

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HCCC FEATURED IN NATIONAL CASE STUDIES FOR INNOVATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS



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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 October newsletter are  
due by Friday, September 12, 2025.

Please send your news items, comments  
and suggestions to:

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## HCCC FEATURED IN NATIONAL CASE STUDIES FOR INNOVATION AND STUDENT SUCCESS

**A**s Hudson County Community College (HCCC) celebrates its 50th Anniversary, it is the subject of three nationally published case studies that spotlight the College's data-driven strategies and collaborative initiatives for student and workforce development success.

HCCC is featured in:

- "Data and Technology in Action" by The Project on Workforce at Harvard and Education Design Lab;
- "Hudson is Home" by *Achieving the Dream* (ATD);
- "Hudson County Community College and Eastern Millwork Create a Transformative Apprenticeship Program" by the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF).

In Harvard and Education Design Lab's study, HCCC is one of four colleges selected for its innovative use of data and technology. The case study, *Building Bridges*, highlights HCCC's seamless transfer pathways, employer-aligned academic programs, and wraparound services like the "Hudson Helps Resource Center" and nationally recognized "Hudson Scholars" student success initiative.

The "Hudson Scholars" program, developed with guidance from ATD, builds upon successful models such as the NJ Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and CUNY ASAP. It provides proactive advisement, mentoring,

financial stipends, and early academic intervention. Since its launch, more than 5,000 students have participated, with completion rates nearly doubling. The program has earned multiple national awards, including the 2024 AACC Student Success Award of Excellence and 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award.

ATD's case study showcases how HCCC scaled "Hudson Scholars" to support a broader student population. President Dr. Christopher Reber and ATD President and CEO Dr. Karen Stout will present the program's impact this October at the 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress.

BHEF's study profiles the HCCC-Eastern Millwork, Inc. (EMI) Holz-Technik Apprenticeship Academy. Developed in just seven months, the five-year, tuition-free, earn-while-you-learn program integrates classroom instruction and hands-on training. Students earn an associate degree from HCCC, a bachelor's from Thomas Edison State University, and secure sustainable, high-paying careers. The program has been praised by Governor Phil Murphy as a "blueprint for New Jersey's economic future" and is now a national model for workforce development.

Together, these case studies affirm HCCC's national leadership in educational innovation, student support, and workforce readiness—advancing the College's mission to transform lives and build stronger communities.

**ON THE COVER:** "Hudson is Home: Supported by ATD Coaching, Hudson County Community College's Hudson Scholars Program Brings Student Supports – and Success – to Scale" published by *Achieving the Dream* (ATD) is one of three nationally published case studies about the College.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES 11 SOLAR INSTALLATION STUDENTS



*Pictured are program graduates along with administrators from Hudson County Community College (HCCC), Dimension Energy, and the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC).*

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) recently celebrated 11 graduates of its Solar Installation Training program, offered in partnership with Dimension Energy, a national community solar developer. The ceremony included congratulations from HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Continuing Education and Workforce Development Lori Margolin, Dimension Energy Origination Associate Elana Mannion, New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC) Executive Director and Chairman James McGreevey, and others.

*Continued on page 7*



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND EASTERN MILLWORK, INC. WELCOME INCOMING APPRENTICES AT SIGNING CEREMONY

Six years ago, Eastern Millwork, Inc. (EMI), a leader in high-end architectural woodwork manufacturing and installation, turned to Hudson County Community College (HCCC) to help address a pressing challenge: developing a pipeline of engineers with the technical expertise and creativity needed in the industry. Traditional bachelor's programs were not producing job-ready graduates, and recruiting mechanical engineers proved costly and inefficient.

HCCC responded with an innovative solution that has since become a national model. The Holz Technik Registered Apprenticeship Program reimagines education by immersing students in hands-on, career-specific learning from day one.

Each year, graduating high school students with talent in technology and craftsmanship are invited to apply. Apprentices are hired immediately after graduation, receive on-the-job training and a salary with benefits, earn two debt-free college degrees, and upon completing the five-year program, secure careers earning up to \$70,000 annually at EMI.

This summer, three new apprentices—Hannah Garcia (Memorial High School), Noah Pacheco (High School of Art and Design), and

Gianna Ranero (County Prep High School)—celebrated their commitment at a signing ceremony at EMI's corporate offices. They were congratulated by HCCC Dean of STEM Dr. Burl Yearwood, EMI COO Heiko Sieling, HCCC Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Continuing Education and Workforce Development Lori Margolin, and EMI Project Manager Regi Mulla.

