

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 'HUDSON SCHOLARS' PROGRAM WINS 2023 NATIONAL BELLWETHER AWARD



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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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From the Editor’s Desk

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

Items for the May newsletter are due by Friday, April 14, 2023.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S ‘HUDSON SCHOLARS’ PROGRAM WINS 2023 NATIONAL BELLWETHER AWARD

On Tuesday, February 28, 2023, Hudson County Community College’s (HCCC) “Hudson Scholars” program was recognized with the 2023 National Bellwether Award. The honor was presented at the 2023 Bellwether College Consortium, “Community College Futures Assembly,” in San Antonio, Texas.

The nationally acclaimed Bellwether Award recognizes cutting-edge, trendsetting programs that address critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices in Instructional Programs and Services, Workforce Development, and Planning, Governance and Finance. The Bellwether Award has been compared to football’s Heisman Trophy because it is competitively judged and awarded by respected peers in leadership positions.

Ten Bellwether Program Finalists from across the United States were selected to compete in each category, and the rigorous selection process included two rounds of judging by peers and academicians in the field. The finalist teams made presentations to a jury of anonymous judges that included community college national association leaders, college leaders, business and technology leaders, and national policy influencers.

In addition to the Instructional Programs and Services category, HCCC was also a Top Ten Finalist in the Workforce Development category (“Gateway to Innovation” program) and Planning, Governance and Finance category (“Building an Inclusive and Engaged Workforce”). As such, the College was one of only two community colleges in the United States to be invited to compete in all three program categories.

Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President, led the “Hudson Scholars” team, which included Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, Director of Advisement; John Urgola, Director of Institutional Research and Planning; Mackenzie Johnson, “Hudson Scholars” Academic Counselor; and Natalie Jimenez, HCCC student and “Hudson Scholars” participant.

“This award is especially meaningful because the ‘Hudson Scholars’ program reflects our College community’s collective commitment to our students’ success,” Dr. Reber stated. “We offer heartfelt thanks to the Bellwether College Consortium and to all at HCCC who work every day to provide life-changing opportunities for our students and the people of Hudson County.”

Designed and developed under Dr. Reber’s leadership, the “Hudson Scholars” program

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ON THE COVER: Pictured from left: John Urgola, HCCC Director of Institutional Research and Planning; Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, HCCC Director of Advisement; Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President; Natalie Jimenez, HCCC student and “Hudson Scholars” participant; and Mackenzie Johnson, “Hudson Scholars” Academic Counselor.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS CAMPUS PREVENTION NETWORK (CPN) SEAL OF PREVENTION™

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has been awarded the Campus Prevention Network (CPN) Seal of Prevention™. Vector Solutions for Higher Education presents the Seal of Prevention™ to colleges and universities with extraordinary leadership in digital prevention programming focused on student safety, well-being, and inclusion. HCCC is one of 11 New Jersey educational institutions to receive the honor.



Pictured here, the Campus Prevention Network (CPN) Seal of Prevention™.

CPN Seal of Prevention™ institutions like HCCC have created safer, more inclusive campuses through comprehensive, evidence-based preventive education on discrimination, mental health, alcohol misuse, and sexual assault. Of the 850

higher education institutions in the United States evaluated, fewer than 12% earned this distinction.

“Hudson County Community College is committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where students feel cared for, develop confidence, cultivate friendships, flourish academically, and achieve their dreams and life goals,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “The CPN Seal of Prevention™ is a testament to the College’s commitment– and our success – in producing a culture of care that leads our students to say, ‘Hudson is Home.’”

“The CPN Seal of Prevention™ recipients reflect the top 12% of colleges and universities nationwide, further highlighting their commitment and investment not only to

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION DEDICATES STUDIO ART ROOM TO THE SCHOLDER FAMILY

On Wednesday morning, February 22, 2023 Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students, teachers, staff, and administrators, gathered to pay grateful tribute to the Scholder family by naming the College's Studio Art Room for them. Room 516 of the Gabert Library at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City was dedicated to Henry Scholder's son, Jordan, who was present at the dedication, and in memory of Mr. Scholder's wife, Renee Fotouhi Scholder.

Over the years the Scholder family has donated 34 works of art to the HCCC Foundation Permanent Art Collection. Among these gifts is a wood engraving by Pablo Picasso for "Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu," a book by Honoré De Balzac.

Founded in 2006 to coincide with the initiation of the HCCC Fine Arts studies program, the Foundation Permanent Art Collection includes more than 1,825 works. These paintings, sculptures, photographs, limited edition prints, craft pottery, and ephemera by highly respected artists are installed in the public areas of the College's ten campus buildings, thereby creating an educational art museum for all to enjoy. The

Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural heritage from the Hudson River School to period to today.

Many works have been directly donated by individuals, estates, corporations, and other organizations. Monetary donations for art purchases are maximized by matching funds, and donations are also utilized for acquiring works of art, staging special events, and purchasing items such as art books for the College Library.

To view the Foundation Art Collection using searchable tools, go to <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html>. There are guides to the entire Collection and specialized guides for Contemporary Art – African Diaspora and African American Artists; Contemporary Art – Asian and Asian American Artists; Contemporary Art – Hispanic and Hispanic American Artists;



Left: Ted Bent, Henry Scholder, Andrea Siegel, James Bristow, Rebecca Lambert, Paisley Skeith, Dr. Anthony Monticello, Debbi Monticello, Jordan Scholder, Dr. Sheryl Clark, Rebecca Sidlik, Alexander Monticello, Tom Sidlik, Absent: Dr. Robert Bristow.

Contemporary Art – Women Artists; and Commemorating 9/11 in Art.

