

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Congratulations, New Jersey!

The Community College Opportunity Grant
is now a Promise Signed into Law

Go ahead and register. Earn your degree.
Move forward tuition-free.





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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 April newsletter are due by Friday, March 12, 2021.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

Jennifer Christopher, Director Communications Department
162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 201.360.4061
Fax: 201.653.0607
jchristopher@hccc.edu

PLEASE NOTE:

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GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Fulfilling his promise to make tuition-free community college a reality, on Friday, Feb. 26, Governor Phil Murphy signed A4410, permanently establishing the Community College Opportunity Grant Program (CCOG), which will allow qualified students to attend any New Jersey community college without tuition or educational fees.

“For far too long, higher education has been out of reach for countless New Jerseyans due to its high cost,” said Governor Murphy. “Today’s bill signing underscores our continued commitment to college affordability, ensuring that our young people and working adults have the opportunity to earn post-secondary degrees and advance their promising careers.”

“Today represents a huge win for college affordability and a transformative moment in our state’s history. In the years to come, CCOG will continue offering thousands more eligible students equitable access to a college education for free,” said Dr. Brian Bridges, Secretary of Higher Education. “To emerge stronger and fairer from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are investing in future generations today by expanding affordable options to ensure students’ lifelong success.”

“New Jersey now sends a clear message: county college is tuition-free for students with family incomes of \$65,000 or below,” said David Socolow, Executive Director of the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). “Governor Murphy has enabled HESAA to back up that promise by filling students’ remaining financial aid gaps with more than 25,000 Community College Opportunity Grants since the spring 2019 semester. The impact of this commitment reaches still further, by making an up-front, tuition-free price guarantee that enables tens of thousands of additional students to focus on their postsecondary education without concern about paying the tuition sticker price. Many students can now consider enrolling in college with full confidence that their entire county college tuition will be covered by the State of New Jersey. By raising awareness that college is more affordable, we can encourage more students to pursue courses of study that will enhance their lives and careers here in the Garden State.”

CCOG, which will be administered by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), will provide last-dollar grants to eligible county college students for those tuition costs and fees not already covered by any other State, feder-

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ON THE COVER:

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signs A4410, making the Community College Opportunity Grant Program permanent. The new law will continue to guarantee tuition-free community college education to more than 50,000 New Jersey students each academic year.

Hudson County Community College student and CCOG recipient Suleiny Rodriguez introduces Governor Murphy prior to the signing of the bill.

HCCC UNVEILS COMPLETED STUDENT CENTER



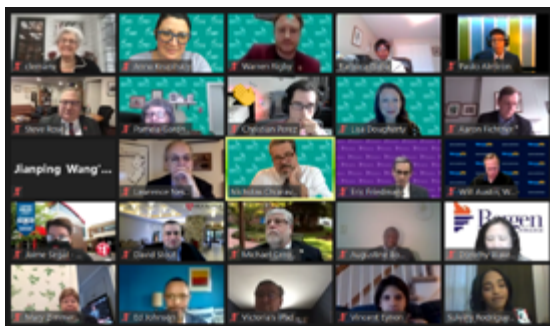
On Friday, Feb. 26, Hudson County Community College officials provided a tour of the recently completed Student Center (81 Sip Ave.) to Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise (foreground, fourth from left). He is pictured with, from left: Lisa Dougherty, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment; Jasmine Ngin, SGA Director of Finance; Trustee Pamela Gardner; HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber; Tyler Sarmiento; Koral Booth; and Suleiny Rodriguez. Pictured in background from left: Dr. Nicholas Chiaravollati, Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President; Veronica Gerosimo; Assistant Dean, Student Life & Leadership; Warren Rigby, 2019-20 SGA President; Dr. David Clark, Associate Dean of Student Affairs; and Christian Rodriguez, SGA President.

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NEW JERSEY'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES ATTEND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT: JILL BIDEN PROMISES TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGES



First Lady Dr. Jill Biden addressing the national legislative summit.



Team members from Hudson County Community College and New Jersey community colleges attending national legislative summit hosted by the ACCT and AACCC.

Community college presidents, trustees and students attended the national legislative summit hosted by the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges. Normally an in-person summit held in Washington D.C., this past year's pandemic forced a new virtual setting.

During the summit, almost 100 New Jersey Community College leaders and students attended a state virtual convening with Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) who discussed the importance of New Jersey Community Colleges providing pathways to education for residents — from first-generation students to those seeking training for new careers.

Dr. Jill Biden also addressed the summit and stressed free access to community college degrees and training programs as an important element

of the Biden administration's plan to rebuild the economy post-pandemic. "We have to get this done. And we have to do it now. That's why we're going to make sure that everyone has access to free community college and training programs," Jill Biden said in a pre-recorded message.

The First Lady, who continues to teach at a community college, said community colleges are no longer America's "best kept secret" as she has long been fond of saying. "They are our most powerful engine of prosperity," she said.

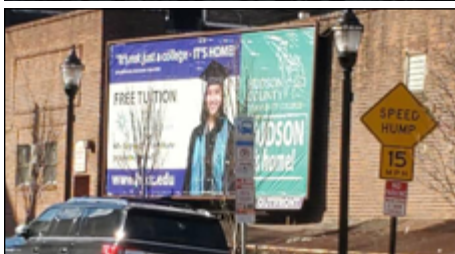
New Jersey is well positioned to implement a Biden program to provide students with tuition-free community college education. The New Jersey Legislature recently passed the Community College Opportunity Grant (COG) program to make community college education tuition-free for individuals in households earning \$65,000

adjusted gross income or less. The CCOG program was first established in the state's FY 2019 budget and assisted more than 18,000 students last year, including recent high school graduates and working adults. Despite the pandemic, nearly 10,000 students received CCOG during the Fall 2020 semester. These students enrolled in a community college and embarked on a path toward earning college degrees and credentials. CCOG expands economic opportunity while helping New Jersey build a productive and innovative workforce that enables economic growth and recovery.

In addition to these sessions, college leaders and students are meeting with the state's full Congressional Delegation to advocate for federal support of community colleges for the benefit of the over 200,000 students – more than half of all undergraduate students in public colleges and universities in the state – enrolled in credit and degree programs at New Jersey's 18 Community Colleges.

About NJCCC: New Jersey's 18 agile and innovative Community Colleges are prepared to lead in the response to and recovery from this public health and economic crisis and to secure a brighter future for all New Jerseyans. The New Jersey Council of County Colleges provides statewide leadership for the advancement of New Jersey Community Colleges, performs coordinating responsibilities as required by law, and coordinates statewide efforts to build a skilled workforce and improve student success. We encourage you to visit our website at www.njccc.org.

HCCC DEBUTS 'HUDSON IS HOME' CAMPAIGN



Hudson County Community College recently initiated a new billboard campaign featuring May 2020 valedictorian Gabriela Melendez.

HCCC AIRS BLACK HISTORY RADIO SPOT ON WBLS

During the month of February, Hudson County Community College's Communications Department arranged for the airing of a Black History Month salute by HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber. The spots aired on the top-rated Steve Harvey Morning Show (6 a.m. to 10 a.m.). The Steve Har-

vey Morning Show is the #1 syndicated morning show in America with nearly 8 million weekly listeners on nearly 100 stations nationwide.

To hear HCCC's Black History Month salute, please visit <https://youtu.be/wx6H0lvVKt0>

HCCC FORMS TIES WITH EL SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR

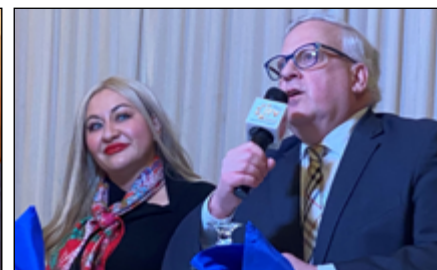


Photo on left: Pictured from left: Dr. Chris Reber, HCCC President; Hon. Roberto Ariel Valle Montes, Consul General of El Salvador NJ; and Tony Villalobo, Latino Advisory Council member. Photo on right: HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (right) with Kerlyn Espinal, New Jersey Department of Education – Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Cultural and Historic Commissions.

