

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 'OUTSTANDING HACU MEMBER INSTITUTION AWARD'



In this issue



HCCC President Invited to Join Nationwide Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF)

Page 3



HCCC is the Proud Recipient of a New Grant from the PSEG Foundation

Page 3

Inspiring Change: How One Professor Is Making a Difference in the Classroom and Beyond at HCCC



Page 5



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HR News 4

PTK news9

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 January newsletter are due by Friday, December 8, 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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ‘OUTSTANDING HACU MEMBER INSTITUTION AWARD’

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) was recognized by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) with the “Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award” for excellence in support of HACU’s mission. The award was presented during HACU’s 2023 conference, “Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Diversifying Our Workforce and Strengthening America,” October 28-30, 2023 in Chicago, Illinois.

“HACU is fortunate to have member institutions like Hudson County Community College partnering with us on initiatives that advance Hispanic student success, and this award recognizes their efforts” said HACU President and CEO Dr. Antonio R. Flores. “HACU congratulates HCCC on this well-deserved recognition and looks forward to their continued success as an Hispanic-Serving Institution.”

“For more than 28 years, Hudson County Community College has enjoyed an outstanding partnership with HACU. In working together, we have expanded opportunities for our students, developed and implemented award-winning student success programs, and strengthened collaborations with government, business, industry, and beyond,” said Dr. Christopher M. Reber, HCCC President.

Hudson County Community College is an Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) – 56% of full-time students are Hispanic/LatinX. Diversity,

equity, and inclusion principles are interwoven into every HCCC policy, procedure, program, and offering to foster and support a welcoming, diverse, equitable and inclusive environment on all HCCC campuses.

HCCC’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion leads and supports Cultural Affairs, Accessibility Services, Veterans’ Affairs, and International Student Services. The Office also hosts the high-functioning President’s Advisory Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), Latino Community Advisory Council, and African American Community Outreach Committee.

PACDEI is comprised of 40 students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, Foundation directors, and community leaders, and provides leadership, support, and counsel to foster an environment that embraces shared values among all HCCC constituencies.

Now in its fourth year, the HCCC Latino Community Advisory Council, an alliance of more than 30 clergy, educators, business professionals, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders, meets regularly to address the Hispanic community’s issues and concerns, and to promote educational attainment throughout Hudson County. The group sponsors and holds networking events, open houses, receptions, and informational and enrollment events throughout the year.

Continued on page 9

ON THE COVER: *Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) President Dr. Antonio Flores, at left, presents Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher M. Reber with the 2023 “Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award” for excellence in support of HACU’s mission before 2,500 conference participants*

ALICE ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TRAINING

Written by: Professor Raffi Manjikian, Tejal Parekh, and Kathy Smith-Wenning

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has always provided yearly virtual ALICE training to all members of the HCCC community. What made this year special is that on September 21 and September 22, the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI) proudly welcomed in-person ALICE active shooter response training. The training was a part of the Goal 3 subcommittee initiatives and took place in the STEM Building. Approximately 50 attendees participating in each session. ALICE training is the original civilian active shooter response training delivered with a trauma-informed approach in an age and ability appropriate way. The training is designed to teach participants the skills and strategies needed to increase survivability during the gap between the time a violent event occurs, and when law



enforcement arrives. Each training started with lunch and introductory remarks from the co-chairs of Goal 3, Tejal Parekh and Kathy Smith-Wenning, as well as remarks from the Co-Chair of PACDEI, Professor Raffi Manjikian. Once introductory remarks concluded, the ALICE trainer began his training presentation with a 2-hour PowerPoint. Thereafter, participants engaged in a 2-hour live simulation/demonstration of what could happen during an active shooting. The sessions were very informative and HCCC will continue partnering with ALICE to provide training in-person and virtually.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT INVITED TO JOIN NATIONWIDE BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM (BHEF)



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber participating in a fireside chat with Laura K. Ipsen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ellucian and Vice Chair, BHEF Board of Directors.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President, Dr. Christopher Reber, is honored to join the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), becoming the first traditional community college president invited to join the nationwide organization that also includes Miami Dade College, an expansive institution that offers associate and baccalaureate degrees.

BHEF is a nonprofit organization that connects higher education presidents and major corporate CEOs to educate a skilled and diverse workforce needed to advance national priorities. Corporate CEOs and university presidents join BHEF to anticipate skill needs and create pathways between higher education and leading employers. BHEF has fostered dozens of business-higher education partnerships and created over 100 credentials to date.

In recent years, concern has grown that there is a widening disconnect between the skills employers are looking for and the skill sets that jobseekers possess. There is also concern that education doesn't always lead to high-paying jobs, as what students learn isn't always aligned with the training and knowledge that employers require for success on the job.

"We look forward to working with Dr. Reber and HCCC and welcome them as a member of BHEF," said BHEF Chair and Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "HCCC is committed to preparing diverse communities for success in today's dynamic labor market, and their perspective as one of the nation's leading community colleges will be of tremendous value to the organization as we build more pathways to career readiness for students."

As a community college serving over 20,000 credit and noncredit students annually in one of the most diverse and densely populated communities in the United States, the mission of closing the opportunity gap and building the diverse workforce of tomorrow is near and dear to HCCC's heart. The College is acutely focused on

breaking down barriers and expanding the career pathways available to members of the traditionally underrepresented populations in the community that it serves. HCCC places paramount importance on the interwoven goals of student success and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. The entire College community is galvanized around these two priorities.

HCCC and BHEF are squarely aligned in this mission of closing the gap, creating seamless educational pathways, expanding career pathways to all, and building a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled workforce. The challenges are immense, but so is the opportunity to transform the lives of citizens from marginalized and underserved groups and diversify our nation's skilled workforce in areas like STEM, technology, business and beyond. In recent years, HCCC has worked assiduously to develop credentialed workforce training that leads to upward social and economic mobility, and family-sustaining careers for students and members of the community.

