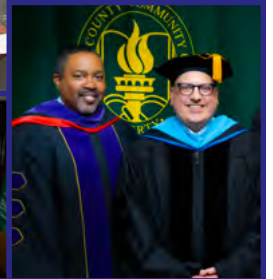


# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE VICE CHAIR BAKARI LEE RECEIVES ACCT M. DALE ENSIGN TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD



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**From the Editor’s Desk**

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

Items for the December newsletter are due by Friday, November 10, 2023.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE VICE CHAIR BAKARI LEE RECEIVES ACCT M. DALE ENSIGN TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees Vice Chair Bakari G. Lee, Esq., has become the face of exemplary community college leadership in the United States. For nearly two decades he has invested his time and energy to social advocacy, student success, innovation, diversity, and public service on local and national levels. As a result of his work, the College has bolstered retention and expanded opportunities for students to achieve their career and educational goals and fuel the regional economy.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) recognized Vice Chair Lee with its highest honor, the prestigious M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award, at the national ACCT Leadership Congress Gala in Las Vegas. Nearly 2,000 ACCT attendees, including more than 50 trustees, students, faculty, and staff from New Jersey community colleges, and the HCCC delegation of 11 trustees, faculty, staff, and alumni attended the event. The ACCT bestows the annual award to one lay trustee nationally who has made significant contributions toward promoting America’s community college sector.

“What a fitting tribute to Bakari Lee’s years of service to HCCC, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC), and the national community college sector, including his previous service as Chair of the NJCCC and Chair of the ACCT Board of Directors,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “This is an exceedingly proud moment for

Bakari and the HCCC family! We congratulate Bakari and thank him for his legendary leadership.”

For more than 120 years, America’s community colleges have played a vital role in transforming lives by creating pathways to economic opportunity and financial security. Today, community colleges face a myriad of challenges such as funding issues, keeping pace of rapidly changing technologies, and, most importantly, developing the means to assist students in continuing and completing their studies. Community college trustees work with college administrators and staff, local and national government entities, and area industries to meet these challenges, and to ensure that opportunities abound for those who wish to pursue a community college education.

To qualify for the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award, trustees must earn a Regional Trustee Leadership Award for their contributions in promoting the community college concept in their region. Five lay trustees, one from each region, are selected throughout the United States. Vice Chair Lee received the ACCT 2023 Northeast Regional Trustee Leadership Award in August, and as a result became a finalist for ACCT’s national honor, the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award. M. Dale Ensign lived a lifetime of service to others, was a trustee at a community college in Wyoming, and ACCT’s founding Chair and third president.

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**ON THE COVER:** Pictured from left: Rose Benavidez, ACCT Chair; Bakari G. Lee, Esq.; M. Dale Ensign, Namesake of the Trustee Leadership Award; and Jee Hang Lee, ACCT President and CEO.

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY 2023 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD**

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) President, Dr. Christopher Reber, announced that the College has received the 2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity*, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in America. The national award honors United States colleges and universities that demonstrate outstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

“We are honored to receive this award for the third year in a row,” Dr. Reber said. “It reflects HCCC’s commitment and contributions to developing best practices that support diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success in all we do.”

“The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes information about the recruitment and



*Hudson County Community College President, Dr. Christopher M. Reber (third from right), is pictured here with students, faculty, administrators, and trustees at the College’s annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Summer Retreat.*

*Continued on page 12*



## HCCC PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER FEATURED ON "NJ BIZ BEAT"



Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber with NJ Spotlight News correspondent Raven Santana and production team members during the taping of a segment for "NJ Biz Beat."

In October, Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber participated in a segment of "NJ Biz Beat with Raven Santana," a weekly business show on NJ PBS. The topic of the show was "The Costs of Educating the Next Generation" and featured several higher education leaders from the state. The show may be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrG1nhVdghE> (the segment on HCCC begins at 6:16).

## HCCC TO PARTICIPATE IN 'COMMUNITY TO OPPORTUNITY' INITIATIVE WITH NJCCC

As a "Community to Opportunity" College, Hudson County Community College joins a state-wide professional learning community supported by The Tepper Foundation and led by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. This will expand the College's ability to meet students' basic needs by strengthening a culture of care, so students may complete post-secondary degrees and credentials that lead to jobs and careers that provide economic mobility.



HCCC was selected by The Tepper Foundation to participate in the Community to Opportunity: Building Community to Expand Opportunity Initiative with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. Members of HCCC attended the kick-off meeting Wednesday, Oct. 4 at Essex County Community College.

## THE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC IN JERSEY CITY

You no longer have to go to the Met to see art by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. In fact, you can see four of the famous artist's works right here on Sip Avenue in Jersey City at Hudson County Community College (HCCC).

Donated by the Carol Adler Trust, the Toulouse-Lautrecs are not only the newest additions to the 1,882-piece Foundation Art Collection, but they are also among the most important given the artist's stature and prominent place in art history. The best known of the four pieces is May Belfort, an 1895 lithograph in color depicting its namesake, an Irish singer who rose to fame in Parisian nightclubs in the 1890s. The other pieces include Le Tocsin La Depeche, another 1895 lithograph in color, and two 1898 black-and-white lithographs, Yvette Guilbert dans la Gluerm, and Linger Longer, Loo.

Toulouse-Lautrec was a prominent figure within the Post-Impressionism movement that arose in France in the late 1800s and early 1900s

as a reaction to Impressionism. The movement included other prominent artists like Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne. He is best known for his depictions of the bohemian scene that thrived on the fringes of respectable society in late 19th century Paris.

Andrea Siegel, Ph.D., the Collection's curator, called Carol Adler "A great friend of the Collection, and someone who dedicated her life to art and philanthropy." Siegel also discussed Adler's heroic work helping musicians, oppressed by the Soviet regime in the 1970s, to escape to the United States for artistic freedom. Carol Adler came from a family of activist philanthropists. Most notably, in the early 20th century, her ancestor Julius Rosenwald worked with Booker T. Washington to quietly fund over 5,000 schools for African American children in the South. The effort has been called "the most important initiative to advance Black education in the early 20th century." Honoring that legacy, the Carol Adler Trust donated 12 important works to the College, including the Toulouse-Lautrecs.

## HCCC JOINS GENERATION HOPE 2023 FAMILYU COHORT

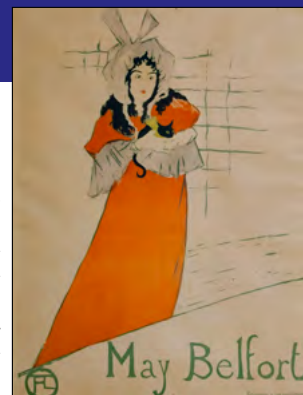


Pictured from left: Aycha Edwards, Katherine Morales, Dr. Lisa Dougherty, Dr. Alison Wakefield, Dr. David Clark, and Christine Petersen.

Earlier this year, Generation Hope selected Hudson County Community College as one of five 2023 FamilyU Cohort of higher education institutions joining their FamilyU technical assistance program. FamilyU is a comprehensive, customized, evidence-based, two-year capacity-building experience designed to build and refine institutional competencies to improve the academic achievement of student parents.

FamilyU equips higher education leaders at these selected institutions with the necessary tools, information, and coaching to make systemic changes to benefit students with parenting responsibilities. By addressing the barriers and obstacles faced by student parents, FamilyU helps colleges and universities transform their campuses in ways that benefit all students.

In September, a delegation from the College attended the first Generation Hope FamilyU convening in Jackson, Mississippi.