Monetary gifts to support the Collection may be made by contacting Nicole Bouknight Johnson at 201-360-4069 or nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu. Detailed information on donating artwork is available at <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html>.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S TEACHING AND LEARNING SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIAL JUSTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION SHINES A NATIONAL LIGHT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

Hudson County Community College has continued to solidify its position as a thought leader in social and racial justice by hosting another successful "Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education."

HCCC's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation hosted the second annual edition of its week-long Symposium from February 27, 2023 through March 1, 2023. The national convening was led by Dr. Paula Roberson, Director of HCCC's Center for Teaching, Learning and Innovation. The Symposium enjoyed a great turnout as well as an array of high-profile speakers. But it was about a lot more than that. Dr. Roberson explains that "People need strategies to manage the social injustices in their lives. The Symposium is a way for people to learn how to help themselves and others, whether it is through the legal system, community agencies, or through a career in public service. These teaching and learning sessions are wanted, needed, and imperative for improved relationships and understanding between people."

The Symposium provided a forum for thought leaders on social and racial justice from a variety of fields to share their experiences and expertise. It also helped the college and its students forge new relationships with community and environmental agencies.

The well-attended event involved 725 registrants representing 77 different four-year institutions and 55 community colleges. Thirty-five colleges from the State of New Jersey participated in the Symposium. In all, participants from 34 states attended, representing more than two-thirds of the United States. The Symposium even

attracted the participation of two international institutions from as far away as the Caribbean: The University of the West Indies and the County Colleges of Jamaica. Adding to the Symposium's growing international footprint, 129 participants live-streamed the proceedings from Belize.

Pulling together an event of this size and scale is a massive undertaking. What inspired Dr. Roberson to take it on? She explained that after her own "very harsh past experience with white patriarchal power and institutional racism, I was hurt economically, emotionally, and professionally and did not want other people to feel what I felt. I wanted to use my energy in a positive way whereby others could benefit from where my eyes could not see, which has already happened." The event required a great deal of work, but Dr. Roberson knows that it was worth the effort because "it takes time, effort, and modeling for people to imitate good behavior and to create pathways of understanding."

The event included 50 presenters from 32 social, civic, and educational agencies. Several of the notable speakers and participants included keynote speaker Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, President of Howard University; Attorney General of New Jersey Matthew Platkin; Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey Dr. Brian Bridges; New Jersey State Assemblywoman Shavonda Sumter; Vice President of Hampton University Dr. Walter T. Tillman, Jr.; Chancellor for Southern University Law Center John K. Pierre; and Johnnetta B. Cole, the first female President of Spelman College (Retired). Participants from HCCC included Dr. Paula Roberson, President Dr.



Pictured from left: Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter (35th Legislative District), Madeline Dyer, Alexis Sims, and Dr. Paula Roberson, Director of HCCC's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation.

Christopher Reber, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Yeury Pujols, and many others.

While the Symposium focused on a more just world, recent news right outside HCCC's doorstep hit close to home and showed that there is still much work to be done in the world around us. On the final day of the Symposium, Najee Seabrooks was murdered by the police in nearby Paterson, New Jersey, Dr. Roberson's hometown. "This was a man who was having an emotional crisis. We addressed this issue during the first hour of the Friday morning session with two attorneys from the State Office of the Public Defender, in the 'Your Rights Under Mental Health Detainment' session. Two-thirds of the states across the country tuned in to participate. We have something very important and relevant here and the colleges have taken notice. We have a role in making the world a better place." *Continued on page 11*

UPCOMING HR EVENTS

Steps for Wellness

All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to join. Collaboration with the College Life Committee of the All-College Counsel and the Office of Human Resources.

Visit <https://www.hccc.edu/administration/hr/benefits-pensions.html#employee-wellness> for more information.

Spring 2023 dates:

March 6, 2023, through April 30, 2023

Special Thanks and Recognition Celebration (by invitation only)

April 13, 2023

Administrative Professional Day

April 26, 2023

Take Your Child to Work Day

April 27, 2023

SAVE the DATE



2023 COMMENCEMENT

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

11 a.m.

Rain Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Red Bull Arena

600 Cape May Street, Harrison, NJ 07029

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Instructor, ESL (Non-tenured)

APPROVAL OF FACULTY TENURE

The criteria for tenure include excellence in teaching, scholarly achievement, service to the College and community, and in the fulfillment of professional responsibilities. Applications for tenure are reviewed by a Tenure Review Board and recommendations are forwarded through the Chief Academic Officer to the President for approval and presentation to the Board of Trustees. The following faculty are recommended for tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor effective Academic Year 2023-24:

Fidelis Foda-Kahouo, Instructor of Mathematics

Karen Galli, Instructor of English

Clive Li, Instructor of Engineering Science

Jihan Nakhla, Instructor of Medical Assisting

Fatma Tat, Instructor of Chemistry

MODIFICATION TO STAFFING TABLE

Carmen Guerra: Coordinator, Continuing Education and Workforce Development (New Appointment) (effective April 10, 2023)

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

Healthy Workplace Boundaries (All Employees, Live, Wednesday, April 19, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

With so much time spent at work, and many of us working out of our homes, the lines between personal and professional life can get blurry. In the session, learn how to better define and support the boundaries between your work and home life.

Fostering and Measuring Employee Thriving (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, April 26, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

It's not enough to simply determine whether employees are engaged, but are they thriving, personally and professionally, to be most innovative, collaborative, and productive?

Making Time for Everything: Dual Careers and Family Life (Prerecorded; available 24/7 through April 30)

Two busy partners can make for a stressful household. Managing the unromantic tasks of daily life and household management can be difficult. Making time for the things that really matter – connecting, having fun, playing, and resting – can be quite challenging. In this webinar, we will discuss ways to better manage your household and make time for what matters most. We will discuss the realities of busy, working partners and making the most of the time and energy we have.