Under Dr. Reber's leadership, HCCC has made significant progress in addressing these challenges and unlocking greater opportunities. HCCC's offerings lead to industry-recognized credentials and pathways to baccalaureate and graduate degrees that equip students with the skills they need to succeed and lead organizations and communities in a variety of fulfilling and lucrative careers.

HCCC forges innovative partnerships with local businesses and other organizations to identify the in-demand skills that employers desire. A shining example of this collaborative approach is the Holz Technik Academy Apprenticeship program, an innovative collaboration of HCCC and local business Eastern Millwork, Inc. This partnership offers students the opportunity to earn a competitive salary and benefits while working as apprentices at EMI and earning their degree. New

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF A NEW GRANT FROM THE PSEG FOUNDATION



The new grant from the PSEG Foundation will help empower even more HCCC students to graduate.

The Hudson County Community College Foundation is the proud recipient of a new \$5,000 grant from the PSEG Foundation. The grant will help students who are on track to graduate but face financial hurdles to cross the finish line and earn their degrees.

Thanks to the PSEG Foundation's grant, the HCCC Foundation awarded PSEG-funded Scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, to four deserving HCCC students: Ayanna Green, a Culinary Arts major from Jersey City; Nathaly Calderon, a Computer Science major from Jersey City; Eilyn Franco, a Business Administration major from Union City; and Leslie Aichel Lara Francisco, a Medical Assisting major from Jersey City. The scholarships will help these students complete their HCCC degree and continue along the pathway to a fulfilling and high-paying job in their chosen field including their educational goals of achieving a bachelor's degree or higher at a four-year institution.

HCCC is squarely aligned with the PSEG Foundation's strategic pillars including Social Justice, Equity, and Economic Empowerment. HCCC is one of the most diverse community colleges in the country, serving over 20,000 credit and noncredit students annually. HCCC is fully engaged in a wide range of strategies to meet the needs of students for whom access has been denied or limited. Promoting upward social and economic mobility is at the core of the College's mission.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated that "It is gratifying to have the opportunity to partner with an organization like the PSEG Foundation whose strategic priorities are so closely aligned with our own."

The PSEG Foundation is a longtime and valued partner of the College, working in collaboration to help talented students advance towards graduation.

Continued on page 11

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Brianna Casagrande

5 Years

John Quigley

15 Years

Darlery Franco

20 Years

Hital Patel

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Tatiana Balladares O Tobar

Alisha Lambert

Eileen Ressler

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Alexandra Bonano, Advancement Operations Manager, effective Nov. 22, 2023

Malcolm Kornegay, Senior Support Analyst, North Hudson Campus effective Nov. 27, 2023

Danielle Lopez, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Accessibility, effective Dec. 11, 2023

Michelle Paradies, Grant Project Director (Grant-funded), effective Dec. 1, 2023

Aaron Patel, Support Analyst, effective Nov. 27, 2023

Saudia Reid, Director of Patron Services effective Nov. 24, 2023

Albert Velazquez, Support Analyst, effective Nov. 27, 2023

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Denisse Carrasco, Healthcare Coordinator, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded), effective Jan. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

Jessica Cortez, Academic Advisor, effective Dec. 2, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Laurice Dukes, Associate Director, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded), effective Jan. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

Regina Espino, Receiving Clerk, effective Jan. 3, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Evani Greene, Student Success Coach, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded), effective Jan. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

Afrodita Hernandez, Student Success Coach, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded) 109, effective Jan. 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

Maria Lita Sarmiento, Alumni Manager, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded), effective Dec. 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY FOR SPRING 2024

Elizabeth Hallacy, Instructor, ESL (Non-tenure Track), effective Jan. 18, 2024

Jasmine Pascua, Instructor, Culinary (Non-tenure Track), effective Jan. 3, 2024

Artur Ujazdowski, Instructor, ESL (Non-tenure Track), effective Jan. 18, 2024

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

Managing Holiday Stress (All Employees, Live, Wednesday, Dec. 13, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

While the holidays are seen as a time of joy and celebration, they can also be a time of tremendous stress. In this session, learn strategies to better manage holiday stress and get more out of what the holidays mean to you.

Providing Effective Feedback (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Giving employees feedback is essential in a leadership role, but many struggle with the confidence to do it. In this session, we will examine methods for improving communication and clarity between managers and employees.

Relaxation Rx (Pre-recorded; available 24/7 through Sunday, Dec. 31)

Most of us feel too busy to even think about taking time out to relax. However, the reality is that regular relaxation is crucial. If we don't stop regularly to "refuel," we risk emotional and physical burn-out. Even a small investment of five to 10 minutes a day can have a huge return. This webinar will include demonstrations of relaxation techniques that provide immediate as well as long-term benefits. We'll also learn how to detect burnout "triggers" and discover ways to regain a sense of balance and motivation. You will leave feeling recharged and better able to tackle daily demands.

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 call 800-624-5544.

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Mark Amaker, Support Analyst, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Nicholas Chiaravallotti, Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President to Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, and Senior Counsel to the President, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Anthony Deschamps, Support Analyst, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Lisa Dougherty, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment to Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Lawrence Louie, Senior PC Technician to Senior Support Analyst, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Hardik Sanghavi, Data Network Administrator, effective Dec. 1, 2023

Willie Shirer, Senior Audio-Visual Analyst, effective Dec. 1, 2023

SAVE THE DATE

COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ

Celebrate the season by supporting a student today!

