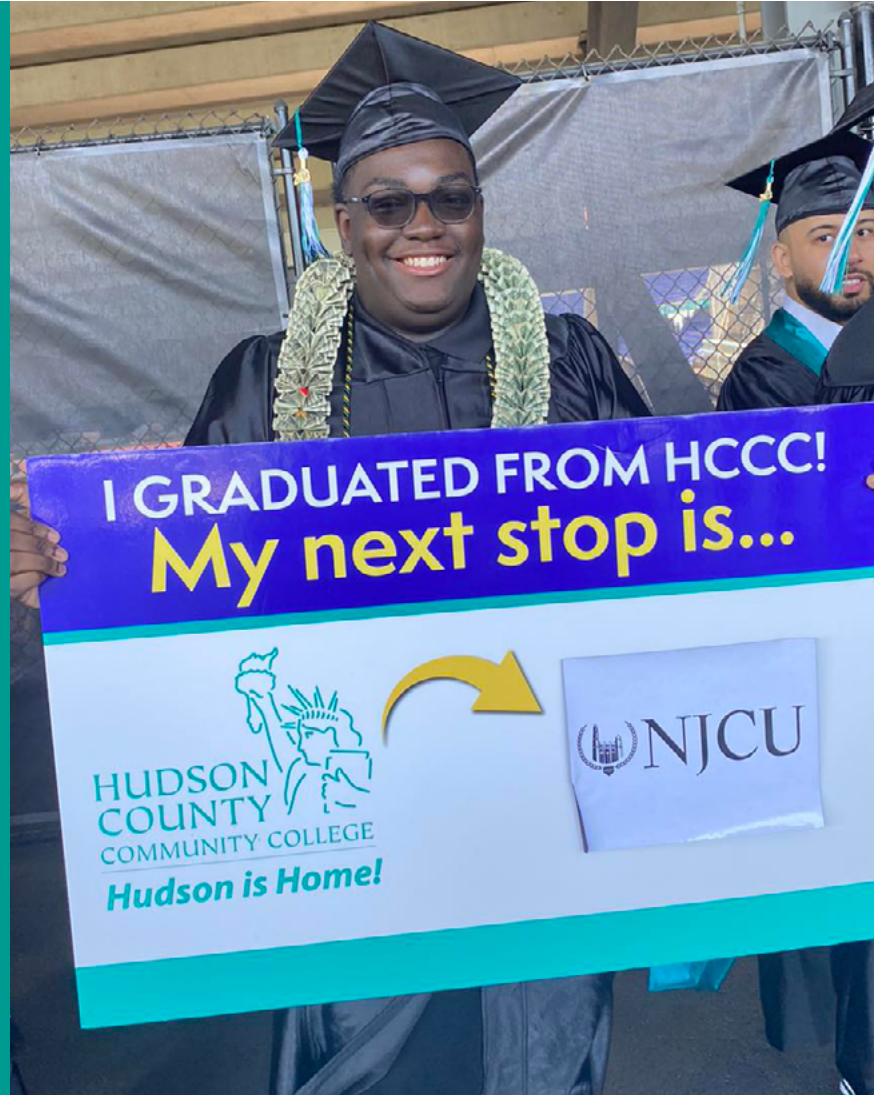


HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



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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 August newsletter are
due by Friday, July 14, 2023.

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

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY COMPLETE YEAR-LONG TRANSFER PROJECT TO DESIGN HCCC | NJCU CONNECT PROGRAM

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and New Jersey City University (NJCU) have collaborated to design HCCC|NJCU CONNECT, a transformational program that will provide highly visible, inclusive, and barrier-free transfer pathways to guide students and their families from high school, through studies at HCCC, and on to graduation from NJCU.

HCCC|NJCU CONNECT was developed during participation in the Aspen Institute–American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Transfer Student Success and Equity Intensive. HCCC and NJCU were selected as a team to participate in the externally funded national project, a one-year initiative comprised of monthly sessions to support community college and university members in advancing best practices

for improved and more equitable student success. The strategy- and practice-focused workshops provided practical support in advancing transfer reform.

HCCC and NJCU teams of faculty, along with representatives from their respective Admissions, Academic Affairs, Transfer, Institutional Research, and Advisement offices, engaged in the monthly Aspen Institute–AASCU meetings. Participants reviewed data, shared ideas, and planned HCCC|NJCU CONNECT with four primary components – Communication, Community, Connection, and Completion. A team of HCCC and NJCU staff continue to meet monthly to develop program implementation, and NJCU will dedicate a staff member to coordinate the program launch.

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ON THE COVER: *The new HCCC|NJCU Connect Program will make the transition from HCCC to NJCU more seamless than ever before. Pictured here is HCCC Class of 2023 graduate Jarrett Isaiiah Pinckney, who is transferring to NJCU to continue his studies.*

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT NISOD CONFERENCE

A delegation of Hudson County Community College faculty, staff and administrators traveled to Austin, Texas in late May to participate in the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence hosted by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

Presenters and co-presenters representing the College included:

- Dr. Christopher M. Reber, HCCC President, who introduced the keynote speaker on day 4;
- Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean, Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management, and Lori Margolin, Associate Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, who presented “Cannabis Education at Hudson County Community College: Creating Opportunities for the Community;”
- Carol Bruzzano, Adjunct Instructor, presenting “AI and the Higher Education Classroom: Turning Interferences into Advantages;”
- Stephanie Calo, ESL Specialist, and Saliha Yagoubi, Faculty Instructor, ESL/Bilingual, presenting “Preparing ESL Students for College and Beyond;”
- Patrizia Barroero, Associate Director, ESL and Academic Foundations/Adjunct Instructor, English, presenting “Finding the Main Idea” and “Mindfulness Meditation Practices in Education;”
- Dr. Nancy Booth, Professor, ESL/Speech, presenting “What If: Creating Critical Thinking;”



Hudson County Community College President, Dr. Christopher Reber (center), accepts the “2023 Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges” award from Dr. Edward J. Leach, Executive Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) (left) and Ralph Newell, Vice President, Business Development and Technology, “Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.” The award was presented by NISOD, in collaboration with “Diverse: Issues in Higher Education,” at a recognition event during NISOD’s Annual Conference in May.

- Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, Chemistry, presenting “An Exploration of Various Course Modalities in Higher Education;” and
- Anita Belle, Director, Workforce Pathways, and Lori Margolin, Associate Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, presenting “Creating Transformational Academic and Workforce Pathways for Incarcerated Students.”