In February, Hudson County Community College President Dr. Chris Reber attended a recent gathering with the El Salvadoran Ambassador and other leaders.

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Five Years
Ilya Ashmyan
Aycha Edwards

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Trianne Harabedian
Mary Machado
Richwyn Nicandro

15 Years
Cathleen Sova

NEW HIRES

Monica Buitrago, Instructor, Nursing
(Tenure-track) (effective March 22, 2021)

Jean Leandre, Grant Project Director,
Continuing Education and Workforce Development
(Grant-funded) (effective March 1, 2021)

Maria Lita Sarmiento, Alumni Manager,
Continuing Education and Workforce Development
(Grant-funded) (effective March 1, 2021)

**For information about online, remote,
and on-ground learning and the Col-
lege's on-ground operations, students,
faculty and staff are encouraged to visit
the Return to Campus Task Force web
page - <http://www.hccc.edu/returntocampus/>**

FACULTY TENURE



Eric Adamson



Faisal Aljamil



Peter Cronrath

Applications for tenure are reviewed by a Tenure Review Board and recommendations are forwarded through the Chief Academic Officer to the President for approval and presentation to the Board of Trustees.

The following faculty are recommended for tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor effective Academic Year 2021-22.

Eric Adamson, Instructor of English
Faisal Aljamil, Instructor of Computer Science
Peter Cronrath, Instructor of Business

The criteria for tenure include excellence in teaching, in scholarly achievement, in service to the College and community and in the fulfillment of professional responsibilities.

UPCOMING SURVEY FOR THE GREAT COLLEGES TO WORK FOR PROGRAM – MARCH 8TH!

HCCC will participate in the Great Colleges to Work For program, a national survey designed to recognize institutions that have built great workplaces. Regardless of whether or not we are recognized, the data we receive will be helpful as we continue the process of creating the best workplace possible. We view this survey as a great opportunity to assess the climate of our campus after a year of unforeseen challenges, and to demonstrate our willingness to listen to your concerns.

On March 8, the survey will be distributed to employees. If you receive the invitation, please take a moment to complete the survey. This is a chance to make your voice heard, and a high response rate helps ensure an accurate representation of our HCCC family. At the close of the program, we will receive topline reports that summarize the organizational competencies and relationships that most directly impact and influence our culture.

The survey is voluntary and completely confidential, and will be processed by ModernThink LLC, an independent management consulting

firm focusing on work place quality in higher education. They can be reached at 888.684.4658 or at surveys@modernthink.net.

We encourage everyone's participation and hope you will take this opportunity to share your honest feedback! Please contact Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources, via email akrupitskiy@hccc.edu or by phone at 201-360-1663, or visit www.GreatCollegesProgram.com, to learn more about the program.



HUMAN RESOURCES - FACULTY & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Making the Most of Your WebEx Meetings
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Presenter: T. Clay
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/1ro392ow>
Meeting number: 132 281 1553
Password: hrfsds21tc

Management Orientation
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Presenter: A. Krupitskiy
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/1pj0evfz>
Meeting number: 132 315 7388
password: UxmH3p3iUf7

Understanding Diversity and Inclusion at Work
MONDAY MARCH 15, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Presenter: Y. Pujols & L. Williams
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/1i9hw9vl>
Meeting number: 132 580 6288
Password: hrfsds21pacdei

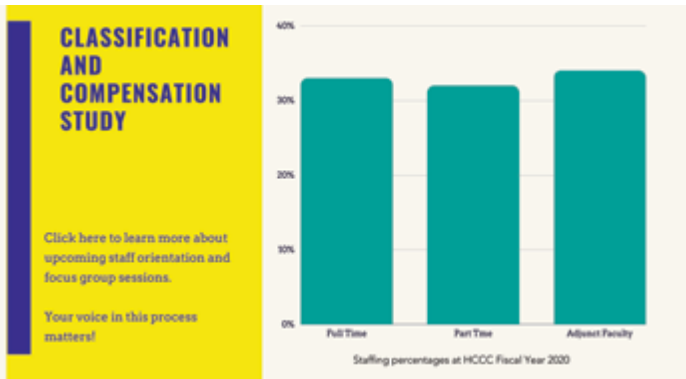
Practicing Exceptional Customer Service
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Presenter: J. Caniglia
Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/12jtyh4r>
Meeting number: 132 338 9249
Password: hrfsds21jc

Time Management
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Presenter: S. Daughtry
Meeting link:
<https://tinyurl.com/1c79h7g6>
Meeting number: 132 126 5144
Password: dmUiXeyF872

Understanding Your Emotional Intelligence
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Presenter: L. Williams
Meeting link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4k7c86b7>
Meeting number: 132 737 3967
Password: hrfsds21

CONTACT US: For more information about a particular workshop, please contact the Office of Human Resources and the Director of Faculty & Staff Development. Unless otherwise noted, all workshops last between 1 to 2 hours and be offered virtually. Please refer to the workshop listing for time, location, and date. To self-register online, visit the following link: <https://myhudson.hccc.edu/fsdevelopment> To register by phone, contact: Faculty and Staff Development, 201-360-4015, llwilliams@hccc.edu

EVERGREEN CONSULTANTS ON CAMPUS (REMOTELY!)



With the guidance and support of Evergreen Consultants, we continue our college-wide review of all employee position descriptions and development of recommendations for creating a new employee classification system going forward. Focus group sessions will be conducted in the first week of March. This will be followed by Evergreen Solutions' Job Assessment Tool (JAT), an individualized employee survey and a central component of the job evaluation process. Your voice in this process matters, and we strongly encourage all employees to complete their JAT. As we expect the work for this study to continue through May, please check the Classification and Compensation Study portal page for more information, including the schedule of the workplan. Please contact Victoria Marino, Director of Career Services via email at vmarino@hccc.edu, or Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources via email at akrupitskiy@hccc.edu with any further questions. Visit Link for more information: <https://myhudson.hccc.edu/classification-study>

#MaskUpHCCC CONTEST

Show us your face masks! We're looking for creative, fun masks that show your **SCHOOL SPIRIT AND CREATIVITY**. While we wear masks to **Be Reasonable, Respectful, and Responsible** to others, we can also wear them to showcase our individual styles!

GUIDELINES

- Submit a selfie or video of yourself (or group) on campus or in the virtual classroom sporting your face covering. Post the pictures on social media (Instagram) and tag it with #MaskUpHCCC or email your submission to HR@hccc.edu
- Contest will begin on Tuesday, February 16 and end at midnight Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, February 28 winners will be chosen by students via online voting (March 1 thru March 5)
- Masks must be appropriate to wear in a professional/college setting. Likes will be used for the winning criteria, but not necessarily to decide the winner.
- Only one entry will be accepted per person.
- e- gift cards will be awarded for various categories, and may include: best group video (class or department), best individual, most creative, original, funny, cultural pride, or HCCC spirit
- All submissions will be reviewed, and the winners selected, by the HR Working Group. Winners will be announced during the week of March 8.
- By entering this contest, winners agree to the use of their names and images in any publicity material, as well as their entry.

OUR STORIES UNTOLD



Submission by Yeurys Pujols, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus, and Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources.

Dr. Paula Roberson was our first featured storyteller for *Our Stories Untold* series program for Spring 2021, which was held on Wednesday, February 24. In the survey responses, a faculty member shared that "Dr. Roberson showed that she is the summation of many parts; a woman, a daughter, a granddaughter, a wife, a mother, a professional." Additionally, a staff member stated, "I love to hear about the influences and accomplishments that help make people become who they are." These positive responses were consistent with all the others that referenced an engaging and powerful story.