"This program aligns with our focus on developing

strong relationships with businesses and unions that benefit students, businesses and the community" said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "It fills a workforce void, fuels the regional economy, and creates opportunities for young people to earn a tuition-free college education and launch well-paying careers."

To date, EMI has hired 11 apprentices, with several already completing their associate and bachelor's degrees. The program has been highlighted as a national case study by the Business-Higher Education Forum for its



*Seated are the newest members of the Holz Technik Registered Apprenticeship program. Pictured with the selected students are administrators from Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Eastern Millwork, Inc. (EMI).*

success in aligning education and workforce needs.

More information about the Holz Technik Registered Apprenticeship Program can be found on the College's web site, <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/workforce-development/apprenticeship/index.html>.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS COURSEDOG ACADEMIC OPERATIONS ROLL OUT AWARD

Throughout the country, students and registrars face the challenge of building course schedules that balance requirements, availability, and convenience. For years, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) managed this process manually for more than 90 programs and 500 courses, resulting in hundreds of scheduling emails, delays, and bottlenecks.

To streamline operations, HCCC introduced the Coursedog Scheduling Module two years ago. This intelligent academic operations platform has transformed the College's scheduling process, reducing related emails by 85%, standardizing workflows, minimizing errors, and improving communication across departments. For the first time, HCCC can now create course schedules a full year in advance, offering students greater clarity and access when planning their academic paths.

The College's success was recognized with the 2025 Coursedog Academic Operations Roll Out Award, presented at the Academic

Operations Conference in Chicago. HCCC Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Alison Wakefield and Associate Registrar Irma Williams accepted the award on behalf of the College.

The implementation was led by Ms. Williams in collaboration with HCCC's four academic school deans, more than 30 faculty coordinators, and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Assessment Dr. Heather DeVries. Ms. Williams also designed and delivered real-time trainings tailored to varying levels of technical experience, helping build consistency across the process. She continues to meet weekly with Coursedog to refine practices and enhance efficiency.

"Everything we do at Hudson County Community College is about student success," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Utilizing Coursedog has dramatically improved scheduling, reduced administrative tasks, and strengthened operations. We are proud of the difference it is making and grateful for the leadership of Dr. Wakefield and Ms. Williams."



*HCCC Associate Registrar Irma Williams (left) and HCCC Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Alison Wakefield accepted the award at Coursedog's recent Academic Operations Conference.*

## AUGUST MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Jessica Cortez  
Cynthia Dewhart  
Matthew Kolbusz  
Junwen Liu  
Rebecca Shaffer  
Luz Tellez

10 Years

Sirhan Abdullah  
Kathryn Buckley  
Lauren Drew  
Zakia Hmamou  
Jerry Lamb  
Courtney Payne  
Genny Sanchez  
Geoffrey Sims  
Richard Walker

15 Years

Joseph Caniglia  
Velino Joasil  
Catherine Sweeting

20 Years

Lisbety Ferrer Martinez

25 Years

Mohamedrafiq Siddiqui  
Richard Skinner

40 Years

Gary Bensky

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Ruth Abadie Alana  
Nesma Eladawi  
Shelley Naz  
Cristina Paez Perez

## SEPTEMBER MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Annie Barran  
Brooke Duffy

10 Years

Paula Roberson

15 Years

Kevin Eng

25 Years

Mildred Vera-Matich

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Destiny Knowles  
Ansh Patel  
Harsh Patel  
Harshal Patel  
Andres Pulgarin  
Deep Shah  
Roni Michelle Straussberg  
Tecianna Velazquez  
Aubrey West

Five Years

Karan Patel

10 Years

Stev Lewis  
Mark McCarthy  
Dimarie Pagan  
Gabrielle Reeves  
Selena Suarez

Join us for our  
**ANNUAL WELLNESS FAIR,**  
a celebration of health,  
wellness, and community!

Wednesday, October 8  
Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street  
Scott Ring Room  
Jersey City, NJ

Thursday, October 9  
North Hudson Campus  
4800 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Multipurpose Room  
Union City, NJ

Stop by to explore  
wellness resources, participate in  
activities, and connect  
with vendors focused on  
your well-being.

