives to meet the overarching goals.



Members of the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) following a recent meeting.

The four overarching goals are:

- 1 – Supporting an inclusive culture of care at HCCC; creating DEI infrastructure, training programs, and initiatives across the College.
- 2 – Weaving diversity, equity, and inclusion guidelines and practices into recruitment and hiring practices, screening committee procedures, promotion considerations, and succession planning.
- 3 – Creating clear and transparent processes for safety, security, and incident reporting that are free of intimidation and respectful of confidentiality.
- 4 – Building community and a sense of belonging for students by advancing their academic development, professional growth, and personal transformation.

For Fall 2021, PACDEI welcomed and introduced its new members to the College community. The

list includes Catherine Sirangelo, Associate Dean, Nursing and Health Sciences; Dr. Ara Karakashian, Interim Associate Dean, Business, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management; Dr. Christopher Conzen, Executive Director of the Secaucus Center and Early College; Dr. Fatma Tat, Instructor, STEM; Alena Magay, HCCC Student; Yasmeen Abdelaziz, HCCC Student; and Keiry Hernandez, HCCC Student. These new members will engage with the College community as they embark upon one of the four overarching goals.

PACDEI also promoted several new DEI initiatives involving HCCC’s students. On Saturday, November 6, an orientation was held for students interested in joining the first Student PACDEI. Dr. Angela Pack organizes this program that allows the students to identify their areas of focus based on their interests and the appropriate intervention. In November, Professor Elana Winslow implemented

Continued on page 11

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB VISITS AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



On Sunday, Oct. 24, Hudson County Community College’s Environmental Club organized a visit to the American Museum of Natural History on New York City’s Upper West Side. The Museum is the largest natural history museum in the world with a mission commensurately monumental in scope. The entire museum spans four city blocks and consists of some 25 interconnected buildings.

MULTICULTURAL PODER HISPANO INC. RECOGNIZES HCCC



From left to right: Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Hudson County Community College; Roxana Cedeno, Founder and President, Multicultural Poder Hispano Inc.; Karla Navarrete, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Multicultural Poder Hispano Inc.; and Geovana Villacres, Director of Marketing, Multicultural Poder Hispano Inc.

On Sunday, October 24, Multicultural Poder Hispano Inc. recognized Hudson County Community College for its leadership and engagement with the Latino Community on its Expo Feria de Salud y Negocios 2021.

HCCC CELEBRATES RETIRING EMPLOYEES



HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (center) with retiring employees, from left, Marcella Williams, Jennifer Oakley, Maria Arroyo, and Gilda Darias-Hershberger.



On Wednesday, Dec. 15, a farewell reception was held for retiring Customer Service Coordinator Gilda Darias-Hershberger (center). She is pictured with well-wishers, including HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (left).

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Dan Brookes
Laurice Dukes
John Capasso
Inez Cruz
Ifesonyen Emefieh
Andres Estrella Cifuentes
Ojanae Marshall

5 Years

Jihan Nakhla

10 Years

Shannonine Caruana
Nadia Hedhli

20 Years

Deseree McFarlane
Angela Tuzzo

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Dimarie Pagan
Melissa Molinero
Tanaisha Myrick
Mira Domadiya
Ernest Fiabu

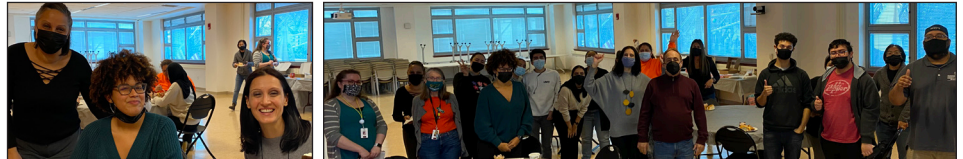
5 Years

Asia Abazeid
Matthew Gomez
Soumeiya Nasri

15 Years

Lewis Livesay

HCCC HOSTS FESTIVAL OF SWEETS



The Office of Human Resources hosted a "Festival of Sweets" on Friday, Dec. 10 at the North Hudson Campus. Employees were invited to bring in their favorite cultural sweets for the community to enjoy.

OUR STORIES UNTOLD

Submission by Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources, and Yeury Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



On Friday, December 17, over 30 members of the HCCC community logged in for the last session of the Fall 2021 semester of the *Our Stories Untold* series to listen to the story of Elana Winslow, Assistant Professor in the Division of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management. Professor Winslow discussed her educational journey, her culture and religion, and most importantly, the part of her life that brought it all together, her family. She started at HCCC almost 12 years ago, and she is a champion of student success and innovation. On a personal note, she shared how she was welcomed into the "three boys club" when her third son was born about nine years ago. Her story was a chronicle of her family life, passion for teaching, engagement with students, and celebrations and commemorations of the Jewish religion. A staff member stated that Elana's program "was a wonderful overview of the beautiful life, religion, and culture of one of our colleagues." Another participant noted that we "got to hear about other cultures and religions that we do not really hear about at the College."

