

**Hudson County Community College Foundation
presents**

28th Annual Gala



Thursday, December 4, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

2025 DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREE



"Provident Bank is deeply honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Hudson County Community College Foundation," said Anthony Labozzetta, President & CEO of Provident Bank. "For more than two decades, we've been proud to partner with HCCC in its mission to expand access to education, support student success, and strengthen the communities we serve. As HCCC celebrates 50 years of impact, we look forward to continuing our partnership and helping ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve their goals."

Founded in Jersey City in 1839, Provident Bank is the oldest community-focused financial institution based in New Jersey and is the wholly owned subsidiary of Provident Financial Services, Inc. (NYSE:PFS). With assets of \$24.83 billion as of September 30, 2025, Provident Bank offers a wide range of customized financial solutions for businesses and consumers with an exceptional customer experience delivered through its convenient network of 140 branches across New Jersey and parts of New York and Pennsylvania, via mobile and online banking, and from its customer contact center. The bank also provides fiduciary and wealth management services through its wholly owned subsidiary, Beacon Trust Company, and insurance services through its wholly owned subsidiary, Provident Protection Plus, Inc. To learn more about Provident Bank, go to www.provident.bank or call our customer contact center at 800.448.7768.

2025 DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREE



Dedicated to service excellence

For over 85 years, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBSNJ) has served generations of New Jersey families and businesses. We are committed to providing financial protection and peace of mind through affordable health insurance products and services. Horizon BCBSNJ is the company trusted by the majority of NJ's residents.

For the community, from the community

The diversity of our employee population is reflective of the rich diversity of our great state of New Jersey. It's part of who we are as a company and represents the strength and vibrancy of our culture. Our range of backgrounds, education, experiences, abilities and perspectives have helped our employees in their work to improve the health care experience for our members and the communities we serve. Throughout our long and proud history of serving the people of New Jersey, one thing is evident—our employees truly care about our communities and our members.

Learn more about our dedication to diversity: <https://www.horizonblue.com/diversity/>

Our members matter

Our members are our neighbors, our friends and our families. It's this understanding that drives us to better serve and care for the 3.6 million people who trust us with their health.

Providing access to quality care is integral to our mission.

And we have many programs in place to help do just that, including

- Access to professional medical advice through our 24/7 Nurse Line
- Prenatal, chronic care and transplant programs
- Case Management for those who need the most support
- Behavioral health services
- Lifestyle improvement resources
- And many other patient support programs

(<https://www.horizonblue.com/members/wellness>)

We strongly believe in giving our members tools that empower them to make informed decisions regarding their care.



CELEBRITY GUEST

CHEF BRIAN EDGAR LOPES

AAS Culinary Arts Alum, Class of 2015

Chef Brian Edgar Lopes has always possessed a strong passion for the culinary field. Originating from Bellville, NJ, he carries rich Portuguese heritage. The culture of Chef Brian has significantly shaped his cooking style, as he enjoyed numerous summers in Portugal during his youth.

In 2015, he graduated from the Culinary Arts Institute of HCCC, earning an AAS Culinary Arts degree. This foundational training propelled him into a career that included work in restaurants recognized by the James Beard Foundation. After completing his education, Chef Brian applied his expertise at George Mendes's Michelin-starred establishments, Aldea and Lupulo, located in New York City. He also served as a chef instructor at Heirloom Kitchen Restaurant.

Seeking a deeper connection to his roots, Chef Brian ventured to Spain and Portugal. There, he worked at Bel Canto in Lisbon, Portugal and the Parador Hotels in Spain, further enhancing his understanding of the authentic cuisine from that area.

Upon his return to the United States, he took on the role of Chef de Cuisine at Lita in Aberdeen, NJ, which earned recognition from *Esquire Magazine* as one of the Best 50 New Restaurants in 2023.

Chef Brian's professional journey has been featured not only in print but also on various television shows. He appeared on Beat Bobby Flay in an episode titled "How You Bean," as well as on Chopped and, more recently, Alex vs. America.

Currently, Chef Brian holds the position of Executive Chef at Mercado Montclair. He is happily married to his wife Denise, and together they are parents to two young children.



INSTAGRAM



MERCADO

2025 Sponsorship Levels

Introducing the “Fifty and Forward!” Endowment Circle - \$25,000*

\$25,000 “Fifty and Forward!” Endowment Circle

In honor of Hudson County Community College’s 50th Anniversary, we invite visionary supporters to join a new giving level established exclusively for this milestone year. With a contribution of \$25,000, members of the Endowment Circle help lay the foundation for a permanent, income-generating fund that will benefit HCCC students for generations to come.