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's "May Belfort" has a new home right outside of the art history classroom on the fifth floor of the Gabert Library.

A community college is perhaps not the type of location one would typically expect to be home to works by world-class artists, so you could be forgiven for being surprised to find works by artists like Toulouse-Lautrec in the Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection. But while the Toulouse-Lautrecs instantly find themselves in the conversation as some of the

Continued on page 9

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Carlos Dunn-Fernandez  
Mary Long  
Rodrigo Romea

#### 30 Years

Hope Guirantes

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Perla De Aza Paniagua  
Casey Healey  
Mohamed Sarrouti  
Sarah Ulloa

#### 5 Years

Chrissto Canales

#### 20 Years

Anthony Davenport

## APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Suhani Aggarwal, Associate Director, Human Resources (HRIS) Effective Date October 23, 2023

Larry Anderson, Admissions Recruiter Effective Date October 16, 2023

## APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Leymi Abreu, Administrative Assistant, Human Resources Effective Date October 16, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Marian Betancourt Student Success Coach, NJ Reentry Corporation (Grant-funded) Effective Date September 1, 2023- June 30, 2024

Candice Fernandez, Academic Counselor Effective Date September 16, 2023- June 30, 2024

Andrea Goodwin Coordinator, Human Resources Effective Date October 16, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Esperanza Robles- Class, Academic Counselor Effective Date October 16, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Megha Sanghavi, Accounts Payable Officer Effective Date October 23, 2023 – January 31, 2024

Luz Tellez, Academic Advisor Effective Date September 16, 2023- June 30, 2024

## APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

Ashley Pianko, Instructor, Nursing (Tenure-track) Effective Date October 16, 2023

## WELLNESS FAIR



Vice President for Human Resources Anna Krupitskiy (left) with members of the North Hudson Community Action Corporation, who administered flu shots on the College's Wellness Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 11.

## HCCC PRESENTS AT CUPA-HR CONFERENCE



Pictured from left: Carmen McGuire, Director of Benefits and Compensation; Stephanie Sergeant, Assistant Director, Human Resources; and Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President of Human Resources.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, members of Hudson County Community College's Office of Human Resources presented "DEI-Focused Retention Strategies for an Inclusive and Engaged Workforce" at the 2023 Annual Conference and Expo of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR) in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

### The Power of Laughter

(All Employees, Live, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Everyone knows laughing makes you feel good, but its benefits go beyond that. In this session, explore the energizing power of laughter and learn to approach life with a little more humor.

### Building Team Trust

(Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Authenticity and trust are essential for productive, energized teams. In this session, we will address how to determine the trust quotient of your team, recognize the weak links, and build a team of support, authenticity, respect, and trust.

### Supporting a Loved One with Substance

Misuse (Prerecorded; available 24/7 through Nov. 30) – Having a loved one with addiction can be heartbreaking, frustrating and terrifying. Choosing how to support them can be confusing — the right choice is not always obvious. In this webinar, we will discuss signs of addiction and review choices of how to support your loved one. We will also review concepts such as enabling and codependency. You will walk away from this webinar with a clearer idea of how to support yourself and your loved one.

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.

## MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Andrew Adler, Assistant Director, Advisement to Senior Assistant Director, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023

Marselly Almanzar, Counselor to Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Dalisay Bacal, Administrative Assistant, CEWD to Administrative Coordinator and Assistant to the Associate Vice President for CEWD Effective Date October 16, 2023

Jonathan Bowman, Counselor to Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Brianna Casagrande, Assistant Director, Advisement to Senior Assistant Director, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023

Samantha Ceballo, Assistant Director, Advisement to Senior Assistant Director, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023

Shuang De Jesus, Academic Counselor to Academic Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Mackenzie Johnson, Assistant Director, Advisement to Senior Assistant Director, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023

Josh Mariscal, Academic Counselor to Academic Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Eric Okai, EOF Counselor to Counselor, EOF (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Daryl Osemwota, Counselor to Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Richard Remoura, Academic Counselor to Academic Counselor (Salary Grade Change/Adjustment) Effective Date October 16, 2023

Elizabeth Ryan, Assistant Director, Advisement to Senior Assistant Director, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023

Gretchen Schulthes, Director, Advisement to Associate Dean, Advisement Effective Date October 16, 2023



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPOINTS EIGHT NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY



Pictured here, HCCC's eight newly appointed, full-time faculty members. Left to Right: Sharon Daughtry, Dr. Gabriel Holder, Sebastian Pieciak, Sovi Pujols, Dorante Dawn Richards, Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, Keeley Thornton, and Dr. Benedetto Youssef

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of eight faculty to new, full-time, tenure-track positions.

"Hudson County Community College is dedicated to ensuring our students learn from the very best faculty – inspiring, highly qualified professionals, who, first and foremost, are committed to their students' success," said HCCC President, Dr. Christopher Reber. "The College further encourages and provides opportunities for all faculty and staff to develop and grow professionally. We are pleased to announce these appointments, to welcome our new colleagues, and to congratulate those who are being promoted."

**Sharon Daughtry** has been part of the HCCC family since 2006, first as an adjunct, then as a Lecturer of Business for the School of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, and now as an Instructor of Business. She serves as a Perkins Grant Writer and Business Program Coordinator; is a member of the Advisory Board for Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, and the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI); and is the advisor to the HCCC Business and Accounting Club. Ms. Daughtry holds a Master of Arts degree from Rowan University. She is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in Education at Saint Peter's University.

**Dr. Gabriel Holder** joins HCCC as an Instructor of Medical Billing and Coding. Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Holder served as a temporary full-time Instructor of Medical Billing and Coding and Assessment Coordinator for the School of Nursing and Health Professions, and as an Adjunct Instructor in the Schools of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and Nursing and Health Professions. He received his

Doctor of Medicine degree at Iberoamericana University in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Prior to joining HCCC, Dr. Holder was an Instructor of Medical Assisting at the Cittone Institute in Paramus.

**Sebastian Pieciak** joins HCCC as an Instructor of Speech/Communications. Prior to joining the faculty at HCCC, he served as an Adjunct Lecturer for more than 5 years at LaGuardia Community College where he created and developed a new course in Sports Communication. Mr. Pieciak received his Master's degree in Media Studies at Saint Joseph's College. He is a recipient of the Rose Goldstein Memorial Scholarship.

**Sovi Pujols** has been teaching English at HCCC since 2014 and is now a full-time, tenure-track Instructor of English. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Pujols served as an Instructor of Business and Technical Writing at the Swedish Institute. She obtained her Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing at The New School and holds a Cambridge University CELTA (the qualification for teaching English as a foreign language). Ms. Pujols has authored several published works including "After Death" and "Hunger," which were featured in *Families: A Journal of Representation*.

**Sonja Rodiger-Radovic** joins HCCC's full-time, tenure-track faculty as an Instructor of English as a Second Language (ESL). She has been teaching at HCCC as an ESL/English adjunct since 2017. Prior to her work at HCCC, Ms. Rodiger-Radovic was an International Academic Support Tutor at Pace University. She obtained her Master's degree in Secondary Education with specialization in English as a Foreign Language, English Language Arts, and Pedagogical Studies at Goethe-University in Frankfurt, Germany.

**Dorante Dawn Richards** joins HCCC as an Instructor of Nursing. Ms. Richards was a Substitute Teacher at Monroe Career Technical Institute in Pennsylvania. She earned her Master of Science degree in Nursing from Grantham University and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at Capella University. Ms. Richards is a proud graduate of HCCC, having received her associate's degree in 2009. She is ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support), Basic Life Support (BLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certified. Ms. Richards is a recipient of The Exemplar Capstone and Oral Defense Award from Grantham University, and The Writer's Excellence Award from New Jersey City University.

