

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION BY ACHIEVING THE DREAM



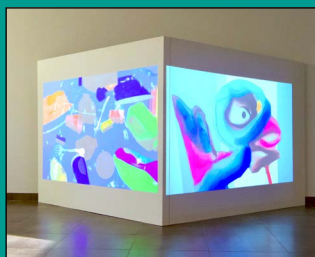
### In this issue

Hudson County Community College Holds Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for North Hudson Campus Courtyard Café



Page 3

Benjamin J. Dineen III And Dennis C. Hull Gallery Welcomes Art And Tech Lovers To Explore Femme Digital



Page 3

Hudson County Community College President Chris Reber to Receive Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's Most Prestigious Award



Page 9



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

HR News ..... 4

PTK News ..... 9

Continuing Education Programs ..... 10

Alumni Corner ..... 12

**From the Editor’s Desk**

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

Items for the April newsletter are due by Friday, March 8, 2024.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

**Communications Department**  
**162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor**  
**Jersey City, NJ 07306**  
**Phone: 201.360.4060**  
**Fax: 201.653.0607**  
**[communications@hccc.edu](mailto:communications@hccc.edu)**

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

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED LEADER COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION BY ACHIEVING THE DREAM**

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) has earned “Leader College of Distinction” designation from Achieving the Dream (ATD), the national reform movement of high-achieving community colleges. The honor is bestowed upon innovative higher education institutions that demonstrate sustained and significant outcomes in the advancement of student success. HCCC is one of six Leader Colleges to receive this honor.

ATD is the acclaimed national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and mobility in their communities. ATD created the Leader College of Distinction Award in 2018 to recognize colleges that meet challenging student success goals. It is the highest designation of institutional success outcomes in the ATD network of colleges.

“This recognition is important to our colleges. It affirms to their faculty and staff and communities the importance of their student success work and that they are making progress on important milestone metrics in their journeys,” said Dr. Karen A. Stout, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream. “Hudson County Community College is an exemplar of excellence within the ATD Network. It is driving accelerated and scaled gains in equitable student success results, which effect substantive improvements for students, families, and the community HCCC serves. Their dedication and hard work both inform and inspire other colleges, and we admire them for their work.”

HCCC joined the ATD network of 300 colleges in January 2019 and achieved Leader College status last year by demonstrating continuous improvement in retention and graduation rates, especially among Hispanic and African American students; attending annual ATD DREAM meetings; filing annual student success action plans and reports; and serving as an invited presenter at ATD national meetings and webinars.

“We’re proud to be named a Leader College of Distinction, and thank our Trustees, faculty, staff, and students for helping produce transformative results that empower our students and our community,” said HCCC President, Dr. Christopher

Reber. “ATD’s mission aligns with our College’s mission of opening new pathways for our most vulnerable learners and helping ensure that students achieve their academic and professional goals. Seeing our students complete degree and certificate programs, become gainfully employed, and engage in civic participation is inspiring, and compels us to continue building upon our successes.”

Hudson County Community College utilizes evidence-based data and programs and ATD best practices to shape policy and practices that result in student success:

- “Hudson Scholars,” the College’s innovative, national Bellwether award-winning student success program provides advisement, stipends, and early academic intervention to assist students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities. In just two years, Fall 2021 first-time, full-time Scholars participants earned a college credential at three times the historical rate. Scholars who meet monthly with their counselors during the semester persist to the following term at a 99% rate; Fall-to-Fall persistence improved 46% for Hispanic/Latino students and 83% for Black/African American students. The “Hudson Scholars” program has benefited more than 2,500 students to date, is now self-sustaining, and is being scaled to all students.

- HCCC’s “Hudson Helps” Resource Center is a compendium of wraparound services, programs, and supports that focus on basic needs beyond the classroom and result in greater student achievement.

- The HCCC President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) and HCCC’s corporate partnerships address the needs of the community and the regional labor market, resulting in pathways to careers with family-sustaining wages and apprenticeship programs. These partnerships include Eastern Millwork, Inc., Veolia, New Jersey Water Association, New Jersey Utility Association, International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825, and many other industry leaders and unions.

**ON THE COVER:** Hudson County Community College representatives at the 20th anniversary convening of DREAM – the annual signature event of Achieving the Dream – in Orlando, Florida.

**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.



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS COURTYARD CAFÉ

Students, faculty, and staff at Hudson County Community College’s (HCCC) North Hudson Campus will have a new place to fuel up, relax, and enjoy one another. A ribbon-cutting/grand opening ceremony for the HCCC North Hudson Campus Courtyard Café took place on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 4800 Kennedy Boulevard in Union City, NJ.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber was joined by Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of HCCC’s North Hudson Campus, in welcoming guests. “The new Courtyard Café is a manifestation of our dedication to our students and promoting community,” Dr. Reber said. “The Café offers unique and healthy food options, a change from the vending machine fare, and serves as a gathering place for all. Here, you can have coffee between classes, enjoy a sit-down meal, or order something to go.”

The \$1.2 million North Hudson Courtyard Café is a 1,950 square-foot facility designed by RSC Architects and built by MAST Construction. The Courtyard Café is well appointed and features state-of-the-art kitchen equipment to accommodate a wide selection of food choices.



Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus (third from right), cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the North Hudson Courtyard Café on Feb. 12.

The HCCC North Hudson Courtyard Café menu features breakfast bowls, bagels, burritos, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, quesadillas, flatbreads, and other favorites like chicken tenders and fries. To save time, patrons can order ahead by using the myQuickCharge app. The North Hudson

Courtyard Café is Mondays and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## HCCC ATTENDS GENERATION HOPE POLICY CONVENING



HCCC was in Dallas, TX for the Generation Hope Policy Convening with the FamilyU Cohort. This convening is focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of institutional policies and practices through a student parent lens. Pictured next to Dr. Reber is Nicole Lynn Lewis, Generation Hope, Founder and CEO.

## HCCC MAKES PRESENCE FELT AT ACCT NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



Several officers of Hudson County Community College attended the Association of Community College Trustees’ National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC from Feb. 4 to Feb. 7. This premier community college advocacy event convened more than 1,000 community college leaders.

## NURSING PROGRAM GOES RED FOR WOMEN



On Friday, Feb. 2, Hudson County Community College’s RN Nursing Program participated in National Wear Red Day®, the icon day of American Heart Month. This annual program, observed on the first Friday in February, raises awareness of women’s number one killer – cardiovascular disease.

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Michael Byrne  
Maria Cortez  
Tania Martins  
Stine Stineman

#### Five Years

Anna Krupitskiy  
Burl Yearwood

#### 20 Years

Robert Gioia  
Kevin Taylor

#### 25 Years

Maribel Alvarado-Bikai  
Janine Nunez

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Anthony Baskin  
Nick Patel  
Sebastian Zapata

### APPOINTMENT OF STAFF:

Lori Byrd, Director, Nursing Program,  
Effective Date February 16, 2024

Eva Racine, Skills Simulation Lab Coordinator,  
Effective Date February 16, 2024

### APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF:

Whitney Mora Rivera, Customer Service  
Representative (Grant-funded), Effective Date  
February 16, 2024 through June 30, 2024

### APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY:

Diego Velez, Instructor, ESL,  
Effective Date January 22, 2024 through June 30, 2024

### MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE:

New Title Added, Customer Service Representative  
(Grant-funded)

Cristhian Altamirano, Assistant Director,  
Early College to Associate Director, Early College

Victoria Orellana, Registrar

Meghry Tutunjian, Student Success Coach to  
Academic Counselor

Irma Williams, Associate Registrar

Joycelyn Wong-Castellano, Student Success Coach  
to Academic Counselor

## HUMAN RESOURCES HOSTS COFFEE HOUR



The Office of Human Resources team held its first coffee hour of 2024 on Thursday, Feb. 8.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

### Emotional Intelligence in Customer Service

(All Employees, Live, Wednesday, March 20, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Customer service roles are often some of the most emotionally taxing positions in an organization, especially when dealing with emotional customers. In this session, learn how emotional intelligence can help you to better manage stressful interactions for better outcomes.

### Leading Impactful and Collaborative

**One-on-Ones** (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, March 27, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

One-on-ones are standing, recurring meetings between a manager and their direct reports. A vital part of the continuous feedback model, one-on-ones can drive workplace communication and connection, if done well, but often leaders put them off, or use them inappropriately. In this

session, we will discuss strategies for impactful, collaborative one-on-ones that both manager and employee look forward to.

### Bullying: Awareness and Effective Response

(Prerecorded; available 24/7 through Sunday, March 31)

This training will cover three key areas: Bring awareness of bullying in both the workplace and schools through identifying the signs and behavior; discuss the negative impact and effects; and introduce strategies and steps to combat and prevent bullying.

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

## THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES PRESENTS

# Women's History Month! Employee Panel



**Josianne Payoute**  
Director,  
Benefits and  
Compensation



**Saudia Reid**  
Director, Patron Services  
College Libraries



**Danielle Lopez**  
Director, Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion  
for Accessibility Services

**Friday, March 8, 2024 at 2 p.m.**

Student Center, 81 Sip Avenue, Multipurpose Room, Jersey City, NJ

**Panel, Discussion, and  
Open Forum Questions**



**Facilitated By:**  
Andrea Goodwin  
Coordinator,  
Human Resources

# HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE VICE PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN HARVARD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Change is inevitable. Preparing for organizational change can mitigate negative impact on an organization's present and future operations. The Harvard Graduate School of Education's "Organizational Change in Uncertain Times: A Leadership Program for Higher Education" was designed for higher education leaders who are responsible for change agendas. Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has announced that Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti represented the College in the program.

The four-week virtual institute is designed to assist college leaders preparing to meet change head-on, from developing initial strategy to implementation and evaluation. The institute provides a synchronous, interactive learning experience for engaging with peers and Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty. Participants had the opportunity to use contemporary research and apply best practices to address specific challenges their organization may be facing. Program content included live sessions, discussion boards, breakout sessions, and readings.