*Don't miss this opportunity  
to recharge and refocus!*

## OPEN ENROLLMENT IS COMING!

Mark your calendars—  
**Open Enrollment runs from  
October 1 to October 31!**

This is your annual opportunity to  
review and make changes to your  
benefits for the upcoming year.  
Whether you're updating your  
coverage, adding dependents, or  
exploring new options, be sure to  
log in and make your selections  
before the deadline.

For a complete list of  
Personnel Recommendations  
adopted at the August 12 Board  
of Trustees meeting, please visit:  
<https://shorturl.at/NIV2g>

## EMPLOYEE PERKS

Employee Assistance Program  
<https://eap.ndbh.com>  
(company code: HCCC)

National Institute for Staff and  
Organizational Development  
<https://www.nisod.org>

LinkedIn Learning  
<https://library.hccc.edu/linkedinlearning>

# SAVE THE DATE

## COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

Wednesday, January 21, 2026



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES DOMINIQUE MAYNARD AS NEW DIRECTOR OF THE HUDSON HUB ONE STOP STUDENT SERVICES CENTER

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dominique Maynard as the new Director of the Hudson Hub One Stop Student Services Center. In this role, Ms. Maynard will oversee the establishment and operation of a comprehensive student services center that will streamline and enhance the student experience at HCCC by integrating the functions of various College offices into a single place and provide students with efficient access to a wide range of administrative and support services.

Ms. Maynard brings extensive experience in student services and operations to her new role. She most recently served as Associate Director of One Stop Operations at Union College of Union County, where she managed initiatives to improve student access and support across advising, financial aid, and registration. Her

prior roles include Student Services Specialist for Advising, Career and Transfer at the same institution, and as a Student Affairs Liaison Graduate Assistant at UNC Greensboro, where she supported initiatives designed to advance student success and engagement.

Ms. Maynard is anticipating the completion of her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Community College Leadership from Rowan University. She holds a Master of Education in Higher Education with a concentration in Student Affairs Administration from UNC Greensboro and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Family & Human Services from Towson University, illustrating her longstanding commitment to advancing the mission of community colleges and fostering environments for student growth.

"We are excited to welcome Dominique Maynard to the HCCC family," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Her dedication to student-centered service and her track record of effective leadership in One Stop operations will help ensure our students have the support they need to thrive and reach their educational goals. HCCC looks forward to the leadership and wealth of experience Ms. Maynard will bring to the Hudson Hub One Stop Student Services Center as she works to build a supportive, efficient, and accessible environment for all students."



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AWARD

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) has been honored with the 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award from *Insight Into Academia Magazine*. The national award recognizes institutions that foster a culture of mental health, wellness, and belonging through innovative support for students, faculty, and staff.

At HCCC, wraparound services are central to student success. Through the Hudson Helps Resource Center, students can access emergency funds, food pantries, a Career Closet, Chromebook loans, and 24/7 social services and mental health support. The College also partners with organizations such as Generation Hope, FamilyU, and the JED Foundation, while programs like Navigate360 and First Year Experience help students stay on track to graduation.

The HCCC Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential support for stress, anxiety, and depression, including counseling with licensed professionals, peer support through TalkCampus, teletherapy via Uwill, and specialized groups. The Hudson CARE(S) Team—made up of faculty, staff, and social work interns from five universities—coordinates holistic care for students. More than 100 faculty and staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid and suicide prevention programs.



*Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is the recipient of the "Insight Into Academia Magazine" 2025 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award. Pictured here, HCCC students at a mental health event.*

Faculty and staff also benefit from a robust array of services, including free mental health resources, flexible work schedules, employee resource groups, and up to \$9,000 annually for professional development. Family-friendly benefits such as paid maternity, paternity, adoption, and bereavement leave, along with lactation pods for new mothers contribute to HCCC earning nearly a dozen national workplace awards.

"We believe that everyone who makes HCCC home deserves the good health that

allows them to succeed in pursuing their goals and dreams," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber.

"Hudson County Community College is a role model for other institutions of higher education," said *Insight Into Academia* publisher Lenore Pearlstein.

Learn about the "Hudson Helps Resource Center" and its extensive offerings here: <https://www.hccc.edu/student-success/personal-support/hudsonhelps/>

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,000+ 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.