**Keeley Thornton** joins HCCC faculty as an Instructor of English as a Second Language. Prior to coming to HCCC, Ms. Thornton held the position of Senior ESL Instructor and Curriculum Specialist at Drew University and taught as an ESL Adjunct Instructor at HCCC in 2014. She earned her Master of Arts degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at The New School, and received her TEFL/TESOL Certification at Maximo Nivel, San Pedro, Costa Rica. Ms. Thornton is the recipient of various awards, including the Rennert TESOL 2020 and NJTESOL 2018 Presenter, and the INTO North America Academic Innovation Award for unique curriculum design scholarship.

**Dr. Benedetto Youssef** joins HCCC as an Instructor of English. Dr. Youssef has previously held positions as an Adjunct Lecturer in Composition and Writing at City University of New York (CUNY) and as an English teacher at St. Peter's Preparatory School. He received his Doctor of Arts degree in English Pedagogy from Murray State University and his Master of Arts degree in English and Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University.

## HCCC AT SARAH'S DAUGHTERS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS FOUNDATION GALA



On Friday, Oct. 13, a delegation from Hudson County Community College attended the Sarah's Daughters DVA Foundation 12th Annual Fundraiser Gala at The Chandelier in Bayonne. Sarah's Daughters is a 501c3 Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation that was founded in 2010 by Rev. Bertha Reels. Sarah's Daughters volunteers are committed to supporting victims of domestic violence and raising awareness of the painful effects on families.

Seated from left: Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Katherine Morales, Ariana Calle, and Kadira Johnson. Standing from left: Raffi Manjikian and Anna Krupitskiy.

## SAVE THE DATE

### COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

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

# 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.

## Artist News

A show called, *Art for the Millions: American Culture and Politics in the 1930s* is on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 5th Avenue at 82nd Street in New York City through December 10, 2023. The exhibit features work created during the Great Depression, a time "marked by divisive politics, threats to democracy, and intensified social activism, including a powerful labor movement," and shows how "artists expressed political messages and ideologies" through a wide variety of objects including paintings, sculpture, photographs, and even dresses and common kitchen equipment. Included in the exhibit is art by **Ben Shahn** and Robert Blackburn. At Hudson County Community College, you can see six works of art by New Jersey artist Ben Shahn at the North Hudson Campus Library and Multipurpose Room. There is also a **Alexander Calder** work that is an homage to Shahn on the 2nd floor of the STEM building in the Dean's reception area. Seven works about New Jersey-born artist and master printmaker **Robert Blackburn** are installed on the third floor of the Gabert Library. The Collection has a special area devoted to portraits of Blackburn because of his extraordinary role in printmaking during the last century. Finding that he could not produce prints in New York City because the printmaking facilities barred entry to people of color, he founded the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in 1947. It is now the oldest and longest-operating community-run printmaking workshop in the United States. Over 4,000 artists from over 60 countries have produced more than 20,000 different print images there.

New Jersey artist **Siona Benjamin** is currently having a show at the Montclair Museum through August 2024, where they are exhibiting her thirty-foot-long commissioned work called, *Lilith*. The artist says of the work that Lilith is an interesting mythological character because in the Jewish tradition, Lilith was the first wife of the biblical figure Adam, before he met Eve. Lilith, the artist says, "left Eden and never came back. She wanted equality, and she didn't get it.... She is this first feminist character." The artist also talks about the diversity of her background, raised by Jewish parents in India, and now living in Montclair. She says, "I think it's a wonderful town. Our community is diverse. It's getting more diverse." She adds that diversity is really important for the



*Bob (2009)* by Justin Sanz, Wood Engraving, 6" x 8", one of the Collection's many portraits of Bob Blackburn installed on the 3rd floor of the Gabert Library.

museum "to amplify, to celebrate... My work is influenced by my diverse background. And I hope that the community will take away from it, will ask more questions, and will further celebrate other people and other artists in this complex diversity of our community, our country, and our world." For more information about the artist, and this work, you can watch "Siona Benjamin Welcomes You To 'Lilith In The New World' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ebFWn58iO8>

For those of you who like **Lesley Dill's** work *Force Flame*, installed on the 4th floor of the North Hudson Campus, you might be interested to know we have received a new print by the artist from the Print Club of New York. She spoke recently to the Print Club about her inspiration for the new print, called, *Dream World of the Forest: Man Carrying the Wilderness*. It is a relief print with thread on Azabu paper. The work's title comes from poet Tom Sleigh, who wrote, "Man Carrying the Wilderness Far Away on the Frontier/where Trees Still Bleed/ Birdmen rustle feathers & Griffins guard!" We leave it to the reader to interpret that. In the meantime, the artist posed the question, "How does creating a work of art start?" To answer, she quoted Franz Kafka: "My life is a hesitation before birth." Then she quoted him again, "He felt as if the way were opening before him to the unknown nourishment he craved." She called the process of getting ideas a "blind, electrical nudging." For Dill, according to an article in the Print Club of New York newsletter, "images come from words, and she searches for words urgently, looking to be affected. She spends time with books, muting the external senses, becoming lost in what she is reading. Images for the words begin to rise up from



Art Collection Coordinator Dr. Andrea Siegel gives a tour to arts enthusiasts Kevin and Julissa during the 34th Jersey City Arts and Studio Tour (JCAST) weekend on Saturday, October 14. In the background is a pencil drawing by 2011 Student Foundation Art Award winner, Lauren Clemente, called Mr. Plum. For those of you who played the boardgame Clue, you will recognize that Mr. Plum is a character in that game. You can see this work on the 5th floor of the Gabert Library.

the page." How do you get ideas? Thinking about how we think can be quite rewarding.

The recent Print Club newsletter also reports on the late artist **Susan Rothenberg's** inspirations. Her work can be seen on the Lower Level of the Gabert Library along the long corridor of works in black-and-white. The Foundation Art Collection's work depicts a puppet in pieces. The most frequently used image in Rothenberg's art is a horse in full gallop. Rothenberg "discovered" the horse while doodling on canvas many years ago. In conversation with the art critic Peter Schjeldhal, she said that seeing that image emerge, she realized she had "found her voice." The artist said, "I find things out by stumbling on them... I find things out kind of after they happen." That may be a near universal truth.

If you like **Willie Cole's** work in the Gabert Library (2nd and 3rd floors), you might enjoy seeing his chandeliers on Park Avenue in the grassy median between 69th and 70th Streets in New York City. They will be on view through the end of the year. To draw attention to the issue of single-use plastics, the artist took 9,000 used, sixteen-ounce water bottles and put a small picture of the Statue of Liberty in each one. Then, he made the bottles into four gigantic chandeliers. The artist has been making art chandeliers for about 12 years. The inspiration came from a dream he had about Buddha in a chandelier. He says that like the Buddhist conception of reincarnation, recycling is reincarnation for objects—a throw-away bottle is now a work of art. For more information, go to: [www.williecole.com/park-avenue](http://www.williecole.com/park-avenue)

**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



### Fall Artist Talk in Benjamin J. Dineen III & Dennis C. Hull Gallery

At the end of September, Cultural Affairs celebrated its fall exhibitions with a reception and artist talk featuring the three artists whose works are currently exhibited in the Gallery and the North Hudson Art Concourse. HCCC Adjunct Professor Michael Lee, William Paterson Adjunct Professor Wes Sherman, and Jersey City-based BARC the Dog hosted an audience of well over 100 students and community members. The panel discussion included students' questions and was like a mentoring workshop for young artists.