This leadership gift ensures your impact continues far beyond a single evening —providing scholarships, programs, and opportunities well into the College’s next 50 years. Endowment Circle donors will be recognized at the 2025 Gala (two tickets included) and in perpetuity, with invitations to future gatherings honoring their role as founding stewards of HCCC’s future.

**Endowments are fully tax-deductible.*

\$20,000 Golden Sponsor - Your sponsorship includes:

- All Ambassador of the Arts Sponsor benefits, plus...
- A print advertisement with company logo in our ad journal.
- Two on-stage tickets for our 2026 Commencement ceremony.
- A personalized thank you video from a Foundation scholarship recipient.
- \$1,000 will be dedicated to our Foundation Art Program.

\$10,000 Ambassador of the Arts Sponsor - Your sponsorship includes:

- All Community Sponsor benefits, plus...
- A private guided tour of the Foundation Art Collection.
- Early access to HCCC Gallery openings.
- \$750 will be dedicated to our Foundation Art Program.

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection includes paintings, sculptures, photography, drawings, limited-edition prints, and more! The Collection reveals aspects of America’s and New Jersey’s rich artistic and cultural heritage from the Hudson River School period through today.

\$6,000 Community Sponsor - Your sponsorship includes:

- A table for eight at the Gala.
- A virtual ad displayed during our Gala.
- \$500 will be dedicated to our Foundation Art Program.

\$4,000 Scholarship Sponsor - Your sponsorship includes:

- Seating for four at the Gala.
- \$500 will be dedicated to our Foundation Art Program.

All Sponsorships support tuition scholarships and text book awards for deserving students.

28th Annual Gala Sponsorship Opportunities

- ☐ \$25,000 "Fifty and Forward!" Endowment Circle
- ☐ \$20,000 Golden Sponsor
- ☐ \$10,000 Ambassador of the Arts Sponsor
- ☐ \$6,000 Community Sponsor
- ☐ \$4,000 Scholarship Sponsor
- ☐ \$500 Individual Dinner Ticket

**Print advertising deadline is
Monday, November 10, 2025.**

**All payments are due on or before
Monday, December 1, 2025.**

- ☐ I cannot attend but I wish to support the College's greatest needs with a gift of \$_____ *Sponsorship at this level does not include Gala admission.

- I cannot attend but wish to support ☐ \$4,800 Full Scholarship
☐ \$2,400 Partial Scholarship

Print Advertising

- ☐ Inside Front Cover \$2,500 Full page
- ☐ Inside Back Cover \$1,500 Full page
- ☐ Gold Page \$1,000 Full page on gold background
- ☐ Silver Page \$500 Full page on silver background
- ☐ White Page \$250 Half page on white background

- ☐ Digital ad to be displayed on monitors during the Gala event for an additional \$300.
*Digital ads deadline is
Friday, November 28, 2025.*

Pay by Credit Card

Bill my: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Address: _____

Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ Security Code: _____

Pay by Check

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____

Please make checks payable to: HCCC Foundation,
26 Journal Square, 14th Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306.

Please use the following name in all publications: _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

For information, please contact foundation@hccc.edu, (201) 360-4773

Use subject line: HCCC Gala 2025



SCAN QR CODE
[or click here to access
the online form](#)

28th Annual Gala

Advertising Specifications

ADOBE PDF PRESS READY format with fonts and supporting image files embedded.

Images must be CMYK or Grayscale
(NO RGB) Spot colors will be converted to CMYK.

ALL image size MUST be 300 dpi or greater.

(Ads **cannot** be accepted in
Microsoft Publisher or Microsoft Word.)

NOTE: Publisher is not responsible for files that print with default replacement fonts. Publisher is not responsible for proofreading, spelling, or grammatical errors.

**Print advertising deadline is
Monday, November 10, 2025.**

**(Ads received after the deadline
will not be in the journal.)**

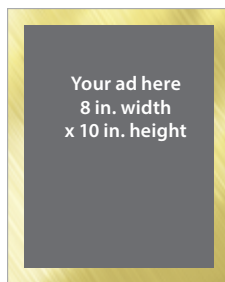
**All payments are due on or before
Monday, December 1, 2025.**

**Digital advertising deadline is
Friday, November 28, 2025.**

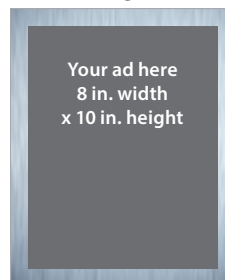
Ads may be submitted to foundation@hccc.edu
Digital ads to be submitted as a jpeg or PDF.