Dr. Roberson talked about her childhood and growing up in Paterson, NJ. Upon completing high school, her option was to go to work or go back to school. She continued her road in education with the beautiful mindset of "when you know better, you do better." She also shared glimpses of her family life that include three children and a 15- year marriage. She explained how their military family settled in many places throughout the United States, including Galloway, NJ, Staten Island, NY, Honolulu, Hawaii, Virginia, and South Jersey. She shared her positive experience living on military bases, where everyone became your family, and that she still keeps in touch with many friends from the coast guard.

It was powerful to hear her say that "we are all human beings" and that we all have different personalities, but we can connect with the heart. Dr. Roberson talked about her experience as an educator, teaching Language Arts and Advanced English in the K – 12 system. She shared a story about a student where

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Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a **VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING** on **Monday, March 22 at 12 pm.**

The Town Hall is transitioning to WebEx!
To speak and/or make comments, participants must use the WebEx app on a computer or mobile device.

JOIN THE SESSION AT:
<https://tinyurl.com/nvmr937j>

Meeting number: 132 194 6204
Password: Mar2021

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

To watch the February Town Hall video go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoHaGYQ2tEg&feature=youtu.be>

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,300+ 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.

ARTIST NEWS

Master Printmaker and writer Phil Sanders recently shared some printmaking history, when he discussed the origins of *Accident*, a famous 20th century print by iconic artist **Robert Rauschenberg**, who worked with legendary printmaker **Robert Blackburn**. Also involved was artist Will Barnett, whose portrait of Blackburn is installed on the third floor of the Gabert Library. In addition, since work by Rauschenberg is installed on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library, it seemed fitting to share the story.

In 1948, Robert Blackburn and Will Barnett created the Printmaking Workshop in New York City because many artists had nowhere to create prints due to discrimination. Their extraordinary shop was used by expatriates from Europe, African Americans, and Jewish immigrants who were unwelcome in other city printmaking shops. Blackburn saw art as a grand leveler, an equalizer in society, that could bring people together. The Workshop provided a foundation for Blackburn's extraordinary influence on the development of fine art printmaking in the mid-to-late 20th century.

While Blackburn was printing Rauschenberg's work, the lithograph stone broke. Blackburn was devastated. This is a master printer's worst nightmare. He called the artist to tell him.

"Can it still be printed?" Rauschenberg asked. "Yes!" said Blackburn, who found a way to do it. He created an edition of 29 of *Accident*, published by ULAE and printed by Blackburn and Zigmunds Priede. This changed the course of printmaking. As



Bob by Will Barnett, *Polymer Graveure*, 2005, 10" x 14.75". We have two works from this edition. One can be seen at the North Hudson campus on the 4th floor with a group of other works by Will Barnett. One can be seen on the third floor of the Gabert Library, in a group of portraits of Bob Blackburn.

Sanders said, "Chance was allowed to come in" to the printmaking process. *Accident* won prizes and was called "the print heard round the world," because it established contemporary printmaking as a fine art in its own right.

Sanders also discussed the historic role of prints in informing the public and asking the public to act. Referencing prints going back centuries, Sanders said that the medium insists it is not enough to bear witness to injustice. Prints, which are widely available and affordable, force you to decide where you stand, and what you're going to do about where you stand. This provocative statement is worth consideration.

Please note: Phil Sanders was also the Master Printer who worked with artist **Chakaia Booker**

on the print works displayed in the Gabert library (second floor), and the Nursing Center Media Center at 870 Bergen Avenue. Sanders has a new book called, *Prints and Their Makers*, where he discusses Booker's work in depth. In a recent podcast where the above-mentioned story was told, Sanders also interviewed printmaker **James Siena**. You can see Siena's work on the sixth floor of the Gabert library, to the left of Rauschenberg. If you'd like to listen to the podcast, you can find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLG24q00TwY>

If you've enjoyed the work of the artist **Woolpunk**, whose art is on exhibit on the sixth floor of the STEM Building, you might enjoy her work now on display at the Montclair Art Museum.

Congratulations to Woolpunk, who is also known as Hudson County Community College's Cultural Affairs Director, Michelle Vitale! She will be exhibiting her work, "Blue Carts & Barbed Wired," at the Museum through June 13, 2021 in the exhibition "New York to New Mexico: New Acquisitions," which highlights American and Native American art entered into the collection since 2017. Woolpunk is an American artist, born in Summit, N.J. in 1971. Inspired by an immigrant seamstress grandmother who sewed American flags for a living, Woolpunk machine knits fiber installations, quilts sculptures, and embroiders photographs to influence social change. "Blue Carts & Barbed Wired" is a digital photograph printed on a vinyl banner with a variety of applied textiles and colorful needlework.

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

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

Would you like to explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools?

Go to www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections



Membership in the Hudson County Community College Foundation's dining series is your opportunity to enjoy world-class dining and service in your own backyard, and to help the College in realizing its goals of assisting deserving students! Our Executive Chef, team of culinary professionals, and students make meals at the Culinary Arts Institute into experiences to remember.

The Dining Series will occur over a course of eight Fridays: March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 9, April 16, April 23, and April 30. Service will take place at the Culinary Arts Institute, 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City.

Includes appetizer, entrée, dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages available include beer and wine by the glass or bottle and must be paid by cash or credit card at the time of service. Seating will be limited to 4 diners per table.

Please contact Mirta Sanchez at msanchez@hccc.edu or (201) 360-4004.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents

PROGRAMS:

Wellness Wednesdays with Mindful Play Yoga

<https://www.facebook.com/mindfulplayyoga/>
Facebook Live at 10 a.m.

MARCH 10, "I Am Strong" Women's history. True strength is equal amounts of strength and flexibility

Tune In Piano Series

Curated by Angelica Sanchez
Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, email: galler@hccc.edu

MARCH 17, Maya Karen

Maya Keren (she/her) is a pianist, vocalist, and composer hailing from Philadelphia, PA. She aims to make art that is compassionate and riotous, that smashes expectation and invents new ways of being together. Maya is currently studying Music and African American Studies at Princeton University, where she has been mentored by Kris Davis, Rudresh Mahanthappa, and Angelica Sanchez.

Maya Karen is inspired by the universe-shifting generated by Black queer feminist thought. She feels creatively nourished by the work of radical artists and thinkers like Audre Lorde, Geri Allen, Saidiya Hartman, Angela Davis, Thelonious Monk, and Nicole Mitchell. Maya hopes to create social and musical systems that give voice to BIPOC/queer women and folks of marginalized genders and the imaginative beauty they possess. In this intention, she feels energized by her time spent collaborating with the inaugural cohort of Mutual Mentorship for Musicians, a working group of art-

ists of underrepresented gender identities created by Jen Shyu and Sara Serpa. She has performed at venues like National Sawdust, Roulette Intermedium, and Smalls Jazz Club and has played in the Vermont Jazz Center Solo Jazz Piano Festival and the Philadelphia Jazz and Soul Festival with Marshall Alle.

Saturday Drawing Series with Katie Niewodowski

Zoom and Facebook at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, email: galler@hccc.edu

MARCH 13, APRIL 17, MAY 8

Join artist Katie Niewodowski for 45-minute drawing sessions throughout the spring semester starting Saturday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m. This workshop series is designed for beginners but will inspire drawing love for all levels. Niewodowski is a Jersey City-based artist well-versed in creating and inspiring a love for drawing. She currently teaches drawing at HCCC and Montclair State University. To learn more visit: www.katieniewo.com

Young Masters Art Classes with Kristin DeAngelis

<https://www.facebook.com/youngmastersartclass>
Facebook Live Only on Fridays at 10 a.m.