### Where They are Now Alumni Exhibit at Art Fair 14C in Liberty State Park

Now in its second year, the Hudson County Community Creative Alumni Network had its first booth at Art Fair 14C during Jersey City Arts Week, October 12 to October 15. Curated by Elaf Hussein, AA in Studio Art, and Salma Abdelwahed, AA in Computer Arts, the exhibit showcased the works of five alumni who have continued to pursue careers in the arts and/or are currently working towards a bachelor's degree in the arts. Elaf and Salma were joined by Dimoy Wilson, Grace Kagne, and Isha Ann. The booth did amazingly well and sold paintings, sculptures, drawing and prints all weekend long. Mayor Steven Fulop, Hudson County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Richardson, and HCCC faculty Laurie Riccadonna, and Jeremiah Teipen were among other HCCC and community members who visited and supported the show.

## Follow Us

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

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

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

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOLDS 16TH DONOR-SCHOLAR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION



The Hudson County Community College Foundation hosted its 15th Annual Donor-Scholar Recognition Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the College's Culinary Conference Center in Jersey City. Vice President for Advancement and Communications Nicole Bouknight Johnson said that this is one of the Foundation's most important annual events because it provides the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of its donors in a public manner and to showcase the academic achievements of HCCC scholars. It also allows the students to meet each other and thank their benefactors in person.

*The Hudson County Community College Foundation, scholarship donors, and scholarship recipients gather at a Recognition Celebration on Oct. 11.*



Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
Thursday, November 30, 2023  
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 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.*

## 48TH ANNUAL HISPANIC STATE PARADE OF NEW JERSEY, INC.



Congratulations to Dr. Yeurys Pujols (middle, left), Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, who received the "Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award" from the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey, Inc. on Friday, Sept. 29 and participated in the 48th Annual Parade on Sunday, Oct. 1. Dr. Yeurys is joined by HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (right) and members of the HCCC family.

## HUDSON ES TU CASA EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY FAIR



Members of the Hudson County Community College Latino Advisory Council with HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (center).

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Hudson County Community College's Latino Advisory Council presented "Hudson Es Tu Casa," an educational and community fair promoting the College, social and government service providers, and Latin American consulates. The event also offered entertainment and family activities.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HCCC AND THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



Prof. Raffi Manjikian (center) with cohort members of the American Chemical Society New Faculty Workshop.

By Michael Byrne

Founded in 1876 and chartered by the U.S. Congress, the American Chemical Society (ACS) is one of the world's largest scientific organizations with more than 173,000 members across 140 countries. The organization's mission is to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of the Earth and its people. The ACS's vision is to improve people's lives through the transformative power of chemistry. Professor Raffi Manjikian is one HCCC faculty member who strives to adhere to the mission and vision of the ACS. Professor Manjikian upholds the rigor of his Chemistry courses in accordance with the standards set by the ACS. He has been an active member of the ACS since he was an undergraduate student himself, and continues to build on the partnership between HCCC and the ACS.

This summer, Professor Manjikian was accepted to the New Faculty Workshop offered by the ACS in Washington, D.C. The New Faculty Workshops focus on sharing and developing the essential skills that faculty need to successfully navigate the early years of their research and teaching careers. There is a strong emphasis on implementing active learning strategies in the classroom. This summer, two separate workshops were offered, one in June specifically for faculty

serving in two-year institutions, and one in July for faculty serving in four-year institutions.

The June workshop was the first iteration serving two-year colleges, and not only was Professor Manjikian part of the first cohort, he was also the first New Jersey community college chemist to attend this meeting. Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of the School of STEM, explained that "Raffi's participation in the ACS new faculty workshop reflects the mission and goals of the School of STEM. We are committed to fostering student success. I know Raffi will use the lessons he learned at the workshop to create a learning-centered environment that will lead to greater student engagement."

During this first workshop, facilitators discussed a variety of teaching techniques and how to implement them in the classroom. The workshop closed with a session in which faculty were encouraged to present on a topic applying the techniques they learned at the workshop. Professor Manjikian's presentation impressed the facilitators, who then invited him to attend the subsequent workshop in July. July's workshop emphasized teaching, research, and service.

Professor Manjikian benefited from the in-depth discussions and enjoyed making new

contacts with instructors at both two- and four-year institutions across the country. Professor Manjikian says he "looks forward to taking what I learned and bringing it into the classroom for our HCCC chemistry students."

Additionally, Professor Manjikian intends to maintain the connection with ACS so that, one day, HCCC's associate degree in chemistry can become ACS-certified. If this happens, HCCC would offer the first ACS-certified associate degree in chemistry. HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated that "Professor Manjikian's participation in the New Faculty Workshop and involvement with ACS enhances the quality of our chemistry programs and paves the way for exciting opportunities for our students in the years ahead. We thank and congratulate Professor Manjikian for his leadership and scholarship."

Professor Manjikian is the faculty advisor to the American Chemical Society chapter at HCCC. In this role, Professor Manjikian works with students to bring chemistry events to campus and provides opportunities for students to engage with the national organization. Based on the written by-laws, students interested in joining the HCCC American Chemical Society chapter must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and provide \$25 towards the organization's dues. Those interested in joining should contact Professor Manjikian directly.

Ultimately, bringing the ACS to HCCC has been a positive experience that showcases the interdisciplinary nature of chemistry and how it plays a role in other STEM fields, as well as in everyday life. Professor Manjikian would like to thank Dr. Raffaella Pernice, Dean Burl Yearwood, Dr. Darryl Jones and President Dr. Christopher Reber for supporting the many initiatives that promote opportunities for student success in chemistry at HCCC.



## THE TOULOUSE-LAUTREC IN JERSEY CITY

*Continued from Page 3*

most important pieces in the collection, they are hardly the only works by world-renowned artists. Recently, the HCCC Foundation Art Collection received a donation of a Renoir lithograph and a Pissarro drawing, which will be installed near the Toulouse-Lautrecs, right outside the College's art history classroom.

Other pieces that have historical resonance include landscapes from the Hudson River School, a movement of American painters that thrived in this area in the mid-19th century. Looking for something a bit more contemporary? The collection features works from renowned artists like Shephard Fairey (the artist behind the Obey Giant and Barack Obama's iconic "Hope" campaign poster) and photographer William Wegman (even the most self-professed philistine has likely seen his famous compositions of his pet Weimaraners). There are also works by Robert Rauschenberg, Joyce Kozloff, New Jersey's own Willie Cole, and many more. Look carefully enough in the Gabert Library, located at 71 Sip Avenue, and you'll even find a Picasso lithograph.

In addition to obtaining pieces by these renowned artists, the College's acquisition strategy has increasingly focused on strengthening its collection of works by modern and contemporary American and New Jersey artists. As a result, HCCC's Foundation Art Collection is becoming a hotspot for donations of works by established artists with New Jersey roots like Doug + Mike Starn, Kiki Smith, Ben Shahn, and Joan Snyder.

The HCCC Foundation Art Collection also features extensive collections of works by African artists and art of the African diaspora, Asian and Asian-American artists including large numbers of pieces by Japanese and Filipino artists, Hispanic and Hispanic American artists, and Middle Eastern artists. There is also a collection of works by and about Native Americans, and a collection of prehistoric artifacts and stone tools from the local Lenne Lenape people.