Continued on page 5

LEARNING COMMUNITIES BOOST STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND BUILD LEADERSHIP SKILLS



Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay and HCCC students participating in the Spring 2023 Learning Community Day.

By Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay

A Learning Community (LC) is a pair of two or more courses, often with the same theme. Professors of these paired courses coordinate class work, assignments, and field trips in order to assist the linked group of students in discovering and exploring connections between unrelated fields of study. Learning Communities require students to articulate content from different disciplines, which enhances their critical thinking. Another key advantage of Learning Communities is that the ambiance created by the LC classroom environment promotes more student cooperation on group projects and problem-solving activities than is typically found in stand-alone classes. HCCC has offered Learning Communities for many years. These Learning Communities increase interaction between students, engagement, and retention. Greater student engagement fosters both meaningful friendships and strong leadership skills.

Through posters, Learning Community students have the opportunity to showcase their best work each semester during the Learning Community Day Event. The Spring 2023 Learning Community Day was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, in the Student Center Multipurpose Room. Students and faculty attended the event using a hybrid modality, in person and through WebEx. Three judges reviewed students' posters individually and anonymously and selected five as the Best Posters. The architects of the Best Posters received awards for their efforts. The room was full of students, faculty, and staff members. Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Nicole Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications, were among the attendees. This event allowed our LC students to share their poster presentations with a wider audience. The event and posters embodied the very principles of a learning community; the posters themselves were a powerful manifestation of what results from small

cohorts working together in community-based research and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay gave the audience a warm welcome and a thoughtful introduction covering the inception and evolution of Learning Communities here at HCCC. Afterward, she invited the LC faculty, Academic Coaches, and students to speak about their experience in the Learning Community classrooms. Numerous participants spoke about the high levels of engagement and dedication they experienced and witnessed from LC participants. They discussed how communal linking of disciplines found in Learning Communities creates a unique dynamic not found elsewhere. Dr. Darryl Jones closed the proceedings with an inspirational speech.

The celebration also recognized several students who exemplified the true potential of HCCC through their diligent efforts in the Learning Community. One student from each class was recognized for Academic Excellence and another was recognized for Academic Achievement. Dr. Bandyopadhyay called out their names, and Dr. Jones gave awards to these students. A total of fourteen students were recognized with awards. While the LC students were informed that these certificates would be presented during the event, they did not know if they would be among the recipients. Attendees witnessed the awardees' genuine surprise and appreciation upon hearing their names called—it was a touching moment for the students, faculty, family, friends, and, indeed, for everyone present.

HUDSON VICINAGE, HCCC CELEBRATE GRADUATION OF JOBS PARTICIPANTS



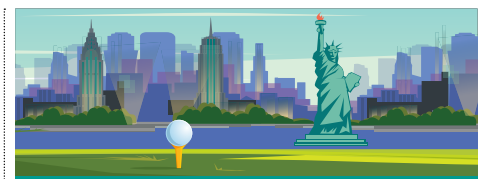
Graduates of the 10-week JOBS Program, an opportunity provided by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and administrators at the cohort's graduation ceremony on May 25.

On Thursday, May 25, the Hudson Vicinage celebrated the graduation of 12 participants from New Jersey Judiciary's Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program at Hudson County Community College's Journal Square Campus.

The graduates, who were trained through Apex Solutions Group, successfully completed a Certified Project Management training program. The 10-week train-to-hire program concentrated in Certified Associate in Project Management

(CAPM) and provided extensive preparation for the certification exam. The classes also focused on topics such as job preparation and readiness, financial literacy, and ethics/integrity. The CAPM certification will enable the graduates to obtain positions in project management and business analysis.

The JOBS program partners with local employers to provide employment and job training, as well as professional development, for recovery court participants and those on probation.



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, July 10, 2023

Forest Hill Field Club

Bloomfield, New Jersey

9 a.m. shotgun start

SCAN TO REGISTER



or go to

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCGolf23>

Any questions, please contact:

foundation@hccc.edu

*We look forward to
seeing you for a day of
outstanding golf and fun!*



MILESTONES

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

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Sally Elwir
Hector Mota

5 Years

Nicole Barnes
Herbert Forsberg III
Jacqueline Garcia

10 Years

Nandlall Ramsarran

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF:

Joyce Alvarez, Coordinator, Continuing Education and
Workforce Development

Rimsha Bazaid, Program Coordinator, Transfer Pathways

Carmen Guerra, Youth Coordinator,
Continuing Education

Quintessence Jones, Accountant

Hiram Miranda, Au Pair Coordinator, Continuing
Education

Mona Mokdessi, Administrative Support Specialist,
Secaucus Center

Eric Okai, Counselor, Educational Opportunity Fund

Prachi Patel, Bookkeeper, Continuing Education and
Workforce Development

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF:

Mark Amaker, Support Analyst, JSQ

Larry Anderson, Admissions Recruiter

Jessica Cortez, Academic Counselor

Andrea Goodwin, Administrative Assistant,
Human Resources

Sean Kerwick, Associate Director, Supply Chain and
Logistics, Center for Workforce Innovation
(Grant-funded)

Eileen Lynch, Development Coordinator

Tania Martins, Career Advisor, Center for Adult
Transition (Grant-Funded)

Jasmine Pascua, Receiving Clerk

Aaron Patel, Support Analyst, NHC

Stephanie Pina, Interim Assistant Director,
Human Resources

Maritza Reyes, Associate Director, Center for
Adult Transition (Grant-funded)

Sarah Yagoubi, Coordinator, Center for Workforce
Innovation (Grant-funded)

Karishma Ramcharitar, Biology and Chemistry
Laboratory Technician

Pedro Santiago, Assistant Director, Student Life and
Leadership

Leslie Soriano, Administrative Assistant,
College Libraries

STEPS FOR WELLNESS WALKERS ENJOY GREAT WEATHER AND SIGNIFICANT HEALTH BENEFITS

On Wednesday, May 31, HCCC's 2023 Steps for Wellness program culminated in a celebration in which participants joined in a group walk from 70 Sip Avenue to Exchange Place. The well-attended event was put together by the Office of Human Resources and the College Life Committee of the All-College Council. Participants received Steps for Wellness T-shirts and the top five finishers of the cumulative Steps for Wellness challenge received additional prizes.

Participants enjoyed a sunny afternoon and a walk through Jersey City on their way to Exchange Place. Upon arriving at the waterfront near Exchange Place, professor Karen Hosick led participants in a series of stretches to get ready for the trip back to campus.