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

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

15 Years

*Danitza Espinales
Yvon Groeneveldt*

20 Years

*Jessica Brito
Sylvia Mendoza*

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

*Oscar Alvarez
Adefolarin Bolaji
Victoria Landa-Zarmanov
Kimberly Sumpter
Maria Zaman*

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

*Maria Cielo Cortez, Financial Aid Assistant
(effective March 22, 2023)*

*Tania Martins, Center for Adult Transition,
Career Advisor (Grant-Funded)
(effective March 22, 2023)*

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

*Karine Davis, Interim Director, Accessibility Services
(effective March 6, 2023 to June 30, 2023)*

*Carmen Guerra, Coordinator, Continuing Education
and Workforce Development (effective April 10, 2023 to
June 30, 2023)*



We are here for you!

**Are you experiencing stress, depression,
or anxiety?**

Difficulty in a course?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

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

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

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



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES ACCLAIMED ARTIST HENRIETTA MANTOOTH AND HER 'JAIL BIRDS' DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION

Hudson Community College (HCCC) honored internationally renowned artist, Henrietta Mantooth, in recognition of her donation of 11 major "Jail Birds" paintings to the HCCC Foundation Permanent Art Collection. The celebration with Ms. Mantooth took place on Friday, March 3, 2023 in the College's Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City. The "Jail Birds" series was exhibited and refreshments were served.

Henrietta Mantooth, 98, is a humanist who uses her art and life experience to showcase systemic social issues. Drawn to art since childhood, she began painting with laundry bluing, onions, and berries, and went on to study art in France, Italy, Greece, Brazil, and New York. Ms. Mantooth worked as a journalist for 20 years, writing about civil rights and amplifying similar stories through art. Combining her skills as a visual artist, reporter, theatrical set designer, and performer, she creates large art installations and works with speakers, performers, and audience feedback. Ms. Mantooth describes her painting as "witnessing" and notes, "Painting is about bravery. For both artist and viewer." Her work has been exhibited in galleries around the globe, including the Sao Paulo Biennial; the Museum of Modern Art in Sao Paulo and Bahia; the Newcomb Museum in New Orleans; the Queens Museum; and the Ford Foundation Gallery in New York City.

"We are very happy to welcome Ms. Mantooth to the College, and to thank her for this



Pictured here, artist Henrietta Mantooth, and one painting from the "Jail Birds" series she donated to the Hudson County Community College Foundation Permanent Art Collection.

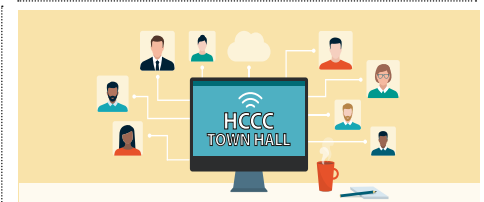
incredibly beautiful gift," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "The 'Jail Birds' series perfectly corresponds to the College's commitment to social justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion."

The "Jail Birds" installation was first created in 2014 to highlight mass incarceration in the United States and was named, "Jail Birds and Flowers." The large, almost abstract birds, prison bars and accompanying text, rendered in acrylic paint on cardboard, have since been modified and new pieces added. The artist writes, "If birds are messengers, the 'Jail Birds' landed here to tell the stark story of millions of Americans behind bars. These prisoners are real women, men, and teenagers, assigned numbers and filed away (not safely, but out of sight) and used as cheap labor. Some have been arrested randomly and jailed when unable to pay fines. Poverty, discrimination, segregation, and

the color of their skins have paved the way in this intentional system of modern slavery."

Founded in 2006 to coincide with the initiation of the HCCC Fine Arts studies program, the Foundation Permanent Art Collection includes more than 1,825 works. These paintings, sculptures, photographs, limited edition prints, craft pottery and ephemera by highly respected artists are installed in the public areas of the College's ten campus buildings, thereby creating an educational art museum for all to enjoy. The Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural heritage from the Hudson River School period to today.

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Please join HCCC President
Dr. Chris Reber for a

TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, April 27

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

In-person at: Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room
Jersey City, NJ

Virtual: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCCTHAPRIL>

Meeting number: 26335617570

Password: AprTH2023

HCCC EARNS CAMPUS PREVENTION NETWORK (CPN) SEAL OF PREVENTION(TM)

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academics, but also the well-being of their students and the overall college experience," said Jonathan Cherins, CEO at Vector Solutions. "Our team at Vector Solutions is proud to recognize the great value these leading institutions and organizations are providing to students and the commitment we share to making higher education communities safer and more inclusive."

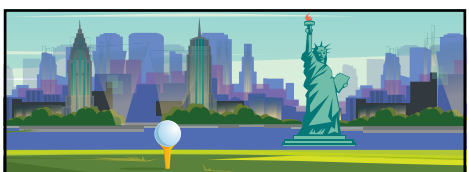
The criteria for the CPN Seal of Prevention™ are based on the American Psychologist "What Works in Prevention: Principles of Effective Prevention Programs." Characteristics of such programs show that they were comprehensive, included varied teaching methods, were theory-driven, provided opportunities for positive relationships, were appropriately timed, had sociocultural relevance, included outcome evaluation, and involved well-trained staff.

HCCC programs assist in ensuring academic success and helping build the competencies and capabilities essential to becoming conscientious global citizens. Among these undertakings are the HCCC President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), which provides leadership and counsel in fostering a welcoming, diverse, equitable and inclusive environment;

"Hudson Scholars," the College's innovative, national award-winning 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. "Hudson Helps" program, is a compendium of wraparound services, programs, and resources that focus on basic needs beyond the classroom and result in greater student success.