MARCH 12: Laurie Riccadonna: Eternal Bloom

In Full Color with Summer Dawn

<https://www.facebook.com/infullcolorus/>

Facebook Live and Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 10: Poetry as Activism

Learn the five principles of writing poetry and then practice writing your own activist poems with help from some rapid-fire prompts. Viewers will be invited to submit their activist poems for possible workshopping and performance on April 28.

MARCH 31: *How to Destroy the Patriarchy* (the book!)

In Full Color shares poetry, art and fun, introspective prompts from their "how to destroy the patriarchy in seven days" wellness journal. This book shows how diverse artists' talents can be married with meaningful activist actions to manifest change.

Community Artist Interviews

Hudson Presents: Conversations with Contemporary Artists

FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 p.m.. on ZOOM & Facebook Live

For more information, email: galler@hccc.edu

Hosted by HCCC adjunct professor Michael Lee, this series explores the work of one contemporary New York/ New Jersey area artist in each episode. Guests not only discuss their studio practice but also talk "artist to artist" about the events and culture that have shaped them as people. Spirited and informal, you will enjoy these intimate conversations and share in looking at examples of these artists' works.

March 12, Donté K. Hayes, multi-media artist, dontekeyes.com

For more information, email: galler@hccc.edu

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPEAKER SERIES EVENT FEATURES BREONNA TAYLOR'S MOM



Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted Tamika Palmer, Breonna Taylor's mother, during a College Speaker Series event on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2021.

HCCC Assistant Professor of History, Dorothy Anderson, and HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs, Michelle Vitale, co-moderated the discussion with Ms. Palmer. The live Zoom event opened with a performance by 2020 Jersey City Poet Laureate

Rashad Wright. The event concluded with a virtual tour of the exhibition, "Azikiwe Mohammed: 'Tales from Fold Out Chairs,' and Rashad Wright: 'in heaven's Wakanda,'" which has been curated by Ysabel Pinyol Blasi and is being presented in partnership with Monira Foundation in the HCCC Benjamin J. Dineen and Dennis C. Hull Gallery.

In keeping with HCCC President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PAC-DEI) practices, the College requested that members of the community participate by submitting questions they had for Ms. Palmer.

Breonna Taylor became a lightning rod for the Black Lives Matter movement when she was shot and killed by police in her Louisville, Kentucky home on March 13, 2020. The 26-year-old Black Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) was roused from her sleep when police, suspecting that Tay-

lor's ex-boyfriend was storing drugs in her home, used a battering ram to execute a search warrant. No contraband was found.

The incident fractured Louisville and led to national protests. Taylor's family settled a wrongful death civil suit, and the three police officers involved were fired. Louisville passed "Breonna's Law," which bans "no knock" warrants that allow police to forcibly enter a residence without warning, and requires body cam use during searches. Many social justice activists are calling for police reforms that address systemic racism on a national level.

Those who wish to access the Speaker Series event featuring Ms. Palmer on February 18, 2021 may do so by visiting https://youtu.be/_bs-fnwN51I

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT PEDRO MORANCHEL, JR. SELECTED AS ONE OF JUST EIGHT ATD NATIONAL DREAM SCHOLARS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) student Pedro Moranchel, Jr., has been chosen as one of just eight students in the United States to participate in the Achieving the Dream (ATD) 2021 DREAM Scholars Program.

ATD is a national educational reform network whose work has had a transformational impact on partnering colleges. The ATD mission focuses on helping high-achieving, higher education institutions build equity and capacity in their student success initiatives by using data to inform practice. HCCC joined the ATD Network in 2019 and has adapted a laser-like focus on improving key student success metrics in the areas of student engagement, retention, persistence and completion. DREAM Scholars engage with community activists, education leaders, and peers to enhance leadership, critical thinking, and networking skills.

"The entire HCCC family joins me in congratulating Pedro on this great achievement," said HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber. "This recognition is exceptionally well deserved. He is truly an inspiration to all of us, and we are very proud that he repre-

sented Hudson County Community College at this large national conference of dedicated students and educators."

Pedro Moranchel, Jr. is a 20-year-old HCCC Physics major and the son of Mexican and Honduran immigrants whose struggles motivated him to set ambitious academic goals and work hard. The honors student is Vice President of Scholarship of the College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society, President of the HCCC STEM Club, and Director of the Inter-Club Council of the HCCC Student Government Association. He relates that he has become more driven, talkative, and extroverted through his HCCC experience.

ATD DREAM Scholars are nominated by their institutions, submit applications that reflect on their college journeys, and undergo a rigorous selection process. During their DREAM activities, students meet with community college leaders, share their educational experiences, and attend sessions to improve student success, institutional governance, teaching and learning, administra-



Watch Pedro Moranchel, Jr. recite the poem "I AM FROM" at the DREAM 2021 Conference:
<https://player.vimeo.com/video/511692368>

tion and more. Scholars share presentations that provide insight about improving student success and completion and closing achievement gaps for historically underserved student populations. The DREAM 2021 conference "Data and Technology" theme aligns with Mr. Moranchel's goals.

"I greatly enjoy the intersection of policy action with data, where I feel optimization is key in presenting better decision-making for students," Mr. Moranchel said. "I'm interested in learning

Continued on page 12

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SPRING 2021
**HUDSON
ONLINE**

Classes begin on March 22, 2021

To register, students can register themselves online at libertylink.hccc.edu. For a step-by-step video tutorial on how to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/hccc-cass>

Students who need to meet with an advisor to register can make an appointment at www.calendly.com/hudsoncass.

www.hccc.edu/remoteservices

Questions?

Call (201) 714-7200 or text (201) 509-4222

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

VETERANS PRIORITY REGISTRATION

HCCC appreciates our Veterans and thanks them for their service.

To show our gratitude, we will offer
PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR VETERANS

Registration beginning March 31!

STEPS TO ENROLLMENT:

Apply at www.hccc.edu/apply and use promo code "VETS2021" to waive the \$25 application fee

Contact HCCC's Veterans Certifying Official, Willie Malone, at veterans@hccc.edu or (201) 360-4135

REGISTER FOR CLASSES!

To review all of our remote services, visit www.hccc.edu/remoteservices.

*To be eligible for priority remote registration, Veterans must show proof of service, which includes: DD-214, Military ID or Eligibility Letter.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES THE NEW SEASON WITH ART, POETRY, TIMELY DISCUSSIONS, MUSIC, YOGA, AND MORE

Beginning in February, the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Department of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) will host a fresh season of extraordinary, online events from the College's Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery.

Here is just a sampling of the events and exhibits available in February:

Laurie Riccadonna: *Eternal Bloom* celebrates HCCC Professor Riccadonna's years of dedication to her artistic practice and teaching career. The exhibit of paintings was curated by Michelle Vitale, Director of the HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs. The recipient of the 2020 Association of Community College Trustees Northeast Region Faculty Award, Professor Riccadonna has overseen the HCCC Art Department as professor and department coordinator for the past 18 years. A graduate from Yale University School of Art, she continues to amaze with her masterful work. This virtual exhibition may be viewed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dineenhullgallery>, and will travel to the State University of New York - Old Westbury.

Azikiwe Mohammed: *Tales from Fold Out Chairs* and Rashad Wright: *in heaven's wakanda* is presented in partnership with the Monira Foundation and may be viewed from February 4 through April 2, 2021. The exhibition was curated by Ysabel Pinyol Blasi. Mr. Mohammed is a New York-based artist who simply identifies as a "dude who makes stuff." His art has been displayed in galleries worldwide. Rashad Wright is the 2020 Jersey City Poet Laureate whose works and performance art have been heard on local and national stages. Information may be obtained by emailing galler@hccc.edu.

Wellness Wednesdays with Mindful Play Yoga – During the first session on February 17 at 10 a.m., participants will explore the theme "Let it Grow," inspired by Laurie Riccadonna's exhibition. The event will be online at <https://www.facebook.com/mindfulplayyoga/>.