While a seasoned and engaging pedagogue, who recently won the *Hudson Is Home* Outstanding Faculty Award, Professor Winslow was a little nervous at the beginning of the program. She was so used to focusing and engaging her students, and was a bit unfamiliar with talking about herself and her life. Born in New Jersey, Elana lived 13 years in New York City and spent her gap year between high school and college in Jerusalem. She talked about working at the Empire State Building and going to school at night for her MBA before continuing her career at HCCC. The experience at the College has been one of the best and most fulfilling parts of her life and felt *Hudson Is Home* felt every day of her life since she walked into HCCC. Elana shared many photos of herself with students and colleagues throughout her years at the College. She spoke of her students with pride.

Elana is also a proud Jew. She engaged the audience with a timeline of traditions, celebrations

and commemorations of her family's Jewish religion. Elana spoke of the blessings and good omens that each day and celebration represent. The participants learned more about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Shavuot, Tisha B'av, Challah tradition, Bar Mitzvahs and running multiple half marathons for a charitable cause. Elana made special mention of the Holocaust Remembrance Day and the College's first commemoration of the date earlier this year that she helped organize with Michelle Vitale, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Cultural Affairs. The program led to a beautiful engagement and conversation that featured Pieter Kohnstam, a Holocaust survivor. Professor Winslow noted that antisemitism is still a sad reality for her and her family, and that her sons seeing armed guards by their synagogue has become normal.

On advice to students, Elana encouraged everyone to enjoy the moment. She said many things, like the pandemic, are out of our control in life, but if you're able to do something and have the desire to do it, try to make it happen. Her most recent read, which changed the way she looks at the world, was a nonfiction book called *The Choice*, written by a psychologist and a Holocaust survivor. She learned that no matter what happens to you, you can still have compassion and a sense of continuous growth as a person.

"The entire *Untold Stories* program is powerful in connecting employees," a participant stated. *Our Stories Untold* storytelling is a partnership between the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This series highlights HCCC community members' personal, educational, and professional experiences, advice, and insight. Each program aims to introduce some of our outstanding and influential colleagues who underscore inclusion and create community. Do you know someone with an inspirational story? Do you want to tell your story? Tell us by contacting dei@hccc.edu.

Updated Business Mileage Rates for 2022

The IRS has published a new standard mileage rate for business expenses. Beginning on January 1, 2022, the standard mileage rate for the use of your personal vehicle for College business travel will be 58.5 cents per mile for business miles driven in 2022; up 2.5 cents from the rate for 2021. Please use this rate for filling out HCCC travel expense reports when using your personal vehicle for College business related travel in 2022.

Note: This does not apply to your regular travel commute from home to work.

2021 HUDSON IS HOME AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the 2021 Hudson Is Home winners and nominees!

Congratulations to the 2021 *Hudson Is Home* (HIH) Employee Recognition Award Winners: Lisa Dougherty, Dr. Heather DeVries, Amaalah Ogburn, Veronica Gerosimo, Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, Maria Lita Sarmiento, Student Life and Leadership, Elana Winslow, Kevin Eng, and Jacquelyn Delemos.

HIH Inspirational Leadership Award Winner: Lisa Dougherty, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, and Dr. Heather DeVries, Dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment. This award was presented by Nicole Bouknight Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications.

HIH Diversity Award Winners: Amaalah Ogburn, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus, and Veronica Gerosimo, Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership. This award was presented by Omar Williams, Manager of Web & Portal Services.

HIH Innovation Award Winner: Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, Assistant Director, Advising and Counseling & Transfer Services. This award was presented by Jacquelyn Delemos, Secretary, Humanities and Social Sciences.

HIH Newbie Award Winner: Maria Lita Sarmiento, Alumni Manager, CEWD/CBI. This award was presented by Anshuma Jain, HR Administrator.

HIH Collaboration and Team Achievement Award Winner: Student Life and Leadership. This award was presented by Royal Mainor, Admissions Recruiter.

HIH Outstanding Faculty Award Winner: Elana Winslow, Assistant Professor, Business. This award was presented by Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, STEM.

HIH Annual Employee Spotlight Award Winners: Kevin Eng, System Administrator, and Jacquelyn Delemos, Secretary, Humanities and Social Sciences. This award was presented by Sandra Aviles, Administrative Assistant, ITS.



HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (second from left) with members of the Hudson Is Home Selection Committee.



HIH Diversity Award presented to Veronica Gerosimo (second from left), Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership, and Amaalah Ogburn (not pictured), Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus.