Attendees assessed how well-positioned their educational institutions are in meeting current and future challenges; deepened their understanding of factors that both inhibit and advance change; reflected on their leadership strengths and growth opportunities to increase their effectiveness as they drive innovation and lasting impact; explored skills and strategies to lead teams through change and uncertainty; and developed a blueprint as a guide for addressing anticipated challenges.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber said the College's success in supporting students and the community is due in large measure to HCCC supporting the professional development of ad-

ministrators, faculty and staff. "Dr. Chiaravalloti serves as our liaison with federal, state, and local officials and the community at large. He provides executive and administrative direction for the College's legal affairs, and leadership in developing, supporting, and executing our priorities, so this opportunity was especially well suited to his work here," Dr. Reber stated.



Nicholas Chiaravalloti has been serving as HCCC's Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, and Senior Counsel to the President since 2017. He holds a doctoral degree in Education from St. Peter's University, Juris Doctorate degree from the Rutgers-Newark School of Law, and Bachelor of Arts degree from The Catholic University of America.

Prior to joining HCCC, Dr. Chiaravalloti was Director of Community Engagement, and Director of the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership at St. Peter's University. He also served for six years as Assemblyman for the 31st Legislative District (Bayonne/Jersey City); Majority Whip; and State Director for the Office of Senator Robert Menendez. In the private sector, he was a partner in the law firm of Weiner & Lesniak, LLP and is the owner of consulting firm ANJ LLC. Dr. Chiaravalloti serves on the New Jersey Broadband Commission, the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America - Northern New Jersey Council, the Executive Board of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Planning Association New Jersey Committee.

## Hudson County Community College Construction Industry Summer Workshops for High School Students



Let's Build Something Together!

### What to Expect:

- Course will consist of remote lectures in an interactive classroom discussion. Students will receive all course and study materials.
- After every session, students will receive assignments related to the topics discussed in the class. Students will perform some background research on these topics and prepare brief reports.
- Tentative dates for the workshops are as follows: Weekends of May 11 & 12 and May 18 & 19. Students will earn a certificate of completion after the program.
- Students who attend all the sessions will receive \$50 gift card

### TO REGISTER:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hccc-construction-industry-summer-workshops-tickets-814506750617>

To reserve a spot, ask questions, or obtain more information, please contact the Construction Management AAS Coordinator, Dr. Azhar Mahmood at [amahmood@hccc.edu](mailto:amahmood@hccc.edu) or 201-360-4259.



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a **TOWN HALL MEETING** on **Thursday, March 7 at 2 p.m.**

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

**Virtual at:**  
<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m01fce92aef653470ad6664376242af73>

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

## JOIN US FOR THE DINING SERIES

The spring edition of HCCC's always-anticipated Subscription Dining Series is fast approaching, and subscriptions for this in-demand spring fixture are expected to sell out quickly.

**Culinary Conference Center - 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ | 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**Fridays - March 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, and 26**

Your subscription costs \$1,295 for eight weeks\*, or \$647.50 for four weeks. Please choose the first four dates (February-March) or the last four dates (April). Appetizer, entree, dessert courses, and non-alcoholic beverages are included. Seating is limited to four diners per table. \*Single week is not available.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [www.hccc.edu/foundation](http://www.hccc.edu/foundation).**

April 12 2024

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY LOADING.....

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,900+ 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.

Many of you remember 14 years ago, when the Foundation Art Collection included 25 installed works, and another 25 in storage. There are now more than 1,940 artworks in the Collection, thanks to the generosity of 100+ amazing donors and the stalwart support of President Reber, the Foundation Art Committee, the Foundation Board, and the College Board of Trustees. In honor of the fact that the Foundation Art Committee has recently approved art donations that will take the Collection to over 2,000 works, we are devoting this column to an overview of how this all works. The Collection is unique because we put all art and artifacts on display in public areas of our nine campus buildings, in humanities-themed groupings, making the entire campus an educational museum. We are proud that many of the pieces in the Collection are by people of color, and about half are by women (the national average of women's art in museums is 13%). We have dozens of artworks by important artists; and we are pleased to report that many of those artists hail from our home state of New Jersey. As you may know, our Foundation Art Collection now serves as a national model for community colleges to develop significant art collections. The Collection Coordinator's recent TEDx talk discusses this model: Andrea Siegel TEDx - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dxeNiK2Y8&t=14s>

## How do we pay for this project?

All funds spent on the Collection are donated. Our operating funds have been largely raised at the annual Gala. Up to \$15,000 is donated there, and then that sum is matched both by the Foundation Board and the Board of Trustees. So, we manage the Art Collection on a budget of about \$45,000 a year. When other college museum professionals hear about that small sum, they gasp. How is it possible that we do so much with so little?