Your gift aids HCCC students by providing scholarships to assist with the cost of their education.

Make a Difference.

DONATE NOW:

www.hccc.edu/foundation
foundation@hccc.edu

HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

Hudson County
Community College

OUT of the BOX

PODCAST



Tune in to our monthly podcast for a timely discussion about education, people, programs, events, issues, and solutions that affect those who live and work in Hudson County.

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

Join us for the
**All College Council
College Life Employee
Holiday Party**

Thursday, December 14, 2023
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

INSPIRING CHANGE: HOW ONE PROFESSOR IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND AT HCCC

By Michael Byrne

HCCC Professor Norman Eckstein was already making a positive impact on HCCC students by teaching them the nuances of microeconomics and macroeconomics. But he felt a profound connection with HCCC and his students and wanted to make even more of an impact by giving back to the HCCC community in the form of the Louis Eckstein Scholarship.

Norman is an ardent proponent for public education in the state of New Jersey and believes that HCCC embodies the best that public education has to offer. Norman works as the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector for the Township of Boonton and notes that he sees many people sending their children to private colleges out of state as their first option, when New Jersey's public colleges have plenty to offer. He strongly believes that community colleges like HCCC promote upward social and economic mobility by helping

more people to enter the American middle class. Norman is impressed by HCCC's multicultural diversity and the way that diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is interwoven into everything at HCCC.

Members of the HCCC family come from near and far. When Norman started teaching at HCCC remotely during the spring of 2021, he had no prior connection to Hudson County or to the school, but he instantly felt drawn to the institution. Norman says that the students at HCCC are dedicated and that they have a true desire to learn. He was inspired by their ambition and endeavors to pursue their studies. Norman explains that "The students at HCCC are dedicated and they really want to learn. Online or offline, the students here are just as motivated and driven as the students at four-year colleges."

Recognizing that many of these ambitious students face financial barriers that can get in



HCCC Instructor and Foundation donor Norman Eckstein (center) with Lydia Eckstein, and scholarship recipient Rosa Carolina Escobar.

the way of finishing their education, Norman was moved to act. His new scholarship is both a way for him to further his advocacy for public education in New Jersey, and a way to help eliminate the

Continued on Page 11

'COLUMBUS DAY OR 'INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY'?



Submitted by: Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Instructor, ESL/English

Who should be celebrated on the second Monday of October? This debate, being part of the ESL Level 3 Reading syllabus, has literally been taken a step further by Professor Rodiger's class. Guided by NYC licensed tour guide Hank Orenstein, students took a walking tour of Lower Manhattan, to learn about the many significant contributions of Native Americans to what they originally called Manahatta ("the place where we get wood to make bows"). The tour guide pointed out places and facts connected to the Revolutionary War, the Bill of Rights, and the Civil Rights Movement, all of which are topics discussed throughout the semester. The focus of the tour, however, remained on Native Americans - and after learning about their history, the verdict was unanimous: the controversial holiday should definitely be called 'Indigenous Peoples' Day.'

PHYSICS HONORS SOCIETY

On November 9, the Physics Honors Society gathered with the Environmental Club and the Arts Club to have an afternoon filled with science and painting. By gathering leaves, flowers, seeds and fruits from our local Jersey City gardens, we created pigment rich water and oil paints which were used for decorating our very own flags. We'd like to thank our respective advisors, Dr. Clive Li and Dr. Gunes Senturk! We learned about flower pounding, how different papers separate pigments at different rates, and the physical properties of pulverized minerals. Go, Physics!

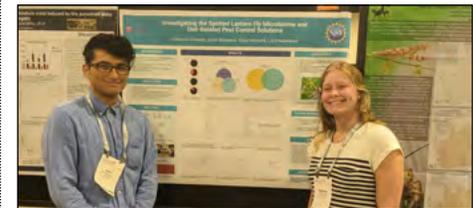


Members of the Physics Honor Society, Environmental Club and Arts Club in a flag-making activity.

Association Society of Physics Students, otherwise known as SPS. Our mission is to bring awareness to the useful and entertaining nature of the physical sciences - making them accessible to high achieving students.

The Physics Honors Society is a new chapter of the National Professional

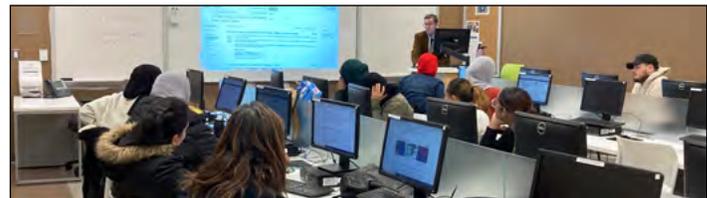
HCCC STEM STUDENT PRESENTS AT ENTOMOLOGY 2023 CONFERENCE



HCCC student Justin Mosquera, and right, his research student partner Katharine Gottwald from Bucknell University, PA.

On November 8, Justin Mosquera, an HCCC student majoring in engineering science, shared his research findings at the Entomology 2023 conference hosted by the Entomological Society of America (ESA).

LIBRARY RESEARCH INSTRUCTION SESSION



Submitted by: Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Instructor, ESL/English

"I'll just Google it." That's the typical response when students are asked how they research a topic. Librarian Michael Smith presented valuable alternatives to 'just Googling' when he instructed Professor Rodiger's ENG 101 Composition I students in how to do research using the HCCC library resources. The wealth of information and its easy accessibility awed the students. Knowing what advanced tools they have at their fingertips gave them confidence and motivation to utilize these resources in their current and future assignments.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,850+ 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.



