

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT NAMED TO NJBIZ 'EDUCATION POWER 50' FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW



### In this issue



Hudson County Community College President Participates in Roundtable with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo



HCCC Wins Prestigious Signature Grant from The Provident Bank Foundation for Award-Winning Hudson Scholars Program

HCCC Recognized as a '2023 Great College to Work For®' with Special Honor Roll Designation





**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

*HR News* ..... 4

*PTK news* ..... 9

*Continuing Education Programs* ..... 10

*Alumni Corner* .....12

**From the Editor’s Desk**

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

Items for the November newsletter are due by Friday, October 13, 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](mailto:communications@hccc.edu)

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**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT NAMED TO NJBIZ ‘EDUCATION POWER 50’ FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW**

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees Chair, William J. Netchert, Esq., announced that HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber has again been named to the NJBIZ “Education Power 50” list.

“This is the third year in a row that NJBIZ has recognized Dr. Reber with this well-deserved honor,” Mr. Netchert stated. “We are very proud of him and everything he has done to promote student success, and diversity, equity and inclusion. He continues to address the challenges of helping the people of our community attain their educational goals, enjoy well-paying, sustainable careers, and achieve lasting improvement in Hudson County’s workforce.”

One of the biggest challenges facing colleges throughout the United States is student retention. Since becoming HCCC President in July 2018, Dr. Reber has established a culture of caring, connectedness, and commitment to student success. As a result, people of color, first-generation college students, immigrants, career changers, and recent high school graduates all call HCCC “home.”

Under Dr. Reber’s leadership, the College designed and developed groundbreaking programs

to ensure student success. These include the innovative, national award-winning “Hudson Scholars” program that utilizes proven best practices and provides proactive advisement, financial stipends, and early academic intervention to ensure that a greater number of students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities complete their college education, achieve their goals, and realize their dreams. Additionally, the College strengthened its culture of care with the “Hudson Helps Resource Center” where students can access a one-stop, comprehensive array of services, supports, and resources that address needs beyond the classroom.

Dr. Reber approached Hudson County’s need for an educated and skilled workforce by collaborating with corporate America, manufacturing organizations, unions, and educational partners to offer opportunities for those who are traditionally underrepresented and marginalized. The Holz Technik Eastern Millwork and HCCC Apprenticeship Program is an earn-as-you-learn program that provides participants with high-tech careers and debt-free college degrees while meeting the area’s need for skilled workers in

*Continued on page 11*

**ON THE COVER:** Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber serving at various functions during his tenure.

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN ROUNDTABLE WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE GINA RAIMONDO**

**D**r. Christopher M. Reber, Hudson County Community College President, was one of a select group of Hispanic-Serving Institution leaders to meet recently with United States Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. The roundtable discussion was held at the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C. and was hosted by Dr. Antonio R. Flores, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) President and Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Lena T. Rodriguez, HACU Senior Vice President for Policy and Government Relations.



*Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber (fourth from left) is pictured here with other participants of the HACU “Capitol Hill & Cabinet Conversations” event in Washington, D.C.*

Joining Dr. Reber at the event was Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University; Dr. Angelica Varela Llavona, Rector of the University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras; Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda, Chancellor of University of Illinois-Chicago; Dr. Brad L. Mortensen, President of Weber State University; Diana Z. Rodriguez, Chancellor of San Bernadino Community College District; Juan Salgado, Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago; Dr. Dennis Tyner, President of Ottawa

University; Guillermo Diaz, Jr., Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Conectado, Inc.; Maria Pia Tamburri, Dominion Energy Vice President of Intergovernmental Affairs; and Xiomara Santos, HACU Director of Government Affairs.

In his remarks to the Secretary and HACU’s honored guests, Dr. Reber discussed how HCCC utilizes data, best practices, and public-private partnerships to offer opportunities for those in

*Continued on page 9*

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 'INSPIRING PROGRAMS IN STEM' AWARD FROM INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Dr. Burl Yearwood (standing, second Hudson from left), Dean of County Community College School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, with members of the STEM faculty at the beginning of the Fall 2023 semester.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RETURNS FOR YEAR FIVE OF METALLICA SCHOLARS INITIATIVE



Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has been invited to continue as part of the Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI). Pictured here, HCCC President Christopher Reber and colleagues, and MSI program students and instructors.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION, AND ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR, SELECTED AS HACU LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) serves one of the most ethnically and racially diverse cities in the United States, and HCCC students reflect that diversity. About 55% of the College's student body is Hispanic. Many of these students are inspired to pursue and attain their academic dreams through engagement with administrators, faculty, and staff who share common experiences.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has selected Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Dr. Yeurys Pujols, as a Fellow in the fifth cohort of the HACU Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo. In addition, HCCC Associate Registrar, Irma Williams, was selected to participate in HACU's inaugural Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program as a recipient of a Capital One grant. They were selected from hundreds of individuals in executive and mid-level positions at Hispanic-serving colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Dr. Pujols is one of three HACU Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo Fellows from New Jersey, and one of 50 from across the United States. The HACU Leadership Academy is designed to increase diversity in executive and senior-level positions in higher education. The one-year program offers an array of leadership development activities with an emphasis on Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Emerging HSIs, and includes webinars and seminars. HACU Leadership Academy faculty include current and former presidents, chancellors, and senior administrators.

Ms. Williams is one of three New Jerseyans among the 56 HACU Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program Fellows. The six-month HACU Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program is designed to increase the number, variety, and quality of Latino talent in leadership positions at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and in higher education. Fellows will participate in programming covering academic and student affairs management, regional institutional accreditation, diversity, equity and inclusion, and higher education advocacy.