## Where does that money go?

Once a work is donated (or, rarely, purchased), it takes about two years to get the art ready to be installed. Art has to be photographed and catalogued on our online public, searchable database: Foundation Art Collection



Sol LeWitt, *Isometric Figure with Bars of Color*, (2004) *Color Linocut 20 x 20.5 in*

(<https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html>). Then, art is selected in coordination with people in charge of the College areas where art goes. With the approval of our fine administrators, educators, and staff, art is then on the path to be placed where it can provide maximum benefit. A large part of our budget goes to archival framing. Thinking ahead, we want this art to benefit the community for a long time. Without that necessary framing expense, acid in framing materials would destroy art. A significant sum is also devoted to art restoration because sometimes donors give us wonderful work that needs repair. Repair is expensive when you do it right, but it is so worth it. We also spend a major portion of the budget on Plexiglas boxes and installation. People often ask why we bother with custom-built Plexiglas boxes since each costs hundreds of dollars. The reason is that we want the Collection to be easy to care for and long-lasting. Please know that in 14 years, not a single boxed artwork has been damaged. Thank goodness. When you find another art museum in America that can make that claim, we will be happy to know their secret. If the secret is armed guards, well ... a box is a lot less expensive.

## How does all of this get done?

The "we" referred to above, is two hard-working, part-time employees: Dr. Andrea Siegel—the Collection Coordinator—and her super assistant, Darius Gilmore. Now that the Collection is over 39 times larger than it was 14 years ago, we work a lot harder.

Another thing that makes our work possible is the ongoing and wonderful support of the Maintenance team, the Facilities team, and the Security team. Their excellent, behind-the-scenes efforts make them the unsung heroes of this project.

## Into the Future

We are now looking ahead to learn how best to protect, preserve, and develop the Collection to maximize the benefit of this wonderful art for our students and our community. We seek to build a solid pathway to the future. We need to take steps toward greater professionalization.

For starters, we need an expert Preservation Assessment, so that we can have the best possible advice about how to best preserve and protect the Collection. With a Preservation Assessment, we can plan to move forward wisely. That costs about \$8,000.

It is good stewardship to get the Collection appraised. A ballpark figure for that work by a certified fine and decorative art appraiser is about \$50,000.

Just these two steps will make us more prepared for our future, and also more eligible for important grants to support our future needs.

We are also exploring the idea of developing an endowment to preserve our Collection. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Collection was self-sustaining for generations into the future?

If you're interested in helping with this project, we would be delighted. Please contact: Nicole Bouknight Johnson at (201) 360-4069 or [nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu](mailto:nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu).

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

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

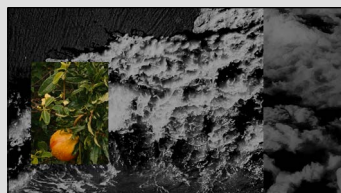
To donate artwork, find detailed information here: [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html)

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

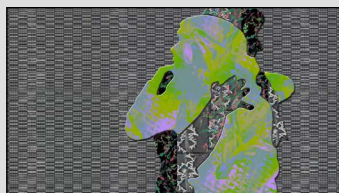
OFFICE OF  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
presents



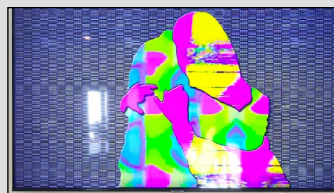
**BENJAMIN J. DINEEN III AND DENNIS C. HULL GALLERY WELCOMES ART AND TECH LOVERS TO EXPLORE *FEMME DIGITAL***



*Still from the fecund, the lush and the salted land waits for a harvest...her people... ripe with promise, wait until the next blowing season by Deborah Jack (image is courtesy of the artist)*



*Still from Hugs on Tape (Erica/Sophia) by LoVid (karatekid\_xyz collection) (image is courtesy of the artist)*



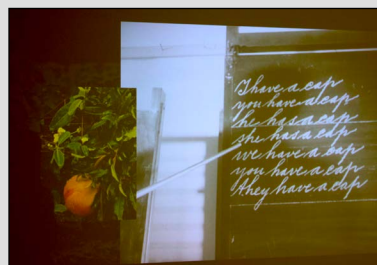
*Hugs on Tape (Erica/Sophia) by LoVid (karatekid\_xyz collection)*



*Fortune by Vandana Jain*



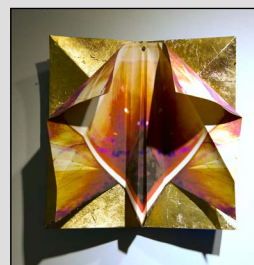
*Vinyl Decal of still from Self Portrait: 000001 by Stevfni.XYZ*



*the fecund, the lush and the salted land waits for a harvest...her people... ripe with promise, wait until the next blowing season by Deborah Jack*



*The Top 10 Corporations from 1955 to 2014 and Seed Fast Food Credit by Vandana Jain*



*Light Composition No.1 by Anna Ehrsam*



*Get Rid of It and Delirious by Tricia McLaughlin*

By Michelle Vitale, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Cultural Affairs

**F**emme Digital, the newest gallery exhibition, opened on January 30 on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library at Hudson County Community College. The show hosts seven emerging to internationally recognized female-identifying and non-binary artists who investigate environmental, political, and identity themes through various digital technologies. Artists include Anna Ehrsam, Deborah Jack, Donna Kessinger, LoVid, Stevfni.XYZ, Tricia McLaughlin, and Vandana Jain.

