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Heart of Hudson



FOUNDATION

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Connecting Talent with Opportunity: HCCC Collaboration Launches Three Careers

2026 CYBERSECURITY CAREERS
REAL-WORLD INSIGHTS & INDUSTRY PATHWAYS

Steve Mullen
President/Owner of JCT Solutions

Christopher V. Pastena Jr.
IT Support, Data Collection & Analyst

JCT Solutions
SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKING

April 7th, 2026
6:00 PM
Multi Purpose Room
Webex: <https://hccc-jct.solutions.com/join/1234567890>

ML
ED

Manuel Lendorf
Andre

JCT Solutions
SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS & NETWORKING

Buzz is Building for the
HCCC Hornets



Message from the
Hudson County Executive
Craig Guy

Letter from the Vice President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As a new academic year begins, Hudson County Community College is entering an extraordinary period of growth and opportunity. New programs, the return of intercollegiate athletics, and continued investment in our students are creating even more ways for them to learn, connect, and succeed.

The HCCC Foundation is proud to help make that progress possible. Through scholarships, endowments, partnerships, and support for College priorities, we are working to ensure that opportunity keeps pace with ambition.

None of this happens without you. Thank you for investing in our students and helping us build what comes next.

Nicole B. Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications and Executive Director of the HCCC Foundation



Founded in 1997, the Hudson County Community College Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that exists solely to support the priorities of Hudson County Community College.

Buzz is Building for the HCCC Hornets

There's something special about the energy that intercollegiate athletics brings to campus. It's the excitement of gathering together, the pride of seeing your school represented, and the sense of connection that comes from cheering on your team with friends, classmates, and the entire community.

This fall, the HCCC community is looking forward to experiencing this excitement firsthand as we launch our new athletics program — and introduce the HCCC Hornets! Our athletics program officially tips off this November with men's and women's basketball. These teams will compete as part of National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 15 Division III; comprised of community college teams primarily from New York City, Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley, and New Jersey.

Basketball will be followed by the launch of our new men's and women's volleyball teams in 2027 and men's and women's soccer in 2028.

Jonathan Sisk, HCCC's Director of Athletics, states "Athletics is often referred to as the front porch of an institution of higher learning and I've grown to love that analogy. It has a dual meaning, with the first being the high visibility from afar and being the



first thing seen by visitors or passers-by. The second meaning being the gathering place of family and friends to have a place to belong. Both of these meanings are important and bring tremendous value to the school. Hudson County residents have been clamoring for athletics for a very long time and now that it is coming to fruition it is very exciting to see the community turn their heads as they pass by, both literally and metaphorically, to see what is going on and then finding a place to belong on the front porch with family and friends at HCCC. Hudson is home and athletics will leave the light on."

Scan the QR code for the latest about the HCCC Athletics Program.



As our first basketball teams take the court this fall, we hope the entire HCCC community will join us in welcoming them. Come to a game. Wear your HCCC gear. Bring your friends and family. Cheer loudly. Celebrate the wins, root for our student-athletes, and enjoy being part of this new chapter in the life of our college.

We invite alumni, local businesses, community organizations, and friends of the college to support our athletics program and explore partnership opportunities that will help our Hornets thrive. Please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/student-success/athletics/index.html> for more.

From Campus Connections to Careers: HCCC Collaboration Leads to Three Full-Time Hires

What began as an opportunity for HCCC students to learn from and connect with a local employer has resulted in three exciting new full-time careers.

Through a speaking engagement coordinated by the HCCC Foundation and HCCC cybersecurity faculty, JCT Solutions shared industry insights, connected with students, offered internships, and ultimately hired three members of the HCCC community. The experience demonstrates how relationships between the College and local employers can create meaningful pathways from education to employment.

The partnership comes at a particularly opportune time, as colleges and employers increasingly recognize the value of work-integrated learning opportunities. Nationwide, demand for work-integrated learning experiences far exceeds supply, creating a significant gap that affects both students and businesses. The Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), of which HCCC is a member, reports that more than half of students at two-year colleges wanted to intern, but only 13% were presented with opportunities to do so.

The connection between the company and these students began when JCT CEO Steve Mullen, a longtime supporter of the HCCC Foundation and current Foundation Board member, visited HCCC Professor Yavuz Guner's cybersecurity class to speak with students about the industry, career opportunities, and the skills employers are looking for, offering insight as well as internships. Jasen Bergamini, David M., and Alexander Ali took advantage of this opportunity and are now working at JCT full time.

Jasen Bergamini started as an intern and is now working full-time in JCT's Audio Visual department as an Associate AV Programmer, while David M. and Alexander Ali were hired full time as Help Desk Assistants. JCT reports that all three have been a great addition to its team.