For more information contact:
201-360-4773 | foundation@hccc.edu

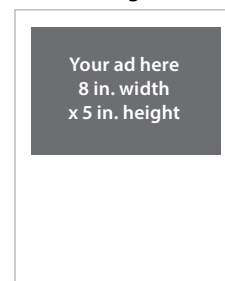
Gold Page \$1,000



Silver Page \$500



White Page \$250



Get your Golden Ticket!



Hudson County Community College Foundation's "50th Anniversary Raffle!"

Tickets \$100 each

Cash Prize One Winner Only (Maximum prize of \$50,000)

Only 1,000 tickets available - 50/50

Winning ticket will be drawn at the NEW Center for Student Success (Jersey City)
at the grand opening event currently planned for September 2026.
You need not be present to win.

*All proceeds will support
Hudson County Community College
Foundation Scholarships/Endowments*



To purchase a raffle ticket,
scan the QR code.

For information, please contact:
HCCC Foundation, 26 Journal Square
14th Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306
foundation@hccc.edu, (201) 360-4773

License Number: RL 004735-2025



The HCCC Foundation's Enduring Support for Students

It was another momentous year at Hudson County Community College, as a record 1,550+ students graduated at our 2025 Commencement ceremony, and our innovative Hudson Scholars Program continued to garner national acclaim, further bolstering its reputation as a pioneer in creating transformative outcomes for community college students.

There's no question that 2025 was a remarkable year for HCCC—and it was also another strong year for the HCCC Foundation. This year takes on added significance as the College celebrates its 50th Anniversary with a series of inspiring events and initiatives.

The HCCC Foundation is strongly committed to the belief that all Hudson County residents should be afforded the opportunity to acquire a college education and enjoy the lifelong benefits and transformative power of higher education. To make this vision a reality, the Foundation works tirelessly to secure the funding that fuels student scholarships, supports innovative academic programs like Hudson Scholars, invests in faculty development, and helps meet students' basic needs beyond the classroom.

The Foundation's endowment, created in 2023, now totals \$2,046,600. Since its inception, it has grown by \$501,394 under the management of professional investment managers. This growth reflects the Foundation's sound financial stewardship and long-term commitment to sustainability. These efforts strengthen the Foundation's ability to provide robust scholarship support and build a stable base for future generations of HCCC students.

The Foundation also hosted signature events such as the annual Golf Outing, Donor Scholar Reception, and Subscription Dining Series which continue to raise vital funding for student scholarships. As Hudson County Community College commemorates its 50th Anniversary, the Foundation is proud to contribute to this milestone year through fundraising and programming efforts that align with the yearlong celebration, which is being led by a hardworking committee of dedicated staff, faculty, and external stakeholders.

Under the leadership of Vice President for Advancement and Communications and Executive Director of the Foundation, Nicole Bouknight Johnson and Foundation Board Chair, Ronnie Sevilla, the Foundation is building on its momentum to ensure generations of HCCC students are supported, empowered, and inspired—fifty and forward.

As a 501 (c) 3 corporation, the Hudson County Community College Foundation provides tax-exempt status to contributions.

Executive Committee

- * Ronnie Sevilla, Chair
- * James J. Egan, Vice Chair
- * Mark S. Rodrick, Treasurer
 - Richard Mackiewicz, Jr., Officer at Large
- * Stacy Gemma, Trustee Liaison
 - Monica McCormack-Casey, Immediate Past Chair
 - Mandy Otero, Past Chair
 - Joseph Napolitano, Sr., Past Chair
- Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D., College President
- Nicole Bouknight Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications, and Executive Director of the Foundation



Foundation Board Members

- Natalie Brathwaite
- John M. Burns, Jr.
- Jeanne Cretella
- Steve Lipski
- * Ceallaigh Lorenz-Talleyrand
- * Steven Mullen
 - Kevin O'Connor
- * Michelle E. Richardson
- * Tony Rico
 - Daniela Elena Sarbu
- * Seema Shah

* Gala Committee Members



For information, please contact:
foundation@hccc.edu