The walk was the capstone for Steps for Wellness, a friendly competition that ran for eight weeks from March 6 to April 30. The Office of Human Resources and the College Life Committee of the All College Council teamed up to run this program in order to promote self-care and life balance. Health experts say that walking, even for as little as a half hour a day, has a multitude of health benefits, including boosting your cardiovascular fitness, strengthening bones, and helping to lose weight and body fat by burning calories. It can also help to reduce the risk of health conditions like heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Another great thing about walking is that it is a low-impact form of exercise that entails little risk of injury, and it does not require prior know-how



Participants in HCCC's Steps for Wellness challenge get ready for the walk to Exchange Place

to get started, which makes getting started less daunting than other more strenuous and high-impact forms of exercise.

Beyond these more intuitive physical health benefits, walking also benefits mental and overall health in a variety of ways that you might not expect – according to the Mayo Clinic, walking can improve your mood, memory, cognition and sleep, and it can help to increase your overall energy levels. Former CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden calls walking “the closest thing we have to a wonder drug.”

Participants in HCCC's 2023 Steps for Wellness challenge and finale got some great exercise, fun in the sun, and the spirit of some friendly competition all while enjoying considerable health benefits and promoting self-care and life balance.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

Documents for Life (All Employees, Live, Wednesday, July 19, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.) It is often difficult to discuss the future with aging parents and other older relatives. This seminar will guide you through the important discussions to have with your aging relatives, including managing and documenting their financial and healthcare plans and preferences. We will cover the documentation that you should consider putting in place, including advance directives, beneficiary forms, wills and trusts.

Putting Your Best Foot Forward – Online (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, July 26, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.) In our world of ever-increasing virtual work and meetings, we may never meet co-workers, clients, partners, and vendors face to face. In this session we'll explore guidelines for engagement in the new paradigm of virtual work.

Planning for Retirement: It's More Than Just the Numbers (Prerecorded; available 24/7 through July 31) – The advertising you see about retirement all seem to emphasize money. While money is very important, it's not the only thing. Join us for a broad look at what you can do now to prepare for a satisfying retirement. We'll explore the new world of semi-retirement, emotional issues around leaving work, money (of course), and more

To sign up for these webinars, visit eap.ndbh.com, enter company code HCCC, and scroll down to the “Check Out Our Webinars” box. Questions? Connect with your EAP account manager, HR department or 800-624-5544.

MODIFICATION TO STAFFING TABLE

Development Coordinator to Development Manager
Instructor, Business (Tenure-track)

Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Veterans
Affairs and International Student Services

Assistant Director, Advisement

Enrollment Communications Specialist (Grant-funded)

James Olivier, Facilities Worker (to HVAC Facilities
Maintenance Mechanic)

FACULTY APPOINTMENT:

The following faculty member is recommended for tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor effective Academic Year 2023-24.

Jeanne Baptiste, Instructor of English

NISOD CONFERENCE

Continued from page 2

Last but not least, the College was presented with the national “2023 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges” Award. “2023 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges” recipients are recognized for exceptional commitment to diversity in all forms – including race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, class, and veterans – through best in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

Semester Start-Up Events SAVE THE DATES FALL 2023

College Service Day

Wednesday, August 23, 2023
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All College Adjunct Faculty Orientation

Thursday, August 24, 2023
6 p.m.

Convocation

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

NOTE: Convocation is for all students, faculty, and staff.



We are here for you!

Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty in a course?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

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

Please complete the General Concern Form at <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>.

A member of the CARE Team will respond to you shortly.



DR. ARA KARAKASHIAN NAMED EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENT AT NJ CANNABIS INSIDER 2023 AWARDS

Congratulations to Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of the School of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at Hudson County Community College, on receiving the Excellence in Education award from NJ Cannabis Insider. The award was presented during the NJ Cannabis Insider 2023 Award Ceremony at the Carteret Performing Arts Center.

Robert Mejia, a Stockton University educator who received the inaugural Excellence in Education award last year, presented this year’s award to Dr. Karakashian.

In 2022, Aida Sanchez and David Serrano helped spearhead the implementation of the cannabis curriculum at HCCC. Dr. Karakashian completed the implementation process and launch, working closely with Garden State cannabis industry insiders, including Cannadmix and Stockton University’s Cannabis & Hemp Initiative.

To create the Associate in Science in Business Administration - Cannabis Studies Option degree and Cannabis Certification programs (Cannabis Business Agent Proficiency Certificate and Cannabis Business Management Certificate), Dr. Karakashian worked with local retail dispensary applicants, helping to negotiate agreements to



Dr. Ara Karakashian (second from left) with, pictured from left, James Warren, HCCC Cannabis Business Management Student; Elana Winslow Associate Professor | Coordinator, Business; and Jason Thomas, Founding Partner & CEO of Precision Quality & Compliance.

provide for co-marketing opportunities, special events, scholarships, externships, and preferential employment of HCCC graduates.

In March, the College signed an articulation with LIM College whereby graduates of HCCC’s AS Business Administration - Cannabis Studies program may transfer seamlessly into LIM College’s BBA – Business of Cannabis program.

HANGING PRIDE FLAGS IN THE LIBRARY FOR PRIDE MONTH

By Timothy Moore, Library Associate

The Hanging Pride Flags in the Library project aimed to promote inclusivity, diversity, and support for the LGBTQ+ community during Pride Month. By displaying a physical variety of Pride flags within the Library, we created a welcoming and supportive environment for all patrons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The “Celebrating Pride Month” project sought to acknowledge and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community’s contributions and struggles by prominently displaying Pride flags throughout the Library space.

By displaying Pride flags, we aimed to raise awareness and educate Library visitors about the LGBTQ+ community, its history, and the importance of creating an inclusive environment.

Hanging Pride flags in the Library helped foster an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere that sent a clear message of acceptance and support to all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The project team selected various Pride flags to represent multiple identities within the LGBTQ+ community, including the progress pride and transgender flags. Library staff and representatives from LGBTQ+ organizations or affinity groups provided input in the selection.



The chosen flags were hung strategically in visible and accessible locations in the Makerspace windows. Consideration was given to high-traffic areas (entrance, circulation desk, study areas, and community spaces).

The project was implemented in June, coinciding with Pride Month. Library Makerspace staff planned and executed this project.

The Hanging Pride Flags in the Library project created an environment that celebrated diversity, educated the community, and fostered inclusivity during Pride Month. By displaying Pride flags and providing informational resources, we aspired to cultivate an atmosphere of acceptance, support, and understanding for all Library visitors.