Tune In Piano Series, curated by Angelica Sanchez, kicks off on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. with guest, Jacob Sacks, an esteemed educator who synthesized his experiences as a musician and artist with his experiences as a student of Sophia Rosoff, Garry Dial, and Mark Kieswetter. Mr. Sacks has led master classes domestically and internationally. He teaches at the New School (New York) and has a private practice in Brooklyn, NY. Information is available by emailing galler@hccc.edu.

HCCC 'Speaker Series' Presents Breonna Taylor's Mother, Tamika Palmer on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 12 noon. The live Zoom event will open with a performance by the 2020 Jersey City Poet Laureate Rashad Wright. The event will conclude with a virtual tour of the exhibition, "Azikiwe Mohammed: 'Tales from Fold Out Chairs,' and Rashad Wright: 'in heaven's Wakanda.'" HCCC Professor Dorothy Anderson and HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs Michelle Vitale will co-moderate the discus-

sion with Ms. Palmer. Those who wish to access the "Speaker Series" event featuring Ms. Palmer on February 18, 2021 may do so by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/HCCCTamikaPalmer>.

The Young Masters Art Class with Kristin DeAngelis on Friday, February 19 at 10 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/youngmastersartclass> will take youngsters through "A Closer Look: Monira Foundation Presents Azikiwe Mohammed."

Hudson Presents: Conversations with Contemporary Artists series opens by presenting an in-depth dialogue between HCCC Professors Laurie Riccadonna and Michael Lee on Friday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. on ZOOM and Facebook Live. The series will explore the work of New York and New Jersey artists in this and each upcoming episode. ZOOM information is available by emailing galler@hccc.edu.

Saturday Drawing Series with Katie Niewodowski gets started on Saturday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m. on ZOOM and Facebook. Though designed for beginners, the workshops will inspire a love of drawing for all levels of experience. Ms. Niewodowski is a Jersey City based artist who teaches drawing at HCCC and Montclair State University. ZOOM information is available by emailing galler@hccc.edu.

Information on all of the upcoming HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs exhibitions and educational programs may be obtained by visiting www.hccc.edu/culturalaffairs.

SAVE THE DATES: HCCC Dineen Hull Gallery and Art Department team up with Seton Hall University and Art House Productions for an exciting Wikipedia edit event. Lecture – Wednesday, March 24, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Edit-a-Thon – Wednesday, April 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Prestigious Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Announces 2021 Semifinalists from 398 Community Colleges Around the Country

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced on Feb. 22 the semifinalists for its highly competitive Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Through this award, the Foundation supports exceptionally talented community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees.

Today, nearly half of postsecondary students begin their college journey at a two-year institution. Research commissioned by the Foundation found that community college students who transfer to selective institutions have equal to or higher graduation rates as students who enrolled directly from high school or transferred from four-year institutions. Yet, at the nation's top colleges, only five percent have transferred from a community college. The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship seeks to increase the number of community college students completing their education at top four-year institutions.

This year's 406 semifinalists were chosen from a pool of over 1500 applicants attending 398 community colleges in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

"The research is clear: our community colleges are full of talented students with a diversity of experiences that contribute to their educational journey. We see this in our applicant pool every year, and are excited to recognize this group of semifinalists for their academic achievements," said Seppy Basili, executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "We are especially impressed by the incredible perseverance and drive these students have exhibited during such an unprecedented year."

The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship recipients will be announced in April. In addition to financial support, selected Cooke Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advising from the Foundation to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year school and preparing for their careers. Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will additionally receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of over 2,800 fellow Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

Cooke Transfer Scholars are selected based on their exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, service, and leadership. Students must be currently enrolled in community college and residing in the United States.

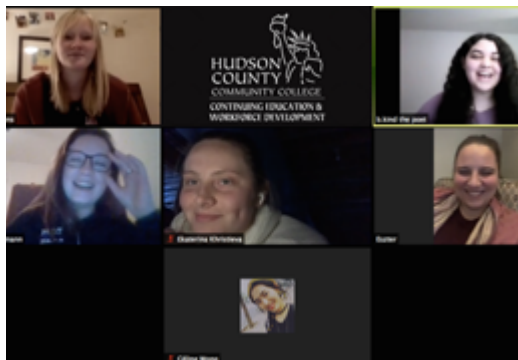
Among the New Jersey semifinalists, Hudson County Community College students are Sofia Pazmino, Gerardo Leal, Pedro Moranchel, Jr., and Adoum Allamine.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded over \$222 million in scholarships to over 2,800 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive educational advising and other support services. The Foundation has also provided \$115 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. www.jkcf.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Students practice their English skills in Continuing Education's Virtual ESL class



Brianna Heim speaking at Continuing Education's Online Business Entrepreneurship class



Project Management Instructor, Susan Seradilla-Smarth, during Continuing Education's PMP Certification Program.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

In January 2021 Continuing Education launched a new "staggered weeks" schedule for its ESL classes, as well as the new course, "ESL Every Day Skills."

The staggered schedule has three different styles of ESL classes beginning and ending on different weeks throughout each semester. This provides more flexible options for students who cannot take classes at the same time.

How it works- The hybrid ESL classes, which meet on campus one day a week and virtually one day a week, begin first. Two weeks later, the fully Virtual ESL classes begin, and approximately two weeks after that, the virtual "ESL Every Day Skills"

program begins online. ESL Every Day Skills focuses more on conversational English and brushing up on common writing and reading subjects that may arise on a daily basis. It's a great program for students to take in between levels to keep their skills sharp and to practice what they have learned in class with other students in a less formal environment.

For more information on Continuing Education's ESL offerings, please contact ce@hccc.edu or visit www.hccc.edu/continuing-education/esl

Online Business Entrepreneurship

On Sunday, February 21, HCCC alum and CEWD team member, Brianna Heim, joined Continuing Education's Online Business Entrepre-

neurship class as a guest speaker. Brianna spoke about her writing and experience self-publishing. She shared her personal story, lessons she learned, and gave advice on promotion and publishing through Amazon.

Brianna, also known as "B. Kind the Poet," has used her time during the pandemic to publish two books: "Backstory: The Ramblings of a Hispanic Christian Teenager" and "Letters to God: The Ramblings of a Hispanic Christian Teenager." Both books are available in print and on Kindle and can be purchased through Amazon at: www.tinyurl.com/bkindthepoet

Project Management (PMP) Certification

On February 22, Continuing Education launched a new cycle of the Project Management Certificate Program, which is a live and fully online course that consists of project management essentials, PMP certification test prep, and career readiness components, such as resume writing, interviewing, and job search skills.

Instructor, Susan Seradilla-Smarth, who is ASQ Certified, with over 18 years of experience as a Project Manager Professional (PMP) and is a Certified Six Sigma Black Belt and Certified SCRUM Master, leads classes each week with a series of lectures, videos, and quizzes, and shares her real-life experiences and lessons learned.

This certificate counts towards the necessary hours of the educational requirements that are necessary to sit for the Project Management Professional (PMP)[®] or the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)[®] certification exam, should students choose to pursue accreditation.

For more information on the Project Management Program please contact amuniz@hccc.edu.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Now is the time to explore all services available to your business. Classes are affordable and can be covered through New Jersey Business and Industry Association grant funds, pending eligibility and availability. All classes can be offered online or at your location.

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www.hccc.edu/BusinessIndustry

BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS-REMOTE WORK/DIGITAL LITERACY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS (WRITTEN AND VERBAL)

CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS:

DEVELOPING GOOD MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:

MICROSOFT OFFICE SKILLS (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook):

PROBLEM SOLVING

SPANISH FOR THE WORKPLACE

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Mental Health Resource for Our Students: TalkCampus



What is TalkCampus, and how can it help?