About Vector Solutions for Higher Education

Vector Solutions for Higher Education is the industry leader in postsecondary safety and prevention training, serving more than 2,000 of the nation's most widely recognized and prestigious institutions and organizations for more than 20 years. Its programs help drive lasting, large-scale change on the campus issues that matter most, including alcohol and other drugs; sexual assault and harassment; diversity and inclusion; and mental health. Online prevention programs available through Vector Solutions reach over ten million higher education students, staff, and faculty each year. For more information, visit www.vectorsolutions.com/HE.



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Monday, July 10, 2023

Forest Hill Field Club

Bloomfield, New Jersey

9.am. shotgun start



SCAN TO REGISTER

or go to <https://tinyurl.com/HCCGOLF23>

Any questions, please contact:
foundation@hccc.edu

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



ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER, INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUE OR BOTH, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TRAIN DERAILMENT IN EAST PALESTINE, OHIO

Submitted by the Hudson County Community College Environmental Club

A train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, causes environmental concern.

On February 3, 2023, a train derailment occurred on the Norfolk Southern Railroad in East Palestine, Ohio. It wasn't until three days later that officials responded to the disaster by conducting what is known as a controlled burn. This process was performed inside the cars to avoid possible explosions. In this article, the e-board members of Hudson County Community College's Environmental Club will not only summarize the latest news of the event but also will offer their current opinions based on the information readily available to them.

The derailed railroad vehicle caused fires across fifty cars, five of which included large amounts of hazardous materials. According to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) spokesman James Lee, "vinyl chloride, a cancer-causing substance, was among the primary chemicals released in the crash." (Ducroquet, Simon, et al. "Here's What the Derailed Ohio Train Was Carrying - and What Was Burned." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, Feb. 21, 2023) Black smoke began to pollute the town as additional toxins associated with carcinogens such as benzene, hydrogen chloride, and phosgene were released into the community, prompting grave concerns and chemical fear.

Environmental concerns aside, what caused this derailment?

Federal investigators point to a mechanical issue with the rail car axle. Minutes before the crash, a resident of New Waterford, Ohio videos train 32N with an overheated wheel barrel on the car, causing obvious sparking. According to employees familiar with this matter, the train broke down at least once before derailing in Ohio and continued operating. (Kaplan, Michael. "Excess Size Caused Train to Break Down in Days Before It Derailed in Ohio, Employees Say," *CBS News*, CBS Interactive, Feb. 16, 2023)

Others imply that the size of the train needed to be longer and lighter, in addition to a lack of attention to mandatory inspections, which were

completed within a 60-second time frame. Railway companies and their executives sacrifice the safety and integrity of the system for longer trains, effectively reducing costs but increasing risk in return. This derailment is a textbook example of private companies and corporations that value profit over anything else. The EPA must be relentless in its quest to hold those who threaten the health of the environment accountable. At the same time, the federal government needs to dictate enough power to the EPA to do its job efficiently and effectively.

The spread of hazardous chemicals across the environment remains a cause for concern. Aside from the previously mentioned toxins, chemicals such as n-Butyl Acrylate have found their way to areas of West Virginia via contamination of the Ohio River. Inhaling this chemical may cause nausea, dizziness, and vomiting. Ingesting it, on the other hand, can lead to other uncertain consequences. While the quantities are not cause for concern, they accumulate with other materials over time. To see no immediate damage is relieving as it is unsettling. When will something happen? How many times is enough to tip over the environment? As train derailments occur a little over 1000 times a year, people need to be more aware of where these accidents occur. Companies such as Norfolk Southern will have to start reporting these accidents on a public database to see what areas need to be avoided. Although not in a deadly quantity, these chemicals have polluted water sources that companies bottle and distribute across different states. Without awareness, a chemical leak of a vast amount may one day spread too fast for us to catch. Preparation and prevention are essential.

Current Administration and Environmental Protection Agency Get Involved

February 21, 2023, almost twenty days after the incident, the EPA took matters into its own hands, ordering Norfolk Southern to undergo a remediation process across the toxic site. The transportation company will take responsibility for the damage by covering remediation costs and other factors. (Front, Reid Frazier | Allegheny. "An Update on the Cleanup after the Train Derailment in Ohio." *NPR*, NPR, 21 Feb. 2023)

The Biden administration has defended its response to the derailment, saying officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Transportation Safety Board, and other agencies were at the rural site within hours of the wreck. The White House says it has also offered federal assistance, and disaster-management officials have been coordinating with the state emergency operations center and other partners. Additional sources claim, "Ohio could see \$9.9 billion in federal infrastructure funding to help repair and replace roads, bridges and more under President Joe Biden's \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act." (Landers, Author: Kevin. "More than \$9 Billion in Infrastructure Funds Coming to Ohio." *10tv.Com*, 4 Jan. 2023)

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency confirms the drinking water is safe to consume, although the site remains under further testing for soil, water, and air contamination. "As of right now, there is no indication of risk to East Palestine Public Water customers. Treated drinking water shows no detection of contaminants associated with the derailment." ("EPA Ohio," East Palestine Train Derailment Information).

These confirmations have been taken a tad too early, considering the large amount of poisonous and hazardous substances released in the waterway. Take the Clean Water Act for example. Common standards identifying the Act are whether the water is "drinkable, fishable and swimmable." In this case, thousands of fish died as soon as the chemicals entered the river. This is certainly something to feel concerned about, despite it being only two weeks since the date of this disaster. Former President Donald Trump seems to have taken better measures for the residents of East Palestine by providing them with bottled water and questioning the authority's decision-making. In terms of other environmental damages, officials say the sediment is set for removal as part of a longer-term cleanup. Norfolk Southern has offered additional health assistance for residents who returned to their homes within a week or two after the derailment incident.

Is this enough? That is left for the reader to decide.