PRACTICAL NURSING AND MEDICAL ASSISTING PROGRAMS HOLD JOINT PINNING CEREMONY

On Monday, May 22, Hudson County Community College's School of Nursing and Health Professions held a combined pinning ceremony for the graduates of its Practical Nursing and Medical Assisting Programs.

During the ceremony, the graduates received their pins – marking the important transition from student to nurse – and recited the International Council of Nurses Pledge during a candlelight ceremony.



Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program.



Graduates of the Medical Assisting Program.

HCCC HOLDS PINNING CEREMONY FOR NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES



2003 Graduates of the RN Nursing Program.

On Thursday, June 15, Hudson County Community College held a pinning ceremony for graduates of the College's Associate in Science in Nursing (RN) program. The graduates

received their pins and took the Nurse's Pledge during a candlelight ceremony.

Frantzy Dutervil and Daniris Calcano provided their reflections on graduating from the program, and

the Nursing Program acknowledged several graduates on their academic excellence and leadership.

MISSION 50 IGNITES ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT: HCCC TEAM CLAIMS SECOND PLACE IN COUNTY COMPETITION

Mission 50, a thriving hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, hosted an electrifying internal pitch competition. Aspiring entrepreneurs from Hudson County Community College showcased their groundbreaking ideas, vying for recognition and a chance to represent HCCC in the broader entrepreneurial landscape. As a catalyst for entrepreneurial growth, the HCCC internal pitch competition winners are applauded for their exceptional talents and groundbreaking ideas.

In a display of entrepreneurial prowess, eight teams of students participated in the internal pitch competition, presenting their innovative ideas to a distinguished panel of judges. The competition aimed to foster creativity and encourage entrepreneurial thinking within the business community.

First Place Winners: Maria Melillo, Mateo DeSosa, and Adriannis Almonte, with their winning pitch focused on Smart Wall. Second Place Winners: Javier Sanchez, Destiny Lange, and Jordan Sanderlin with their pitch focused on DigiFit. Third

Place Winners: Sofia Ruseva, Justin Mosquera, and Jasmine Arriaza, with their pitch centered around Color Match.

With their victory in the internal pitch competition, the winning team, Smart Wall, advanced to the county-level round, where they faced off against renowned local colleges, Saint Peter's University and Stevens Institute of Technology. The stakes were high as the teams vied for recognition and the opportunity to represent their college community. Their outstanding performance were testaments to their dedication, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurial drive.

Mission 50 is proud to have supported these driven individuals in their entrepreneurial journey. Mission 50 continues to inspire and empower entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams by fostering



Eight teams of HCCC students participated in an internal pitch competition sponsored by Hoboken-based Mission 50. The winning team, Smart Wall, advanced to a competition round among county institutions.

a culture of innovation and providing platforms for idea exploration.

Congratulations to all the HCCC internal pitch competition participants, winners, and the team who secured second place at the county competition. Their accomplishments serve as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs within Hudson County Community College and beyond.

ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES PRESENT CAPSTONE PROJECTS



Dr. Issam El-Achkar, Professor of Mathematics & Electronics Engineering Technology (center) with Electronics Engineering Technology majors and presenters.

On Wednesday May 10, students graduating with an Associate in Applied Science in Electronics Engineering Technology presented their capstone projects which included:

- Parking Lot Availability Spot Locator (Carlos Cuba)
- 7 Segment Counter Using Logic Gates (Cristian Rendon)
- Automatic Water Level Controller (Nabegh Gerges)
- Turning a Motor Clockwise and Counterclockwise (Shannon Malone)

- House Alarm System (Ryan Banos)
- Temperature Measurement & Alarms to Alert (Leonardo Munoz)

The AAS degree in Electronics Engineering Technology provides students with a solid theoretical foundation and practical hands-on experience in electronics applications. Graduates of the program are prepared to work as electronics technicians with electronic circuits, control systems, computers, and robotics in the areas of design, analysis, testing, development, maintenance, production, research, and sales.

HOLOCAUST & ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION

Every year, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosts events in which individuals share their personal stories in times of conflict and reflect on these events that affected them during their lifetime.

On Tuesday, April 25, the President's Advisory Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI) and the Department of Cultural Affairs co-hosted the annual Holocaust and Armenian Genocide Commemoration. A planning committee was formed, chaired by Professor Raffi Manjikian and Professor Elana Winslow. Contributing members of the committee included Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dr. Christopher Cody, Meghry Tutunjian, and Ilya Ashmyan. Tasked with finding speakers to share personal stories on the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, the committee chose Kenneth Sarajian and Mark Schonwetter. Opening remarks for this event were made by Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President of Academic Affairs at HCCC. There were over 300 people in attendance, both in-person and virtually, with audience members logging on from across the nation.

Kenneth Sarajian, a second-generation survivor of the Armenian Genocide teaches history at Pascack Valley High School. Mark Schonwetter is a Holocaust survivor and co-founder of the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation.

The speakers provided the audience with much-needed historical context. The Armenian Genocide began in 1915 and ended in 1923, resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians. Often referred to as the "Forgotten Genocide", the Armenian Genocide has never led to an acknowledgment by the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire's role. This lack of accountability emboldened the Nazis to commit the atrocities of the Holocaust. In particular, Adolf Hitler once said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Between 1933 and 1945, Hitler directed the Nazis to exterminate approximately 6 million Jewish people,

as well as other cultural groups considered to be "lesser-than" by Hitler.

Both speakers left the audience in tears. Mr. Sarajian recounted that during the Armenian Genocide, his maternal great-great-grandfather, a priest, was sentenced to death by the Turks during the massacres in the 1890s. He was only able to get away through the church's intervention. Unfortunately, Sarajian's great-great-grandfather later died in a death march. His son then became part of the resistance and fought for the liberation of Armenia. On his father's side, Sarajian's grandfather had been conscripted into the Turkish army. When he was able, he escaped to the United States, leaving behind his parents, wife, and unborn child.

Mr. Schonwetter described his excruciating and heart-wrenching experience as a survivor of the Holocaust. Schonwetter, his mother, and his sister, all originally from Poland, walked 15 miles when he was just a young boy to a ghetto where they believed they would be safer. The family survived the Holocaust by hiding in the forests and by seeking refuge in the homes of Polish families who were not too frightened to host them.