"Our leadership academy Fellows have already proven the value of the Association's efforts to increase diverse representation within the upper echelons of higher education by assuming top positions at colleges and universities across the nation," said HACU President and CEO, Dr. Antonio R. Flores. "Students benefit from having leaders from a wide range of backgrounds, and bring a range of professional and life experiences

*Continued on page 9*

## HCCC WINS PRESTIGIOUS SIGNATURE GRANT FROM THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION FOR AWARD-WINNING HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is proud to be named the recipient of one of The Provident Bank Foundation's (PBF) three 2023 Signature Grants.

PBF was formed 20 years ago to support the schools and nonprofit organizations that "provide valuable services to the communities served by Provident Bank." PBF's Signature Grant program "emphasizes sustainable community enhancement, meaningful impact, and long-term change" as the Foundation "seeks to build relationships with organizations that have the capacity and drive to facilitate the creation or expansion of programs that address the chronic problems impacting quality of life in our communities."

For 2023, PBF offered three \$100,000 grants, one for each of three funding priorities: Education; Community Enrichment; and Health, Youth & Families. These grants will fund the creation or expansion of innovative programs that address systemic problems in our communities and their root causes.

The focal point for the Education funding priority is "innovative programming that expands access to, and improves the quality of, academic development opportunities and educational experiences."

HCCC's Hudson Scholars Program was chosen as a bold and innovative program that PBF will fund in 2023. Developed under the leadership of HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, and winner of the prestigious 2023 National Bellwether Award for Instructional Programs and Services, the Hudson Scholars Program expands academic access and drives student success through a unique combination of proactive academic advisement, financial stipends, high impact educational experiences, and early academic intervention. In addition to its recognition as a cutting-edge program by the national Bellwether College Consortium, Hudson Scholars was also awarded The League for Innovation in the Community College's 2021-22 Innovation of the Year Award.

Through a multifaceted approach, Hudson Scholars has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on student success. First-time, full-time 2021 Hudson Scholars persisted fall-to-fall at a rate that is 32% higher than that of other students. Additionally, 99% of Hudson Scholars who met with their Academic Counselor on a monthly basis were retained the following semester.

*Continued on page 11*

# MILESTONES

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

## FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Karina Arango  
Rimsha Bazaïd  
Adesuwa Ehimwenman  
Juan Peralta

5 Years

Marselly Almanzar  
Moses Dindial

15 Years

Cesar Castillo

25 Years

Liliam Hogan

## PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Ely Amaya  
Kalenga Batubenge  
Christopher Gabriel  
Diego Gonzalez  
Concepcion Marquez-Aguilar  
Hajar Murray  
Rabab Saleh  
Luz Tellez  
Kিয়েইথা Ward

5 Years

Bola Ladeji-Kuku

15 Years

Marisa Daponte

## APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Andrew Adler, Assistant Director of Advisement, Student Services Operations

Alesha T. Booth, Development Manager

Brianna Casagrande, Assistant Director of Advisement, North Hudson Operations and Development

Samantha Ceballo, Assistant Director of Advisement, Advising Training and Staff Development

Mackenzie Johnson, Assistant Director of Advisement, Program Operations and Development

Elizabeth Ryan, Assistant Director of Advisement, Data and Assessment

## APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

August 16, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Thomas Andolfo, Instructor, ESL (Nontenure track)

Annie Barran, Instructor, Nursing (Non-tenure track)

Walter Lindsey, Instructor, English (Non-tenure track)

Jasmine Pascua, Instructor, Culinary Arts (Non-tenure track)

Artur Ujazdowski, Instructor, ESL (Non tenure track)

## Benefits Open Enrollment

October 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

## UPCOMING HR EVENTS

### Steps For Wellness Information

In collaboration with the College Life Committee of the All-College Council, the Office of Human Resources will launch Steps for Wellness. Steps for Wellness is an 8-week program that takes place every semester. The program is designed to promote self-care, balance, and wellness, and is an opportunity to engage students and employees, celebrate individual and group achievement, and have some friendly competition. Weekly updates, inspirations, and group activities are shared and there are prizes to be won.

**Informational Session:** September 20, 2023

**Dates of the Program:** September 25, 2023 to November 19, 2023

Weekly submissions are entered on the HR webpage under "Steps for Wellness- Wellness Benefits" at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b9a20c9c6412439f97a03141551586c0>

There will be a group walk on October 20, 2023 (more information to be shared).

### Wellness Fair 2023 for Faculty and Staff

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Main Event will be held at the Culinary Conference Center on the Journal Square Campus. Free Flu Shots and Wellness Educational Workshops (Available at both NHC and JSQ Campuses).

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

### Handling Financial Stress

(All Employees, Live, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

A significant subset of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck right now, including many with six-figure incomes. Are you one of them? What can you do about it? This course focuses on concrete ways to stabilize and support your income, control your spending and plan for emergencies.

### Inspiring Employees to Take Ownership of Their Work

(Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

We often see "good" employees who get the assigned task done well but are hesitant to take ownership of their work to "next steps," innovation or collaboration. In this session we will discuss tactics to empower employees to achieve and excel.