 Online global mental health support network
  Peer-to-peer support
  Access to instant, any time 24/7

College Students who have participated in peer support has been linked to:



An increased ability to cope and feel less alone



Higher levels of self-esteem and confidence.



A greater sense of well-being and resilience.



TalkCampus is a team of volunteers who are trained in active listening and providing support online. They have safeguards in place to monitor in real-time crisis and will launch interventions as needed. If they detect that a student is in crisis, they will launch platform interventions and escalate support in real-time. TalkCampus will have direct communication with H.C.C.C. Mental Health Counseling & Wellness.

As an added benefit, HCCC students can volunteer & get training on how to be a peer support buddy.

Access TalkCampus 24/7: <https://www.talklife.co/hudson-county-community-college>

If you have any questions, please contact Doreen M. Pontius, M.S.W., L.C.S.W. at 201.360.4229 or email mentalhealthcounseling@hccc.edu



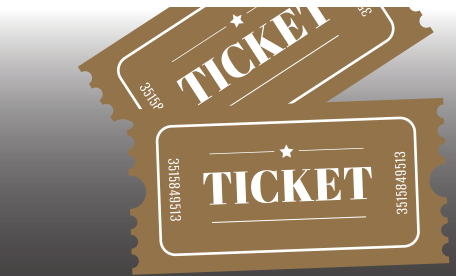
JOIN THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT TO AMPLIFY FEMALE ARTISTS THROUGH WIKIPEDIA



ART + FEMINISM

LECTURE + WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON

LECTURE • MARCH 24 • 12:30PM-1:30PM EST • ON ZOOM
 EDIT-A-THON • APRIL 7 • 10:00AM-1:00PM EST • ON ZOOM

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40% of ticket sales

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Tickets \$50 each

Second Prize
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Winning ticket will be drawn on **Thursday, April 15**

Third Prize
4% of ticket sales

To purchase a raffle ticket or for more information: Please contact Mirta Sanchez at mrsanchez@hccc.edu or (201) 360-4004.

www.hccc.edu/foundation




ACHIEVING THE DREAM UPDATE

Update on HCCC's Student Success Work

From February 16 – 19, 2021, 28 members of the College community, including five students, attended the virtual DREAM 2021 Conference. The DREAM Conference is Achieving the Dream's annual flagship conference. Programming at DREAM 2021 was focused across the following five themes: centering racial equity; anchoring a bold, new access agenda; leveraging our localness; listening in new ways in the age of big data; and, fostering teaching and learning excellence.

HCCC's Achieving the Dream Dream Team continues to implement the College's Student Success Action Plan through eight How Teams. Each How Team is tasked with implementing one specific strategy of the Action Plan. The How Teams are pleased to share the following updates on their work.

How Team 1.1 ("ESL") is currently analyzing the Fall 2020 outcomes for students who were placed through the Directed Self Placement protocol. Co-leads: Jenny Bobea & Alexa Riano.

How Team 1.2a ("AF English") is currently examining the exit process for AF English. Next, How Team 1.2a will explore alternate modes of writing assessment and analyze the Fall 2020 outcomes for students who were placed through the Directed Self Placement protocol. Co-leads: Lauren O'Gara & Robin Singer.

How Team 1.2b ("AF Math") is currently organizing a workshop for the standardization of grading. Next, How Team 1.2b will analyze the Fall 2020 outcomes for students who were placed through the Directed Self Placement protocol. Co-leads: Laura Samuelsen & Kyle Woolley.

How Team 2.1 ("Student Leaders") were engaged in a project documenting student voices throughout the Fall 2020 semester. How Team 2.1 will continue to work on this project as it resumes meeting this spring. How Team 2.1 looks forward to sharing the project with the College community. Co-leads: Koral Booth & Abou Traore.

How Team 2.2 ("Remove Barriers") is currently analyzing course schedule offerings for equity gaps. How Team 2.2 will be distributing a survey aimed at evaluating the current course design of

CSS-100. Co-leads: Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay, Jason Figueroa, & Victoria Marino.

How Team 2.3 ("Hudson Helps") is working in collaboration with Enrollment Services to develop and implement questions on the Admissions Application that assess what kinds of academic and non-academic services students would be interested in receiving at the College. How Team 2.3 will be reaching out to other institutions with programs similar to Hudson Helps to learn about their best practices. Co-leads: Dr. David Clark & Dr. Ara Karakashian.

How Team 2.4 ("Academic Supports") is building on the momentum established by the College Service Day Presentation on "How to Make Teaching More Inclusive" by Dr. Valerie C. Dudley and developing a workshop on creating inclusive learning environments at HCCC. Co-leads: Joseph Caniglia & Jacqueline Safont.

How Team 2.5 ("Pre-Nursing") is a new addition to our Student Success Action Plan. This How Team will examine data related to momentum and persistence of students in the pre-nursing cohort. How Team 2.5's objective is to help students who are not accepted to the Nursing Program persist in their academic studies at HCCC. Co-leads: Heather DeVries & Dr. Sheila Dynan.

Did something catch your eye? How Teams always welcome new members. To get involved, contact Heather DeVries (hdevries@hccc.edu) or Dr. Sheila Dynan (sdynan@hccc.edu).

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EARN AN AVERAGE OF
\$42,000
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Year Up is a one-year career development training and paid internship program for motivated young adults, ages 18 to 26, seeking to launch a career in Business or Tech. To speak to a Year Up recruiter, visit <https://bit.ly/YUNYJ1to1>.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The Office of Admissions & College Enrollment
Hudson County Community College
admissionsnyj@yearup.org | (646) 341-6800

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual ATD Coaches
Visit Tuesday, March 16
through Friday, March 19.

HCCC STUDENT PEDRO MORANCHEL, JR. - ATD NATIONAL DREAM SCHOLARS

Continued from page 8

more about navigating through data, and using a research lens to provide unique insights. To be able to produce change also drives me, and is a common denominator of my ambitions."

Mr. Moranchel is also interested in fostering diversity. "The STEM workforce isn't as diverse racially or socioeconomically relative to other domains. Bolstering community college students would bring new perspective," Mr. Moranchel said. "I hope to be able to someday produce diversity programs connected to STEM as a professor or person of influence in my local community."

OUR STORIES UNTOLD

Continued from page 5

her stern but nurturing approach helped the student calm down and eventually do well in her class. She added that this particular experience equipped Dr. Roberson to work with other similar students known to other teachers to be challenging or difficult.

Dr. Roberson's story included a plane ticket purchase to South Africa. This trip changed her life and earned her the Education Commissioner's Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award for her education fieldwork. Her advice to participants was that if you see something you want to do, take risks and chances. As an Educational Opportunity Fund student at Ramapo, she took advantage of Student Affairs trips at the college. These trips exposed her to lots of cultural affairs, which shaped who she has

become. A student later stated that they "related to her story ... and her message of "if you want to do something, do it!"

Our Stories Untold storytelling emerged as a partnership between the Office of Human Resources and the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI). This series highlights the HCCC community members' personal, educational, and professional experiences, advice, and insight. Each program aims to introduce some of our outstanding and influential colleagues to enhance inclusion and create community. Do you know someone with an inspirational story? Do you want to tell your story? Tell us by contacting PACDEI@hccc.edu.

THE SOULS OF BLACK PROFESSORS

By Paula Roberson, Ed.D.