Women creating digital art is nothing new, and as technology grows, so do opportunities for all artists. Krista Kim, founder of the Techism movement, was quoted recently stating, "NFTs (non-fungible tokens) enable all people, regardless of sex, race, geography or religion, to have an equal voice."

LoVid is a multi-disciplinary artist and a globally celebrated innovator in digital media. In a post-pandemic world, LoVid's NFT *Hugs on Tape (Erica/Sophia)* is full of colorful patterns intermingled in silhouettes of two female friends welcoming each other. *Hugs* is positioned on a large video monitor greeting gallery visitors. LoVid says, "Patterns are visceral reminders of

the connection between technological objects, the human body, and the world."

Internationally known artists and metro area professors Deborah Jack and Tricia McLaughlin create videos that focus on the environment but differ through the artistic process. NJCU professor Deborah Jack's single-channel video *the fecund, the lush and the salted land...* imagines rhizomatic, protective intersectional landscapes and wetlands as sites of resistance. Jack explains, "This altered landscape, post surge, though temporary, is an exciting conceptual space regarding the intangible memory of water as it intersects with the land and people who live there." Tricia McLaughlin's *delirious* is composed of menacing mutant creatures. *Granny Chicken, Satan Youth, and Red Ameoba* are created as paintings and drawings and placed in a clean, almost antiseptic, illogical 3D space.

HCCC and Montclair State University professor Anna Ehrsam and HCCC alumnus Stevfni.XYZ create videos that explore abstraction, light, and color. Ehrsam's most recent work connects viewers to a digital space, extending their senses by exploring geometry, color, light, optics, and sound in higher dimensions. Emerging artist Stevfni.XYZ communes with topics of self-identity, trans activism, and ecomodernism through her video *Self Portrait: 000001*.

Brooklyn-based artist Vandana Jain's digital corporate-branded mandala spacecraft ascends and descends in the third section of the gallery. Joined by logo-inspired sculptures, Jain's work explores the intersections of pattern, symbol, spirituality, and consumerism.

Last but not least, documentarian Donna Kessinger catalogs an illuminating art conversation between artists Nancy Spero and Marybeth Edelson. Kessinger has archived videos of founding feminist activists Carolee Schneeman and others. In the words of Nancy Spero in 1999, "As soon as we can get our artwork in some venues, we do have a voice."



Scan QR code to see more of Femme Digital.

**Follow Us**

For more information, email: [mvitale@hccc.edu](mailto:mvitale@hccc.edu)  
or visit [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc](https://www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery](https://www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery)

## CLUB ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

Each month in HCCC Happenings, you will meet faculty and staff who serve as advisors to student clubs and organizations at Hudson County Community College. To learn more about student clubs and events, please visit <https://involved.hccc.edu>

### Deliana Acosta

**Advisor to the Active Minds Chapter – 1 year  
and The Latin Society – 2 years**



**What is the mission and goal of the club you currently advise?**

Active Minds is a student organization at HCCC that empowers students to increase awareness about mental health issues on a diverse college campus.

**Please share your advising style.** I have an open line of communication with my leaders, I listen and see how I can best help them in making what they want happen. I tend to provide support and make sure self-care is part of their routine.

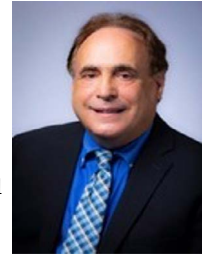
**Please share any best advice you have for future HCCC Advisors and student leaders.** The best advice I can give to an advisor is to give passion, dedication and support to grow the students into strong leaders. My advice for student leaders is to be yourself and bring YOU into the club.

**Please share an experience with your club or organization you are most proud of.** I am proud of bringing the Active Minds Chapter back to HCCC and how Luis [Reyes Alberto, President] and Roberto [Gomez, Vice President] have taken the lead in engaging our students through discussions and events.

**What events, gatherings and activities does your club or organization host that have had a positive impact on our diverse student population?** Gatherings focused on mental health and ending the mental health stigma.

### Joseph Caniglia

**Advisor of the Model United Nations  
9 Years of Service**



**What is the mission and goal of the club you currently advise?**

To engage students in discussing important global issues in the world.

**Please share your advising style.**  
Team Advocate and Mentor

**Please share any best advice you have for future HCCC Advisors and student leaders.**

Listen to students and assist them in being successful.

**Please share an experience with your club or organization you are most proud.**

I am proud to see the growth of my students when they engage as participants in the Model UN Conference with approximately 3500 hundred students across the globe.

**What events, gatherings and activities does your club or organization host that have had a positive impact on our diverse student population?** We volunteered at a homeless shelter relating to global issues, and participated in the Annual National Model UN Conference. In addition, we hold events to actively recruit members.