Philanthropists Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull, for whom the Dineen Hull Gallery on the top floor of the Gabert Library is named, were instrumental in helping the HCCC Foundation Art Collection become what it is today, as it grew from just 25 pieces to over 1,800 installed across ten campus buildings just ten years later. Mr. Hull and the late Mr. Dineen amassed an impressive and extensive art collection in their home over the years, with a special focus on New Jersey artists ranging from paintings by Jon Rappleye to tire sculptures by Chakaia Booker. They viewed themselves as stewards of these hundreds of works before passing them on to the College to share the gift of art appreciation with future generations of students. Mr. Dineen, who was heavily involved in the College's Art Committee during his lifetime, compared donating his collection to the College to seeing one's children go off into the world, and found it very rewarding.

Unlike some college collections, the HCCC Foundation Art Collection isn't under lock and key in a dusty storage area. Under the leadership of long-time curator Dr. Andrea Siegel, the entire Hudson County Community College campus has evolved into a living art museum, fulfilling a goal dear to the heart of former HCCC President Dr. Glen Gabert. The stewardship and growth of the collection endures today thanks to the support of current HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, a staunch arts advocate. Students walk through a curated collection with pieces by Miriam Shapiro, Fritz Scholder, Faith Ringgold, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and more on their way to class each day, fulfilling Mr. Dineen's vision of great art for all.

Studies show that art makes the most social impact where economic inequality is greatest. Hudson County Community College serves more at-risk students than any other community college in New Jersey. Two-thirds to three-quarters of HCCC students report facing issues such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, and even homelessness. In this sense, the art collection

is well-placed to have significant impact on the lives of students who stand to gain the most from exposure to it. Hudson County Community College is laser-focused on removing the barriers to success that these students face, and the art collection is a small but powerful way that the college inspires its students and enriches their college experiences as they work towards a brighter future. Each year, Hudson County Community College serves 20,000 students, with over 90 degree and certificate programs and a wide range of Continuing Education and Workforce Development certificate programs and courses. The college is committed to promoting student success and upward socioeconomic mobility through academic pathways that lead to transfer to major four-year institutions, and workforce development that empowers students to embark on fulfilling and sustainable career paths.

With this growing treasure trove, Hudson County Community College's Foundation Art Collection is a destination worth visiting. Luckily, it's just a quick ride across the Hudson River by PATH, and just blocks from other prominent arts destinations in Jersey City, making it both a destination unto itself and one easily fit into a day of checking out many places in the area's flourishing art scene. Even better, this underrated collection is open to all -- you can come and see it for yourself for free; the College offers free tours on a weekly basis. Furthermore, HCCC's Foundation Art Collection was included in Art Fair 14C's 34th Annual Jersey City Art and Studio Tour (JCAST) in October.

If you would like to arrange a tour of the Hudson County Community College Art Collection, please email Andrea Siegel at [asiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:asiegel@hccc.edu)

If you're interested in checking the collection out online, visit [www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections](http://www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections)



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

**Join us to:**

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

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

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

Registration is required!

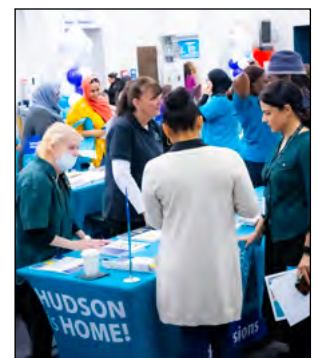


[www.hccc.edu/openhouse](http://www.hccc.edu/openhouse)

## HCCC HOLDS FALL OPEN HOUSE AT JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS



Sabrina Bullock assists visitors during the Open House.



Joann Kulpeksa (seated) and Janine Nunez (standing) answer questions related to enrollment into the College.

## HCCC FACULTY ATTEND 2023 AAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



*Pictured from left: Dr. Sirhan Abdullah, Dr. Jihan Nakhla, and Dr. Osama Saadeh at the 2023 AAMA Annual Conference.*

In September, Hudson County Community College faculty members Dr. Sirhan Abdullah, Dr. Jihan Nakhla, and Dr. Osama Saadeh attended the annual conference of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA) in Lake Buena Vista Florida.

The mission of the AAMA is to provide the medical assistant professional with education, certification, credential acknowledgment, networking opportunities, scope-of-practice protection, and advocacy for quality patient-centered health care. The faculty attended many workshops such as "The Dark Side of Education," "The Mystery of Motivation: How Do We Get Students Engaged?" and many more.

## NATIONAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK: NOV. 5 – 11, 2023



**PATIENTS ARE OUR PASSION  
SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY**

NATIONAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK | NOV. 5-11, 2023



The Hudson County Community College Radiography Program celebrates the vital work of radiologic technologists across the nation. The annual celebration takes place each year during the week that includes Nov. 8 to commemorate the discovery of the x-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on Nov. 8, 1895. This nationwide week-long celebration calls attention to the important role medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals play in patient care and health care safety.

This year's theme is "Patients are our Passion. Safety is our Priority." Images can be seen at: <https://www.asrt.org/events-and-conferences/nrtw>

## STUDENT CLUBS EMBARK ON MUSHROOM TOUR

HCCC's Environmental Club, in collaboration with the STEM and Chemistry Clubs, enjoyed a Mushroom Tour on Thursday, Oct. 12. The students visited the local mushroom farm LifeCap Farms in Jersey City, where they learned about urban indoor mushroom growing. After an interactive introduction on how mushroom substrate is prepared, they went on a tour to see various stages of the mushroom life cycle. Many topics, including but not limited to cooking tips, health benefits, environmental impact, and volunteer opportunities, were discussed. The tour concluded with hands-on harvesting of yummy lion's mane mushroom. As an added bonus, the group visited a beautiful rooftop vegetable garden.

The group is grateful to its hosts at LifeCap Farms and to the amazing students for organizing this wonderful event. Those of you who missed this one, be on the lookout for the next tour in Spring 2024! Also, follow the Environmental Club on Instagram ([hccc\\_environmentalclub](https://www.instagram.com/hccc_environmentalclub/))!



*Members of the Environmental, STEM and Chemistry Clubs visiting Jersey City's LifeCap Farms.*

## HCCC AT THE GARDEN STATE LSAMP STEM RESEARCH CONFERENCE



*HCCC NNJ-B2B students with advisors Dr. Clive Li (left) and Dr. Gunes Senturk (center, left), and B2B Coordinator, Prof. Fidelis Foda-Kahouo (center, right).*

On Friday, Oct. 13, students from the Northern New Jersey Bridges to Baccalaureate (NNJ-B2B) program at Hudson County Community College attended the GS-LSAMP STEM Research Conference at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

The conference provides a platform for students to showcase their hard work and dedication. This event not only celebrates their achievements but also fosters a sense of accomplishment and confidence among the students. Moreover, it allows them to interact with peers, professors, and professionals in their respective fields, promoting networking and the exchange of ideas.

Under the guidance of their advisors Dr. Clive Li and Dr. Gunes Senturk, and in coordination with Professor Fidelis Foda-Kahouo, the students' projects are not only a testament to their academic prowess but also a reflection of the College's commitment to nurturing future leaders and innovators. These experiences contribute significantly to the College's reputation, showcasing the quality of education and research opportunities it provides.



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



*Beta Alpha Phi Chapter at the Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Conference at Northampton Community College. Left to right Shemia Superville, Layla Gonzalez, Misti Proenza, Ange-Kenny Yap, Professor Kahou, and Brandon Johnson.*

### Blood Drive

New Jersey Blood Services of the New York Blood Center with Phi Theta Kappa and the Nursing Club will hold a blood drive in Room 102 of the STEM Building on Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be permitted if capacity permits. To make an appointment, please visit [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/309592](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/309592).