On Friday, February 26, the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation held an intimate discussion with three professionals of the College. The conversation was grounded in *Inside Higher Education's* "The Black Experience" series focusing on Black Americans in Higher Education with Professor Velino Joasil, Royal Mainor, and Dr. Roberson. Social isolation, lack of mentorship, and lack of leadership roles at the College was a concern. One professor shared how she was hired with a group of two other professionals who went on to more prestigious roles and her resume was consistently passed over despite the fact that she had an earned doctorate. President Reber joined the conversation and sought concrete ideas to bring back to leadership based on the discussion. Dr. Roberson mentioned

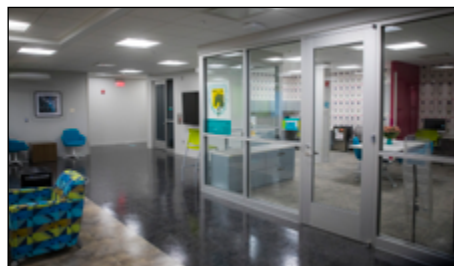
that diversity, equity, and inclusion should be part of everyone's responsibility, not just an appointed group. President Reber commented that the Latinx group was underrepresented proportionately at the College in leadership and that we have a Black Vice President.

Professor Joasil stated that, Black faculty and staff should be on the table in terms of their unique needs reflecting on the struggles he experienced without mentorship prior to tenure. The conversation was applauded as a safe space to speak our mind. Dr. Jones-Lewis expressed the fact that Dr. Reber brings a different sense in terms of that there is something here that we can feel and touch. Through the soulful voices of the attendees, an expected and hopeful perspective of acceptance and change is on the horizon.

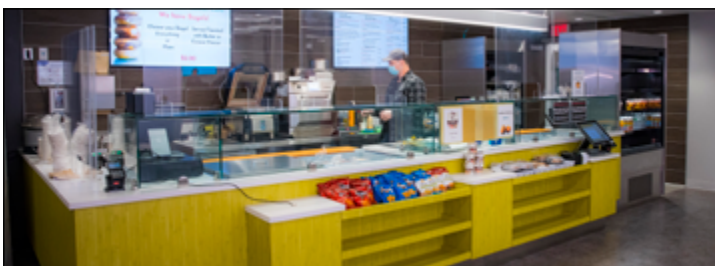
HCCC UNVEILS COMPLETED STUDENT CENTER



"The Bunker," space for veteran students and services, on the first floor.



Offices for Student Government Association, on the second floor.



A café serving sandwiches, salads and stir-fry entrees, located on the first floor.

DON'T MISS
Hudson County
Community College
OUT of the BOX
PODCAST



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC IS:

ACHIEVING THE DREAM (ATD)
WITH GUESTS:
Crystal Newton and Tyler Sarmiento




Tune in to our monthly podcast for 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.

Please be advised that the Student Affairs Division and Enrollment Services will be attending an all-day Team Training event on **Friday, March 5, 2021**

The following departments will be CLOSED on both college campuses and remotely and will reopen on Monday, March 8 at 9 a.m.

- Accessibility Services
- Admissions
- Advisement & Counseling
- Bursar/Student Accounts
- Career Services
- Early College
- Enrollment Services
- EOF
- Financial Aid
- Registrar
- Student Life & Leadership
- Student Services
- Testing & Assessment

GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO PERMANENTLY ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Continued from page 2

al, and institutional need-based grants and merit scholarships. Students with adjusted gross incomes of \$65,000 or less will be eligible to receive this financial grant for a total of five (5) semesters. This legislation also directs the Legislature to appropriate funding for the "Student Success Incentive" to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, for distribution to each county college. This funding will be used to support outreach and student success initiatives to further the goals of the CCOG grant program.

Since taking office, the Murphy Administration has taken meaningful steps toward tuition-free community college. The CCOG grant program was first enacted through budget language in the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations act. The grant program received a \$20 million appropriation in Fiscal Year 2019 and a \$25 million appropriation in Fiscal Year 2020. The appropriation to the grant program for the Fiscal Year 2020 three-month budget extension totaled \$10 million and the appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act for the nine-month period was also \$10 million, making the total financial aid funding for that 12-month period \$20 million. For the current Fiscal Year budget of 2022, the Governor has proposed \$27 million to support the CCOG grant program.

"County colleges have long played a vital role in educating students from working-class families across New Jersey. By providing 'last dollar' financial aid to eligible students, we will make sure they have every opportunity to graduate without having to take on burdensome student loans," said Senator Sandra Cunningham, chair of the Senate

Higher Education Committee. "I am grateful to see this meaningful initiative codified into law, ensuring it will continue to help low-income New Jerseyans for many years to come."

"The Community College Opportunity Grant Program has provided valuable opportunities for low-income students and working parents to advance their education and expand their career opportunities. It represents a monumental step towards a more equitable higher education landscape by ensuring an associate's degree is accessible to all New Jersey residents regardless of their economic status," said Senator Teresa Ruiz, chair of the Senate Education Committee. "Education is our greatest equalizer and today, by codifying this program into state law, we have assured that it will be available to all who need it in the years to come."

"The rising costs of college tuition, books and fees are often out of reach for many college students and their families," said Assembly Majority Leader Louis Greenwald, Assemblywoman Mila Jasey, and Assemblyman Daniel Benson, in a joint statement. "A college degree has become the standard for entry into many industries and workplaces, but too many students must take on enormous debt in pursuit of higher education and a successful career. The Community College Opportunity Grant closes the gap for middle class and low-income students, helping to balance costs not covered by State and federal aid. It makes college more affordable and accessible for students who may not otherwise be able to further their education. We've already seen this program's outstanding potential to open doors for students across New Jersey. We are proud this new State law will benefit future generations."

"CCOG is an important investment in our students and in our state's economic future. The program has the potential of transforming the lives of a generation of New Jersey residents," said Assemblyman Nicholas A. Chiaravalloti. "This tuition scholarship program supports our most vulnerable residents, for whom a college education is unaffordable. CCOG not only assists individuals in earning a degree or credential, but also builds a skilled workforce that will close critical skills gaps in our state. As someone who works in higher education, I have seen the incredible benefit of the CCOG program. At Hudson County Community College (HCCC), I am constantly amazed by the perseverance of the students who attend. They come to class every day prepared and ready to learn, and I have found that this has not changed even though we have switched to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They serve as a daily inspiration. CCOG will help remove a barrier to their success."

"As a result of this investment, thousands of New Jerseyans are able to embark on career pathways, to prepare for jobs that pay family-supporting wages, and to contribute directly to the state's economic growth and recovery," said Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

"Our Hudson County Community College family is honored to welcome Governor Murphy to our campus for the signing of Community College Opportunity Grant (CCOG) legislation that will permanently fund this vital financial aid program," said Dr. Chris Reber, President of Hudson County Community College (HCCC). "We thank the Governor, our state and local officials, HCCC Trustees, students, alumni, friends, and colleagues. CCOG is an investment in the people of our communities and their dreams. The program is providing life-changing opportunities for students to acquire postsecondary educational credentials that open doors to fulfilling careers with family-sustaining wages. We are exceedingly grateful to Governor Murphy for his leadership and support for CCOG and New Jersey's 18 community colleges."

Suleiny Rodriguez, Hudson County Community College- Suleiny Rodriguez immigrated to this country four years ago, and she found it difficult to continue her education in college until she discovered Hudson County Community College. Suleiny says that the College cares about her academic success and growth, and assisted her in obtaining a Community College Opportunity Grant to pursue a culinary career. The CCOG grant has been "much more than a blessing." The grant has allowed her to pursue her studies full-time, without having to work full-time to pay for her college level courses. Suleiny is immensely thankful for the people who make this financial assistance possible and available for her and to other students across the state.



HCCC Food Pantries now offer fresh and frozen food options for those in need.