The unfolding of the agonizing events Mr. Schonwetter and Mr. Sarajian's families experienced was indeed eye-opening for those in attendance. The connections the speakers formed with the audience were powerful, as they related their personal and familial disasters to events taking place in the world today. They reminded us that we must acknowledge the essential reality that those who do not learn from history are bound to repeat its mistakes. HCCC continues to support this event, year after year, since we must never forget the life lessons learned to prevent these tragedies from ever happening again.

HCCC | NJCU CONNECT

Continued from page 2

HCCC|NJCU CONNECT is modeled after the highly successful Northern Virginia Community College – George Mason University ADVANCE program. HCCC|NJCU CONNECT will create a singular student experience focused on addressing students' holistic needs, diminishing equity gaps, and promoting students' goal and credential attainment.

"HCCC|NJCU CONNECT provides students with a seamless experience from the time they apply at HCCC until they graduate from NJCU," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Together with NJCU, we are implementing a best-practice model and goals that expand and improve opportunities for our students; provide ESL instruction to NJCU students; offer NJCU housing to HCCC international students and others outside of commuting distance of HCCC enrolled in distinctive programs such as Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management; establish collaborative initiatives in Continuing Education and Workforce Development; and coordinate HCCC's potential engagement in the Small Business Development Center at NJCU."

NJCU Interim President Andrés Acebo said, "NJCU recently announced the most significant overhaul of its general education program in decades. The historic announcement alongside our partners at Hudson County Community College will only further the distinction that NJCU is now the most transfer-friendly university in the State of New Jersey. The partnership between NJCU and HCCC provides tools to change the trajectory for students who enroll in the community college, make the transition to the four-year institution, and engage fully in the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree. Data suggest that only 32 percent of community college students transfer to a four-year institution within six years. We will change that narrative. NJCU is in the business of transforming lives for the better, and we are proud to partner with HCCC on a research-based solution to the needs of our community."

Each year, about one-quarter of HCCC graduates – more than any other community college – transfer to NJCU. HCCC|NJCU CONNECT will provide support for students who may be the first in their families to attend college, work at least one job, and commute to and from classes by cultivating an essential sense of belonging at both institutions. HCCC and NJCU have committed the time, personnel, and financial resources to construct the program's infrastructure, enhance and leverage student services, build awareness of the CONNECT program, and engage with prospective students and their families.

"Once fully implemented, the HCCC|NJCU CONNECT program will be the pride of Hudson County, providing graduates who will contribute to the local workforce and benefit from upward social and economic mobility. We look forward to replicating this framework with our other four-year college and university partners," Dr. Reber stated.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,825+ 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.

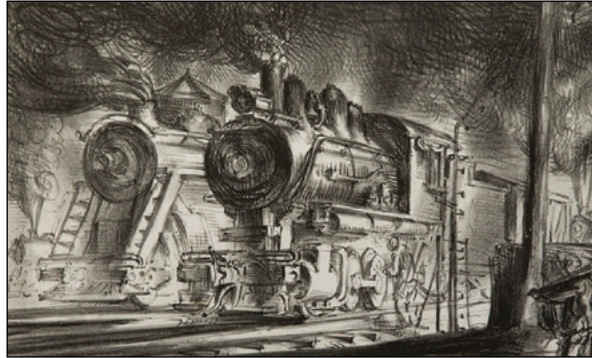
Donor Acknowledgement

Thank you to Clifford Brooks for the generous donation of historical photographs of past exhibits and archival materials about Fr. Conor Mullally, whose work is in the Collection.

Artist News

The Foundation Art Collection's 2001-05-15 work by **Kerry James Marshall** is installed on the second floor of 2 Enos Place. It is not in his typical style. Instead, he sets up a picture to look like an outdoor fruit stand, where the price tags and names of produce loom above the merchandise. Only in this case he is critical about the high cost of art: the numbers are art prices at auction, and instead of fruit names, we read names of famous artists. The artist says of his work, "I'm looking at history and trying to draw out connections that people don't automatically make." In a recent *Art in America* magazine, Emily Watlington writes about the signature style of Kerry James Marshall, "Since the 1980s, Kerry James Marshall has crafted a kind of history painting all his own. The Alabama-born artist is known for painting figures with skin that's literally black; often, they're shown enjoying everyday activities, like having a picnic or getting a haircut, but he manages to imbue these ordinary scenes with both monumentality and mystery." Marshall's newest work also deviates from his most famous pictures. He paints a figure with different parts of the body in various styles and media, based on the Surrealist Idea of the "Exquisite Corpse." What does that mean? The Tate Museum states, "Cadavre exquis (exquisite corpse) is a collaborative drawing approach first used by surrealist artists to create bizarre and intuitive drawings." One artist would draw a part and then fold the paper, handing it to the next artist, who would draw another part, and so on. When Marshall talks about this new work, he says, "All kinds of people have profited from imperialist, colonialist, and commercial transactions, and all the exquisite corpses speak to those complicated histories. Today, you have the NBA and all those basketball players flying around and slam-dunking—this is happening in the wake of that history. History isn't always tragic, but it is always complicated. My paintings tackle history in its most complex form. Nobody is getting off the hook."

Speaking of no one getting off the hook, a new exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum, "It's Pablo-matic: Picasso According to Hannah Gadsby" (through Sept. 24), places Picasso in a critical feminist



Reginald Marsh, Switch Engines, Erie Yards, Jersey City (ca. 1930s-1940s), Lithograph, 16.5" x 20.75".

perspective. Co-curator Hannah Gadsby notes that Picasso said, "You can have all the perspectives at once!" She replies, "What a hero. But tell me, are any of those perspectives a woman's? Well, then, I'm not interested." In addition to Picasso, many artists in the Foundation Art Collection also have work in this exhibit, including **Joan Semmel** (fifth floor, Gabert Library 517), **Joyce Kozloff** (sixth floor, Gabert Library), **Kiki Smith** (sixth floor, STEM Building), **Faith Ringgold** (third floor, Gabert Library), **Mickalene Thomas** (first floor, Gabert Library), and **May Stevens** (sixth floor, Gabert Library). You can see a Picasso print in the Gabert Library on the first floor, and there's a Picasso lithograph exhibition poster downstairs on the lower level in the Tutoring Center.