### Fall Induction

The Fall Induction will be held on Friday, Nov. 17. Guest speakers include Diego Villatoro, Beta Alpha Phi Alumni Association President, and Mateo Armas, Middle States Region North District President (Alpha Epsilon Phi Chapter, Bergen Community College).



*A delegation of Beta Alpha Phi chapter members attended the Middle States Conference on Oct. 14. The theme of the conference, hosted by Beta Beta Chi Chapter (Northampton Community College-Fowler (PA) was "Plating Your Five-Star Chapter Plan."*



*Past Beta Alpha Phi Chapter Officer Oliver Pavot at the New York City Triathlon on October 1. He has participated in the Triathlon since 2015. He is a computer science professional.*

## TWO HCCC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STUDENTS RECEIVE 2023 ANSELMI SCHOLARSHIP FROM CIAP

The Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey (CIAP) is a non-profit trusteeship created to provide construction education, scholarships and research; improvement and standardization of public-sector contracts and technical specifications; and public relations and promotion of the industry within New Jersey.



*Assil Jeriouda*



*Ahmed Sesay*

Each year, CIAP awards Anselmi scholarships to students in Civil/Construction Engineering Technology. Awards are made to construction technology students with an interest in a construction career, entering their second year of a two-year Associate Degree program.

This year, two Hudson County Community College students Assil Jeriouda and Ahmed Sesay of Construction Management program received the Anselmi 2023 scholarship award.

## HCCC TRUSTEE VICE CHAIR BAKARI LEE RECEIVES ACCT M. DALE ENSIGN TRUSTEE LEADERSHIP AWARD

*Continued from page 2*

Appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2006, Bakari Lee has helped facilitate the College's growth and efforts to provide a diverse student body with the highest level of educational instruction. He has diligently advocated accessible, high-quality higher education and experiential learning programs for area residents, especially people of color. "Bakari Lee's experience in community service predates his work as an HCCC Trustee. He has publicly stated that he believes involvement with the community is critically important. He believes in giving back without expecting anything in return," Dr. Reber said.

William J. Netchert, Esq., HCCC Board of Trustees Chair, noted that he has worked alongside Bakari Lee to provide a myriad of resources and opportunities for all HCCC students to thrive. "As Vice Chair, Bakari has been my partner in growing the College and providing our diverse and ever-growing community with excellent instruction in top-of-the-line facilities," Chairman Netchert stated. "He is held in high esteem by the Board, the HCCC family, and our community, and is truly deserving of this honor."

Bakari Lee credits his late father, Dr. Gerard W. Lee, Jr., a civil rights and community leader who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the catalyst for his own dedication to community

service. As an HCCC Trustee, he is a member of several committees, a frequent presenter at the HCCC Teaching and Learning Symposia on Social Justice in Higher Education, and a founding member of the HCCC President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI), among other initiatives.

Bakari Lee also served as Chair of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) from 2011 to 2014. During his tenure as NJCCC Chair, the New Jersey Center for Student Success and the Big Idea Project were established, and legislation was passed for the Building Our Future Bond Act, an enhanced New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Rewards Scholarship (NJ STARS), and in-county tuition for undocumented students. He also made it a point to attend the commencements of the then 19 community colleges throughout the State of New Jersey, and he served as the commencement speaker at Bergen Community College, Warren County Community College, and Atlantic Cape Community College, which bestowed upon him an honorary Associate of Arts degree.

Additionally, Bakari Lee was the National Chair of the ACCT Board of Directors, playing an influential role in the establishment of student success programs, advocating increased funding and tuition stabilization, and working to ensure equal educational opportunities for all. In that

capacity, he created the ACCT Student Trustee Advisory Committee; established the Trustee Advisory Committee and Constituency Groups (trustees from African American, Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American communities) reporting at board meetings; and led the completion of ACCT's first strategic plan.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. These community professionals, business officials, public policy leaders, and leading citizens offer their time and talent to serve on the governing boards of this century's most innovative higher education institutions—community, junior, and technical colleges—and make decisions that affect more than 1,200 colleges and over 11 million students annually. "The voice of community college leaders," ACCT brings its members together to address challenges and help students succeed through advocacy and education.

## HCCC LIBRARY TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Submitted by John J. Hernandez,  
Dean of College Libraries

During the week of October 1-7, 2023, the HCCC Library took part in the annual Banned Books Week with displays of books that have historically and recently been challenged and have had attempts made to ban them from being read across the nation. The Library staff gathered titles held in the collection that appeared on lists such as the "Top 13 Most Challenged Books of 2022," compiled by the American Library Association (ALA) and elsewhere. These books were placed on display at both library locations at the Journal Square and North Hudson campuses to highlight them and bring attention to this issue. In addition, the Library purchased t-shirts with slogans drawing attention to the banning of books that many of the staff wore during the course of the week as a show of solidarity against book bans.

Started over 40 years ago by the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the ALA, Banned Books Week is a nationwide celebration of the freedom to read and spotlights attempts to ban books in schools and libraries. A book ban is any action taken against a book based on its content that leads to a book being either completely removed from availability to students or the public, or where access to a book is restricted or diminished. Such actions may be the result of parent or community

challenges, administrative decisions, or in response to direct or threatened legal action. Every year, Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community, including librarians, teachers, booksellers, publishers, writers, journalists, and readers, in support of the freedom to seek and express ideas, even those some consider to be unorthodox or unpopular.

Since 2021, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of books being targeted for censoring or removal. The vast majority of books are being challenged at public libraries, schools, and school libraries. According to the free speech advocacy organization, PEN America, what started as modest school-level activity to challenge and remove books in schools has grown into a full-fledged social and political movement, powered by local, state, and national groups. PEN America has identified at least 50 groups involved in pushing for book bans at the national, state, or local levels. The number of titles targeted for bans has skyrocketed in the past three years. According to the ALA, 223 unique titles were challenged in 2020; the number jumped to 1,858, come 2021; and in 2022 rose again to 2,571. The vast majority of the books targeted for removal feature LGBTQ+ characters or characters of color, and cover issues such as racism in American history, LGBTQ+ identities, or sex education.



Top Photo: Members of the College Libraries team during Banned Books Week.

Bottom Photo: A display of historic and recent book titles which have faced challenges in libraries, bookstores, and schools.

In keeping with the ethos of the College, the HCCC Library affirms our stance in support of the freedom to read, explore, and learn for all of our users.

## HCCC RECEIVES INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY 2023 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD

Continued from page 2

retention of students and employees — and best practices for both; leadership support for diversity; campus culture and climate; supplier diversity; and many other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. "We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus."

Hudson County Community College serves one of the nation's most ethnically and racially diverse communities. The College's 2023 HEED Award submission detailed the practices and programs that make HCCC a leader in DEI and helping students successfully achieve their academic goals and dreams. These include:

- HCCC President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI), established by Dr. Reber in 2019, includes students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and external community members who develop partnerships and collaborations, and play an essential role in establishing and implementing DEI goals for an inclusive institutional climate.

- HCCC Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, including Accessibility Services, Cultural Affairs, Veterans Affairs, International Student Services, and the College's Title IX oversight. The Office of DEI also leads and supports annual programs that engage HCCC students, faculty, staff, and community members, including a 9/11 Memorial, MLK Memorial, Juneteenth Celebration, and the College's annual DEI Summer Retreat.

- "Hudson Helps Resource Center" that provides essential services and resources focusing on basic needs beyond the classroom and including a Care Team, food pantries, nutritional counseling, assistance with SNAP applications, Career Closet, emergency financial assistance, Chromebook loaners, social services and mental health counseling, and "Single Stop" benefits screening.