For a complete list of items to donate, visit the food pantry page at
<https://myhudson.hccc.edu/food-pantry>

The food pantries hours of operation are:

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY
 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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NORTH HUDSON
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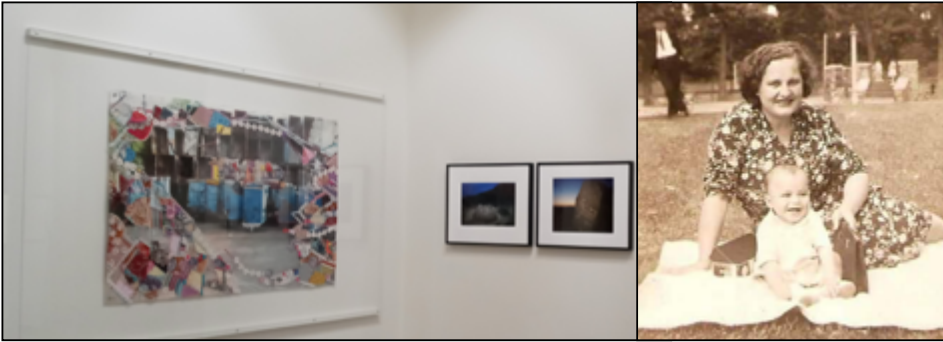


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PROFESSIONAL NOTES



Michelle Vitale (aka Woolpunk), Blue Carrs and Barbed Wired. She says about the piece: "When my grandmother first immigrated to America she sewed American flags right down the street from the Museum in Verona, N.J. She was a trained seamstress. She stood on the dock of Naples three times desperate to come. The third time, she said goodbye to her family. Her father told her he believed in her over other siblings because whenever she fell off the donkey, she got right back up. One hundred years later, my work is now being celebrated right down the road from the same factory she first obtained work. She is and always will be my inspiration."

Director of Cultural Affairs **Michelle Vitale** (aka Woolpunk) was guest speaker for the Montclair Art Museum's Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony on Feb. 25. She congratulated 900 New Jersey teens selected for Scholastic Art Awards.

Her work was recently selected to be part of the permanent museum collection and is featured in the lobby. The work will be on view until August.

Adjunct Studio Art instructor **Sophia Kayafas** is co-hosting a program on WNET, "Flow State/ North Brooklyn Artists." In her first episode, Kayafas talks with Fred Tomaselli, an internationally recognized painter. Please visit <https://allarts.org/programs/flowstate-north-brooklyn-artists> to view the episode.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 3

APA/MLA Overview, 12 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m4be4a3330c52517308444f4bc88f32af>; Passcode: YZcKZ2PCx95

Friday, March 5

Student Affairs/Enrollment Services offices closed for Team Training (Accessibility Services, Admissions, Advisement & Counseling, Bursar/Student Accounts, Career Services, Enrollment Services, EOF, Financial Aid, Registrar, Student Life & Leadership, Student Services, Testing & Assessment)

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 11:30 a.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Getting Started with Rosetta Stone, 2 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=mcd2e1c1a09d7854b764d5ab7e22acaa0>; Passcode: ypE3vvgZB23

Facilitating Student Feedback (ACUE Workshop), 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/facilitating-student-feedback-tickets-142288656201>. Join at Zoom: <https://us-04web.zoom.us/j/76881673283?pwd=bUJaZ3pSZDLTS84cTR2Y0Q5VERkZz09>; Meeting ID: 768 8167 3283; Passcode: feedback

Trivia Night: Women's History Month, 6 p.m. Visit <https://involved.hccc.edu/> for event link.

Saturday, March 6

United Collegiate Women's Leadership Conference (<http://ucwlc.com/>), 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Student Life & Leadership is sponsoring the attendance of 10 HCCC students to the Miller Institute's United Collegiate Women's Leadership Conference. Email studentlife@hccc.edu by March 2 to show interest in attending.

Tuesday, March 9

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91776383505?pwd=Z1owS2RLK1lnUVgvUzh0cUppelYvQT09>; Webinar ID: 917 7638 3505; Passcode: 103120

Wednesday, March 10

Wellness Wednesdays with Mindful Play Yoga, 10 a.m., <https://www.facebook.com/mindfulplayyoga/>

Friday, March 12

Young Masters Art Classes with Kristin DeAngelis, 10:30 a.m., <https://www.facebook.com/young-mastersartclass>

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 11:30 a.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

The Doctoral Journey, 2 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/webappng/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/download/8f1f69a4b8dc448dbb4853bf3af2abd2?siteurl=hudsonccc&MTID=mf5459ab617cbd7df9e429d5b9277be4a>; Meeting number (access code): 132 780 3706; Meeting password: jMxpJD3Jb32

Community Artist Interviews – Hudson Presents: Conversations with Contemporary Artists (featuring Donté K. Hayes, multi-media artist, dontekeyes.com), 6:30 p.m. on Zoom & Facebook Live. For more information, email: gallery@hccc.edu

Saturday, March 13

Saturday Drawing Series with Katie Niewodowski, Zoom and Facebook at 2:30 p.m. For more information, email: gallery@hccc.edu

Monday, March 15 to Sunday, March 21

Midterm exams/Advisement Period

Friday, March 19

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 11:30 a.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Monday, March 22

Classes begin for Online Session B

Virtual Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m00032f4e8b9e1e043acf7789bc5fc843>; Meeting number: 132 194 6204; Password: Mar2021

Tuesday, March 23

HCCC Nursing Virtual Information Session with Jersey City Free Public Library, 5 p.m. Join at <https://jclibrary.zoom.us/j/85458180458>

Wednesday, March 24

HCCC Speaker Series featuring Former NASA Astronaut Dr. Cady Coleman, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To submit a question for Dr. Cady Coleman, email studentlife@hccc.edu by March 15 with "Dr. Cady Coleman" as the subject line.

All College Council General Meeting, 3:30 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=md13685c847fbb2189704780eb1286d36>; Meeting number: 132 070 1860; Password: sharedgovernance

Friday, March 26

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 11:30 a.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Trivia Night: Beyoncé, 6 p.m. Visit <https://involved.hccc.edu/> for event link.

Monday, March 29 to Sunday, April 4

Spring Break – No classes

ALUMNI CORNER

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Kristina Mejias

Class of 2016

Associate in Science in Business Administration

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

I decided to attend HCCC because of my previous experience at a University. I knew attending a Community College would be different and I didn't want to spend a lot of money to get the same results.

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

My favorite memory is the Professors that I had. Most of them were great and I still keep in contact with them now. Especially my PTK advisor Professor Lai.

How did you become interested in Business Administration/Teaching?

I became interested in business when I was young so I decided that it was the best route for me. I have had my own cleaning business since my early teens. I used what I've learned in HCCC to expand my business. I have also opened another business after I got my degree.

Oddly enough my business degree has helped me get into teaching. I realized that a lot of kids are becoming entrepreneurs at a young age. I didn't want them not to have the knowledge about business until they were in college like me. I found myself giving more and more advice to students at my school so I asked my principal if I could start a club. This eventually turned into a class for seniors and then the honor students.

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

HCCC showed me the gaps I was missing in my business. It also showed me how to do things like my own accounting books to save money. This has helped me keep my business afloat during these troubling times.

What is a typical work day for you?

My typical day is spent in front of my students virtually. It's not ideal but it's great to have another avenue to teach my students.

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

One of the most memorable projects I worked on with my students was watching them create business plans. A few of them were selected to receive the start up cost for their business backed by an alumni of the school.

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

The biggest inspiration that has impacted my work is my daughter. She is a student with an IEP so I approach every class and student with much more empathy and understanding because of it.

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

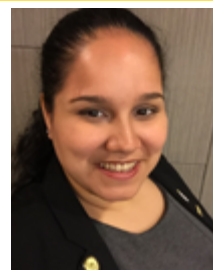
My biggest inspirations are my daughter and my students. My daughter would come with me to all the PTK events and inspired me and everyone else to be and do better. My students have an eagerness to learn and that drives me to want to learn too. I have begun to continue my education further because of this. I want to be able to share as much knowledge with them that I can.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

I would tell graduates not be afraid of making a change whether it be in career or life. I started down a path that has now branched out into so many different avenues. I have a degree in Business but teach for a living. I still have my business but my passion is now teaching and molding young minds.

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

I would tell new college students don't rush. Find your passion. It may not be right in front of you but you'll get there.



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.