Mary Frances Judge, *Al Mare* (2019),  
Acrylic on Canvas, 46"

## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia for the donation of 28 wonderful works of art. Thank you to Douglas Maxwell for the donation of the enormous (67" x 84") and fabulous *Untitled (Desert Lake)* painting by April Gornik. We look forward to installing this work in the new building, now under construction!

## ARTIST NEWS

The first exhibit curated exclusively from the Foundation Art Collection, "Garden State Vision," will be on display in the Dineen Hull Gallery on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library until November 7. Curator Jack Engdall, from Cultural Affairs, is featuring several works by Bill Rodwell, Mary Frances Judge, and others that have not yet been exhibited. (We're holding them for the Grand Opening of the new Center for Student Success which we look forward to next year.) For the moment, please

come upstairs to the top floor of the Library and check out the show! While you're upstairs, please plan to enjoy our patio deck as well. It's a lovely place to relax.

If you like **Valeri Larko's** work on display on the fourth floor of the STEM building, you might enjoy this trailer of a new film about her art process: *Larko Land Here* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpQ39tPOA5g>)

At the Whitney Museum in New York City, a current exhibition is called, *Untitled (America)* after a work of the same name by artist **Felix Gonzalez-Torres**. According to the museum website, his work "illuminates a window in the exhibition, creating a passage between the Museum and the world beyond." About this work, Gonzalez-Torres wrote, "America has always been an unattainable dream, a place to dream about. . . . The America that I now know is still a place of light, a place of opportunities, of risks, of justice, of racism, of injustice, of hunger and excess, of pleasure and growth. Democracy is a constant job, a collective dedication." If you'd like to see recently-installed works by Felix Gonzalez-Torres at HCCC, check out the third floor of Gabert Library. If you'd like to go to the Whitney, admission is free every Friday evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on the second Sunday of each month.

**Robert Mangold**, an artist whose work has always puzzled the author of this column, had an exhibition at Pace Gallery called *Robert Mangold, Pentagons and Folded Space Work* by Mangold can be seen at the North Hudson Library and the Gabert Library in Journal Square (on the first floor). The gallery says, "Committed to abstraction as a means of communication, he has worked within a



Valeri Larko, *Relic* (1998), Oil on Gessoed  
Watercolor Paper, 15.25" x 13.25"

consistent geometric vocabulary to produce a varied body of paintings and works on paper." I just don't understand it at all. Please send any explanations of Mangold's work to [ASiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:ASiegel@hccc.edu).

**We welcome anecdotes and information about how the Foundation 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).

Save the Date

## 28th Annual Gala

Thursday,  
December 4, 2025  
6 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306



Details to follow!





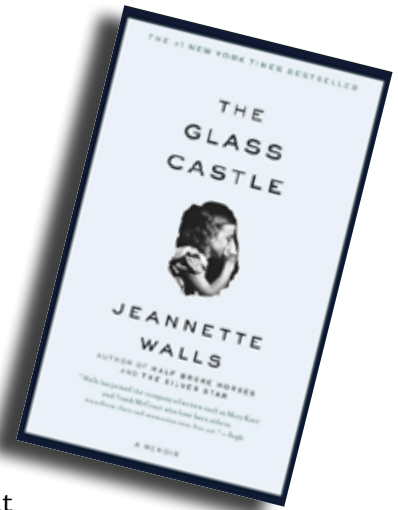
# The Literary Lounge

## September Selection: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

*The Glass Castle* is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family. *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing – a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

**Our next meeting will take place on Monday, September 29 at 2 p.m.**

**Open to all HCCC students, staff, faculty and community members.**



**Scan the  
QR code  
to join!**



All College services and programs are intended to be inclusive and accessible for all college community members. For accommodation requests related to a disability or health condition, please contact the Office of Accessibility Services by calling (201) 360-4157 or e-mailing AS@hccc.edu within five business days of the scheduled event.

## HCCC GRADUATES 11 SOLAR INSTALLATION STUDENTS

*Continued from page 2*

Solar energy has become one of the fastest-growing energy industries, reducing environmental pollution and costs while creating new career opportunities. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for solar photovoltaic installers are projected to grow 24%, far outpacing many other fields.

HCCC's seven-week training program, held at NJRC's Governor's Reentry Training and Employment Center in Kearny, was led by HCCC and Solar One instructors. Students gained hands-on solar installation experience and completed coursework in Construction Basics, Work Readiness Skills, and certifications

in OSHA-10, Basic Life Support, Green Construction, and Photovoltaic Installation.