HIH Annual Employee Spotlight Award presented to Kevin Eng (right), System Administrator, and Jacquelyn Delemos (third from left), Secretary, Humanities and Social Sciences.



HIH Inspirational Leadership Award presented to Lisa Dougherty (second from right), Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, and Dr. Heather DeVries (center), Dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment.



HIH Outstanding Faculty Award presented to Elana Winslow (center), Assistant Professor, Business.



HIH Newbie Award presented to Maria Lita Sarmiento (second from right), Alumni Manager, CEWD/CBI.



HIH Innovation Award presented to Dr. Gretchen Schulthes (center), Assistant Director, Advising and Counseling & Transfer Services.



HIH Collaboration and Team Achievement Award presented to the Office of Student Life and Leadership, represented by Christian Rodriguez (second from left), Student Center Info Desk Assistant; Angela Tuzzo (third from left), Associate Director; and Veronica Gerosimo (center), Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,700+ works is installed in the public areas of ten 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 work is in the collection, and new additions to the collection.

Acknowledgements

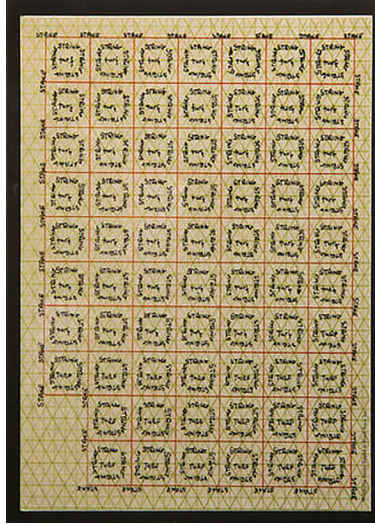
Thank you to Jenny Snider for the drawing, *What Andre Saw, I* (1985), charcoal on paper, 22" x 30" and thank you to Joel Mason for the artist's book *Joel Mason Selections from the Sketchbooks 1963-1993*. Thank you to Clifford Brooks for the generous donation of 43 woodblock holy cards by Sister Mary of the Compassion, OP. Thank you to the Estate of David Beck for the bell jar and pedestal to display the donated sculpture by Mr. Beck. Thank you to Annina Nosei for the donation of her new book about women artists, *Annina Nosei The Difference Is Woman*, and for the donation of 21 historic artists catalogs. Thank you to an anonymous donor for the generous donation of *American Women Artists* by Charlotte Rubinstein.

Artist News

If you enjoy **Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's** huge work, *What is an American?*, recently installed on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library in the area devoted to art by Native American artists and about the Native American experience – you might be interested in the recent *New York Times* profile of the artist, "Jaune Quick-to-See Smith Maps New Meanings" by Joshua Hunt. The article discusses her difficult childhood, "toiling in fields alongside Filipino migrants and Japanese Americans who'd been recently released from internment camps, cutting rhubarb in tar paper sheds each winter, picking strawberries and raspberries in the spring and harvesting string beans in the fall. When she was 7, Smith began hiding in trees to read anything and everything she could borrow." A bookmobile occasionally stopped near her home, so she could get things to read. From studying the work of John Steinbeck, she learned what was ahead of her, and she worked extraordinarily hard to overcome the obstacles she faced due to bias against Native Americans. Her guidance counselor said she was fit for vocational school, not college. Smith went to college anyway. Then, she was discouraged from pursuing her MFA for the same reason.

By contrast, the art world was far more welcoming. Smith had her first show in New York in 1979, and the show was well received and well-reviewed. More recently, her work was exhibited (through December 17, 2021) at Garth Greenan Gallery in New York, in a show called "Indigenizing the Colonized U.S. Map." The art included 12 large-scale mixed-media paintings. The artist said, "A map is not an empty form for me, it's not an icon of this incredible country.... It's not just a vacant idea, it's real. It's about real land — stolen land, polluted land." When asked about her favorite artist, she mentioned **Leon Golub**. You can see his work on the main floor and the third floor of the Gabert Library.

If you like the figurative art of **Joan Semmel**, installed on the fifth floor of the Gabert Library (in 516, the classroom where figure drawing



"Turf, Stake, and String" (1968) by Lawrence Weiner. Print of Colored Inks on Kleen-Stik Paper. 6.25" x 8.625"

classes are held), you might love the recent *New York Times* article, "Joan Semmel Takes an Unflinching View of Her Own Body" by Daphne Merkin, which celebrates the 89-year-old artist's first major retrospective, "Skin in the Game," at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia through April 3. Semmel's subject, since the 1970s, has been the human body. At that time she focused on people making love. When asked why she chose sexuality as a subject, Semmel said, "I found still-lives and landscapes so boring. I identified with the female body. I felt very strongly that women needed to be able to express their own sexual desires rather than follow the Hollywood concept of the chivalric tradition, in which Sleeping Beauty is aroused to passion by the handsome prince. I was a woman at the height of my sexual powers and didn't want to be ashamed of it." Her present subject is her own aging. She says her work is intended to raise awareness and challenge traditional stereotypes about women. "Women are essentially chattel in so much of the history of Western art...That's what I rebelled against."