### Master Your Spending

(Prerecorded; available 24/7 through Oct. 31) – This webinar teaches you to master the emotional side of money and regain financial dignity. Topics discussed include: Why traditional budgets fail and what you need instead; the two key things you need to do before planning; how to have productive money discussions with your significant other; keys to outsmart emotional spending before it happens; how to create a personalized plan that works for you. The webinar will provide a Spending Plan worksheet to apply the principles learned, and will help you become and stay financially healthy.

To sign up for these webinars, visit [eap.ndbh.com](http://eap.ndbh.com), enter company code HCCC, and scroll down to the "Check Out Our Webinars" box. Questions? Contact with your EAP account manager, HR department or 800-624-5544.

## APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Karine Davis, Interim, Director, Accessibility Services  
September 16, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Regina Espino, Receiving Clerk, Temporary Full-time  
August 16, 2023- December 31, 2023

Anne Hutchinson, Librarian, Temporary Full-time  
September 16, 2023- December 31, 2023

Aaron Patel, Support Analyst, Temporary Full-time,  
NHC - September 16, 2023 - October 31, 2023

## MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

N/A, Internship Coordinator, N/A, 109, September 16, 2023

ESL Specialist (Grant-funded), Associate Director, ESL (Grant-funded), N/A, 115, September 16, 2023



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
Tuesday, October 24, 2023  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

**In-person at:**  
Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Rm., Jersey City, NJ

**Virtual at:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/TownHall-october>

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

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A '2023 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®' WITH SPECIAL HONOR ROLL DESIGNATION

While many criteria may be used to determine whether a workplace is a great place to be employed, perhaps the most valued assessment is that of employees. For the second year in a row, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has been honored as one of the 2023 "Great Colleges to Work For®" with an important plus – special designation as a "Great Colleges to Work For®" Honor Roll institution.

ModernThink LLC selects the "Great Colleges to Work For®" using a two-prong methodology: the ModernThink Higher Education Insight Survey© administered to faculty, administrators, exempt professional and non-exempt staff, as well as adjuncts at two-year colleges; and the ModernThink Higher Education Institution Questionnaire® (IQ) that captures employment data and workplace policies from each institution.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber said that the College is one of 72 higher education institutions – 22 two-year and 50 four-year – selected for "Great Colleges to Work For®" designation from a large nationwide field of college

and university entries. "Knowing that employees' feedback was the primary factor in earning "Great Colleges to Work For®" recognition makes this honor especially important," he stated.

Of this year's "Great Colleges to Work For®," only 42 were designated stand-outs and named to the "Great Colleges to Work For®" Honor Roll. Honor Roll designation is awarded based on the number of times schools excelled in individual recognition categories. HCCC received this special acknowledgement in seven of the ten employee survey categories: Job Satisfaction and Support, Professional Development, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Mission and Pride, Shared Governance, Faculty Experience, and Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Now in its sixteenth year, the "Great Colleges to Work For®" program is one of the largest and most respected workplace recognition programs in the United States. Karen Kukulka, Chief Operating



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (second from right, second row) with the College's 2022-23 League for Innovation in the Community College Excellence Award winners.

Officer at ModernThink, stated: "Participation in the Great Colleges program alone demonstrates a commitment from colleges to opening a dialogue with their faculty and staff. Pair that commitment with recognition in a key area of engagement, and you've got a group of institutions who are putting the best practices of employee engagement to work – they are walking the talk."

## THE HCCC FOUNDATION: AN UNWAVERING SUPPORTER OF THE COLLEGE AND ITS STUDENTS



2022 Foundation Gala



2023 Foundation Golf Outing



2022 Foundation Donor Dinner

Hudson County Community College has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, recording many notable achievements. Over the past year, more than 1,500 students graduated, a college-record, six HCCC students were nominated as semi-finalists for the Jack Kent Cook Foundation Award, and the cutting edge Hudson Scholars program won the prestigious 2023 National Bellwether Award for Instructional Programs and Services. Behind the scenes, the Hudson County Community College Foundation is working tirelessly to promote HCCC and its students and to provide the financial resources needed to fuel this growth.

The HCCC Foundation is committed to the belief that all Hudson County residents should be afforded the opportunity to acquire a college education and enjoy the lifelong benefits and transformative power of higher education. To make this vision a reality, the HCCC Foundation works to find and secure the funding that provides scholarships for students, seed money for new and innovative programs like Hudson Scholars, stipends for faculty development, capital to assist the College in its physical expansion, and resources to address the basic needs of our HCCC community members and students beyond the classroom.

Just as the College has made great strides in recent years, so has the HCCC Foundation. Under

the leadership of Vice President for Advancement and Communications Nicole Bouknight Johnson and Chair Monica McCormack-Casey, the Foundation has built upon its previous success and evolved into a high-powered philanthropic apparatus by implementing modern best practices and procedures.

Total funding raised for scholarships has grown significantly in recent years and is trending up again in 2023-2024. From 2021-2022 to 2022-23, scholarship funding increased 57% year over year from \$133,509 to \$209,666. This year, the Foundation is on track to outpace last year's growth and revenue generation continues to gain momentum; net revenue is up \$450,000 over May 2022. Since last summer, nearly a dozen new endowments were established with supporting Memorandums of Understanding.

The Foundation also produces popular events including the HCCC Foundation Golf Outing, Night at the Races, the upcoming Foundation Gala in collaboration with our culinary arts colleagues, and other celebratory events such as the donor scholar reception. The Subscription Dining Series has become a highly anticipated fixture on Jersey City's social calendar each fall and spring. These events are enjoying increased popularity in recent years, and attendance now exceeds pre-pandemic levels. In addition to fostering a sense of community and

connection, these events generate meaningful funding for the College.