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S-STEM SCHOLARSHIP AND B2B PROGRAM EVENT AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Dr. Fatma Tat, Instructor of Chemistry/S-STEM Scholarship Coordinator

On February 24, 2023, S-STEM Scholars and B2B Students joined an event at the Newark Campus of Rutgers University. S-STEM Scholars and B2B Students from Hudson County Community College, Passaic County Community College, Essex County College, County College of Morris, Montclair State University, and Rutgers University were all invited to learn about summer research opportunities, mentoring, and STEM resume advice.



S-STEM Scholars and B2B students and their respective campus leaders from six northern New Jersey institutions convened at Rutgers University-Newark for enrichment and mentoring.

S-STEM Scholarship

Hudson County Community College is part of an alliance of New Jersey community colleges participating in Scholarship-STEM grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide additional funding for high achieving, full-time college students to enable them to devote more time to their studies and complete their associate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and transfer to four-year institutions.

S-STEM Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

- US Citizen or Green card holder
- Full-time student and must have completed at least one semester
- Minimum GPA of 3.50 in non-medical STEM field
- Underrepresented Minority: African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Must be Pell Grant recipient
- Availability to participate in S-STEM activities

Why Be an S-STEM Scholar?

- Additional financial reward of \$2,000.00 per semester for participating in S-STEM activities
- Comprehensive support in completing a STEM degree and transferring to a four-year institution
- Mentoring from students and faculty at HCCC and participating four-year institutions
- Monthly meetings and cross-STEM, cross-institutional programs
- S-STEM learning communities

For more information about the S-STEM scholarship please contact: Dr. Fatma Tat, Chemistry Instructor/S-STEM Coordinator, STEM Building, 263 Academy St., Room S-605, Jersey City, NJ Phone: (201) 360-5412 | ftat@hccc.edu

B2B Program

Hudson County Community College is also part of an alliance of New Jersey community colleges participating in the Bridges to the Baccalaureate (B2B) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support students from underrepresented back-

grounds in their completion of associate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and transfer to four-year institutions.

NNJ-B2B Eligibility Criteria

- Must belong to a federally recognized Underrepresented Minority group (URM)
- US citizen or Permanent Resident
- Non- medical STEM major
- Must have completed at least one semester
- Full-time student

Why Be B2B?

- Comprehensive support in completing a STEM degree and transferring to a four-year institution
- Paid Research Experiences – A select number of Hudson County Community College B2B scholars are eligible for summer and semester-long work experiences at four-year institutions
- Paid Leadership Experiences/Campus Jobs – Positions include Program Ambassador, Web Master, Social Media Coordinator, Departmental Liaison, Career Events Assistant, etc.
- Mentoring from students and faculty at Hudson County Community College and participating four-year institutions
- Financial Rewards for participating in B2B activities

For more information about the B2B program please contact: Fidelis Foda-Kahou, Instructor of Mathematics, NNJ-B2B HCCC-Coordinator, STEM Division, 263 Academy St., Room S505A, Jersey City, NJ- Phone: 201-360-5348

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB GAINS KNOWLEDGE OF PLASTICS PROCESSING DURING FIELD TRIP

Submitted by Dr. Clive Li, Instructor, Engineering Science

The field trip organized by the Environmental Club to visit Spectra Polymers & Color Inc, a plastic recycling company in Vineland NJ on March 15, was a unique and educational experience for the students involved. Ewerton Borges, the owner and CEO of the company, provided a comprehensive demonstration of the plastic recycling process and even showed the students how to make colored plastics.

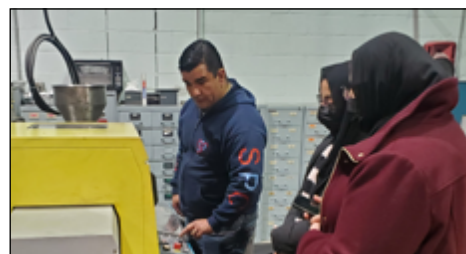
During the visit, Mr. Borges explained to the students how the company collects and processes plastics that would otherwise end up in landfills or the ocean. He highlighted the importance of recycling and reducing plastic waste, and how Spectra Polymers & Color Inc plays a vital role in protecting the environment. His passion and dedication for his work were evident in the way he presented his talk, and his enthusiasm for plastic recycling was infectious.

One of the most interesting parts of the visit was when Mr. Borges demonstrated how to make colored plastics. He explained how different pigments and additives can be added to plastics

to give them a range of colors and textures. The students were captivated as they watched him use an injection molding machine to produce colorful plastic products right before their eyes. They saw firsthand how plastic waste can be transformed into useful products, and this was an eye-opening experience for them.

Overall, the field trip was a great success and the students gained valuable insights into the importance of recycling and environmental conservation. They were able to witness the transformation of plastic waste into useful products and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the people involved in the recycling process. They learned that it is possible to create positive change in the world by making small but significant choices in their daily lives, such as recycling plastic waste.

"Our trip to Spectra Polymer & Color was a great learning experience. I learned how the company utilizes plastic that would have been in the oceans or landfills. We were shown the entire process in which waste becomes useful again. It is an excellent way to preserve the environment.



Ewerton Borges, the owner and CEO of the company was showing our students how to use an injection molding machine to process recycled plastics.

As a member of the environmental club, I enjoyed this trip and encourage other students to visit the company to learn more." –Aleena Arshad, Pre-Nursing major

"After visiting the recycling company in Vineland, I have become more concerned about my daily plastic use. It was really appealing to watch the way they recycle plastic to protect our environment. I have seen extrusion in our physics lab, but it was engrossing to watch extrusion happening at such a large scale." –Anam Khan, Biology major

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,825+ works is installed in the public areas of campus buildings. The entire College is an educational art museum. This Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural history from the Hudson River School period to today. In recent years, the College's acquisition efforts have focused on strengthening its American and New Jersey modern and contemporary collections.