At HCCC, students and staff sometimes have favorite pictures in the Foundation Art Collection. For example, Bob Richard, a Library Associate who has worked at HCCC since 2007, has three favorite pictures. The first he shows us is installed on the first floor of the Gabert Library, *Switch Engines, Erie Yards, Jersey City*, by **Reginald Marsh**, a ca. 1930s-1940s, Lithograph about 16.5" x 20.75". Bob says, "I do have a fascination with trains and how railroads served a great purpose in U.S. history, connecting the East and West." Our nation, he continues, was built on the railroads. Like the author of this column, he is amazed by Amtrak and the railroads that remain so important to the American economy. For more information about the history of our railroads, Bob recommends taking a look at this website: <https://www.american-rails.com/>

Bob also likes a black-and-white photograph of a boat on a lake called *Bay at 4th Street, Ocean*

City, Maryland, May 1971 by **Edward Kenly White** on the lower level of the Gabert Library. Why does he like it? It reminds him of a profound scene in one of his favorite movies, *Godfather II*, where the character Fredo (played by actor John Cazale) faces the consequences of betraying his family. Bob says, "You know, that was the end of Fredo." The fictional film explores the history of American organized crime through an in-depth study of one family.

Bob's third favorite picture is a photograph by **Ricardo Barros** called *Vladimir Kanevsky with New York Skyline* on the fourth-floor lobby of the Gabert Library. In the picture, the artist stands in a black coat. His back is to us, and he holds a sculpture he made of a human figure. We can see the sculpture's head peering over his shoulder and looking toward us. The artist stands on a snowy hill in Liberty State Park with a view of the former World Trade Center Towers in the background. Bob Richard worked downtown and went through the World Trade Center daily from 1974 to 2001. He remembers a thriving cultural area with all kinds of stores and wonderful free musical performances in the WTC at lunchtime. Many of our students were not yet born on Sept. 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center disaster occurred. Those who remember the living history are gifts to the community memory. Thanks to Bob for sharing his powerful memories.

We will interview students and staff about their favorite pictures in future issues of *HCCC Happenings*. Please let us know if you'd like to be interviewed by emailing ASiegel@hccc.edu.

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

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS JUNETEENTH EVENT CELEBRATING FREEDOM THROUGH THE ARTS

African Americans have long demonstrated resilience and heroism in their fight for hard-won liberties to end oppression. Although the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln ended slavery in the Confederate states, it was not implemented until Union soldiers marched into Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to announce that more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state were free by executive decree. Celebrations following this monumental event included prayers, feasts, songs, music, and dance. Thus, "Juneteenth" was born.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) invited community members, students, faculty, and staff to join the HCCC 2023 "Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Through the Arts" on Wednesday, June 21 in the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery on the sixth floor of the HCCC Gabert Library. Pamela Gardner, lifelong educator and a member of the HCCC Board of Trustees, served as Program Host. The event included song, spoken word, words of inspiration, dance, gospel music performances, and a special keynote address. The HCCC Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the HCCC African American Outreach Committee hosted the event.

Ratified on December 6, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution made emancipation a national policy, prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude. The exception was punishment for crime — ushering in post-Civil War incarceration and labor practices. The "separate but equal" Jim Crow-era of segregation sparked America's Civil Rights movement, and, today, the Black Lives Matter movement continues the evolution of Black and African American history.

President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in 2021 to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday in response to the efforts of Lula Briggs Galloway, Opal Lee, and others. Juneteenth has become a symbol of hope and transformation, inspiring and empowering African



Pictured clockwise from bottom and left: The King's Daughters of Praise, Trinity Faith Church of the Living God; Bakari G. Lee, Esq., HCCC Board of Trustees Vice Chair; Rhudy Snelling Jr., Director of Community Engagement and Clergy Affairs, Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Rashad Wright, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Jersey City; Pamela Gardner, HCCC Board of Trustees Treasurer/Secretary; KARMA, Jersey City Artist; Joyce Watterman, Jersey City Council President; Rev. Kevin Williams, Pastor, Claremont-Lafayette United Presbyterian Church; Dr. Christophe Reber, HCCC President; and Dr. Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Americans to run for political office, advocate causes, and fight for representation.

HCCC officially recognized the observance of Juneteenth in 2021 as a floating holiday. The College's 2023 "Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Through the Arts" program included:

- Invocation by Reverend Kevin Williams, Pastor, Claremont Presbyterian Church;
- Musical Performance by Jersey City artist, Karma;
- Welcome by Dr. Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion;
- Greetings from Joyce Watterman, Jersey City Council President;
- Spoken Word by Rashad Wright, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Jersey City;
- Two Dance Performances by The King's Daughters of Praise, Trinity Faith Church of the Living God, Jersey City;
- Gospel Solo by Rhudy Snelling, Jr., Director of Community Engagement and Clergy Affairs, Essex County Prosecutor's Office;
- Keynote Address by Bakari Lee, Esq., Vice Chair of the HCCC Board of Trustees; and

- Closing Remarks by Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President.

The HCCC Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) promotes an institutional climate that embraces and celebrates differences while championing equitable and inclusive practices, policies, and procedures College-wide. The Office leads and supports practices that foster safe, inclusive, and accessible facilities and activities for all community members. DEI offices, organizations, and practices at the College include accessibility services, cultural affairs, the President's Advisory Council for DEI, Title IX compliance, international student services, and Veterans' Affairs.

The Office of DEI partners with campus-wide units and stakeholders who stand firm in embedding diverse voices, supports, equitable policies, and more. Throughout the year, the Office of DEI sponsors and holds free educational opportunities for students, staff and the community that include performances, seminars, art exhibits, poetry readings, and more.

STEM EVENT AT MAARIF SCHOOL

By Fatma Tat, Ph.D.

On May 25, 2023, Dr. Nadia Hedhli from the School of STEM organized an impactful STEM event at Maarif School in Bloomfield, NJ. The event aimed to promote the STEM field among high school students and drew approximately 80 people. Dr. Hedhli, Dr. Abdallah Matari, Prof. Mohammad Qasem, and Dr. Fatma Tat delivered engaging presentations followed by interactive demonstrations.

Dr. Hedhli's presentation covered career pathways in STEM, the characteristics of living cells, and the anatomy, function, and diseases of the heart. She showcased the isolation of cheek cells, microscopy techniques, a heart model, and cardiac function during her demonstration. Dr.

Fatma Tat focused on atomic structure, molecules, and chemical bonds in her presentation, complemented by a demonstration involving chemistry models and acids-bases.

Dr. Abdallah Matari's presentation explored the composition and types of blood, blood vessels, the skeletal system, and histology. His demonstration centered around blood typing and the methods used to determine blood types. Professor Mohammad Qasem enlightened the audience on the laws and types of motion, concluding with a demonstration on motions in objects.