The program emphasized connecting students with employers and trade unions. One participant secured employment before the course ended, and graduates met with Dimension Energy and other industry partners about future opportunities.

"This clean energy training program is an outstanding example of a public-private partnership," said Dr. Reber. Support came from multiple partners: HCCC tuition assistance funded by Metallica's All Within My

Hands Foundation, stipends and networking opportunities from Dimension Energy, training from HCCC and Solar One, installation experience supported by the NJ Pathways to Career Opportunities initiative, and NJRC's training venue.

"Hudson County Community College is a great workforce development partner," added Dimension Energy Vice President Bryan Bentrott. "They ensure every student has a clear path to a full-time job, and we look forward to welcoming these graduates to future projects."



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



*Pictured from left: Mina Abdelmaseeh, Anuvhuti Bisht, Marolla Youakim, Eman Mahmoud, Kenia Sandoval, and Yamileth Flores at the Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Summer Institute at Passaic County Community College on Saturday, June 28.*



*Jessica Dang and alumnae Betsy Apena and Ana Esthefany Polanco with their families volunteered at the Liberty State Park picnic for state employees on July 4.*

## FOUNDATION THANK-A-THON



**O**n July 23, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students picked up the phones for the HCCC Foundation's first-ever Thank-a-Thon — connecting with more than 50 donors and leaving more than 100 heartfelt messages of gratitude. A new tradition born from the College's 50th Anniversary, the event celebrated the generosity that transforms lives.

## RADIOGRAPHY WHITE COAT



*Hudson County Community College held a time-honored "White Coat" ceremony for graduates of the College's Radiography program on Thursday, Aug. 14.*

## PACE RETREAT



*From left are Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence; Lisa Harris, African American Outreach Committee member; Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President; Dr. MarTeze Hammonds; and PACE Co-Chairs Diana Gálvez, Associate Director, North Hudson Campus, and Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, Chemistry.*

**O**n Thursday, Aug. 14, HCCC's President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence (PACE) convened for its annual Summer Retreat, themed "Reflect, Engage, Renew," to foster dialogue, collaboration, and innovation across the community. Social justice advocate, educator and motivational leader Dr. MarTeze Hammonds served as the day's feature speaker.

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

*Peer Leaders and members of the Student Life and Leadership team coordinated and delivered an engaging New Student Orientation on Monday, Aug. 25.*



*Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?*

*Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?*

*Dealing with mental health and wellness?*

**Hudson County Community College**  
**cares about you and wants to help.**



**Please complete the General Concern Form**

click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>  
or scan the QR code.

The form is NOT monitored 24/7. A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.

If you need immediate help call  
or text 988 or visit  
<https://988lifeline.org>



## CONFERENCE COVERAGE

### SUNY Adirondack Chemistry Conference

Instructor Raffi Manjikian recently participated in a multi-day professional development conference at SUNY Adirondack, which focused on implementing evidence-based teaching and learning practices in community college education. This conference convened faculty from across the country to explore research-supported strategies aimed at improving student learning and persistence, particularly in chemistry.

Throughout the conference, participants explored a range of instructional approaches designed to enhance student learning, engagement, and retention, all of which are areas of critical importance in STEM courses. Sessions were tailored to the unique needs of community colleges, with the goal of increasing student continuity in chemistry.

Faculty left the conference equipped with practical tools to support increased student engagement, foster critical thinking skills, and



support greater retention in STEM pathways. Thanks to his participation, Manjikian will lead a community of practice with other participants from the conference. The group will focus on implementing course-based undergraduate research experiences into the general chemistry curriculum.

By translating the latest educational research into classroom practice, Manjikian continues to contribute to the development of innovative, student-centered teaching approaches that empower learners and strengthen academic success in the sciences.

### NASPA Student Success in Higher Education



*Pictured from left: June Liu, Sr. Bernadette So, and Marselly Almanzarare attending the NASPA (student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Student Success in Higher Education conference June 27 - 30, 2025 in Denver CO.*

### Hudson County Community College Attends STEM C<sup>2</sup> Symposium

On Wednesday, August 6, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) participated in the STEM C<sup>2</sup> Research and Career Symposium hosted at Bergen Community College. Led by Instructor Raffi Manjikian, a group of fifteen students—including members of his Chemistry class and American Chemical Society (ACS) chapter—attended the all-day event. Instructor Manjikian also served as a judge for the presentation and poster sessions.

