

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES INAUGURAL ACCT NATIONAL IMPACT AND SUCCESS AWARD FOR GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS



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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 January newsletter are
due by Friday, December 12, 2025

Please send your news items, comments
and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES INAUGURAL ACCT NATIONAL IMPACT AND SUCCESS AWARD FOR GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS

Hot on the heels of earning a regional honor for student success, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has been awarded the inaugural Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) 2025 Impact and Success Award.

The ACCT Impact and Success Award recognizes programs, policies, and leadership that produce measurable results in student achievement and workforce development. As the Northeast Region recipient, HCCC competed with four other community colleges nationwide for the national distinction. Criteria include advancements in accessibility, retention, completion, and the expansion of student support and basic needs services.

"This award is owned by all members of our inspirational HCCC family," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Collectively, our efforts in teaching, learning, and community engagement have led to record increases in student retention, graduation, and goal attainment over the past five years."

HCCC earned the honor for initiatives that remove barriers to higher education and promote equitable outcomes. The Hudson Scholars program combines proactive advisement, academic intervention, and financial stipends, serving more than 4,000

students to date and expanding to include all HCCC students. Hudson Online now offers 25 fully online degree programs at in-county tuition rates, ensuring affordability and flexibility. Workforce Development provides apprenticeships, employer partnerships, and training opportunities, including for court-involved individuals. The Hudson Helps Resource Center delivers wraparound support—food pantries, emergency aid, mental health resources, and childcare referrals—addressing challenges that can hinder completion. Through Credit for Prior Learning and ReUp Education, nearly 2,000 returning students have re-enrolled to continue their degrees.

Dr. Reber recognized Trustees Emeriti Bakari Lee and Pamela Gardner, Vice President Dr. Darryl Jones, Associate Vice President Dr. Heather DeVries, Dean Dr. Ara Karakashian, and Associate Professor Elana Winslow for representing HCCC at the ACCT conference, where Ms. Winslow also received the Outstanding Faculty Award for the Northeast Region.

"Community colleges are gateways to meaningful careers and continuing education," said ACCT Chair Rich Fukutaki. "This year's awardees represent the best of the best in community college leadership."

ON THE COVER: Hudson County Community College (HCCC) received the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) inaugural national Impact and Success Award. HCCC Trustees Emeriti Bakari Lee and Pamela Gardner, President Dr. Christopher Reber, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Assessment Dr. Heather DeVries, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones, and Dean of the School of Business, Culinary Arts, & Hospitality Management Dr. Ara Karakashian accepted the award.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER APPOINTED TO HACU BOARD



Congratulations to HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (second from left) on being appointed to the HACU Governing Board. Pictured from left: Dr. John Moder, HACU Interim CEO; Dr. Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Northeastern Illinois University; and Dr. Juan Muñoz, Chancellor, University of California, Merced and HACU Governing Board Chair at the HACU 39th Annual Conference, in Aurora, CO.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) elected Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber to a two-year term on its Governing Board. HACU ratified the appointment during its 39th Annual Conference in Aurora, Colorado.

HCCC, a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), was one of HACU's 18 founding charter members when the Association was created in 1986.

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NEWS FROM HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE CRAIG GUY

County Executive Craig Guy Highlights Food Distribution Efforts in Hudson County, Brings Together 12 Municipalities Outlining Countywide Response to Benefit Cuts for SNAP Recipients

In times of crisis, the Hudson County community comes together to help our neighbors. In October, federal officials threatened to cut SNAP benefits for Hudson County residents due to the federal government shutdown.

Hudson County sprang into action to make sure no family went hungry. County Executive Craig Guy hosted a phone call with leaders of our 12 municipalities and the Board of Commissioners to outline plans to support the most vulnerable in our community. Details of this plan included:

- Hudson County's Department of Family Services and Reintegration contacted more than 58,000 SNAP benefits recipients to alert clients about the impending changes to the program.
- Hudson County worked with local organizations Hunger Free Unity in the Community, the Coalition for Food and Health Equity, and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey to have additional food distributions throughout the county.
- Hudson County's Health and Human Services Department recommended additional funding awards to Hunger Free Unity in the Community and the Coalition for Food and Health Equity to host additional food distributions in the county.
- In coordination with the Hudson County Corrections Department and Department of Aging and Veterans Affairs, staff delivered food to families housed in motels through Hudson County's housing assistance program.
- Hudson County continued to distribute weekend meals for school-aged youth through Hoboken Community Center's pantry, Mercy for My Neighbor, and Hunger Free Unity in the Community.



As the holidays approach, County Executive Guy wants to ensure residents and families across all 12 municipalities have access to nutritious food. At the center of these efforts is the county's food distribution hub at the USS Juneau Center in Kearny, which serves as the main staging site for Thanksgiving food deliveries. Working closely with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), Hudson County is offloading and organizing thousands of pounds of food and supplies that are being distributed to affiliated food pantries and community organizations throughout Hudson County.