The impact of the event on the students was evident, as they had the opportunity to ask questions, delve deeper into the topics, and conduct experiments. Such events play a crucial



HCCC School of STEM faculty presentation at the Maarif School in Bloomfield, NJ.

role in inspiring and encouraging young minds to pursue careers in STEM.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS



Our June 12th Celebration of Student Success acknowledged and celebrated the hard work, dedication and perseverance of our students in pursuit of their goals. Our partnership with New Jersey Reentry Corporation provides educational training programs that have produced exceptional graduates. These programs have helped men and women take steps toward a brighter future. HCCC is honored to be part of their journey.

June 12, 2023 marked the celebration of the second graduation of students from educational training programs Hudson County Community College (HCCC) provides in partnership with New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC). The College is honored to serve an increasing number of men and women who participate in our Certified

Phlebotomy Technician, Culinary Hot Foods Proficiency, and Certified Welding programs.

HCCC is solidly committed to ensuring the success of our students and will continue to offer additional opportunities for training and employment. The College strongly believes

in providing people with second chances, and for Continuing Education and Workforce Development to create new pathways that lead to employment and careers with family-sustaining wages.

This Summer brings new opportunities, and we are happy to announce the launch of the Summer Training Institute. The innovative program will provide 183 court-involved young adults with comprehensive job training and industry-recognized credentials. The initiative, which HCCC is coordinating with NJRC, will include Certified Phlebotomy Technician, Construction, Solar, Peer Recovery Specialist, and other educational programs, is supported by NJ Pathways to Careers funding.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has played a part in making our students' dreams come true. We are especially grateful to former New Jersey Governor and NJRC Chair, Jim McGreevey, and to HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber for his unwavering support of these life-changing initiatives.

Finance and Technology Program

We are pleased to announce that our Finance and Technology program was recently expanded to incorporate two innovative additions: Meta Social Media Marketing, and Sales Force Operations. These new programs have been strategically developed to meet the evolving demands of the finance and technology industries, ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills necessary to excel in their careers.

Furthermore, as part of our commitment to offering cutting-edge education, we have introduced new advanced courses within the Finance and Technology program. These advanced courses cater to students who wish to deepen their expertise in specific areas of interest and stay ahead of industry trends. Covering topics such as Bookkeeping, IT Support Automation in Python, and Advanced Data Analysis, these courses provide a comprehensive understanding of the latest advancements in finance and technology.

AWPP Students' Developments

The primary goal of the Academic Workforce Pathway Program is to help students improve their lives by providing engaging and successful educational experiences. Studies prove that incarcerated students' perspective on life improves with their participation in educational and workforce skills programs (Prison Fellowship, 2022). These students positively impact their communities while incarcerated – and upon release – by pursuing their education and assisting others with available resources.

We are proud to acknowledge two incredible students who have and are making differences.



Our first AWPP graduates April Rice and Leon Foster.

Ms. April Rice and Mr. Leon Foster are our first AWPP graduates, and the first in the country to earn degrees while incarcerated in a county jail. At the HCCC 46th Commencement ceremonies in May, Ms. Rice was presented with her Associate in Science in Business Administration degree, and Mr. Foster received his Associate in Science in Human Services/Pre-Social Work degree. Mr. Foster was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at HCCC.

Ms. Rice and Mr. Foster will continue their education by pursuing baccalaureate degrees. Their commitment to education is exemplary and will positively impact the lives of the Hudson County community.

Becky Scott, Director of the Hudson County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, marked the onset of the College's third year of working together by presenting a letter of recognition to the HCCC Academic Workforce Pathway Program team. The College is very proud of the AWPP team, and thanks Anita Belle, Fabiola Océan, and Karen Arango for their work on behalf of our incarcerated students.

Upcoming Programs

MICROSOFT WORD BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (IN-PERSON)

Wednesdays (8 Sessions)

July 5, 2023 through August 23, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi | Price: \$220

<https://tinyurl.com/4u67uuhj>

EMAIL ETIQUETTE FOR PROFESSIONALS (ONLINE)

Mondays (3 Sessions) July 10, 2023 through July 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Mary Anne Kochut | Price: \$120

<https://tinyurl.com/yjck9fbs>

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Ages 9–15

AFTERCARE AVAILABLE 4 p.m.–5 p.m.

– \$20 per day or \$70 FULL 4 DAY WEEK

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY* AFTERCARE AVAILABLE*

Monday–Thursday | July 10, 2023 through July 13, 2023

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. | Price: \$270

CPR & FIRST AID FOR TEENS* AFTERCARE AVAILABLE*

Monday–Thursday | July 17, 2023 through July 20, 2023

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (1 hour lunch) | Price: \$270

SAT PREP CLASSES

RECOMMENDED AGES: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Monday–Thursday | July 24, 2023 through August 3, 2023

- Language Arts Prep 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Price: \$275

- Math Prep 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. | Price: \$275

BAKING I - 4-DAY WEEK* *AFTERCARE AVAILABLE* (HIGH SCHOOL WEEK–AGES 14-16)

Monday–Thursday | July 31, 2023 through August 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (1 hour lunch) | Price: \$355

Continued on page 11

Upcoming Programs

Continued from page 10

BAKING II – *4-DAY WEEK* *AFTERCARE AVAILABLE*

Ages 9–15

Monday–Thursday | August 7, 2023 through August 10, 2023
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (1 hour lunch) | Price: \$355

COOKING II – **FULL WEEK** *AFTERCARE AVAILABLE*

Ages 9–15

Monday–Friday | August 21, 2023 through August 25, 2023
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (1 hour lunch) | Price: \$485

<https://tinyurl.com/SumYouth>

SPEAK ENGLISH WITH CONFIDENCE - ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION AND ACCENT REDUCTION (IN-PERSON)

JULY SESSION

Tuesdays & Thursdays | July 11, 2023 through August 3, 2023
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | North Hudson Campus

AUGUST SESSION

Tuesdays & Thursdays | August 8, 2023 through August 31, 2023
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | North Hudson Campus

Summer 2023 Promotion – 25% off (\$146)

When you also register for a Summer ESL Intensive Class

Regular Price – \$195 <https://tinyurl.com/45hdpcn>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT CERTIFICATION (IN-PERSON)

Thursdays | 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Price: \$77 (Certification card and student manual included)

SUMMER START DATES

July 13 & 27, August 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/24e94x83>

BASIC AUTODESK REVIT (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays and Sundays | July 15, 2023 through August 6, 2023