Semmel cites the formative influence of other women artists in the 1970s, including Joyce Kozloff, Judith Bernstein, May Stevens, Miriam Schapiro, Anita Steckel, Carolee Schneemann, Juanita McNeely, Nancy Spero, Emma Amos and Hannah Wilke. (You can see work by Kozloff, Stevens, Schapiro, Schneemann, Amos, and Spero on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library. A second work by Schapiro is installed on the second floor of 870 Bergen.)

The author of the article questions why it took so long for a painter as great as Semmel to get this retrospective tribute exhibition, after

decades of her work being dismissed as "feminist." Semmel is indeed a feminist, but she wants her work considered "on its own terms.... Feminist art should be mainstream — not off in the corner, a footnote in history."

Rest in Peace, **Lawrence Weiner**, a pioneer Conceptual artist. A work by the artist is installed on the first floor of 2 Enos Place. Much of his art is made up of words. Some of his works are simple instructions about how to make the art work. If you find this puzzling, you are not alone. The artist, speaking in 2007 during his retrospective at the Whitney Museum of Art, said, "I was one of those people who decided that the concept of being an artist was to be perplexed in public.... That was simply the role of being an artist, because the artist was to be invested in things that did not have a pat answer." At another time he said more bluntly, "The only art I'm interested in is the art I don't understand right away. If you understand it right away, it really has no use except as nostalgia." His first artwork definitely fell under the category of, *Never Try This At Home*. Called, *Cratering Piece*, it was, according to the *Times*, "a kind of anti-sculpture formed by setting off a series of dynamite charges that notched unauthorized cavities in the field of a state park. In its particulars, that work prefigured much that was to come: public, politically labile, made with sparse means and leaving no object behind." (All quotations about Lawrence Weiner come from the *New York Times* obituary by Randy Kennedy.)

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, Vice President for Advancement and Communications 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

Would you like to 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

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents

Join the Department of Cultural Affairs for another month of art, interviews and music on the 6th Floor of the Gabert Library. For more information, to RSVP for programs, or to visit the gallery, email: mvitale@hccc.edu

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMEMORATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 WITH ART EXHIBITED IN OCLUS TRANSPORTATION HUB

To those in New York and New Jersey art circles, she is renowned as WOOLPUNK®, but at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) she is Michelle Vitale, the Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. WOOLPUNK®'s original works, *Ocufluent I & II*, are being exhibited throughout the holiday season in the Oculus Transportation Hub at 2 World Trade Center in New York City. The works pay tribute to lives lost on September 11, and to all those who are suffering 20 years later.

To create the works, WOOLPUNK® combined her photos of the Oculus after its 2016 opening with handstitched flowers. The photos capture a sacred space where feelings of shock, terror, loss, and grief coexist with renewal; the flowers memorialize, hearten, and honor those whose lives were lost. "I strongly believe that art can heal," WOOLPUNK® stated. "Acknowledging the painful memories of 9/11 allows for reflection, which is essential in building a stronger, more united world."

Ocufluent I & II was originally curated by Karin Bravin of BravinLee Programs in the summerlong "RE:GROWTH" exhibition in Manhattan's Riverside Park. The Oculus exhibit is made possible by Hudson County Community College President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Karen Bravin of BravinLee Programs, all of whom want to inspire hope in the New Year.

"Hudson County Community College is very proud to help provide these works with a venue

where thousands can view and appreciate them," said HCCC President, Dr. Chris Reber. "The message this art conveys is especially meaningful, and reflects the College's core values of diversity, equity and inclusion. As a community, we live and breathe the value of human dignity and respect as we learn, teach, and work with one another."

"The attacks of September 11 forever altered our skyline, collective ways of living, and ways of viewing the world," said Yeury Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. "In the 20 years that have followed, our resilience, resolve, and compassion for one another continue to prove that no challenge can prevent our communities from prevailing. Together, there is nothing we cannot overcome and accomplish."

Dr. Laura Auricchio, Dean of Fordham College at Lincoln Center and Professor of Art History, shared: "Over the summer, I spotted two WOOLPUNK® public artworks inspired by the Oculus and designed to pay homage to those who lost their lives, and those still affected by the horrific events of 9/11. Nearly 20 years after the attack on the World Trade Center, I finally brought myself to visit the Oculus for the first time. The visit brought me some peace."