These high-profile events are the most visible and public-facing aspect of the Foundation, but there is also plenty of work that goes on behind the scenes. The Foundation is adapting to the evolving philanthropic landscape by adopting new policies and procedures. The Foundation Board implemented its first ever investment policy and selected a financial services firm to actively manage its assets for the first time. The Foundation also adopted its first Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy as well as a new Endowment policy last year. As funding has grown, the Foundation hired a part-time bookkeeper to manage its finances, and the Board's Finance Committee implemented a number of new reports. These changes have all increased transparency and professionalized the way the Foundation's finances are handled, transforming it into a dynamic and modern philanthropic organization. With an eye towards the future, the Foundation Board will support the work of major gift, grant and endowment development. The creation of these policies will help to show donors that the Foundation is a good steward of capital.

Additionally, donors can now give to HCCC in more ways than ever before. A new, secure  
*Continued on page 7*

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,880+ 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.



Left to right: Patrick Cullen, Historian for the Town of West New York; Richard LaRovere, artist; and HCCC President Chris Reber at a reception for the artist September 15, 2023.



Richard La Rovere, "Journal Square, Jersey City c. 1945," hand-colored print (2013), 16.75"x 19.75" in the 2nd floor STEM computer lab.



Donation from the Carol Adler Trust by artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, color lithograph of Irish singer May Belfort 31.5"x25"

## Donor Acknowledgment

Thank you to Jersey City artist **Ben Jones** for donating a catalog from his recent exhibition at William Patterson University. Jones, whose oil-stick drawing "Shango Wallpaper Series #4, #29" is installed on the 3rd floor of the STEM building, is having a retrospective at South Gallery and East Gallery of William Paterson University through December 8 called, "The World of Ben Jones." The exhibition, which shows six decades of the artist's work, is dedicated to his grandfather who often said to young Ben, "Our humanity is determined not by how we treat the powerful but how we treat the weak." Also through December 8, in the University's Court Gallery, you can see work by artists Ben Jones has mentored, including Bisa Washington, whose lithograph, "Never Forget," is in Gabert Library 420, the Social Science reception area.

Thanks to a recent donation from a group of the Carol Adler Trust, you can now see four 1890s art works by world-renowned artist **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec** on the fifth floor of the Gabert Library. The best known is *May Belfort*, a lithograph in color depicting its namesake, an Irish singer who rose to fame in Parisian nightclubs in the 1890s. The other pieces include *Le Tocsin La Depeche*, another lithograph in color, and two black-and-white lithographs: *Yvette Guilbert dans la Gluem*, and *Yvette Guilbert, Linger Longer, Loo*. Lautrec is best known for his depictions of theatrical people, and the bohemian scene that thrived on the fringes of respectable society in late 19th-century Paris. He was a prominent figure within the Post-Impression movement in France in the late 1800s

and early 1900s.

The late **Carol Adler** was an early donor to the Foundation Art Collection, and a great friend of the Collection. She lived much of her life in New Jersey, and dedicated herself to art and philanthropy. During the 1970s, Adler did heroic work helping oppressed musicians in the Soviet Union who were seeking to escape to the United States for artistic freedom. She came from a family of activist philanthropists. Most notably, in the early 20th Century, her ancestor Julius Rosenwald worked with Booker T. Washington to quietly fund over 5,000 schools for African American children in the South. The effort has been called "the most important initiative to advance Black education in the early 20th Century." Continuing that legacy of charitable giving, the Carol Adler Trust donated 12 important works to our college, including the Toulouse-Lautrecs, a woodblock by the noted Japanese artist **Hiroshige** (you can see this along with Japanese prints on the lower level of 2 Enos Place), and other works that we hope to install soon. We will let you know as they are installed throughout campus!

## Artist News

New Jersey artist **Siona Benjamin**, whose work is installed in the Gabert Library studio arts classroom 516 and the fifth floor of the Culinary Conference Center, is having an exhibit, "Siona Benjamin: Lilith in the New World," at the Montclair Museum through August 2024. The artist is an Indian-American-Jewish person, who explores her transcultural and multicultural identity through her artwork. She was raised in Mumbai, India as a member of the Bene Israel

Community, and immigrated to the United States in 1986 to study. She earned an MFA in painting, and an MFA in Theater set design. She has also won two Fulbright Fellowships. The exhibit is a monumental banner, 13' high and 30' wide. Lilith is a figure in Jewish mythology who was allegedly Adam's first wife. The artists combines styles including, "Pop art, Bollywood, street graphics, Indian folk images, Persian miniatures and Hebrew manuscripts."

New Jersey artist **Dahlia Elsayed**, whose work is installed in many places on campus, including the second floor of 2 Enos Place, the 4th floor of the STEM building, and the 5th floor of Gabert Library is having two New York City exhibits this fall: "Real Feel" through October 7, 2023 at the Morgan Lehman Gallery, 526 West 26th Street, Suite 410 in New York City, and "Center For No Center: A Reading Room" through December 9, 2023 at the Ford Foundation Gallery, 320 E 43rd St, New York, NY 10017.

If you missed the exhibit at the Jewish Museum that closed October 1, called, "After 'The Wild': Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection," you might enjoy this short video about the wonderful work of **Judy Pfaff**: *Judy Pfaff | Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection - YouTube* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU-YEHwno0t=227s>) Prepare for a few minutes of delightfully bright color and pattern. You can also see Pfaff's work on the third floor of 70 Sip Avenue in the Hudson Helps area.