## WOMEN in Business

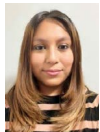
*A panel comprised of HCCC alumnae who are all women in business.*



**Saira Afzal**  
HCCC 2012  
Management  
Consultant,  
The Berkeley  
Partnership



**Betsy Apena**  
HCCC 2017  
Supply Chain  
Professional  
and Entrepreneur



**Brigetteh Giraldo**  
HCCC 2013  
AVP Deal  
Administrator,  
IDB Bank



**Lisa Marte**  
HCCC 2015  
Branch  
Ambassador,  
Capital One Bank



**Maria Mezquita**  
HCCC 2021  
Associate Project  
Manager,  
McVeigh Global  
Meetings and Events

**Wednesday, March 20 – 11 a.m.**

Culinary Conference Center - 161 Newkirk Street, Johnston Room, Jersey City, NJ

**For more information, contact:**

Elana Winslow, Associate Professor & Coordinator Business Programs  
(201) 360-4235 | [ewinslow@hccc.edu](mailto:ewinslow@hccc.edu)

## OUR STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT: THIRD PLACE VICTORY IN A SCIENCE COMPETITION



*Hudson County Community College's student team and faculty mentors at the Northern New Jersey Alliance Bridges to Baccalaureate STEM Conference.*

**By Dr. Clive Li, Assistant Professor, Engineering Science**

On February 9, four of our exceptional students, Dillon Singh, Chuka Nweke, Justin Mosquera, and Camila Pazmino showcased their research project at the Northern New Jersey Alliance Bridges to Baccalaureate (NNJ-B2B) STEM conference held at Rutgers University. Under the guidance of mentors Clive Li and Fatma Tat, and with the support of B2B coordinator Fidelis Foda-Kahouo, our team presented their project with passion and expertise. The team clinched third place in this prestigious competition, a recognition of its hard work and dedication. This achievement highlights the remarkable talent within our student body and demonstrates our institution's commitment to fostering excellence in STEM education. Congratulations to Dillon, Chuka, Justin, and Camila, as well as to their mentors and coordinator, for this well-deserved recognition.

**Get  
Connect-ED  
with HCCC!**



Connect-ED is an emergency-alert system that provides phone, text, and email notifications 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>



## CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE HELPS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Chef Marcus Samuelsson and students of the Culinary Arts Institute at American Dream Mall.

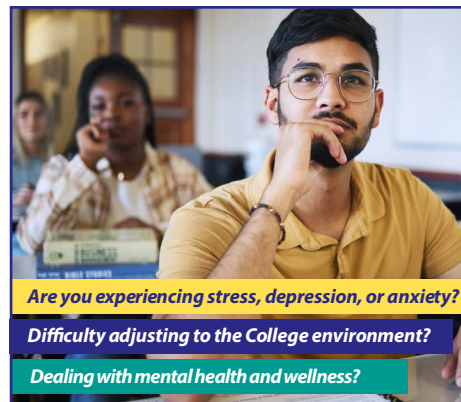
By Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean, Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management

On Friday, February 2, 2024, a group of Culinary Arts, Baking & Pastry and Hospitality Management students were accompanied by Dr. Ara Karakashian, Dean of the School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management to the American Dream Mall for a culinary demonstration in honor of Black History Month. Chef Marcus Samuelsson prepared a live demonstration on catfish and spoke of the cultural and familial influences on his career in foodservice. All students participated in a Q & A session and gain wonderful insight from this well-renowned chef. Marcus Live Bar & Grille recently held its grand opening within the mall.

Samuelsson is an accomplished chef, author, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He has been fea-

tured on numerous cooking shows on several networks, namely No Passport Required. He prepared President Obama's first State Dinner and was the youngest person ever to earn a three-star rating from *The New York Times*. Chef Samuelsson received the James Beard award on 8 occasions and recently won an Emmy for his show, *My Mark*. During the pandemic, he partnered with World Central Kitchen and converted several of his restaurants to facilitate the preparation of over 250,000 meals for those in need.

We thank Chef Samuelsson for his kindness and generosity towards our students. We also thank the management of the American Dream for providing these opportunities for the community, all of which are part of the expanding relationship between HCCC and American Dream. Stay tuned for future collaborations and services!



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>

## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

### HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT CHRIS REBER TO RECEIVE PHI THETA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the premier international community college honor society, announced that Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber will be recognized with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction. The award will be presented at PTK Catalyst 2024, the society's annual convention in Orlando, Florida, April 4-6, 2024.

The Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction is Phi That Kappa's most prestigious award for community college presidents. Named for Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, the society's longest serving Board of Directors Chair and a founder and longtime president of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington, the award recognizes college presidents who have shown support of student success initiatives leading to stronger pathways to completion, transfer, and employment. Recipients, who are nominated by students from their respective colleges, must have served in their role for at least five years and may receive the award only once during their career.

"This college president has made it a priority to support student success, both inside and outside the classroom," stated Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. "This award is special because it comes directly from the students, and it is evidence of the gratitude they feel for Dr. Reber's support for them."

Christopher Reber has devoted his entire career to higher education. He became the sixth president of HCCC in July 2018. Accessibility, advocacy, and collaboration are hallmarks of his tenure. Dr. Reber's engagement with students, monthly Town Hall meetings, and his association with unions; local, state, and national governance leaders, advisory committees; community organizations, and national higher education bodies, have been vital in supporting students and promoting the College's mission.

Prior to arriving at HCCC, Dr. Reber served as President of Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) near Pittsburgh, PA. His career also includes 12 years at Clarion University of Pennsylvania,

and 18 years at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College.