Additionally, on November 12, Hudson County joined community partners in Union City to assist with a large-scale food distribution event serving hundreds of residents. The effort is part of the county's ongoing collaboration with local organizations to make certain that no family goes hungry and that every household has access to healthy, quality meals.

County Executive Guy extended his gratitude to all those helping to make these efforts possible, including the dedicated staff and volunteers from CFBNJ, the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), and the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services, as well as local partners and community organizations working tirelessly to fight hunger. Guy emphasized that these efforts reflect Hudson County's shared responsibility to care for one another.

In Hudson County, we believe that every resident — every family — deserves the opportunity to eat well, live healthy, and share in the joy of the season. Our work with CFBNJ, the HCIA, our Department of Health and Human Services, and countless community organizations, and volunteers ensures that we are not just delivering food; we are delivering hope, dignity, and peace of mind to our neighbors.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 28TH ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATES THE COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The students and professional faculty chefs of Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) nationally acclaimed Culinary Arts Institute are creating memorable cuisine and desserts for the HCCC Foundation's 28th Annual Gala Fundraiser on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is celebrating 50 years of preparing students for success and partnering with business and community leaders to launch innovative programs.

The HCCC Foundation will host its 28th Annual Gala on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the College's Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street in Jersey City. The event will honor five decades of progress in educating generations of students and will feature exceptional cuisine and desserts prepared by HCCC Culinary Arts chef professors and students.

This year, the Foundation will present the 2025 Distinguished Service Award to Provident Bank and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBSNJ). "We are proud to celebrate the evolution of Hudson County Community College, our Foundation, and our partnerships," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber.

Provident Bank's long-standing commitment includes a \$100,000 Education Signature Grant from the Provident Bank Foundation that supported 400 students in the award-winning Hudson Scholars program. Launched in 2021, Hudson Scholars has earned national recognition for improving student success through proactive advisement, financial stipends, early academic interventions, and high-impact learning experiences.

"Provident Bank is deeply honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the HCCC Foundation," said Anthony Labozzetta,

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
*Katy-Ann Blacker
Ana Hernandez Aquino*

25 Years
Julio Maldonado

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
*Ghaida Abdoalmogni
Nischal Bisht
Carmen Hernandez
Alexander Zarate*

Ten Years
Jamar Johnson



*This is an exciting time to work at HCCC.
Come join an award- winning institution!*

For Recruitment and Job Opportunities visit:

<https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hccc>

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
GIVING TUESDAY
December 2, 2025

For giving options visit:
hccc.edu/foundation



For more information, contact:
foundation@hccc.edu



**Please join
HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber
for a**

HCCC TOWN HALL

Wednesday, December 10 | 11 a.m -12:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served.

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

Virtual at: <https://tinyurl.com/TOWNHALL-DEC>

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



APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

*Dauri Abad Ramirez, Facilities Worker
Effective Date: December 1, 2025*

*Mariam Amer, Academic Advisor, Advisement
Effective Date: December 1, 2025*

*Melanie Ibarra, Student Services Coordinator
Effective Date: December 2, 2025*

*Everett Mapp, Coordinator, Instructional
Technology and Testing
Effective Date: December 1, 2025*

*Zakiyyah Muhammad, Director, Talent
Management Effective Date: December 15, 2025*

*Julie Rosario, Student Services Assistant
Effective Date: December 1, 2025*

*Maritess Wiggins, Executive Administrative
Assistant, Human Resources
Effective Date: December 1, 2025*

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

*Griselda Frane, College Lecturer, Nursing
New Title: Instructor, Nursing, Tenure-track
Effective Date August 16, 2025*

*Carmen Pelardis, College Lecturer, Nursing
New Title: Instructor, Nursing, Tenure-track
Effective Date August 16, 2025*

*Nancy Saliba, College Lecturer, Nursing
New Title: Instructor, Nursing, Tenure-track
Effective Date August 16, 2025*

*Delfin Ganapin III, Administrative Support
Specialist, Student Life and Leadership
New Title: Administrative Assistant,
Student Life and Leadership
Effective Date December 1, 2025*

*Kadira Johnson, Basic Needs Social Worker
New Title: Basic Needs Counselor
Effective Date December 1, 2025*

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

*Kadiatou Camara, Admissions Advisor
Effective Date: December 1, 2025 to February 28,
2026*

*Gabriel Cisneros, Patient Care Technician Train-
ing Specialist Effective Date: November 26, 2025
to June 30, 2026*

*Robert Maurer, Program Coordinator, Continuing
Education Effective Date: December 1, 2025 to
May 31, 2025*

*Natalie Mejia, Financial Aid Assistant
Effective Date: January 15, 2026 to July 16, 2026*

*Maritza Reyes, Director, Center for Adult
Transition (Grant-funded)
Effective Date: January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026*

**SAVE
THE DATE**

COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

HUDSON IS HOME (HIH) EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CELEBRATION



HCCC held a Hudson Is Home Employee Awards Recognition Luncheon on Nov. 19.