Each month, this page in *HCCC Happenings* provides updates on artists whose works are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

Donor Acknowledgements

Thank you to Roy Groething for the wonderful donation of photographs by Mike Peters, William DeShazer, and Itsuzo Sumy; and special thanks for passing along Wally Hennig's gift of the historic Jersey City photograph "Here Lies the Remains of the Hague Machine" by Irv Wagen.

Artist News

If you like the art by **Shepard Fairey** on view on the second floor of 2 Enos Place and on the 4th floor portrait gallery at the North Hudson Campus, you might enjoy downloading some free posters by the artist and others that depict youth leaders in the present-day struggle for social and environmental justice. You can print the posters at any size. Go to: *We The Future - Amplifier: Amplifier* <https://amplifier.org/campaigns/we-the-future/>. They are produced by *Amplified.org*, "a nonprofit design lab that builds art and media experiments to amplify the most important movements of our times." They say, "In times of uncertainty, when fear and misinformation attempt to divide us, art is more than beauty and decoration. Art has the power to wake people up and drive meaningful change."

Native American painter **Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's** work is on view on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library. She will be the first artist to curate a show at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Her exhibition, called *The Land Carries Our Ancestors*, includes works by around 50 living indigenous artists. The artist said "Breaking the 'Buckskin Ceiling' is not a smooth transition, but the National Gallery of Art is engaged with making change in their system of collecting art as well as demonstrating their ability to be more inclusive in their exhibitions.... *The Land Carries Our Ancestors* is an example of more parity in their exhibition schedule and we are very pleased to be a party of this change." When the artist says, "Breaking the *Buckskin Ceiling*," she refers to two things. Buckskin is a material often associated with indigenous people in the United States. Also, this expression derives from the term, "Breaking the glass ceiling," which is about women and minorities entering the workforce and facing obstacles to advancement. As they go up the ladder of success, they face invisible obstacles to achievement, a "glass ceiling" that prevents them from achieving their dreams. The exhibition will run from September 2023 to early next year.

Barbara Earl Thomas, whose work is installed on the third floor of the Gabert Library, is having a solo exhibition at the Chrysler Museum of Art (<https://chrysler.org>), *Barbara Earl Thomas: The Illuminated Body*, on view through August 20, 2023. "A teenage poet reads her book. A girl cuddles her dog. In *The Illuminated Body*, Barbara Earl Thomas draws on family photographs taken by friends and colleagues to create cut paper portraits of Black children and teens in her community. Faced with a violent world, these young people nonetheless live lives of joy. The glowing, cut paper panels—some of which Thomas lights from behind—create a sacred feeling, almost as if the children are saints enshrined in stained glass windows or medieval paintings.... For Thomas, these celebratory portraits serve as counterpoints to images of young Black people affected by cruelty and tragedy that populate the media. These images picture grace and resilience, 'the opposite of fear and dread.' As Thomas notes, 'the children here represent the futures we want to give to humanity, ones we guard because they offer the best hope for all of us.'"

Willie Cole, whose work can be seen on the second and third floors of the Gabert Library, was featured in *The New York Times* last month, in an article called, "Willie Cole's Ecological Interventions Turn Trash Into Art." The article discusses how the artist has created two colossal new "chandelier" sculptures made out of more

than 3,000 recycled plastic bottles, and also generated a group exhibition from an open call "asking artists to transform objects destined for landfill into something imaginative and new." The works are exhibited at Express Newark, "the center for socially engaged art and design affiliated with Rutgers University — Newark, where Cole, 68, is an artist in residence." As we learned when Willie Cole spoke to the students at HCCC a few years ago, he has a longtime practice of using ready-made objects as raw material—he spoke about using brown paper grocery bags when he could not yet afford paper.

These recent "chandelier" works made from water bottles, "speak to Cole's frustration with the results of the city's years long water crisis: In 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency deemed the city's water unsafe to drink, and Newark began replacing about 23,000 lines of aging lead pipes. Cole was impelled to address the crisis through his artworks, and specifically the next problem: what to do with the thousands of single-use plastic water bottles distributed by the city, which contribute to the cycle of toxicity and pollution." The artist says that it is not always easy to "open up perception" and see familiar things anew. He urges students "to break things and draw each broken part, to examine its silhouette and to reimagine its scale." He says, "You have to look at everything to see what you're reminded of. Everything can be anything."

HCCC CELEBRATES ACCLAIMED ARTIST HENRIETTA MANTOOTH AND HER 'JAIL BIRDS' DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION

Continued from page 5

Many works have been directly donated by individuals, estates, corporations, and other organizations. Monetary donations for art purchases are maximized by matching funds, and are also utilized for acquiring works of art, staging special events, and purchasing items such as art books for the College Library.



We welcome anecdotes and information about how the Art Collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the Art Collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact ASiegel@hccc.edu and tell us the story of how the Art Collection works for you.

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS presents



WORDS-WORTH: A NATIONAL POETRY MONTH EVENT

The Department of Cultural Affairs is collaborating with the Jersey City Public Schools to present Words-Worth in April. Words-Worth is a celebration for students during National Poetry Month, which inspires the craft and creativity of poetry as a form of expression.

During three days of multi-faceted, hands-on events (April 18-20), students will participate in various activities that foster a love for creative expression.

Forty-five students will create and visit the activities at HCCC's Gabert Library on a rotating schedule.

On Thursday evening, April 20, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., community members may view the students' work displayed in the sixth-floor atrium of HCCC's Gabert Library.

Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month reminds the public that poets have an integral role in our culture and that poetry matters.

Student poetry from this event will be displayed at the Miller Branch (489 Bergen Ave.) and Five Corners Branch (678 Newark Ave.) of the Jersey City Free Public Library starting April 21.



A Dickinson High School student reads his poetry during the 2022 Words-Worth poetry event, a collaborative between Hudson County Community College's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Jersey City Public Schools.