WOOLPUNK® is a New Jersey native who, inspired by an immigrant seamstress grandmother who sewed American flags for a living, machine knits fiber installations, quilt sculptures, and embroiders photographs to influence social change. She has fabricated site-specific installations for a variety of institutions, and her knitted works are part of the "Walking



The artist WOOLPUNK® is pictured with *Ocufluent I & II* in the Oculus Transportation Hub at 2 World Trade Center in New York City. (Photo courtesy of Megan Maloy.)

Palm" group exhibition that opened on December 10, 2021 at Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. WOOLPUNK® has exhibited at Monira Foundation at Mana (Jersey City), Lion Brand Yarn Studio (New York), Montclair Art Museum, Object and Thought Gallery (Denver, CO), Salve Regina Gallery (Washington, DC), and other venues.

Follow Us



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc



Instagram:

www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

**For more information, email:
gallery@hccc.edu or visit**

www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html

HATS OFF TO THE SUCCESS OF HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA

Continued from page 2

commitment, dedication, and selflessness of Maverick's supervisors and staff who placed the safety of the community above their own wellbeing throughout the pandemic.

At the close of the event, the HCCC Foundation held its "Lucky Odds Raffle" with the Grand Prize

—40% of the raffle ticket sales – won by Chuck Spotts, Regional Vice President for Managed Services at Ellucian.

"We are grateful to all of our supporters for making this event a great success," said Ms. Bouknight Johnson, who reminded everyone that donations

to the HCCC Foundation are always appreciated and may be made online at https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=EfQcJ6Ct-ywOKA7PNJhbH0h2s1oFy3y2Wuct0PAsUd3TFRi1BYApzJybY4zdQzz5UmcxW_IPtCFIFp, or by contacting Mirta Sanchez at 201-360-4004 or msanchez@hccc.edu.

DECEMBER 2021 GRADUATE RECEPTION

NSLS INDUCTION



On Friday, Dec. 3, Hudson County Community College's chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success inducted 61 students as members and recognized students who achieved leadership certification.

EOF DECEMBER GRADUATE CELEBRATION



On Monday, Dec. 13, HCCC's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program held its first annual December Graduate Celebration Dinner for EOF Scholars completing their degrees in Fall 2021.

On Tuesday, Dec. 7 and Wednesday, Dec. 8, Hudson County Community College celebrated students who completed their degree coursework during the Fall 2021 term, as well as their loved ones and College staff and faculty.

Are you ready for Spring 2022 Registration at HCCC?



Classes begin on Friday, January 21

View the Course Schedule at: www.hccc.edu/schedule

APPLY NOW for SPRING classes! www.hccc.edu/apply with the promo code "HC3".

For 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.



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, go to: www.hccc.edu/freetuition

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Thanksgiving Service Project with EOF

On Wednesday, Nov. 24 and Thursday, Nov. 25, Walid Achkir, James Deloughery, Bryan Euvin, Dina Thompson, alumna Michelle Cruz, and Bianelly Tellez, EOF members Paola Salazar and Kerily Lopez, and Professor Ted Lai volunteered at the Fountain of Salvation Church to prepare over 1,000 holiday meals for the needy in Hudson County. Beta Alpha Phi Chapter has volunteered at this annual event since 2015. The pandemic prompted the meal preparation to be relocated to Wealth Kitchen, a restaurant in Journal Square, in 2020.

Middle States Convention

The Annual Convention is scheduled to be held at the Seaview Hotel and Resort in Galloway, New Jersey on Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12. Lectures, workshops, and the election of 2022-2023

regional officers will be part of the program. Officer applications are available.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Jan. 10: Deadline, Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship
- Tuesday, Feb. 1: Deadline to apply for PTK Scholarship from Rutgers for September transfer
- Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12: Middle States Regional Convention, Seaview Hotel and Resort, Galloway, NJ
- Thursday, April 7 – Saturday, April 9: Catalyst, Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center, Aurora, CO

BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING CLUB TOURED SAINT PETERS UNIVERSITY

The Business and Accounting Club sponsored a campus tour of Saint Peter's University. HCCC students, along with Accounting Professors Lester McRae and Business Lecturer Sharon Daughtry, were excited to visit Saint Peter's University to find their local opportunity for transfer pathways. The students experienced a tour and transfer presentation. They were also able to participate in a real class experience of what it would look and feel like in the Saint Peter's setting from a student's perspective. Rounding out the evening, students were invited to stay for a celebratory Bomba party held on the campus. Saint Peter's Dr. Naatus, Dean of Guarini School



of Business, Professor Philip Sookram, and Mary Mercado, Senior Assistant Director of Transfer Students and HCCC Alumna, helped facilitate this experience. We look forward to supporting our relationship with SPU.