Leonard Baskin (1922-2000), *Seventeenth Century Poet (captioned: Jan v.d. Velde) (ca. 1980s). Etching and Aquatint on Wove Paper, 29.5" x 22". Jan Van De Velde (1593-1641) was a master engraver. Leonard Baskin admired and collected his work. Baskin was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, educated at Jewish Religious College, Yale University, and the New School for Social Research in New York. While at Yale, Baskin founded Gehenna Press, a private press that specialized in producing fine prints, including woodcuts, lithography and etching. He won many awards for his prints, including the gold medal of the National Academy of Arts and Letters.*

Donor Acknowledgment

Thanks to New Jersey photographer Mike Peters for the donation of four wonderful photographs.

Thanks to Ken Rush for the donation of the Ben Shahn lithograph, *Closing Paragraph of a Dissertation VII* from ca. 1963. The Dissertation Shahn is quoting was by Maximus of Tyre, a Greek Essayist from the 2nd Century AD. It is a profound early message of religious tolerance. Ben Shahn was a New Jersey social-justice activist artist of national renown. Ken was his student at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Impressed by the teen-aged Rush's art, Shahn told Rush that he could be a great painter if he quit art school. Rush continued his arts education. This lithograph came into Rush's collection when Shahn—long ago—offered to trade his work for Rush's. We have several Shahn lithographs in the Collection at the North Hudson Campus in the Library and in the Multi-Purpose Room, and we look forward to installing this one at the College. Art by Ken Rush is installed at 168 Sip Avenue on the 2nd floor.

Artist News

Congratulations to Joyce Kozloff who will be exhibiting her work at Pamela Salisbury Gallery in Hudson, New York through December 10. The exhibit is called *Uncivil Wars*, and was previously on exhibit at DC Moore Gallery. According to DC

Moore, "Uncivil Wars incorporates US Civil War battle maps —created by officers and soldiers from both the Confederate and Union armies— to depict a history that is currently still contested. Viruses erupt throughout the battle maps, reflecting the pandemic that locked down state, national, and international borders, symbolizing the viral racism and xenophobia that permeates our country." Kozloff, who often works with old maps, notes the changing nature of modern warfare, "In World War I, nine out of 10 deaths were soldiers. In today's wars, one out of 10 is a soldier." Her work can be seen on the 6th floor of the Gabert Library in the area devoted to Feminist Art.

An exhibition, *Leonard Baskin, The Great Birdman* of over 70 works by the New-Jersey-born artist is now on view at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education through January 21, 2024. The Foundation Art Collection's print work by Leonard Baskin can be seen closer to home on the 2nd floor of the Gabert Library. Baskin discussed his artistic inspirations, "One fair day, I chanced upon the shelves laden with books by and about William Blake. Confronting Blake plain and unexpected was like being struck by a locomotive. Here was the model, praxis, paradigm and example, an artist and poet coupled. He made his own strange and marvelous books, their impact was overwhelming and I determined to learn to print."

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

FOUNDATION POP-UP DINING EVENT A SUCCESS

On Oct. 27, an unseasonably balmy Friday evening, Hudson County Community College's Culinary Club and the HCCC Foundation collaborated to host a Pop-Up Dining experience to raise scholarship funds.

The sold-out event featured the culinary talents of Chef Anuchit Pukdeedamrongrit - "Chef Puk" and members of the Culinary Club, who prepared a family-style Thai cuisine.

"All proceeds from this event will be transferred to the Foundation" in memory of Paul Dillon, Associate Dean Emeritus, "and earmarked for scholarships for future Culinary Arts Institute (CAI) students," said Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management. "We had close



The Pop-Up had almost 60 guests and raised more than \$5,000 for CAI scholarships.



Chef Puk (center) plates an entrée for Pop-Up guests.

to 60 attendees and raised over \$5,000 for the Foundation. This event was prepared and executed

on a 100% volunteer basis by members of the CAI team and the Culinary Club students."



OFFICE OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
presents



Follow Us

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc
Instagram: www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

Celebrating its second anniversary this March, the Art Concourse at North Hudson is growing in programming and reputation. Last year, the third-floor exhibition space welcomed close to 1,800 visitors!

The works of painter Wes Sherman are currently featured, with almost twenty abstract landscape paintings on view. Sherman is a professor at William Paterson University, and

head curator at the Bedminster Center for Contemporary Art in New Jersey.

On October 24, artist, poet, and gallery owner Frank May joined Sherman for an artist talk and reception. May shared poetry from their recent joint-publication *Penumbra*. The poetry performance and artist discussion were primarily led by HCCC's Gallery Management class.

This spring, the Art Concourse will display the paintings of Jersey City artist Fabricio Suarez. Suarez is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts and considered a master of contemporary baroque style painting. His exhibit opens in February. Be sure to check it out!

HCCC SPONSORS WOMENRISING'S 2023 GALA



Members of the HCCC family attending the WomenRising Celebration of Service Gala.

Hudson County Community College provided silver and bronze sponsorships for WomenRising's Celebration of Service Gala 2023. HCCC was well represented at the Gala, held on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

WomenRising is the foremost community-based organization for women in Hudson County. WomenRising assists women and their families to achieve self-sufficiency and live safe, productive, and fulfilling lives, by providing social services, economic development, and advocacy services.

HCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HOLDS ANNUAL RETREAT



The Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, officers of the College, and invited guests at the Board's retreat dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

On Wednesday, Nov. 8 and Thursday, Nov. 9, the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees held its annual retreat. That evening, the Board and invited guests had dinner at Gabert Library.

On Thursday, the Board and members of the College's Cabinet delivered presentations that will inform future decisions.

Trustees are the stewards of the College and as such are responsible for monitoring its performance relative to compliance with statutes, service to students and the community, and performance relative to comparable institutions.