**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](mailto:nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu)

**To donate artwork, find detailed information here:** [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html](http://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](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html)

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
presents



**HCCC Creative Artist Network featured at Art Fair 14C**

October 12 to October 15  
Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

Art Fair 14C is an internationally celebrated art fair based in New Jersey. Now in its fifth year, HCCC alumni will curate and exhibit work. Co-curated by Salma Abdelwahed and Elaf Hussein featuring other alumni and current student work.

## Follow Us

For more information, email: [mvitale@hccc.edu](mailto:mvitale@hccc.edu) or visit [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc](https://www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery](https://www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery)

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE 9/11 MEMORIAL

Twenty-two years ago, 2,977 people were killed when terrorists attacked the nation, targeting the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93. In all, citizens of 78 countries died and thousands were injured. A generation later, remembrances are held each year by families who lost loved ones, adults who grew up without parents, workers who lost colleagues, and supporters who continue to honor the lives lost.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) invited students, faculty, staff, and community members to a special 9/11 Memorial on Monday, September 11. The event was held in the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery and Atrium of the HCCC Gabert Library at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City.

"The 9/11 terrorist attacks changed our way of life and our skyline but strengthened our resolve," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "More than 700 New Jerseyans, including 155 Hudson County residents, lost their lives. We will never forget them."

The event's keynote speaker, Victoria Regina Lockhart, was working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on the 63rd floor of 1 World Trade Center when the first hijacked plane hit Tower One. The author, singer, and evangelist shared her memories of that day during the HCCC Memorial.

In her book, *The Day I Lived*, Ms. Lockhart recounts her harrowing experiences of 9/11, providing a poignant exploration of the day's events.



Author and 9/11 World Trade Center survivor, Victoria Regina Lockhart.

She wrote: "Shortly before the hijacked plane hit the building, I looked at the clock and said to myself, 'The receptionist should be here shortly...' and BOOM!! The building swayed from side to side like a piece of paper." The emotional resonance of her story, especially her family's relief upon hearing her voice, is incredibly powerful. Ms. Lockhart believes in the power of music and ministry. "I don't call myself a survivor; I believe you survive by chance and endure by choice ... I am a victor!" she notes.

A key feature of the rooftop terrace that adjoins HCCC's Atrium is the World Trade Center steel fragment that came to the College from the Office of the Executive Director at the New Jersey State Museum. Part of the *Remember 9/11* exhibit at the Museum in 2013, the sculpture was donated to the College when the Museum sought appropriate institutions to display the fragments. Specifically, the steel fragment is believed to be from the North Tower's East Façade, floors 89-92.

## THE HCCC FOUNDATION

*Continued from page 5*

online platform makes giving a quick and seamless process, and the Foundation can now accept gifts of stocks and ETFs for the first time. The volume of annual appeals has increased, and employee giving is now a point of pride, as evidenced by the success of College Service Day.

Meanwhile, the Foundation is also the driving force behind the HCCC Foundation Art Collection, which has grown from just a few dozen pieces to an impressive collection of over 1,800 works of art in a short time span. Not only is the artwork used for teaching purposes, it enriches the lives of HCCC's students and the entire community. The Collection isn't under lock and key -- students walk through a curated collection of pieces by renowned artists on their way to class each day. Recently, the HCCC Foundation Art Collection secured the donation of four lithographs by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, which instantly joined the ranks of the most important pieces in the Collection given the artist's stature and influence.

Beyond these milestones, the impact of the HCCC Foundation can be seen in the thousands of students it has helped over the years. The Foundation has awarded nearly \$4 million in scholarships to over 2,000 deserving students over the years.

While HCCC has changed in many ways over the years, the HCCC Foundation has always been there as an unwavering supporter of the College and its students. Now, with new policies and procedures, a dedicated and talented Foundation Board, and renewed momentum in fundraising, the Foundation looks forward to making a difference in the lives of future HCCC students for many years to come.



Join us at the **FALL 2023**  
**OPEN HOUSES**

**Join us to:**

- Receive a tour of our campus
- Meet with Financial Aid and find out if you are eligible for free tuition
- Complete an Admissions application
- Engage with different academic programs
- Speak with students, faculty, and staff

Registration is required!



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**  
Journal Square Campus  
Student Center, 81 Sip Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
<https://tinyurl.com/OH-JSQ>



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
North Hudson Campus  
4800 Kennedy Blvd.  
Union City, NJ  
<https://tinyurl.com/OH-NHC>

[www.hccc.edu/openhouse](http://www.hccc.edu/openhouse)





## HACU LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

*Continued from Page 3*

that can meet the challenges of our multicultural institutions of higher education.”

HCCC President, Dr. Christopher Reber, said, “The entire HCCC family is extremely proud of Dr. Pujols and Ms. Williams, and pleased they have been selected for these honors. These fellowship experiences will allow them to learn from other participants, and their participation will enhance the other Fellows’ overall experience.”

A proud HCCC alumnus, Dr. Pujols exemplifies the College’s values and the immigrant experience of HCCC students and peers. After emigrating to the United States from the Dominican Republic as a young boy, he had to learn English as his second language, and his financial situation required him to work full time while attending HCCC. Dr. Pujols’ experiences as a young man raised by a single mother motivated him to work hard while facing uncertainty at every step along his journey. After graduating from HCCC with his Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from New Jersey City University (NJCU), Master of Arts degree in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University, a Diversity and Inclusion certificate from Cornell University, and a Doctor of Education degree in Community College Leadership from NJCU.