BUSINESS, CULINARY, AND HOSPITALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETS

The Business, Culinary, and Hospitality Advisory Board met on Monday, November 8, for the Fall 2021 Advisory Board meeting in the Culinary Conference Center. It was a vibrant and enthusiastic meeting where the board discussed ongoing progress during the pandemic, the development of new degree programs, new partnerships, and working with the community while sharing a phenomenal eight-course meal prepared by Chef Puk and Culinary Club students. The impending Cannabis Management curriculum was announced



and discussed, incorporating lecture and lab courses within the STEM labs and culinary arts modalities. The Advisory Board also welcomed its newest member, Mr. Brian O'Malley, retired President and CEO of Domino Foods, Inc.

DON'T MISS Hudson County Community College

OUT of the BOX

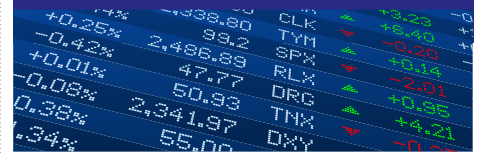
PODCAST



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. Each session is hosted by HCCC President, Dr. Chris Reber, and features special guests and HCCC students.

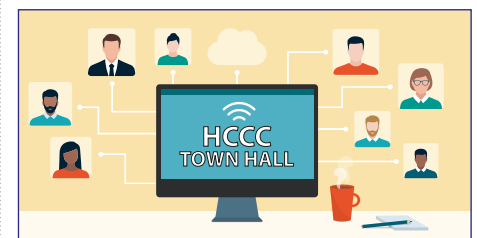
To listen, visit www.hccc.edu/outofthebox

BLOOMBERG FOR EDUCATION 2021 GLOBAL TRADING CHALLENGE



Students from HCCC Business Department participated in the Bloomberg for Education 2021 Global Trading Challenge. This contest was an opportunity for two HCCC teams to compete in weekly financial investment stock trades with other colleges worldwide. In October, students experienced seven weeks of trading with 496 teams and 14,445 trades. We are happy to announce HCCC had a team led by team captain: Mikell Quiroga, ranking in the top half of all colleges and universities and one of the top community colleges to compete.

The Grand Prize Winner was the University of Connecticut – Stamford Campus from the United States. The HCCC teams were mentored by College Lecturer Sharon Daughtry, who echoed, "We are winners as we have gained immense experience and insight into the challenges and opportunities of investing." Congratulations and great job to all participants.



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a **TOWN HALL MEETING** on **Monday, January 24 12 p.m.**

In-person at:
Culinary Conference Center
 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Jersey City, NJ
North Hudson Campus
 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Room N703, Union City, NJ

Watch your email for more information.

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY VISIT THE JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS



The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) Police Department visited the Journal Square Campus on Wednesday, December 8 to share information with HCCC students and alumni about open positions in the Police Department. Port Authority representatives spoke with many students and alumni who were interested in these opportunities. They discussed the different steps of the recruitment and selection process. They also spoke passionately about the importance of the job and how the PANYNJ Police Department protects and secures some of the most critical transportation facilities in the world. In addition, these positions offer a great salary and impressive benefits. Those who want to pursue this career were asked to register in the PANYNJ portal using the iPad that was on-site. Students and alumni were very excited and look forward to hearing back from the PANYNJ Police Department.

ONLINE BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Students from Continuing Education's December 2 Online Business Entrepreneurship class taught by Chastity Farrell.

Students learned about building and growing a successful digital business—from creating a strategy to branding. Students also learned how to create a product, engage prospective customers, and implement processes that will drive people to their businesses. They had the opportunity to use their own business ideas, and through hands-on work, gained the knowledge and tools necessary to turn their ideas into actual online businesses. Learning outcomes included: Identifying opportunities for an online business, creating products and services, finding resources to support a business, building a business brand that is ready to be launched online, creating a business strategy that includes a business plan, budget, and marketing plan, generating leads to keep a business growing, implementing an online support center, knowing the best website platforms for specific businesses, writing engaging content and managing emails, and discovering free and affordable online services that allow one to build a website with easy-to-use tools.

DECEMBER GRADUATE RECEPTION



On December 7 and 8, the graduating class of Fall 2021 enjoyed a night honoring their achievements at the December Graduate Reception, held at the Culinary Conference Center and virtually. Graduates arrived at 5:30 p.m. and were greeted by Student Life & Leadership. Alumni Manager, Ms. Maria Lita Sarmiento, and Gateway to Innovation Program Director, Anita Belle, warmly welcomed the graduates and their loved ones with roses, and provided information about alumni services available to them, including events, job assistance, professional development, and the Alumni Association membership. Graduates and their families enjoyed dinner in the Banquet Hall, followed by gifts of remembrance, and were directed upstairs for the graduation ceremony. Congratulations Fall 2021 Graduates!