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a **TOWN HALL MEETING**
Wednesday, December 6, 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/TH-NOV>

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

HCCC HOSTED THE MINORITY CANNABIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (MCBA)



Hudson County Community College and the Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion recently hosted the Minority Cannabis Business Association's (MCBA) Jersey City stop for the Equity Workshop Tour. The MCBA works to empower minority cannabis business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs, and advocates who yearn for equitable representation within the cannabis industry.

Attorney and HCCC adjunct faculty, Jessica Gonzalez, Esq. offered welcoming remarks and introduced Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of the School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management, who discussed the progress that HCCC has made within the Continuing Education and Workforce Development and credit-bearing cannabis curriculum and programming. Roundtable discussions occurred, facilitated by Alyza Brevard-Rodriguez, HCCC adjunct faculty and owner of The Other Side dispensary.

Attendees enjoyed a lunch buffet prepared by the Culinary Arts Institute of HCCC. The day's events concluded with a panel discussion which featured Wesley McWhite III (AA Liberal Arts '14 & Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission), Dr. Karakashian, Dr. Floyd Jeter (Chief Diversity Officer for the Jersey City Office for Diversity and Inclusion) and Christopher Awe (East Orange City Council). The panel was moderated by Scheril Murray Powell, Esq., cannabis attorney and adjunct faculty at New York University.

Part of the mission of HCCC is to offer equitable and inclusive opportunities for our students. The MCBA, HCCC, and the Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion have a shared vision for the fair and just representation of minorities in all facets of the cannabis industry. HCCC is now a member of the MCBA. We would like to thank Dr. Floyd Jeter and Mike Lomuto for their support of this event and hope to host similar events in the near future.

HCCC ESL TEAM MEMBERS ATTEND ESL SUMMIT

On Saturday Nov. 11, Prof. Saliha Yagoubi and Patrizia Barroero, the Associate Director of ESL Department attended the 2nd ESL Summit at Bergen Community College. During this one-day Summit, Best Practices in Teaching ESL at New Jersey Community Colleges were discussed, and the topics presented touched upon the current issues and challenges of teaching ESL.



Saliha Yagoubi (left), Instructor, ESL/Bilingual and Patrizia Barroero, Associate Director of ESL and Academic Foundations English, at Bergen Community College's ESL Summit.

Prof. Yagoubi previously attended the 1st ESL Summit in Spring 2015 at Middlesex College, where she presented "Forging New Curricular Paths: Learning Communities, Condensed Courses, and Certificates," and she is looking forward to participating in the 3rd ESL Summit, hoping it will take place at Hudson County Community College in the future.

FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY, THE STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES



Organized by Raffi Manjikian, Dr. Fatma Tat, Dr. Azhar Mahmood, and Dr. Raffaella Pernice- scientist panelists from Merck Pharmaceuticals, HCCC faculty advisors of the American Chemical Society and the Chemistry Club, and student participants.

On Thursday, October 12, scientists from Merck Pharmaceuticals came to the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) STEM Building to share their success stories about how they started as community college students and now have become respected scientists at Merck. This event was organized by the advisors of the American Chemical Society and the HCCC Chemistry Club. The presenters from Merck included Scott McCann, Sarah Moor, James Herbot, Kevin Sirk, and David Vargas. This was a hybrid event with people attending both in person and virtually. In total, 40 participants joined the event. Once the presentation concluded, the presenters divided the students into small groups to talk to them more personally and to answer any questions that they might have. Additionally, the presenters spoke about specific internship and employment opportunities that HCCC students can apply for and pursue. Overall, it was a wonderful event filled with many inspirational stories. The partnership created with Merck will hopefully continue as we look forward to welcoming them to our campus in the near future.

OPEN HOUSE WAS HELD AT THE NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS



More than 140 people visited the North Hudson Campus on Saturday, Nov. 4 to participate in Hudson County Community College's Fall Open House.



Marissa P. Lontoc, Instructor, Table Services, describes programs at the Culinary Arts Institute.



Denise Rossilli, Associate Professor/Coordinator, Human Services Pre-Social Work and Addictions Counseling, gives a description of available College programs.

HCCC RECEIVES HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 'OUTSTANDING HACU MEMBER INSTITUTION AWARD'

Continued from page 2

As a result of these programs and alliances, HCCC is frequently recognized for its support of the Latino community. Recently, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Yeurys Pujols, was honored with the 48th Annual Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, and in 2022, Dr. Reber was a Parade Grand Marshal and recipient of the Educator of the Year Award. The College has also received the 2021 Community Partner Award from the Desfile Salvadoreño de New Jersey; 2021 Recognition for Work with the LatinX Community by Ambassador Alfonso Morales, Consul General of Ecuador for New Jersey and Pennsylvania; 2021 Recognition for Community Service in Support of the LatinX Community in Hudson County by Multicultural Poder Hispano; 2020 Save Latin America Los Tres Antillanos Annual Gala Educational Award to Dr. Yeurys Pujols; and others.

In May, the College hosted "HACU on the Road," a convening of more than 100 national HACU leaders and members, chancellors and presidents of colleges and universities, superintendents of Hispanic-serving school districts, higher education representatives, state legislators, and corporate and community leaders.

The convening was designed to promote dialogue about the state of Hispanic higher education.