"This honor is especially meaningful for me because our students put forth the nomination," Dr. Reber said. "Our students are at the center of everything we do at Hudson County Community College, and my most valued award is seeing them succeed. I am humbled to receive this award, and grateful to serve our students and this inspirational community."



Dr. Christopher M. Reber, President of Hudson County Community College, recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS**



**Valentine's Day Culinary Classes at HCCC**

By Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, Chemistry

Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) presented two very special culinary classes for Valentine's Day this year. On Friday, February 9, CEWD and the Culinary Arts Institute hosted the Love on a Plate event. The evening was filled with passion, flavor, and the art of creating unforgettable dishes. Chef Marissa Lontoc, along with Hiram Miranda, taught couples how to make herb roasted chicken, roasted carrots, goat cheese polenta, and molten chocolate cake. Couples cooked these delectable dishes with the assistance and guidance of Chef Lontoc and Hiram. Once the dishes were made, the couples walked to a dining room with candlelit white tablecloth settings where they indulged in their creations, set to romantic music. Participants prepared enough food to take home leftovers, along with their new Hudson aprons.

Additionally, on Sunday, February 11, another class called Sweethearts DIY was organized. Led by Chef Samantha Piedahita, along with Hiram Miranda, students learned how to create chocolate-covered strawberries, pretzels, and heart-shaped sugar cookies. Students dipped strawberries and pretzels in melted white, milk, and dark chocolate. In addition, students outlined and drew illustrations on their cookies with royal icing. It was a very fun baking class during which people of all ages, including couples and children, participated.

Both classes offered much to enjoy and incorporated active learning. These classes were a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day and are a great sign of the new types of holiday-inspired classes that CEWD and the Culinary Arts Institute can offer.



**CEWD Helps Students and Alumni Get Their Futures Started**

On Thursday, Feb. 29, Continuing Education and Workforce Development's Gateway to Innovation and Skills Training Academy Teams presented a career development workshop, "Get Your Future Started!"

Maria Lita A. Sarmiento, Alumni Manager, facilitated the workshop to on-ground and WebEx participants, addressing many frequently (and not so frequently) asked questions about job searches and conduct before, during and after an interview.

**UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:** <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary.html>

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

**SPRING 2024 Free Enrollment** Let's work together to help protect our water supply

**Why pursue a career in water?**

- Good benefits, stable career, and great training.
- Broad array of opportunities.
- Purposeful work to provide the public with safe & reliable drinking water and properly treated wastewater to protect our rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Scan the QR Code to Apply!

**What will you learn?**

- Introduction to a career in the water sector.
- Training through classroom and field experiences.
- 8 week course, 50 hours

**What happens after you complete the program?**

- Connections to internships, apprenticeships, employment, or continued education.
- Compensation through a stipend.

**BANK OF AMERICA** **NEW JERSEY FUTURE** **JERSEY WATER 000 WORKS**  
Smart infrastructure. Strong communities.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**HCCC's 2024 Data Summit: Our Next Student Success Action Plan**

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Via WebEx

**Please Register:**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/QzBxznMF7d>

## THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (NOSS) CONFERENCE

By Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director, North Hudson Campus

The NOSS (National Organization for Student Success) Conference was held February 13-18 in Las Vegas. Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus, Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Amaalah Ogburn, Director of Faculty and Staff Development, and Jennifer Cruz-Marulanda were in attendance. Caniglia conducted a presentation on "Empowering High School Students to be College-Ready." Diana Galvez, Assistant Director of the North Hudson Campus, and Jason Figueroa, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus were important participants in putting the presentation together. Joe and Amallah also presented "Connecting the Dots: A Proactive Approach to Student Success". Dr. Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Jones, and Jennifer Cruz-Marulanda, Office Assistant, Academic Affairs also presented. The title of their presentation was "Hudson is Home: A Place where Student Success Matters." Finally, Joseph Caniglia and Dr. Bandyopadhyay presented on "Empowering Student Success: Satisfactory Academic Progress in Action." Sylvia Mendoza, Dean of Financial Aid, and Victoria Orellana, Registrar, were instrumental in helping put this



presentation together. NOSS exists to support professionals in educational institutions in making a positive difference in students' lives.

### The Goals of the NOSS organization are to:

- Serve as the leading voice in support of student success nationally and internationally.
- Provide high-quality professional development opportunities.
- Advocate for equity, inclusion, diversity, and access in education.
- Support campus partnerships to develop students holistically through a culture of care.
- Promote research and inquiry in the field of student success.
- Develop leaders in NOSS and the field of student success.

## ACCESS STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEERING FOR HOMELESSNESS SURVEYING AND RESOURCE CONNECTION

In a commendable display of community engagement, students from the Center for Adult Transition, ACCESS program, participated in volunteer work aimed at raising awareness about homelessness and providing essential resources to those in need. The surveying event, hosted at the Hoboken Public Library on January 24, 2024, provided a warm and welcoming space for homeless individuals to share their experiences and seek assistance. ACCESS students played a crucial role in conducting surveys, facilitating open conversations, offering a hot meal to those in attendance, and connecting homeless individuals to vital resources and shelter options available in the area. By bridging the gap between those in need and the support services available, these students became catalysts for positive change within the community, addressing not only immediate concerns but also contributing to a broader understanding of the systemic issues surrounding homelessness.