- "Hudson Scholars," winner of the national 2023 Bellwether Award and 2021-22 League for Innovation in the Community College's Innovation of Year Award, providing proactive advisement, financial stipends, and early academic intervention to ensure a greater number of students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities complete their college education, achieve their goals, and realize their dreams.

- HCCC English as a Second Language Program with various pathways for students to master

English while learning, quickly advancing through their developmental education requirements, and accumulating credits that enable them to complete their associate degree studies and graduate sooner.

- HCCC First Year Experience program that helps students transition into college smoothly, providing opportunities to become acquainted with fellow students, faculty, and staff; receive financial assistance; orient to class schedules, emails, and HCCC units; attend the College Student Success course and acquire skills to achieve academically; and take advantage of assistance provided by HCCC Peer Leaders and Mentors.

- HCCC Summer Refresher Academy, the College's summer bridge program that is offered free of charge to students who wish to improve basic skills, build confidence, and obtain higher course grades and finish their degrees more quickly.

"All of the awards we receive for DEI and student success result from the dedication and engagement of the entire College family, including our Board of Trustees," said Dr. Reber. "We are very proud of our HCCC culture that celebrates and advances diversity, equity, and inclusion in all forms, and offers our students and community members every opportunity to succeed by embracing and multiplying our shared strengths."



## EMPOWERING FUTURES: WATER WORKFORCE UTILITY PROGRAM TRIUMPHS AND HANDS-ON LEARNING AT BAYONNE PUMP STATION

The Water Workforce Utility Program (WWUP) is delivered in partnership with New Jersey Future, the New Jersey Water Association, and is grant-funded by Bank of America. The students of WWUP have successfully completed 4 weeks of their educational training. We are glad to announce that we have retained all 15 of our students and look forward to their completion of the program as well as providing them with guidance to careers in the water industry. Thus far participants have completed CPR training, and their Introduction to Water and Wastewater class. In the upcoming weeks, students will complete their Basic Math Skills, Career Readiness, and Customer Service classes. They will also receive OSHA 10 training, which will provide them with Department of Labor (DOL) cards, preparing them for various career opportunities within the water workforce. Under the guidance of their Student Success Coach, Natalie Brown, program participants have been refining their interview skills and preparing for internship opportunities.

Students in the Water Workforce Utility Program were able to explore the Bayonne Pump Station in Bayonne, New Jersey on Saturday, October 7, 2023, and gain hands-on experience with what they are learning in the program. The tour was given by Veolia's Michael Assante and



*Students in the Water Workforce Utility Program at the Bayonne Pump Station*

John Libitz, who also facilitated the Introduction to the Water Sector and Introduction to Water and Wastewater program modules. The students learned about water treatment and its distribution. They also learned about the collection of data regarding consumer usage and water supply management. Veolia is a valued partner, working with HCCC in a variety of ways, including being an active member of our Gateway to Innovation program through the employer advisory board and their attendance in our Basic Skills and Workplace workshops.

## ACEN REACCREDITATION OF THE HCCC NURSING PROGRAM

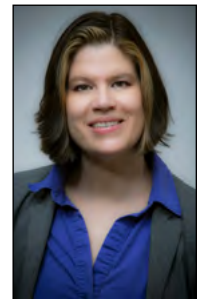
Hudson County Community College is pleased to announce that its Nursing Program has received full reaccreditation from the Accrediting Center for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Initial accreditation was granted in 2018, and the ACEN Board of Commissioners granted continuing accreditation to the associate nursing program and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Spring 2031.

The Board and peer evaluators specifically noted, as strengths of the program, the diversity of the Nursing faculty and the College's professional development/tuition reimbursement availability. It recommended continued actions based on data to improve students' first-time licensure examination pass rates.

Congratulations to the Nursing Program administration, faculty and staff on this accomplishment.

## PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Patricia Clay, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer, recently shared technological challenges and insights in an interview with eCampus News, "Is This the End of the Paper Chase?" The interview may be read at <https://www.ecampusnews.com/innovation-insights/2023/08/28/paperless-classroom>.



## TRANSFER PATHWAYS OBSERVES FIRST 'NATIONAL TRANSFER WEEK'



*Transfer Pathways held an "Ice Cream with the Deans" social as part of its first National Transfer Week on Tuesday, Oct. 17.*

The Office of Transfer Pathways observed its first "National Transfer Week" at Hudson County Community College, a special event dedicated to connecting individuals with opportunities for growth, learning and advancement. The office collaborated with others at the College such as EOF, Career Services, Advisement, ESL, and Student Life and Leadership.

From Monday, Oct. 16 to Friday, Oct. 20 and Wednesday, Oct. 25, Transfer Pathways celebrated

National Transfer Week with different activities, panels and workshops.

The National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) has declared the third week of October as National Transfer Student Week. This week allows colleges across the nation to celebrate transfer students and the faculty, staff and administration that help students navigate the transition from one institution to another.

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/join/register/tJwkd-hrDwqHNN-8t2nmxecPZ5nyoEE2ewd](https://zoom.us/join/register/tJwkd-hrDwqHNN-8t2nmxecPZ5nyoEE2ewd)



**CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS**



**Continuing Education Partners with Hudson Pride Center Host Culinary Event**

Continuing Education co-hosted a vibrant culinary event, "Lezfest," in collaboration with Hudson Pride Center. The event, held on October 4, brought together LGBTQ women for an evening of connection and companionship.

HCCC's Culinary Arts Institute hosted Chef Mo in the kitchen, and Culinary student Jessica Paredes assisted in guiding attendees in crafting the Mediterranean classic, Shawarma.

The goal of "Lezfest" is to foster new friendships and build a stronger community. The event created a memorable evening of learning, laughter, and delicious cuisine, while celebrating each other.

To learn more about upcoming Continuing Education Culinary classes and events please sign up for the mailing list at: <https://tinyurl.com/culinaryemails>



**Hudson Chamber Business Network Event in Partnership with Hudson County Community College's CEWD Department**

Continuing Education and Workforce Development hosted a well-attended Hudson County Chamber Business Networking breakfast on September 15. Local company leaders ranged from George Youssef, COO from J&J Mechanical and Construction Group to Nick Torres, Esq., Managing Partner of an entrepreneurial Law Firm here in Hudson County.

This event was an incredible opportunity to connect with other professionals, share referrals,

and learn about the many resources offered by the Continuing Education & Workforce Development (CEWD), Center for Business & Industry at Hudson County Community College. CEWD presented 3 specific programs: Gateway to Innovation, Center for Business and Industry employer-based training, and LIT training, which is a workplace literacy and basic skills training program from NJ state, that offers no-cost training and student work-based projects to local employers.

*Michelle E. Richardson, Executive Director, HCEDC, Ken O'Neill, Hoboken Chamber Ambassador; Lori Margolin, Associate Vice President, Continuing Education & Workforce Development; Sean Kerwick, Associate Director, Center for Workforce Innovation, Supply Chain Management; Robert DePalma, Sales Director, Superior Office Solutions; and Emory A. Edwards, President and CEO, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce.*

**CEWD Success Stories**



**CHUKA NWEKE**  
Gateway to Innovation  
Google IT Support  
Professional Certificate

Before joining the CEWD program, I was working as a kitchen associate in a restaurant. I faced many challenges in this job. Attending college full time, working full time, and having to study for my certification 2 hours every night after school and work was overwhelming for me. My family was worried about me stressing too much and working so hard to reach my goal. But I did not want to stop.