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

HCCC FOUNDATION DONATES FOOD ITEMS TOWARD CANNED FOOD SCULPTURE

In the spring of 2019, with seed money provided by the Hudson County Community College Foundation, the College community established food pantries on both the HCCC Journal Square and North Hudson campuses.

This year, the Foundation has provided support once again, with an amazing partnership with Goya Foods. Thanks to Tony Rico, HCCC Foundation Board member, Goya has donated hundreds of cans for a can sculpture exhibit created by Michelle Vitale, HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The College and area schools are participating by creating their own can sculptures. The exhibit is available for all at the

Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery. All of the cans are being donated to the Hudson Helps Resource Center (HHRC) when the exhibit closes on April 6, 2023.

To leverage this exhibit and create awareness for the need for food and toiletry items, fellow board member Nicholas Cavaluzzi of Provident Bank, has initiated a Jersey City food drive within his market for HHRC.

The HCCC Foundation's North Hudson Committee, under the leadership of Marian Ecladious, Senior Store manager for TD Bank, Bayonne, also has initiated a food drive under its employee giving program.



Rebecca Mosquera, Gallery Docent, adds adornment to a display that is part of the canned goods sculpture at the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery.

REGISTER NOW for Summer 2023 classes at HCCC! Earn up to 12 credits! SUMMER I begins on Monday, May 22, 2023 SUMMER II begins on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 For more information contact: admissions@hccc.edu text (732) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200

HCCC CELEBRATES CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GRADUATES



On Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Hudson County Community College (HCCC) honored students who have successfully completed the Certificate in Construction Management, a program that allows for quick entry into the workforce and is transferable into the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Construction Management.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Earn \$\$\$ While You Learn

Gateway to Innovation is a grant-funded program that helps students start a career path in finance and technology by preparing them with professional certificates and wrap-around career development services that can jump start career change.

To learn more about our "no-cost" program, join one of our virtual information sessions.

Tuesdays, from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursdays, from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/2xxk8yjb>

For more information, contact:

Hiram Miranda
hmiranda@hccc.edu | 201-360-5471



Hudson County Community College
In Partnership with Emazzanti
presents

BRINGING CAREER JOURNEYS TO THE COMMUNITY

Open to HCCC Students and Alumni

Join us for a Panel Discussion on career pathways in the sales industry.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ

Please register with our QR code to get a priority ticket.

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-CareerPath>



CENTER FOR ADULT TRANSITION

ACCESS Program

Accessible College and Continuing Education for Student Success

TRANSITION PROGRAM

For youth with an intellectual or developmental disability, Ages 17-24

10-Week Program Includes:

- Life and Coping Skills
- Computer Basic Skills
- MS Excel Basics
- MS Word Basics
- Career Planning
- Work Readiness Tools

CLASSES BEGIN APRIL 17, 2023

REGISTER HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/ACCESSProgram2023>

Tuition: \$99
Scholarships may be available

QUESTIONS? Contact
cat@hccc.edu
or 201-360-5383

Upcoming Programs

Cannabis Business Courses (Online)

These self-paced courses are carried out over four weeks, with 8-12 hours of coursework with bi-weekly virtual meetings with your instructor.

Starting Spring 2023!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-cannabis-business-courses-registration-565239706177>

NLN Pre-Admission Exam Preparation Spring 2023 (Online)

Mondays (6 Sessions)

April 15, 2023 through May 20, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Price: \$229

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nln-pre-admission-exam-preparation-spring-2023-online-tickets-588109400047>

Social Media Marketing Certificate Program (Online)

Mondays & Wednesdays

April 17, 2023 through May 24, 2023

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Ted Schachter

Price: \$950

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/social-media-marketing-certificate-program-registration-577606956957>

Fundamentals of Creative Writing Online Course (Online)

Mondays & Wednesdays (6 sessions)

April 17, 2023 through May 3, 2023

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Nancy Mendez-Booth

Price: \$99

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fundamentals-of-creative-writing-online-course-registration-577682131807>

Microsoft Office Excel Level III (In-Person)

Wednesdays (6 Sessions)

April 19, 2023 through May 31, 2023 (no class on 5/17)

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi

Price: \$175

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microsoft-office-excel-level-iii-registration-367827731647>

Praxis Core Test Prep (Online)

Wednesdays (8 Sessions)

April 26, 2023 through June 14, 2023

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Instructor: Alaina Desjardin

Price: \$250

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/praxis-core-test-prep-registration-577623496427>

Basic Arabic - Level I

Mondays & Thursdays (5 Sessions)

May 8, 11, 15, 18 & 22

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Mohamed Sarrouti

Price: \$85

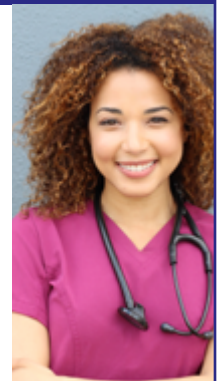
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-arabic-level-i-registration-492835673767>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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

NLN Pre-Admission Exam Preparation Course

NLN Pre-Admission Exam evaluates the academic ability of nursing majors to identify the most qualified candidates among those seeking admittance into nursing schools nationwide. This course assists students in preparing for the exam by mastering the subject matter covered in the math and science portions. Students also learn test-taking strategies that will help them achieve a high composite score.



Saturdays, April 15 to May 20

This class will be online and interactive with weekly video conferences with the instructor and classmates.

Tuition: \$229

To Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/SP2023NLN>

For more information, please contact
Qua'Fayshia Ransom at qramsom@hccc.edu
or 201-360-5326



HCCC'S 'HUDSON SCHOLARS' PROGRAM WINS 2023 NATIONAL BELLWETHER AWARD

Continued from page 2

utilizes proven best practices of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and the City University of New York (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP). "Hudson Scholars" 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.