Speaking about his experience at the company, Bergamini states that "Starting at JCT has been a great opportunity. As an Associate AV Programmer, I've already gotten to work on some big projects, including developing and programming an AV control system being deployed in a major

university stadium. I've had a lot of fun designing the user interfaces and writing the control logic in LUA. I want to thank my project manager Rick Clark, who has been an amazing mentor as I take on this role."

David M. echoed these sentiments, stating, "I'd like to acknowledge that JCT Solutions has provided valuable exposure across all areas of IT and Cybersecurity... The team is dedicated to guiding me toward my professional interests and goals, offering challenges that support accelerated learning and development. My experience has been one of genuine interest in my growth, supported by colleagues from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of technical expertise and knowledge."

JCT's Courtney Pickton reports "Over the past four months, Jasen, Alexander, and David have been valuable additions to JCT Solutions, bringing technical skills, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to learning. Jasen has applied his programming and systems integration skills, and his contributions support the team's efforts to deliver reliable control systems that make

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A Message from Craig Guy, Hudson County Executive

In one of America's most expensive housing markets, more than 10 acres of publicly owned land in the heart of Jersey City are currently devoted to surface parking lots. We should be asking a simple question: Is that really the best use of scarce public land?

Hudson County Executive Craig Guy has put forward a bold alternative. The Hudson County Affordable Housing Initiative would transform underutilized county-owned land into more than 1,500 new homes across four sites in Jersey City, including hundreds of permanently affordable homes for working families.

Among these projects is something especially ambitious: a first-of-its-kind mixed-income housing development surrounding County Plaza, a county office complex now encircled by sprawling parking lots.

The county has committed to building the project with 100% union labor, ensuring the economic benefits of this investment are shared by workers as well as future residents.

The County Plaza project would create more than 700 new homes, including more than 200 affordable homes. At least 30% of the homes would be permanently reserved for families across a range of incomes, including 20% affordable homes for lower-income households — including some of the county's lowest-income families — and 10% homes for middle-income residents.

That is why the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has invested more than half a million dollars to support the project's early planning phase, helping Hudson County move from vision to implementation.



Hudson County is showing what serious public leadership on housing can look like. It deserves the support of local leaders, state policymakers and anyone who believes New Jersey families deserve a fair shot at remaining in the communities they love.

Samra Haider is president and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Adam Gordon is the executive director at the Fair Share Housing Center.

Zoe Baldwin is the vice president of state programs at the Regional Plan Association.

From Campus Connections to Careers

Continued from page 3

complex technology easier for our clients to use. Alexander and David both started with a great foundation in IT and have made contributions since day one. We look forward to seeing all three continue to develop their skills and grow with the company.

This relationship with JCT is a strong example of the HCCC Foundation working together with supporters and employers to build bridges from the classroom to the workplace. Students gain valuable real-world experience and opportunities to embark on their career paths, while local businesses gain talented, well-prepared employees who are ready to hit the ground running and contribute in meaningful ways.

Interested in working with HCCC students and developing your future workforce? Contact the HCCC Foundation at foundation@hccc.edu to learn how your organization can engage with students, share industry expertise, and create pathways to internships and employment.



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Join us for a home game! 2026-2027 Home Schedule



Date	Day	Time	Sport	Opponent
Nov. 3	Tuesday	6 p.m. / 8 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Essex
Nov. 14	Saturday	12 p.m. / 2 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	LaGuardia
Nov. 16	Monday	6 p.m.	WBB	Sussex
Nov. 21	Saturday	12 p.m. / 2 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Five Towns
Dec. 3	Thursday	6 p.m. / 8 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Delaware County
Dec. 12	Saturday	12 p.m. / 2 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Bronx
Jan. 9	Saturday	12 p.m. / 2 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Lehigh Valley
Jan. 16	Saturday	12 p.m. / 2 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Suffolk
Feb. 2	Tuesday	6 p.m. / 8 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Sullivan
Feb. 9	Tuesday	6 p.m. / 8 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Manhattan
Feb. 14	Sunday	6 p.m. / 8 p.m.	WBB/ MBB	Monroe Bronx

Scan QR
 for more
 information about
 HCCC Athletics.



**Make a powerful
 impact on the lives
 of HCCC students
 by donating today.**



*There is no better investment than
 the one you make in a student's education.*

Online: Give online quickly and conveniently via debit card, credit card, or PayPal at <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html>

Check: Send a check to the HCCC Foundation, 26 Journal Square, 14th Floor, Jersey City NJ 07306.

Endowment/Planned Giving: Start the conversation about making a legacy gift that will generate an impact for years to come.

Sponsorship: Sponsor dynamic events at HCCC to support great causes while connecting with over 50,000 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community leaders.

**To find out more about any of these options,
 please contact us at foundation@hccc.edu.**