Dr. Pujols has worked at HCCC for more than 17 years, progressing from serving as a Counselor, to Executive Director of HCCC’s comprehensive North Hudson Campus, to the College’s inaugural Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He also has nearly ten years of experience teaching history at HCCC and NJCU. As Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Pujols built the Office of DEI from the ground up, selecting and

engaging staff who espouse the College’s vision for promoting an institutional climate that embraces and celebrates differences while championing inclusive practices, policies, and procedures in all HCCC activities. Dr. Pujols is highly involved with the greater Hudson County community, was recognized by Save Latin America with the Juan Pablo Duarte Award, and has been a guest speaker at national and local educational and community-oriented events.

Ms. Williams joined HCCC in December 2017, serving always with students’ success in mind and offering solutions and alternatives to students’ complex scheduling issues. As HCCC Associate Registrar, she collaborates with the Office of Academic Affairs on multiple projects and class scheduling, diligently working with faculty and staff colleagues. Ms. Williams serves on the cross-functional Enrollment Management Council, the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, and Academic Standing Committee. She is the lead for two major HCCC projects: the implementation of “Coursedog” scheduling and academic catalog platform, and the digitization of all student records.

Ms. William previously served as Registrar at Notre Dame University of Maryland; Senior Associate Registrar at University of Maryland; and Registrar and Director of Student Accounts at Saint Peter’s University. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Education, with a Concentration in Supervision and Administration, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, from Saint Peter’s University. She is the 2022-23 President of the New Jersey-New York Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

## ROUNDTABLE WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

*Continued from page 2*

traditionally underrepresented and marginalized communities.

“We are doing this work in partnership with corporate America; with manufacturing organizations through registered apprenticeship programs; with unions through articulation of union apprenticeship training into postsecondary educational pathways that lead to credentials; with other educational partners to align noncredit and credit credentials including our work with the national Noncredit and Credit Alignment Lab; and so many others,” Dr. Reber stated.

Dr. Reber revealed that the semiconductor manufacturing sector is an area of focus for the College as industry leaders forecast global semiconductor spending to reach \$1 trillion annually by 2030. “We want to use our expertise and partnerships to create customized workforce development programs that align with industry needs, address the skills needed to work in semiconductor manufacturing plants, and produce

a stable pipeline of qualified workers,” he said. Dr. Reber added that HCCC’s goal is to create a semiconductor manufacturing center at the College that can be replicated at other institutions, and will help move traditionally underrepresented and underserved populations into well-paying jobs and family-sustaining careers.

The HACU “Capitol Hill & Cabinet Conversations” program coincided with the observance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week, September 11-17, 2023. In addition to the roundtable, the participants also toured the FBI; had a working lunch with Dr. Jon B. Gant, Director, Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; participated in a panel discussion with Jessica G. Gavazos, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development, and Robert Santos, Director of the United States Census Bureau; and attended a White House meeting with the Domestic Policy Council.

## THE NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS FALL 2023 INSERVICE AT LIBERTY STATE PARK

by Joseph Caniglia



On September 22, 2023, The North Hudson Campus held its Fall 2023 in-service at Liberty State Park. There were over twenty participants who attended including faculty, staff, and administrators. The day involved collaboration, welcoming remarks, and North Hudson Campus updates from Executive Director Joseph Caniglia, ice breaker activities, and team-building activities conducted by Amaalah Ogburn, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus, and Pedro Santiago, the Assistant Director of Student Life and Leadership. Everyone enjoyed themselves and had the opportunity to share ideas and build friendships. A special thanks to Amaalah Ogburn who worked very hard in the essential planning of the event.

## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



*Youstina Semaan, Matasha Carles-Novikov, and Justin Masquera volunteered at the Bayonne Nature Club and Hackensack Riverkeeper cleanup at Rutkowski Park and Newark Bay on August 12.*



## SAVE THE DATE

Phi Theta Kappa  
Induction Ceremony  
Friday, November 17, 2023  
6:00 p.m.  
Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street  
Jersey City, NJ

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### HCCC's ACCESS Program Celebrates Successful Completion of First Cohort

The Center for Adult Transition at Hudson County Community College is proud to announce the successful completion of its first-ever cohort of the ACCESS (Accessible College and Continuing Education for Student Success) Program. This 10-week pre-college and employment transition initiative, made possible by a grant from the NJ Office of The Secretary of Higher Education, has opened doors of opportunity for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Five dedicated students, fueled by their aspirations and unwavering commitment, have not only completed the program but are also set to embark on a 90-day post-program follow-along journey with the Center for Adult Transition team to further strengthen their skills and support their career and workforce goals.

The Center for Adult Transition is located on the fifth floor of the Culinary Conference Center,

Journal Square Campus, and serves as a safe space for students where the transformative post-secondary academic journey begins. Under the guidance of passionate instructors Carlos Fernandez and Adrienne Payne, Academic Coach Darius Gilmore, Associate Director Maritza Reyes, and Career Advisor Tania Martins, our students learned work-readiness skills, computer skills, and explored their interests, strengths, and passions to build a plan for their future through career planning.

The second cohort is already in session, but the ACCESS Program operates on a bi-weekly open enrollment schedule, welcoming new applicants who are eager to embrace the life-changing opportunities offered at HCCC.