This initiative contributes to the betterment of the community and serves as a valuable opportunity for students to gain practical experience. Students apply their skills in real-world scenarios, allowing students to develop



ACCESS Program students participate in community service addressing homelessness.

essential soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving – qualities that are highly sought after by employers. The hands-on experience gained through community service not only showcases their dedication to social causes but also highlights their ability to work effectively in diverse environments.

Looking ahead, the ACCESS Program, a college transition program for those with diverse abilities, is gearing up for its upcoming enrollment dates on March 4, March 25 and June 24, 2024.

For those seeking more information or wishing to enroll, please contact [cat@hccc.edu](mailto:cat@hccc.edu) or 201-360-5477.

## STEM Women in STEM Discussion

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - 12 p.m.  
STEM Building, 263 Academy Street,  
Multipurpose Room, Jersey City, NJ 07306

Join us at: <https://shorturl.at/nq137>  
Meeting number (access code): 2631 368 5275  
Password: RxsqshJd337



**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**Yosra Badiei, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Chemistry,  
Saint Peter's University

Sponsored by HCCC School of STEM,  
HCCC American Chemical Society, PACDEL, and  
the Department of Chemistry at Saint Peter's University.

For more information, please contact:  
Prof. Raffi Manjikian [rmanjikian@hccc.edu](mailto:rmanjikian@hccc.edu)  
or Ronny Canales [rcanales@hccc.edu](mailto:rcanales@hccc.edu)

## SPRING 2024 HUDSON ONLINE

ATTENTION STUDENTS:  
7-Week Classes ONB  
begins on March 19, 2024



Earn credits and  
your degree online  
from home!



View Available  
Online Classes

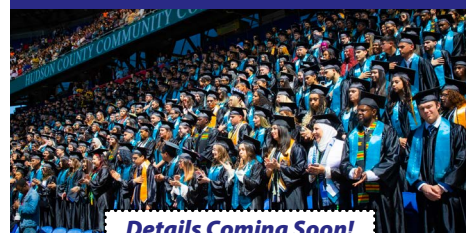


Pick a course you  
need to graduate.



View the Enrollment  
Guide for important  
dates and deadlines.

## SAVE the DATE 2024 COMMENCEMENT



Details Coming Soon!

Thursday, May 16, 2024  
at 10:00 a.m.

Red Bull Arena - 600 Cape May Street,  
Harrison, NJ 07029

### 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](http://www.hccc.edu/outofthebox).

## 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

Craig Guy, 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

## FOLLOW US ON:



myhudson.hccc.edu  
 www.hccc.edu

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

[www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html)

# ALUMNI CORNER

## Dhrumi Shah - Class of 2023

### A.S. Business Administration

Dhrumi Shah graduated from HCCC in 2023 with a degree in business administration. She currently works as an Office Assistant here at HCCC and serves as both a College Student Success Mentor and an Alumni Representative for the Business and Accounting Club.



### What are you up to now?

I attend Kean University. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resources management, and I also work as an office assistant in the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

### How did you decide to attend HCCC, and what made HCCC the right choice for you?

I initially attended Rutgers University as a nursing major but quickly realized nursing was not for me. So, while I took the time to figure out what I truly wanted to pursue, I decided to attend HCCC.

I knew that networking is heavily emphasized within the business field. At HCCC, I met peers who share similar passions with me. I was able to connect with faculty and staff and build a reputation of reliability with them. These connections made me realize that coming to HCCC was the right decision for me. Essentially, HCCC gave me a sense of belonging in the College community.

### Any favorite memories or classes at HCCC?

I do not have a specific favorite class from my time at Hudson; I enjoyed all of them in their own way. For example, in my micro and macroeconomics classes with Professor Rychel, I enjoyed how he used real-life examples in his lessons, which gave me a better understanding of what was being taught. I also enjoyed my introduction to business class with Professor Winslow. We read and discussed news articles every week to stay up to date on what was going on in the business world

in real-time and to see how what we were learning in class impacted real-life businesses.

### How did you become interested in pursuing a career in business?

During middle school and high school, I did volunteer work and ended up working as an office assistant. I enjoyed the work and felt comfortable in this role. When deciding which area to pursue for my bachelor's degree, both human resources and project management piqued my interest. I enjoyed learning about business and I am looking forward to putting my knowledge and skills to use in the corporate setting.

### What advice do you have for HCCC students just starting out?

Try building connections with peers and faculty. Although you may not know where or how to start, You may have more in common with the person next to you than you think. One small conversation about your goals can go a long way.

### What's next on the horizon for you?

My future goals are to try to earn an internship in HR-related fields and to try to work in project management as well. I want to get my master's degree either in the higher education field or maybe in business again.

## HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

*Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC?  
 Are you willing to contribute time?  
 Do you want to inspire with your success stories?  
 Are you looking for career support?*

**If so join, socialize, and network!**

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