The program is open to incoming students enrolled for at least six credit hours of coursework at HCCC, including students enrolled in their final semester of English as a Second Language (ESL), and all levels of Academic Foundations English. "Hudson Scholars" participants have the advantage of meeting regularly with "Hudson Scholars" academic counselors, whose caseloads are 80% smaller than those of other advisors, and who keep students on track with an early-alert system. Counselors keep track of academic progress, prompt students to complete assigned tasks, assist students in setting academic and career goals, monitor outside factors that may impact students' progress, and make referrals to on-campus services such as tutoring and mental health counseling.

"Hudson Scholars" participants are further incentivized to engage in high-impact practices each month by receiving monthly stipends of \$125 to \$250 for completing designated tasks and achieving important academic milestones. The stipends are utilized for books and supplies, purchasing food and paying bills, transportation, housing, tuition, childcare, and other purposes.

HCCC formulated the "Hudson Scholars" program to initially serve almost 800 students – four times the number of students enrolled in the HCCC EOF Program. The number of students in the program more than doubles to 1,700, and by meeting or exceeding retention benchmarks, the revenue from increased retention has exceeded program costs (salaries/benefits, stipends) that were initially funded using federal stimulus dollars.

"The outcomes of this program are beyond expectations," Dr. Reber said. "It is immensely gratifying to see the differences the program model is making for our students."

Some of the most significant outcomes include:

- First-Time, Full-Time (FTFT) 2021 "Hudson Scholars" persisted fall-to-fall at a rate of 75% , a 32% improvement upon the rate of other students.
- 62% of "Hudson Scholars" who entered HCCC as part-time students increased their credit load for their second semester. More than 50% of these part-time students increased to full-time status for

their second semester.

- "Hudson Scholars" beginning their fourth semester are being retained at a rate of 61%, a 30% increase over non-Hudson Scholars students.

- 99% of "Hudson Scholars" who met with their Academic Counselor monthly during their first semester persisted to their second semester.

- "Hudson Scholars" who worked with their Academic Counselor each semester consistently passed 85% of their classes while earning a 3.1 cumulative grade point average during their first academic year.

- "Hudson Scholars" who worked with their Academic Counselor each month during their first academic year passed 93% of their classes while earning a 3.4 cumulative grade point average.

- 21% of fall 2021 "Hudson Scholars" earned 30-plus credits in their first academic year. This is 3.5 times the rate of non-"Hudson Scholars" students and 200% higher than the average student population over the last ten years.

- More than 20% of 2021 "Hudson Scholars" are on track to graduate in two years. This surpasses the 2011-17 two-year graduation rate by 852%.

- "Hudson Scholars" has addressed persistence and completion gaps among traditionally underrepresented groups. Hispanic and Latino participants are 52% more likely to persist to Term 4 and 363% more likely than other students to graduate in two years. Black and African American participants are 80% more likely to persist to Term 4 and 275% more likely to graduate in two years.

Students participating in the "Hudson Scholars" program are equally happy with its effect on their quest for a college degree. "I really enjoyed the program, and I felt the one-on-one contact made me more confident," said "Hudson Scholars" participant Christina Arteta, who is set to graduate this May. "I felt like someone cared, and I was not just another student."

This is not the first time "Hudson Scholars" has received national recognition. The program was honored by The League for Innovation in the Community College with that organization's 2021-22 Innovation of the Year Award. HCCC is further scaling the highly successful "Hudson Scholars" model to all students served by the College over the next two years.

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

SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Continued from page 3

While there is a long way to go, Dr. Roberson knows that the Symposium's success is making a positive impact: "As the Symposium planning moved along, it came together because of the positive subject matter. There are many good people willing to make this world a better place through their skills and talents. It was a simple ask and an easy yes."

Our entire HCCC college community looks forward to building on the event's momentum and hosting a third annual installment of the Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education again next year. Next year's Symposium will take place from February 26, 2024 to March 1, 2024, and interested participants can send their session proposals to proberson@hccc.edu.

GRADUATING STUDENTS Tell us Your Story!

Hudson County Community College's Communications Department needs your help in identifying unique and exceptional graduate student stories to use in publicity for the upcoming Commencement ceremony as well as future marketing materials.

HCCC's Communications Department will be pitching these stories to media during the Commencement season and would be pleased to hear from students willing to be interviewed.

For more information, please contact the Communications Dept. at (201) 360-4060
communications@hccc.edu
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCYourStory>



APRIL IS COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH!



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.hccc.edu

#CCMONTH



COLLEGE
EVENTS
CALENDAR

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

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

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Union City, NJ 07087
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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

ALUMNI CORNER

About Traore

Class of May 2021

Associate of Art – Computer Arts

What factors led you to attend Hudson County Community College?

As an international student, HCCC was a place where I knew that I would not be the only foreign student, and Sabrina Bullock really assisted me with the transition from my native country to the United States, including all the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) paperwork.

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

My favorite memories include learning English, becoming involved, and evolving from being a regular student to a level leader.

How did you become interested in your career?

I had been passionate about cameras; then I fell in love with photography. That passion now has extended to filmmaking.

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

“Hudson is Home” to me, probably my second family in the United States. The support and love I have received from HCCC has made me who I am today. I graduated with a 3.85 GPA, transferred to Montclair State University, and I am a full-time, self-employed filmmaker.

What is a typical workday for you?

I create, no matter what.

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

My most memorable project was serving as a Peer Leader.

Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work somehow?

My biggest inspirations were my professors, but mostly the staff of Student Life & Leadership.

What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

Get involved and take advantage of all the opportunities that HCCC has to offer.

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

Think about what you want to do. Do what it takes to get there. Follow your dreams. Hard work will pay off.



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!

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