In October, Dr. Reber participated in a Washington, D.C. roundtable discussion with United States Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and other notable HSI leaders hosted by HACU President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Antonio Flores. Recently, Dr. Yeurys Pujols was selected as a Fellow in the HACU Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo; and Irma Williams, HCCC Associate Registrar, was chosen to participate in HACU's inaugural Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program as a recipient of a Capital One grant. Earlier this year, Dr. Reber took part in HACU's Washington, D.C. roundtable discussion with U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

HCCC students benefit from HACU scholarships, internships, advancement programs, and career development opportunities. "As our partner, HACU helps the College provide the people of our community with avenues to succeed and excel in higher education and their careers," Dr. Reber stated. "We are proud of our alliance with HACU, proud of our heritage as an Hispanic-Serving Institution, and honored to receive this award."

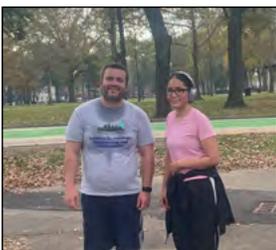
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



Pictured from left: Dr. Burl Yearwood, HCCC Dean of STEM; Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Associate Professor and National Science Foundation grant PI; and Khurshheed Khan, Adjunct Instructor, Construction Management and NSF grant co-PI.

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Dr. Azhar Mahmood (Associate Professor, STEM) and Khurshheed Khan (Adjunct Instructor, Construction Management) presented "Strengthening Community College and Workforce Partnerships in Construction Management" at the 2023 National ATE Principal Investigators' Conference in Washington, DC. The objective of the presentation was to shine a spotlight on the well-performing projects for inspiration and as a potential model to follow.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



On NYC Marathon Day, Nov. 5, HCCC Instructor, Raffi Manjikian and Stefany Alarcon participated in another New York Road Runners event, Open Run at Lincoln Park.



On Nov. 4, the day before the New York City Marathon, Hugo Iglesias, STEM alumnus of HCCC and Saint Peter's University volunteered at the Friends of Liberty State Park 5K Run/Walk



Professor Ted Lai volunteered at the Friends of Liberty State Park 5K Run/Walk Nov. 4.



Prof. Ted Lai, Beta Alpha Phi advisor, (right) participating in the beautification project of Liberty State Park on Nov. 4. Ana Estefany Polanco, HCCC alumna and Spring Induction guest speaker also volunteered in the gardening program.

Blood Drive

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS) of the New York Blood Center held a blood drive in the STEM Building on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Volunteers from Phi Theta Kappa and the Nursing Club promoted the drive in October and acted as donor liaisons in the canteen area following their donation.

NJBS collected 37 whole blood units. These donations are lifesaving gifts to patients in need, including cancer patients, trauma victims, newborn babies, and individuals undergoing surgery.

Phi Theta Kappa will host a winter blood drive at the STEM Building on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024.

Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

On Monday, Nov. 6, Phi Theta Kappa hosted a webinar on the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship to help applicants to prepare stronger applications.

The application for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship became available on Oct. 5. It is beneficial for students to learn more about the scholarship and to prepare stronger applications.

The application deadline for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is Jan. 11, 2024. For more information,

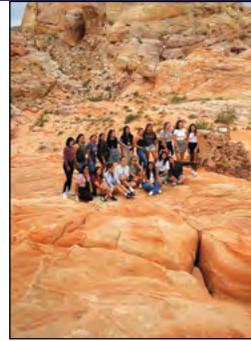
please visit <https://support.ptk.org/hc/en-us/articles/4409443341211-Jack-Kent-Cooke-Undergraduate-Transfer-Scholarship-Overview>.

Phi Theta Kappa Spring Scholarships Open in Early 2024

In 2022, Phi Theta Kappa hosted a webinar to assist with the preparation of the Spring Scholarship Application: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XUcwGh_iDE.

For more information about available scholarships, please visit <https://www.ptk.org/scholarships/associates-degree/>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Continuing Education's Au Pair Students Visit Nevada!

In October, Continuing Education launched a new Au Pair class called, "Exploring Digital Photography and Nevada: The Silver State". During this four-day hands-on, photography and destination class in Nevada, students experienced the desert landscape, learned about Native Americans' rich history there, and visited museums and cultural landmarks.

Students Also visited one of the great wonders of the world, Grand Canyon National Park, where they learned about geological history while honing their photography skills. They also explored the Springs Preserve, a 180-acre cultural institution designed to commemorate Las Vegas' dynamic history and to provide a vision for a sustainable future. Other landmarks visited include Seven Magic Mountains – a colorful art installation in the middle of the desert, and the Neon Museum, where

students were able to capture unique images while learning about the history of Las Vegas through neon signs. Students also visited the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, where they learned about the Mafia's history in Las Vegas and how organized crime transformed the city from a dusty train stop to the gaming capital of the world. They also explored the Las Vegas Strip, including the famous Las Vegas sign, Ceasar's Palace, the Bellagio Fountain, and Fremont Street. At the Nevada State Museum, students immersed in the heritage of Native Americans who continue to shape Nevada's history and culture.

Courses in the Continuing Education Au Pair program are open to everyone. Programs are offered at the Journal Square Campus, Online and Remote, and several destination classes are offered throughout the United States. For more information, please contact the Director of Continuing Education, Chastity Farrell, at cfarrell@hccc.edu.

CEWD and Fidelity Investments Partner to Give Back to the HCCC Community

HCCC's School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development and Fidelity Investments joined hands in the "Networking and Volunteering" student and industry event on November 6.

Students from the Gateway to Innovation program and the Skills Training Academy, alumni, and staff worked collaboratively with Fidelity associates in creating multiple "no-sew" blankets, which will benefit single moms of the HCCC community.



Students and alumni were warmly welcomed by Fidelity associates who shared their experiences, career journeys, and advice. It was a fun, engaging, and impactful event for all.



Gateway to Innovation's Promote Your Personal Brand Workshop

On October 25, CEWD's Gateway to Innovation team hosted an interactive webinar, "Promoting Your Personal Brand" on HCCC's Journal Square Campus.