The STEM C<sup>2</sup> Research and Career Symposium provided an exciting platform for students to present their work, explore cutting-edge developments across science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and connect with industry leaders and fellow scholars. Highlights included a high-energy research presentation competition, inspiring keynote address, engaging poster session, and dynamic career panel featuring professionals from academia and industry.



*A delegation from Hudson County Community College served and presented at STEM C<sup>2</sup> Research and Career Symposium in August.*

With participants from multiple institutions and industry partners, the symposium fostered valuable networking and mentorship opportunities. HCCC students also explored their transfer and career aspirations. Students left the event having ignited their curiosity, expanded their horizons, and gained more of an appreciation for the power of STEM.

### Foreign Language Education and Technology (FLEAT) Conference



In June 2025, Instructor **Sonja Rodiger** represented HCCC at the 8th Foreign Language Education and Technology (FLEAT) Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. The conference focused on the intersection of language teaching and educational technology. Hence, her presentation, "AI in ESL," was right on target. It was a well-attended and valuable contribution to a far-reaching conference that brought together educators from around the world to share ideas, tools, and strategies that support language learning and student engagement in diverse settings.

## PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Dr. Joseph Caniglia**, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus, who has earned his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Higher Education Administration with a specialization in Leadership from Liberty University, graduating with high distinction.



**REGISTER NOW!**  
for Fall 2025 Classes

### HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

On-Campus, Online, Remote, Hybrid (On-Campus/Online), Hybrid (Remote/Online), and Immersive Telepresence Video (ITV)

#### 7-Week Online Classes

Fall Online B and  
Fall 7-Week 2:  
Saturday, October 25, 2025



Fall Course Schedule available for viewing NOW at [www.hccc.edu/schedule/](http://www.hccc.edu/schedule/)

APPLY NOW for Fall classes at [www.hccc.edu/apply/](http://www.hccc.edu/apply/)

For more information on how to register, go to [www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes](http://www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes)

For more information contact: [admissions@hccc.edu](mailto:admissions@hccc.edu)  
text (732) 509-4222 call (201) 714-7200



## CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



*Chef Liannette showing off her delicious cinnamon rolls.*



*Four-year Summer Youth veteran Chef Simone, whipping up a special cake recipe.*



*Baking Camp students working together to make special apple pie desserts.*



*Cooking Week II's Dessert Competition Winners.*



*Digital Photo II student capturing a PANYNJ police car.*

### CEWD's Summer Youth 2025 Recap

The School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development's Summer Youth Program 2025 began on July 7 and concluded on August 22, 2025. Over the course of seven weeks, students explored a wide range of engaging and educational experiences. The program featured two weeks of Digital Photography, one week of CPR & First Aid training, two weeks of SAT Prep (Math & Language Arts), and four weeks of Culinary Camps, two weeks of Baking and two weeks of Cooking.

This summer, 124 children between the age of 9 and 15 years participated in the program. Each gained valuable skills, knowledge, and experiences that will support them in their academic journeys and everyday lives. At the conclusion of each camp week, every student was awarded a Certificate of Completion, recognizing their dedication and achievements.



*Campers showing off their Summer Youth 2025 merch.*

The Summer Youth Program 2025 was a season of learning, creativity, and growth—equipping our youth with tools that will serve them well into the future. We look forward to another great year filled with more programs designed for youth! If you're interested in enrolling your child in our youth programs or wish to learn more about our Summer Youth program (scheduled to return in 2026!), please send an email to [cguerra@hccc.edu](mailto:cguerra@hccc.edu) or call us at 201-360-4224.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS . . . . .

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON) (RADIOGRAPHY STUDENTS ONLY)

Thursday, September 11, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Price: \$77

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2025-dates-tickets-1438401340129?aff=oddtcreator>

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON) (RADIOGRAPHY STUDENTS ONLY)

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Price: \$77

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2025-dates-tickets-1438401340129?aff=oddtcreator>

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Price: \$77

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2025-dates-tickets-1438401340129?aff=oddtcreator>

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (ONLINE)

Mondays and Wednesdays

September 29, 2025, through November 10, 2025

(No class on 10/13) | 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Price: \$1,280

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-online-project-management-certificate-program-fall-2025-registration-1542599168639?aff=oddtcreator>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development  
161 Newkirk Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
(201) 360-4224/5358 | [CE@hccc.edu](mailto:CE@hccc.edu)



## ALUMNI CORNER

### Martin Okoro

A.S. Environmental Science, Class of 2023

After graduating with his associate degree from HCCC in 2023 and completing the Water Workforce Utility Program, Martin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and began an exciting career as a Smart Technologies Specialist at Veolia.