I took the Google IT Support Specialist certification from the Gateway to Innovation program of HCCC. After completing it, Roy Groething connected me with CEWD staff for job search assistance. The staff provided me with the full-service career readiness and connected me with the HCCC IT department. I now work as IT Helpdesk Support. Working as an IT professional has always been my dream and Gateway to Innovation made that dream come true.

This certification from Gateway to Innovation benefited me with stacking credentials and advancing my career. I am so happy and thankful!

My new job gives me a sense of what a professional career will look like and it also gives me time to focus more on my schoolwork. I used to be very exhausted working in the kitchen because it was a fast-paced environment. But now, I get to sit down and help computer users from my desk. My family is so happy and proud that all my hard work paid off. Thank you, Mr. Roy Groething, GTI Team, and HCCC!

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

**NOVEMBER** .....

**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)**  
Friday, November 10, 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>

**MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (IN-PERSON)**  
Saturdays (5 Sessions)  
November 11, 2023, through December 16, 2023 (no class on 11/25)  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Instructor: Johnstone Libutzi | Price: \$145  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microsoft-office-excel-intermediate-level-registration-723957916617?aff=oddtcreator>

**NICET CONCRETE TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)**  
Saturdays & Sundays (32 Hours)  
November 18, 2023, through December 17, 2023 (No class 11/25 & 11/26) | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nicet-concrete-testing-certificate-preparatory-course-registration-607552203997?aff=oddtcreator>

**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>



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATTENDS THE SAVE LATIN AMERICA LOS TRES PROCERES ANTILLANOS 2023 AWARDS GALA

By Joseph Caniglia

On September 22, 2023, five Hudson County Community employees along with five North Hudson Campus students attended the Save Latin America Gala at the Chart House in Weehawken, New Jersey. In attendance were Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus, Diana Galvez, Assistant Director of the North Hudson Campus, Pedro Santiago, Assistant Director of Student Life and Leadership, Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry, Dr. Shannonine Caruana, Professor of ESL and English; and five Hudson County Community College students: Luis Alberto Reyes, Roberto Gomez, Abigail, Ashley Flores, and Paula Mayorga. A special thanks to Dr. Yeury Pujols for giving us the opportunity to attend this event.

Save Latin America (SLA) is a Union City-based nonprofit organization that works to conserve Hispanic identity, values, and traditions. SLA provides educational, health, social, and economic development services to the people of Hudson County. The annual "Los Tres Proceres Antillanos" Gala celebrates the work of Save Latin America and the critical importance of education.



Hudson County Community College faculty and staff at the Save Latin America Gala in September. Seated: Dr. Shannonine Caruana. Standing from left: Pedro Santiago, Raffi Manjikian, Diana Galvez, and Joseph Caniglia.



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

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



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

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC IS:

### The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Passport Program (DEISPP)



Joining the President for this session are Gerardo Leal, HCCC alum, Amaalah Ogburn, HCCC Associate Director, North Hudson Campus, Instructor, and Veronica Gerosimo, HCCC Assistant Dean of Student Life and Leadership to discuss the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Student Passport Program (DEISPP).

Save the Date!

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

26TH ANNUAL GALA will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 6 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

[foundation@hccc.edu](mailto:foundation@hccc.edu)

## HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

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



Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC?

Are you willing to contribute time?

Do you want to inspire others with your success stories?

Are you looking for career support?

If so join, socialize, and network!

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



## COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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

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## ALUMNI CORNER

### Kira Khan – Class of 2023

#### A.S. Science & Mathematics- BioTechnology



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

My brother started at HCCC during quarantine. I come from a modest financial background, so when I graduated high school, I also decided to go to HCCC and to opt for more in-person classes.

I started in the fall of 2021. The first few weeks were challenging because there was not much human connection due to the pandemic. But it turned out to be a great experience. HCCC gives you a preview of what your four-year college experience and adult life will be like. I'm so glad I made the decision to attend HCCC – it's something I will never regret.

#### What made it the right decision for you?

I love how close-knit the HCCC community is. I came to the U.S. during the 2017-18 school year and graduated during quarantine. It was difficult coming here as an immigrant, but Hudson was the best way to start my college experience. My community is very close-knit, and HCCC gave me the same feeling that we are all here for each other. Hudson has all diverse kinds of people -- whether you are a single mother, a parent, or a nontraditional student, we are all Hudson students. It is a nice environment because we are all in this together.

When I first started, I hadn't had as much connection with people because of the pandemic. A friend encouraged me to become a student mentor and to get involved in student government. Professor Raffi Manjikian was one of the main motivators for my confidence. I was able to come out of my shell and gain the courage to prosper as an individual in HCCC. HCCC helped me build myself, so I take pride in providing the same support back to HCCC. To coexist in a diverse community like HCCC, you should do your part by giving back to the community that provides you a standing in society.

#### How did you become interested in biology and biotech?

My parents introduced me to various fields, encouraging me to have a creative and vast outlook for my career. In India, there are cultural values that push you to become a doctor or engineer. But I was interested in the way things work and the way in which we as human beings live every day -- everything around you is science.

When I moved to the U.S, I realized how exciting the biotech field is and I wanted to become part of it. The pandemic really solidified this for me. There was a major need for doctors, nurses, and treatments. Seeing how this tiny virus can affect human health around the world was a real turning point -- I wanted to learn about it more deeply.

#### What is it like being a woman in biotech and the STEM field in general?

The patriarchy has been around for a long time even though women are the providers of everything. Being a woman in STEM is challenging because it is a

male-dominated field. But every woman knows that they have the strength to move forward and that is why I persevere.

I want to be successful rather than be dependent on a man, which is what is often expected of me as a Muslim woman. In my culture, you are basically for a man, but I am determined to break this generational cycle. Independence is important to me -- I am progressing in my own life, regardless of what societal expectations are placed on me.

Unfortunately, in society, people look at your gender first, and then your professional and academic background. It's hard to separate yourself from your gender in our society. I encourage you to work hard to not be defined by your gender. You can be the CEO of a major company, but if you are a woman, that may be what you will be perceived as first. This is a sad aspect of our society, but if you make progress and do good things, you will succeed regardless of what people think of you.

The patriarchy still has a hold over women, but where there is a will there is a way. In parts of India, many outdated views are still held. Ultimately, I still hold my cultural values and my identity dear. I celebrate my cultural identity, but I won't adhere to standards that I disagree with.

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

Talk to the person next to you. If you keep to yourself, you're going to build a bubble around you. It may be difficult at first, but talk to people, get involved, and take one small step at a time. Ask someone about homework, go to an event, connect with professors, or join clubs -- it's like a rabbit hole you can go down. Don't be afraid to be yourself.

#### Tell us about your experience as a member of the LGBTQ community.

I am pansexual and genderqueer. I have been part of the LGBTQ community since 2016. It was already tough being a woman, and then comes the queer part. But it's a struggle that you must go through. It can be another barrier, but it's my identity. I don't want to have to cover it up; I would rather be true to myself even if it brings more challenges.

It's better to go through life's obstacles as your authentic self rather than hiding who you really are to make things easier. Trying hard and succeeding as your authentic self makes your achievements more rewarding and empowers other people who may be living in fear. You are giving them hope and motivation.

You can be a source of strength to others and give back to your community. Don't trap yourself in your solitude. That is especially important to me -- I don't want to live in a bubble, I want to help people and be as welcoming as I can. It's like a choir -- we may sound good individually, but the music sounds even better when everyone is singing together.