Guest Speaker, Stephanie Ginos, Former Director of EY, (formerly Ernst & Young) helped students in the audience to discover their unique brand, understand their unique value, and remove self-doubt when job hunting.

Upcoming Programs

DECEMBER

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, December 7, 2023 | 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Price: \$77
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2023-tickets-670817281547?aff=oddtcreator>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Friday, December 15, 2023 | 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Price: \$77
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2023-tickets-670817281547?aff=oddtcreator>

JANUARY

PRE-NURSING TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP WINTER 2024 (ONLINE)

Saturdays | January 20, 2024 - March 23, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Price: \$289

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pre-nursing-test-preparation-workshop-winter-2024-online-tickets-732815078627?aff=oddtcreator>

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE USAGE & READING PREP WINTER 2024 ONLINE

Saturdays | January 20, 2024 - February 17, 2024
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$143

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/english-language-usage-reading-prep-only-winter-2024-online-tickets-732860213627?aff=oddtcreator>

CANNABIS HEALTH & SAFETY COURSE - ONLINE

January 22, 2024 - March 11, 2024 | Price: \$500
 Mondays | January 22, 2024 - March 11, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
 Price: \$500

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cannabis-health-safety-course-registration-746153263497?aff=oddtcreator>

CERTIFICATES IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PLANNING AND CONTROL

Mondays | January 22, 2024 - May 14, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.
 Remote | Price: \$572

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/certificates-in-construction-management-registration-728364737537?aff=oddtcreator>

CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES, MATERIAL AND TESTING

Tuesdays (Lecture) & Thursdays (Lab)
 January 22, 2024 - May 14, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
 Lecture Remote & Lab on Campus | Price: \$1,144

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/certificates-in-construction-management-registration-728364737537?aff=oddtcreator>

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND CALCULATIONS

Wednesdays | January 22, 2024 - May 14, 2024 | 5:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
 Journal Square Campus | Price: \$700

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/certificates-in-construction-management-registration-728364737537?aff=oddtcreator>

CONSTRUCTION CODES

Fridays | January 22, 2024 - May 14, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
 Lecture Remote | Price: \$572

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/certificates-in-construction-management-registration-728364737537?aff=oddtcreator>

CANNABIS COMPLIANCE COURSE - ONLINE

January 22, 2024 - March 11, 2024 | Price: \$500
 IN-PERSON: Wednesdays | January 22, 2024 - March 14, 2024
 6:30 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. | Price: \$500 | Journal Square Campus

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cannabis-compliance-course-registration-746147115107?aff=oddtcreator>

SCIENCE/MATH PREP ONLY WINTER 2024 (ONLINE)

**AS PART OF PRE-NURSING TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP WINTER 2024
 Saturdays | February 24, 2024 - March 23, 2024
 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$143

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sciencemath-prep-only-winter-2024-online-tickets-732881106117?aff=oddtcreator>

To register, contact: amuniz@hccc.edu

HCCC PRESIDENT INVITED TO JOIN NATIONWIDE BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM (BHEF)

Continued from page 3

Jersey Governor Phil Murphy recently praised the program as the blueprint for the state's economic future.

HCCC is equipping students for the future with new programs in emerging industries such as data science, construction management, and a National Security Agency (NSA)-certified cybersecurity program. The College's innovative programming and bevy of meaningful partnerships make it an onramp to exciting and family-sustaining career and educational pathways for students from all walks of life.

President Reber recently joined other leaders of Hispanic Serving Institutions to meet with United States Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, where he outlined his bold vision to create a semiconductor manufacturing center at the College, and to create customized workforce development programs that align with the needs of the high-tech industry. Consultants like McKinsey expect global semiconductor spending to reach \$1 trillion annually by the end of the decade, and the industry requires highly-skilled workers, so Dr. Reber's vision would help create lucrative career pathways for students while ensuring that U.S. semiconductor manufacturers have the skilled workers they need to stay on the leading edge of this dynamic and critically-important industry.

BHEF's membership includes a mix of leading technology companies, consultants, and high-tech manufacturers, including Google, Amazon Web Services, Wiley, Ellucian, Accenture, S&P Global, Boeing, and more. On the higher-education side, HCCC joins a multitude of highly ranked and prestigious colleges and universities from across the country, including Columbia University, Georgetown University, Howard University, California Polytechnic State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and others. Dr. Reber states that, "As open access institutions, community colleges collectively serve as the gateway to the American Dream for millions of Americans, so we are at the forefront of closing the skills gap. We are honored to stand alongside leading corporations and postsecondary institutions, collectively dedicated to transforming lives and shaping a more inclusive, skilled, and prosperous workforce for all."

Nationwide challenges such as closing the opportunity and skills gaps require bold approaches where various stakeholders work together towards a common goal. Dr. Reber looks forward to joining BHEF and its dedicated members to contribute solutions to these challenges, bridge the gaps, expand career opportunities for all, and create transformative change for the communities we serve.



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>



INSPIRING CHANGE

Continued from Page 5

financial burden shouldered by students. "If I can help people out financially, to help make it all possible, then it's all worth it," explains Norman. "I don't want to hear a student say 'I couldn't take your course because I couldn't afford it, or because I couldn't afford the textbook I want to minimize those barriers.'"

Norman's scholarship honors his late father, Louis Eckstein, who was diagnosed with ALS and passed away while Norman was studying for his degree at Montclair State University. Norman benefitted from a scholarship while he was at Montclair State, and he and his family would like to help people facing similar challenges. "I know my father would be happy with where I am today," says Norman.