#### What brought you to HCCC?

My journey at HCCC began in late summer 2022. Living in Jersey City, I was looking for an affordable and accessible way to pivot into a meaningful career while still being able to support myself. HCCC provided the perfect opportunity to do just that.

#### What inspired your interest in the Water Workforce Utility Program and pursuing a career in water management?

My interest stemmed from the alignment between the program and my academic focus. I was pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with concentrations in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Data Analytics. The Water Workforce Utility Program curriculum strongly reflected what I was learning at the time, making the program a natural and exciting extension of my studies.

#### Tell us about your experience in the Water Workforce Utility Program.

My experience was excellent. The instructors — many of whom are now my coworkers and supervisors — generously shared their deep knowledge of the industry. I absorbed as much as I could by staying curious, asking questions, and engaging fully. The program gave me a new appreciation for the critical role water and wastewater services play in our daily lives. I'd like to give a special shout out to Joyce Alvarez and Mylz Wilson, who were instrumental in guiding our cohort and supporting us through everything from classroom lessons to internship prep.

#### How do you feel HCCC prepared you for success at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)?

HCCC helped me build the self-discipline and motivation needed to thrive in a fully online

learning environment. Most of my classes were remote, which was challenging at first, but it taught me valuable habits that carried over to my time at SNHU. Thanks to those skills, I was able to complete my degree ahead of schedule while working full-time.

#### Tell us about what you do at Veolia.

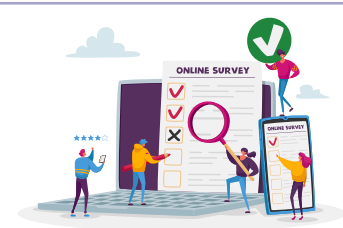
As a Smart Technologies Specialist, I work at the intersection of GIS and data analytics. My role involves managing and improving our GIS interfaces and integrating data from smart tools like leak detectors and pressure monitors. This allows us to extract actionable insights that support proactive maintenance and operational efficiency across the water system.

#### What advice would you give to HCCC students interested in pursuing this career path?

Be open to learning and don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. One of the most valuable parts of my journey was walking the field and GPS-tagging around 7,000 water assets across Kearny and Bayonne in just a few months. That hands-on experience gave me a deep understanding of the system I now support from the office. Also, invest in learning key skills like scripting, data analysis, and geospatial tools — they're becoming essential as utilities transition to digital platforms.

#### Any favorite HCCC memories?

One of my favorite experiences was our field trip to the water treatment plant in Boonton. It was eye-opening and reinforced just how vital the water industry is to everyday life.



### Alumni Survey:

As we kick off HCCC's 50th Anniversary celebration, we want to hear from you! Share your experiences and insights by completing our survey today:

[https://hccc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_77111qlENrf4heu](https://hccc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77111qlENrf4heu).

*Your voice matters, and we appreciate your input!*

## What's New?



#### Updated Alumni Web Pages:

Explore the updates and stay connected — visit the pages here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html>

### Alumni Benefits:



With an Alumni Card, you can take advantage of exclusive benefits and stay connected to the HCCC community! Details here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html>

### Alumni Giving:



You can sponsor events, students, or classes, or make an annual contribution at a level that works for you. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Giving is easy — visit <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html#ways-to-give> to make your impact today!

## HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

*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).

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Hudson County Schools of Technology  
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Secaucus, NJ 07094  
Phone (201) 360-4388

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## FIFTY AND FORWARD!

*All are welcome!*

*- staff, faculty, students, alumni, and community members*

### Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence!

Join us as Hudson County Community College marks its golden anniversary with a year of exciting events and milestones.

**Save the dates and be part of the celebration!**

### HCCC 50th Anniversary Homecoming Block Party and Open House

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

### HCCC 50th Anniversary Alumni Networking Night

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

### HCCC 50th Anniversary Annual Gala \*

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

*\* ticketed event*



Scan the QR code or click on link below for more details  
about our upcoming 50th Anniversary events!

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

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



## 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.