With a strong foundation of support and a supportive environment, HCCC's ACCESS Program is empowering individuals to pursue academic programs and workforce training programs along with linkages to in-house and



community resources. The ACCESS Program is a testament to the institution's commitment to inclusivity and the belief that everyone deserves a chance to achieve their dreams.

As the first cohort sets out on their post-program journey, and the second cohort begins the ACCESS Program continues to be an example of how dedication, passion, and hard work can lead to endless opportunities to improve the quality of life of our students. We look forward to witnessing more inspiring stories of growth, achievement, and empowerment in the months ahead.

For the access program information below is the contact Maritza Reyes [mreyes@hccc.edu](mailto:mreyes@hccc.edu) or Tania Martins [tmartins@hccc.edu](mailto:tmartins@hccc.edu).



### Water Workforce Utility Program

On Wednesday, September 13, 2023, the School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD), in partnership with New Jersey Future and Jersey Water Works, held their Water Workforce Kickoff Reception. The reception was held to celebrate the beginning of the Water Workforce Utility Program, which is comprised of a cohort of 15 students. The program is led by the Associate Vice President of CEWD, Lori Margolin, Director Catherina Mirasol, and Dean of STEM, Dr. Burl Yearwood, in collaboration with the Director of Jersey Water Works, Paula Figueroa-Vega. The purpose of the program is to provide students with an introduction to the water industry and to strengthen the water sector as many workers are set to retire in the upcoming years. Through the program students will receive training to prepare for internships and entry-level positions in the water workforce. Students will also receive training in OSHA 10, Basic Math Skills, Career Readiness, Customer Service, and CPR.

The program is a total of 50 hours through the course of 8 weeks and consists of in person and virtual learning.

The Water Workforce Utility Program is grant-funded by Bank of America so there is no cost to the students. Participants in the program will also receive a total of up to \$1,000 in stipends upon successful completion of the program. Recruitment for the program started in April of this year through different events such as information sessions, fairs, and distribution of flyers. As a result, up to 55 potential candidates demonstrated interest in the program, and over 30 applied to the program. After the screening process, a total of 15 students were selected. We welcome our students as the first cohort of the pilot Water Workforce Utility Program and look forward to seeing them successfully complete the program.



*The School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, along with Dr. Azhar Mahmood and his faculty from the School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, offered Construction Management students the opportunity to interview with a major infrastructure contractor. J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., a large infrastructure development contractor in New Jersey. Two of their representatives visited the College on the Sept. 13. They met and interviewed 10 students for paid internship/co-op positions. The students were excited about this opportunity, and the representatives were equally impressed that they offered internships to two of our students. We look forward to continuing to provide similar opportunities for our students in the Construction Management area.*

## Upcoming Programs **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Department of Continuing Education, 161 Newkirk Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 360-4224 | [CE@hccc.edu](mailto:CE@hccc.edu) | [www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation](http://www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation)

### BASIC AUTODESK REVIT (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays & Sundays  
Monday, October 7, 2023, through October 29, 2023  
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Price: \$650  
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3rvyyh>

### NICET ASPHALT TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays & Sundays (32 Hours)  
October 14, 2023, through November 5, 2023  
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350  
<https://tinyurl.com/5534wub2>

### INTRODUCTION TO INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ONLINE)

Saturdays & Sundays  
Monday, October 21, 2023, through October 29, 2023  
9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | Price: \$199  
<https://tinyurl.com/2z2nbxk3>

## HCCC PRESIDENT NAMED TO NJBIZ 'EDUCATION POWER 50'

*Continued from page 2*

advanced manufacturing. As part of the American Association of Community College's Metallica Scholars Initiative, which is offered by HCCC in partnership with New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC), previously incarcerated individuals are provided with cost-free instruction and a pathway to certification in welding. HCCC also works with NJRC to provide training for industry-recognized credentials in construction, forklift, OSHA-30, and phlebotomy.

Other transformative programs that lead to gainful employment include partnerships with JPMorgan Chase, who funded HCCC's "Gateway to Innovation" initiative; apprenticeship/work-study programs with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 164, and International Union of Operating Engineers 825; the New Jersey Water Workforce Development Initiative

pilot training program, a collaboration with Bank of America, New Jersey Future, Veolia, New Jersey Water Association, and New Jersey Utility Association; NJCCC/NJBIA Basic Skills and Workforce Literacy Training Centers; and the New Jersey Pay It Forward Program, a partnership of the State of New Jersey, NJ CEO Council, and Social Finance, that provides interest-free loans and living stipends for HCCC nursing students.

Dr. Christopher Reber has devoted his entire career to higher education. Prior to leading HCCC, he served as President of the Community College of Beaver County (2014-18); Executive Dean and Campus Executive Officer of Venango College of Clarion University of Pennsylvania (2002-14); Associate Provost for Advancement and University Relations, Dean of Student Affairs, and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Education at Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend

College (1987-2002); Director of Human Resource Development Division, and Director of Lifelong Learning at Lakeland Community College (1984-87); and other positions earlier in his career. He holds a Postdoctoral Certificate from the Institute for Educational Management, Graduate School of Education at Harvard University; Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Pittsburgh; M.A. in College Student Personnel Administration from Bowling Green State University; and B.A. in Latin from Dickinson College.

In addition to the NJBIZ Education Power 50 awards, Dr. Reber was recognized with the 2022 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer Award; Hudson County Chamber of Commerce's inaugural "Legends Spirit Award"; and Phi Theta Kappa's 2020 "Paragon President" Award.

## PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

*Continued from page 3*

A resounding 98% of students in the program said they felt supported by their academic counselor, while 98% found participating in Hudson Scholars to be impactful.

Many students enrolled in the Hudson Scholars program face significant barriers to success, whether it's navigating financial challenges, language barriers, employment issues, family responsibilities, food or housing insecurity, or other challenges. Hudson Scholars helps mitigate these challenges as students complete their degrees, begin their careers, and, ultimately, realize their dreams.

Some of the Hudson Scholars Program's greatest impact has come with traditionally

underrepresented and underserved populations such as Hispanic and African-American students. Hispanic and Latino participants in the program are 52% more likely to persist and 363% more likely to graduate in two years in comparison to students who are not in the program. Black and African-American participants are 80% more likely to persist and 275% more likely to graduate in two years. The Hudson Scholars Program fulfills PBF's vision by expanding educational access to these students and by significantly improving outcomes for these students.

There are now nearly 2,000 students enrolled in the Hudson Scholars Program. "We are honored to receive this generous grant from The Provident Bank Foundation, which has a longstanding commitment

to improving educational opportunities in our community," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "This funding will play a pivotal role in enabling Hudson County Community College to further empower students from all walks of life, ensuring that they have the resources and support needed to overcome obstacles and achieve their academic, personal and career goals."

The award of this Provident Bank Foundation Signature Grant is a resounding recognition of the transformational impact of the Hudson Scholars Program. HCCC looks forward to working with The Provident Bank Foundation and others to further expand educational opportunities for all.

## NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



HCCC Board of Trustees Secretary/Treasurer Pamela E. Gardner (seated, right) and members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., North Jersey Alumnae Chapter assisted with voter registration on National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday, Sept. 19).

## FALL 2023 HUDSON ONLINE

Earn credits and your degree online from home!

Attention Students:  
7-Week Classes  
Begin on October 26, 2023



For information on enrolling at HCCC: Text or Call: 201.509.4222 Email: admissions@hccc.edu



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

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



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



The form is NOT monitored 24/7. A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.

If you need immediate help call or text 988 or visit <https://988lifeline.org>

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 Phone (201) 360-4600

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

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

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## ALUMNI CORNER

### Brian Ribas, HCCC Class of 2020



**W**e recently spoke with Brian Ribas (HCCC Class of 2020), a first-generation college graduate who recently earned his computer science degree from New Jersey City University (NJCU). Brian is an IT professional with a wealth of knowledge about Azure Cloud, Microsoft 365, Jamf, and a wide array of other systems. Brian worked as an IT support analyst at HCCC before becoming a service desk engineer at a firm that provides technological services to the financial industry. Here's what Brian had to say about his journey from HCCC to his current role.

#### What led you to begin your educational journey at HCCC?

I was working three part-time jobs when I began my studies at HCCC. Going to HCCC was the most flexible and affordable option that I could find to pursue my degree. Eventually, I found my way by making connections with my peers and professors here which resulted in memorable extracurricular experiences and scholarships.

#### How did you become interested in computer science and information technology?

I've always felt inclined towards technology. Playing video games is how I maintained and built friendships back then. I grew up in the time of Windows XP (the early 2000s) -- my parents had a desktop in their room that I used to spend hours clicking around on to learn about what features it had (I broke and corrupted the system by experimenting many times). Although I wasn't yet good at or an expert on computers, my family members would always come to me to "fix" their electronics, whether it was transferring media from one source to another, setting alarms, or saving contacts.

#### How did your time at HCCC prepare you to complete your NJCU studies and become a service desk engineer?

My transition from HCCC to NJCU was seamless. All of my credits from HCCC were transferrable to my B.S. Computer Science program. I did not lose any credits along the way, meaning that I didn't have to spend extra time or money to complete the requirements for NJCU's Computer Science curriculum. I developed core competencies at HCCC that I still rely on today. For instance, my ability to work with others, manage my workload, and other responsibilities were all honed here at HCCC. I learned how to manage my classes, extracurricular activities, helping care for my younger siblings, and taking care of other personal responsibilities while at HCCC.

#### What does a day in the life of a service desk engineer look like? What kind of projects do you work on?

I work with an intelligent global team of engineers to maintain and manage the IT infrastructure of our clients. It's an operational day-to-day responsibility as there is little room for error because it can negatively affect high-stakes financial companies that contribute to the world's economy.

#### You previously interned at NASA, that had to be an interesting experience. How was that?

I did two summer rotations at NASA, one in 2020 and one in 2021. I was honored to intern at NASA. I never thought that I would be able to do something like that until it happened. I had the privilege to share the room with a lot of very smart people - ranging from veterans to engineers from all disciplines.

#### What advice would you give to students who want to pursue a computer science and information technology career like you?

Go for it. Allow yourself to experiment. One of the great things about the tech industry is that it welcomes curiosity. You solve problems by adopting a curious mindset.

#### What advice do you have for HCCC students just starting on their academic journeys here?

Take ownership. Don't wait for things to happen for you. Use this as an opportunity to change your attitude and let go of any habits that are keeping you mediocre. Take some time to get to know your peers and your professors. They are willing to help you in your journey to success. No one will know whether you need help unless you speak up.

#### You've accomplished a lot in the last few years - what's your next goal?

I look forward to expanding my network. I have learned a lot from the people I've met personally and professionally.

## HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

For information about the College's Alumni Association and membership benefits, please email [alumni@hccc.edu](mailto:alumni@hccc.edu).