Part of the criteria for Norman's scholarship is to be a student leader, and a student majoring

in accounting, business, culinary arts, hospitality management, or other business-related fields. He says, "I'm not worried about finding the person with the 4.0 GPA. That's great, but I'm more interested in how you deal with people and how you treat others. That's what it takes to be a leader after college." He and his mother, Lydia Eckstein, decided to award the scholarship to two students, rather than one, to spread the wealth and help as many people as possible.

While Norman's goal is to help alleviate the financial burden of students and to empower them to reach their academic potential, he also hopes that his gift will create a ripple effect by inspiring other faculty members and employees of HCCC to create additional scholarships and to give back in their own ways. "Let's create an even bigger impact by having even more people get on the bandwagon," says Norman.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education

February 26
–March 1, 2024

**Come together!
Speak out!
Take action!**

Join and collaborate with over 150 colleges and social agencies to transform and drive positive change!



Register at
[zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwkd-hrDwqHNN-8t2nmxecPZ5nyoEE2ewd](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwkd-hrDwqHNN-8t2nmxecPZ5nyoEE2ewd)



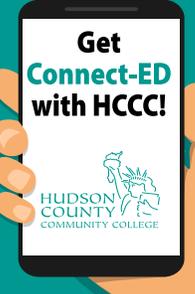
COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

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.

Get Connect-ED with HCCC!

Hudson County Community College has implemented Connect-ED, a text- and voice-messaging emergency-alert system in the event of a crisis or emergency that poses an immediate and life-threatening danger to the College community.




For more information, go to:
<https://www.hccc.edu/administration/communications/emergency-notification.html>

Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees

William J. Netchert, Esq., *Chair*
 Bakari G. Lee, Esq., *Vice Chair*
 Pamela E. Gardner, *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Edward J. DeFazio, Esq.
 Joseph V. Doria Jr., Ed.D.
 Sally Elwir, *Student Alumni Representative*
 Frank J. Gargiulo
 Roberta Kenny
 Jeanette Peña
 Silvia Rodriguez
 Harold G. Stahl Jr.
 Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D., *College President*

County Executive and Board of County Commissioners

Thomas A. DeGise, County Executive
 Anthony L. Romano, Jr., Chairperson
 Jerry Walker, Vice-Chairperson
 Fanny J. Cedeño, Chair Pro Temp
 Yraida Aponte-Lipski
 Robert P. Baselice
 Albert J. Cifelli, Esq.
 Kenneth Kopacz
 William P. O'Dea
 Caridad Rodriguez

JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Phone (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Boulevard
 Union City, NJ 07087
 Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

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

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

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

FOLLOW US ON:



myhudson.hccc.edu
www.hccc.edu

ALUMNI CORNER

Nydia James - Class of 2004

A.A. Early Childhood Education Liberal Arts



Nydia James is a first-generation College graduate and a proud alumna of HCCC. Nydia is now the Assistant Grants Officer at HCCC and she has played an instrumental role in helping HCCC since the years she took the role.

What led you to begin your educational journey at HCCC?

When I was a senior at Lincoln High School in Jersey City, there was a summer program where you could take courses for free, and by the time you started the fall semester you could start at a college level. I initially wanted to go to one of the HBCUs down south, but at the time, my parents didn't have the funds to send me out of state.

What made it the right decision for you?

HCCC ended up being the best option for me because I was able to attend for free. By going to school in this area, I was also able to stay close to my family and set a good example for my siblings.

What did you study here at HCCC?

I originally wanted to be a teacher or a paralegal. I said that I wanted to be a teacher in my eighth grade yearbook! I graduated with a degree in early childhood education. I transferred to NJCU and you had to have a dual major to go with early childhood education. I chose history because I wanted to work at a museum if I didn't become a teacher. I was fascinated by European history and the history of countries like Russia and Germany.

What advice do you have for HCCC students who are just beginning their academic journeys?

Be patient. I found myself rushing at the time, taking four to five classes at a time so I could finish and move on to the next chapter, but I also overwhelmed myself in the process. Work at your own pace.

What is your favorite memory of the College?

I liked the group gatherings, like when we all got together for a Thanksgiving potluck -- things that took away from the stress of midterms, finals, and all of the paperwork.

What led you to start a career here at HCCC?

While at Hudson, I began working as a work study student in the testing center, helping new students with their tests. I did that for a while, then I moved up to part time, and then there was an opportunity for a secretary in the grants office. From there I moved up to assistant grants officer.

What inspired you to begin a career in grants?

It's not an area that I originally foresaw myself working in, but I appreciate what they saw in me, and I really took to the role.

What skills does someone need to succeed in grants?

It takes a lot of patience and organization, as well as problem-solving skills. If a team doesn't have experience in writing grants, you have to help them formulate the plan and walk them through it.

What does a day in the life of a grants professional look like?

There is something new every day. Once you get an award, you have to look at the budget and you have to make sure the reporting is in on time. You have to consider whether there are reporting requirements that we have to be aware of, budget modifications, and other factors. If a question arises, we have to figure out how to answer it. It all involves a lot of reporting and a lot of data.

What do you like about working in grants?

I like the project management side of seeing grants through from start to finish, and seeing the team actually get the award -- all of the hard work paid off. And best of all, it's for our students!

How has HCCC changed from the time that you started here?

Of course, the people have changed. I've met many people here over the years, and it's good to get to know new faces and to see how they interpret things and do things differently. Things have really changed since Dr. Reber got here. His mission, the whole Hudson is Home spirit, and the way that everyone works together and gets along with one another have all been positive changes that have reinvigorated the College community.

What advice would you give to HCCC graduates?

You did it! Take time to celebrate and reflect on what you've accomplished but keep working hard and pursuing your goals.

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

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