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Price: \$650 <https://tinyurl.com/bdfzt24d>

INTRODUCTION TO INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS) (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | July 15, 2023 through July 23, 2023

9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | Price: \$199 <https://tinyurl.com/5334cvyw>

THE POWER AND SECRETS OF TIME MANAGEMENT

Tuesdays (3 Sessions) July 18, 2023 through August 1, 2023

6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. | Instructor: Mary Anne Kochut

Price: \$120 | <https://tinyurl.com/2s3hzrpc>

NICET ASPHALT TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE) (32 Hours)

Saturdays and Sundays | July 22, 2023 through August 13, 2023

9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350 | <https://tinyurl.com/nut48456>

MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL ADVANCED LEVEL (IN-PERSON)

Thursdays (6 Sessions) | August 3, 2023 through September 7, 2023

6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. | Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi | Price: \$175

<https://tinyurl.com/2pswse99>

JOIN AN INFORMATION SESSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ACCESS PROGRAM!

The ACCESS Program is a ten-week pre-college workforce transitional program for young adults between the ages of 17-24 with an intellectual or developmental disability. The courses will teach Fundamental Life Skills/Student Success, Work-readiness, and Computer Literacy (Microsoft Word and Excel Training). To register for an upcoming session go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/access-program-information-session-tickets-546427127247>! Feel free to contact us at CAT@hccc.edu.

Upcoming Information Sessions:

Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

REGISTER NOW
for Summer II
classes at HCCC!

Earn up to 12 credits!



SUMMER II begins on
Wednesday, July 12, 2023

For more information contact:

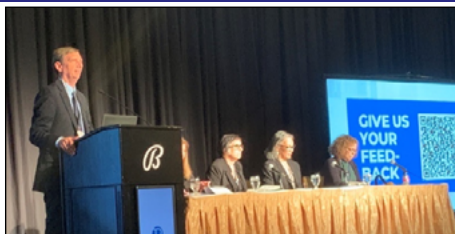
admissions@hccc.edu

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

THE NJ PATHWAYS TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES SUMMIT

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) had the honor of being invited to a two-day NJ Pathways Summit in Atlantic City. The summit provided an excellent platform for HCCC to actively engage in a multitude of enriching programs, such as the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA), Supply Chain Management, and Construction Management. The event not only expanded HCCC's knowledge, but also opened doors to potential collaborations and partnerships that can further enhance the institution's mission of academic excellence and community outreach.

The NJ Pathways Summit highlighted several important points, including the significance of pathways and the NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities initiative. Work-based learning and apprenticeships were emphasized as crucial for bridging the gap between education and the workforce. Panelists developed on the concept of stackable credentials, where students can



Lori Margolin, HCCC Associate Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, participating a panel facilitated by Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President, New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

accumulate qualifications over time. The summit recognized the value of high-quality continuing education and professional development programs as pathways, providing individuals with specific skills and credentials for employment or further education. The summit facilitated one-on-one interactions with New Jersey employers, fostering collaboration between county colleges and industry representatives to ensure program alignment with workforce needs.



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.

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.

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

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ALUMNI CORNER

Elvin Dominici

Class of 2004

Associate in Liberal Arts – Business



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

I am an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. I came to the United States in 2000 at age 21, unable to speak or write English. I enrolled in college to study Computer Science. My mother told me I could only succeed in this country if I learned English. She knew that Hudson County Community College (HCCC) was the most welcoming and inclusive college in Hudson County, and we decided to investigate if its ESL program was a good fit for me. HCCC provided me with a bilingual education and a clear path to becoming a professional, starting from ESL to an associate degree in Liberal Arts – Business.

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

I enjoyed the welcoming educational experience where immigrants worldwide could learn English and get a professional education. HCCC's diversity and inclusion made me feel at home and pushed me to do my best as a student. The ESL faculty provided a platform for all the students; they were very approachable and encouraging, and stressed the importance of becoming a professional.

How did you become interested in business?

I spoke with one of the College advisors. Recalling that I achieved a high score on the placement exam, he suggested that I study finance. I decided to enroll in Business in Liberal Arts.

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

HCCC allowed me to learn a new language and confirmed that if I studied hard, I could become a professional in America. I was 21, and starting from ESL Level One was difficult.

Today, I am immensely proud of my professional accomplishments. I graduated from ESL Level One and earned my first degree – an Associate in Liberal Arts - Business from Hudson County Community College. Then, I graduated from New Jersey City University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Finance. I have earned two master's degrees: a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and a Master of Accountancy from Saint Peter's University. I am the author of two self-published books – a novel, *Black Rose*, published in English/Spanish, and *Flor de los Deseos*, a book of poetry in Spanish. I write political articles for *The Jersey Journal* about issues affecting my community in Jersey City. I ran for Councilman-at-Large in Jersey City in 2021. Some might say I ran and lost the election, but I was the biggest winner.

What is a typical workday for you?

I am an Assistant Vice President at one of the most prominent financial institutions in the country, Morgan Stanley. I work in the Alternative Investment Department processing transfers for AI securities; these are illiquid and require legal review and documentation approval by the fund administrators. I manage a team (four senior associates and analysts) which oversees AI funds. My position requires two financial licenses to approve operations transfers – Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) and Series 99 – regulated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). These licensing examinations are highly challenging; because HCCC's ESL classes were based on understanding financial terminology, I passed them.

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

I have participated in events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, where I presented my struggles and challenges as an immigrant in the United States. I am incredibly grateful for my immigrant story and the challenges my family and I had to overcome.

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

My mother, Rosa Delia, had to sacrifice the most to allow me to live in this great nation. As a single mother of four children, without a job or money to provide for us, she left our country in 1989. Her determination and hard work have impacted me significantly; she is why I am committed to becoming the best version of myself as a professional, father, and human being.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

HCCC has provided you with the educational tools to pursue career opportunities. You have proven your dedication to your professional education and are one step closer to achieving your dreams. The possibility that has been given to you must be maximized. The battle is you against yourself, and becoming a professional is the biggest goal anyone can accomplish to provide financially for your loved ones and family.

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

The first step in a long marathon takes you closer to the finish line. Time is the most valuable thing anyone can have, and you are using your time wisely when you enroll in college and become a professional. Do not get discouraged by failures and obstacles along the path of your professional education. You must be disciplined, determined, and work hard to achieve your dreams. If you can prove yourselves, and you are capable professionals, you will become successful and achieve your American Dream.

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