For more information:
Department of Continuing Education
 161 Newkirk Street, Room E504
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 (201) 360-4224
 CE@hccc.edu

Are you an HCCC student, who has made some great art you want to enter in a contest?

HCCC Foundation Student Art Awards Contest deadline:
 Friday, April 15, 2022

To apply, email Andrea Siegel at asiegel@hccc.edu for an application.

Enter the HCCC Foundation Student Art Awards Contest. Deadline for entries is Friday, April 15, 2022, but you can enter now, and still win even if you graduated last term! At the Spring 2022 awards ceremony, the Hudson County Community College Foundation will make up to six cash awards totaling up to \$1,600 to students enrolled at the College (during the Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 semester).

Our purpose is to acknowledge and award excellence in student art work. At the Student Excellence Awards ceremony, up to two \$500 Hudson County Community College Foundation Student Art Purchase Awards will be presented to help the College build a student art collection. These original signed works will be professionally framed and permanently installed on campus. Up to four \$150 HCCC Foundation Student Art Supplies Gift Certificate Awards will go to students showing outstanding promise in the fine arts.

Please note: There is no guarantee work will be purchased in any given semester. Eligible artwork includes painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, collage, and prints such as etchings, lithographs, wood block prints, and digital art.



DR. CHRIS REBER RECOGNIZED WITH 'LEGENDS SPIRIT AWARD'

Continued from page 2

"I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce. I am humbled and honored to receive this award," Dr. Reber stated. "I share this honor with my colleagues at Hudson County Community College, including our trustees, faculty, staff, students, and community members. They are the inspiration for all we do."

Since taking the helm as Hudson County Community College's sixth president in 2018, Dr. Reber has made Student Success, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), overarching priorities and the foundation for the College's updated Mission, Vision and Values statements; Student Success Action Plan; and 2021-24 College Strategic Plan. Under his leadership, HCCC created the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI); established the Latino Advisory Council and African American Outreach Committee with clergy, business professionals, and community leaders who work with the College to address community needs; joined *Achieving the Dream*, the national reform network of high-performing community colleges dedicated to using data and best practices to ensure student success and degree completion; instituted the Hudson Helps Resource Center, a compendium of wraparound services, programs, and resources that focus on basic needs beyond the classroom to promote student retention and success; and formed relationships with community and corporate partners to promote upward social and economic mobility for students and community

members. He also established the Christopher M. Reber Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance for students in perpetuity.

For the past 21 months, Dr. Reber helped the College—and the Hudson County community—adapt to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. His leadership resulted in the formation of the HCCC Return to Campus Task Force comprised of students, faculty, and staff; the College's investment in technology to offer courses, programs, and services remotely and online; free Chromebooks to all students in need; the HCCC Culinary Arts Institute preparation and distribution of more than 7,000 ready-to-heat meals; and the HCCC vaccine initiative program that has provided \$100 incentives for students to become fully vaccinated—strengthening and prioritizing the health and safety of all.

In addition to receiving the Spirit Award, Dr. Reber is the recipient of the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award, 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Regional Award of Excellence, and was named by *NJBiz* as one of New Jersey's 2021 "Education Power 50." Hudson County Community College was recently recognized with the 2021 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Northeast Region Equity Award, and the INSIGHT Into Diversity 2021 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, honoring HCCC as one of ten community colleges nationally to be named "Top Colleges for Diversity."

UPDATE FROM PACDEI

Continued from page 3

a Diversity and Inclusion Implicit Bias workshop for her Principles of Management courses, and three classes participated. On Friday, December 10, 2021, PACDEI was proud to announce the first completion ceremony of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Passport Program (DEISPP) led by Veronica Gerosimo, Amaalah Ogburn, Diana Galvez, Ja'Via Hall, and Natalia Vazquez-Bodkin.

PACDEI is currently finalizing a set of formalized bylaws for the Council, and hopes to share them with the entire College community in early 2022. Also, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will be recruiting students, faculty, staff, and trustees to complete the prestigious Cornell University's Diversity and Inclusion certificate

program. This unique training will give completers more profound DEI knowledge and skills to further HCCC's DEI mission and initiatives. If you are interested in learning more about the certification program, send all inquiries to nvazquez-bodkin@hccc.edu.

PACDEI Co-chairs will continue sharing updates at the President's Town Hall each month and look forward to seeing you at one of our events, programs, and training. Please get in touch with us to discuss how we can collaborate or support your DEI efforts. Please follow the efforts of PACDEI's DEI initiatives via the website <https://www.hccc.edu/abouthccc/vision/dei/index.html> or contact us directly by sending an email to pacdei@hccc.edu.

CALENDAR



For updates to events, go to:

<https://www.hccc.edu/calendar/>

Monday, January 3

Day after New Year's Day – College Open (Administrators and Staff – Floating Holiday; Faculty – Holiday)

Tuesday, January 4 – Wednesday, January 19
Winter Intersession

Monday, January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (College closed)

Tuesday, January 18

Late registration begins for Spring term

College Service Day - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19

All College Faculty Orientation – 6 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Friday, January 21 – Thursday, February 3

Add/Drop Period for On-Ground, Online, Remote, Early College, & Culinary Evening Sessions

Friday, January 24 – Friday, March 11

Online Session A

Friday, January 21

Classes begin for On-Ground, Online, Remote, Early College, & Culinary Evening Sessions

Monday, January 24

Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor.

Wednesday, January 26

All College Council General Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor.

Friday, January 28

Last day to add ONR/Hybrid classes

Save the Date

COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Reimagining New Pathways to Student Success

Tuesday, January 18, 2022
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | On-Ground and Remote

More details to follow. Please save the date on your calendar.

For more information, please contact: Lilisa Williams, Director of Faculty and Staff Development | lwilliams@hccc.edu

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Davis Jenkins, Ph.D.,
Research Professor in Education and Social Policy
Teachers College, Columbia University

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "Reimagining the Program Onboarding Experience to Ensure All Students Gain Momentum on a Path to College and Career Success"



Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees

William J. Netchert, Esq., *Chair*

Bakari Gerard Lee, Esq., *Vice Chair*

Karen A. Fahrenholz, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Joseph V. Doria Jr., Ed.D.

Adamarys Galvin

Pamela E. Gardner

Roberta Kenny

Jeanette Peña

Silvia Rodriguez

Harold G. Stahl Jr.

James A. Fife, *Trustee Emeritus*

Joanne Kosakowski, *Trustee Emerita*

Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D., *College President*

Jasmine Ngin, *Student Alumni Representative*

County Executive and Board of County Commissioners

Thomas A. DeGise, *County Executive*

Anthony P. Vainieri Jr., *Chairperson*

Anthony L. Romano, *Vice Chairperson*

Jerry Walker, *Chair Pro Temp*

Yraida Aponte-Lipski

Fanny E. Cedeño

Albert J. Cifelli, Esq.

Kenneth Kopacz

William O'Dea

Caridad Rodriguez

JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

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

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

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

FOLLOW US ON:



myhudson.hccc.edu
www.hccc.edu

ALUMNI CORNER

Muzammil Iqbal

Class of 2020

Associate of Science – Computer Science



What factors led you to attend Hudson County Community College?

The College was close to home, and I had heard good things about HCCC from friends and relatives, which I discovered to be true. I loved the way I was welcomed and treated when I first went to the admission office.

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

One of our professors arranged a lunch party on the last day of the semester and encouraged everyone to bring food that was famous in their culture and to wear their traditional clothes. I was amazed to see so many cultures under one roof, in one room, and sitting with everyone and sharing their special food was an experience of a lifetime.

On a second occasion, one of my professors came to my workplace. When he saw me, he was so happy and greeted me with the utmost respect and spoke of me in high regards in front of my bosses. That day I felt very happy and will always cherish that moment as that day I didn't feel like an immigrant; I felt like I was part of the community.

How did you become interested in computer science?

Two of my cousins were already in this field, and they guided me about taking Computer Science as my major.

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

HCCC taught me never to look down on myself. There is always a second chance; people are willing to help if asked. Most of all, never give up, no matter how hard life gets. You might have to take a step back at times, but never stop moving forward.

What is a typical work day for you?

A typical workday for me is to complete all tasks for the day, learn something new, make sure I give 100%, no matter how hard the day gets, and thank God for all His blessings.

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

While attending college, I was working at a restaurant part-time. My manager was out for a week and a customer placed an order for which we had to prep food for 110 families, package it and send it out for delivery all within two days. I called and told my manager, and he gave me the opportunity to take on the order and manage it all by myself, if I thought I was up to the mark. I took on the order, worked extra hours to make sure everything was done on time, mapped out all the deliveries, made sure that I called all the customers, and let them know there was a delivery coming their way. Everything was done perfectly and on time, and the customer specially came to thank me with a goodie basket, and made sure my manager knew how well I handled the entire thing.

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

My father and my uncle (my father's brother). My father is still working six days a week, 10 hours a day at the age of 67. My uncle, who had a tumor but never backed down, still works like a robot despite all his sickness. I always look up to them and get inspired.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

Don't take a break. Keep your studies going. Never forget the people who helped you get through your tough time, especially your professors and HCCC staff. Always help your fellow students who are having a tough time getting through college.

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

This is just the start of your journey, and you have a long way to go. Times will get tough, but don't worry; talk to your friends, professors, counselors, and they will help you out. You might make some bad decisions about your career/studies, but don't let that bring you down. You can always make it work out.

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.