The Hudson Is Home (HIH) Employee Recognition Program celebrates the dedication, innovation, and collaborative spirit of the HCCC community. The nomination period ran from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, followed by a committee review.

The culminating HIH Awards celebration took place on Wednesday, Nov. 19, where recipients received recognition during an in-person ceremony.

Award categories highlight excellence across leadership, institutional engagement, innovation, new team member achievement, collaboration, teaching, adjunct teaching, part-time staff contributions, and student employee excellence. Together, these honors underscore the individuals and teams whose work strengthens the College's mission, fosters community, and enhances the HCCC experience.

PRESIDENT EMERITUS DR. GLEN GABERT VISITS HCCC



On Monday, Nov. 17, HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (right) and the College community welcomed President Emeritus Dr. Glen Gabert (left) and his spouse, Gregory Ratcliff, on their visit to New Jersey. Events included a luncheon and a tour of the Center for Student Success.

HCCC HOSTS FRIENDSGIVING DINNER



The Office of Student Life and Leadership hosted Friendsgiving Feasts at the North Hudson Campus on Wednesday, Nov. 19 and at the Culinary Conference Center on Thursday, Nov. 20.

HCCC PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER APPOINTED TO HACU BOARD

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"Serving on the HACU Governing Board is an opportunity to help broaden student resources and foster more inclusive environments in higher education," Dr. Reber said. "I look forward to collaborating with colleagues, sharing ideas, and discussing strategies that help our students thrive."

Dr. Reber consistently championed expanding educational resources, improving student outcomes, and addressing inequities. Under his leadership, HCCC launched the five-year Golden Door/La Puerta Dorada project, which revamped the English as a Second Language curriculum through the creation of an ESL Pathway Academy and ESL Resource Center. In 2024, the College hosted a regional "HACU on the Road" Summit for leaders from New Jersey,

New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania to exchange best practices and strengthen partnerships.

HCCC also advances HACU's mission through its annual Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education, which features HACU leadership. Faculty and staff regularly participate in HACU leadership and fellowship programs, and the College showcases Hispanic artists through 75 permanent installations in the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

HACU honored HCCC with the 2023 Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award. Dr. Reber previously served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture-HACU Leadership

Group and currently serves on the HACU Commission on International Education.

"As the CEO of an HSI, your insights will be invaluable in advancing the mission of the Association," HACU Interim CEO Dr. John Moder wrote in the appointment letter, praising Dr. Reber's longstanding support of HACU's programs.

HACU is a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing Hispanic student success. Its programs include internships, scholarships, college access initiatives, career development opportunities, and advocacy that strengthens the capacity of Hispanic-serving colleges and universities.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,100+ 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.



Keith Smith's "Barbequed Composition" was recently loaned to the artist's wonderful retrospective exhibition at County College of Morris.



When the Foundation Art Collection visited the show, we were astonished to find out that the "Barbequed Composition" was painted by the artist in his garage. When he painted our picture, behind his actual barbecue was an abstract painting. He painted both the barbecue and the abstract painting in our picture. Please see photograph of that terrific abstract oil painting, "Color Field Composition" (1984) which is in the background of "Barbequed Composition."

ARTIST NEWS

A recent article in *The Guardian*, "Picture of Health: Going to Art Galleries Can Improve Wellbeing, Study Reveals," describes proof of what we've long suspected. Art is good for you. How did they test this theory? They showed 25 people between the ages of 18-40 original art in a gallery setting, and showed another 25 people copies of art in a non-gallery environment. Both groups wore sensors that measured heart rate and skin temperature. Saliva samples were taken before and after viewing. They found a significant reduction in the stress hormone cortisol among the folks who looked at original art. Pro-inflammatory cytokines (related to stress and some chronic diseases) dropped by almost a third in the original-art viewers. Dr. Tony Woods, a researcher at King's College London, said, "From a scientific perspective, the most exciting outtake is that art had a positive impact on three different body systems – the immune, endocrine and autonomic systems – at the same time," Woods said. "This is a unique finding and something we were genuinely surprised to see." The moral of this story is look around you at some of the 1,200+ original works of art on HCCC's walls. It may be good for your health!

If you like **Valeri Larko's** work on the fourth floor of the STEM Building, take a look at the teaser for the new documentary, "Larko Land," about the artist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpQ39tPOA5g> The film was exhibited at the New York Documentary Film Festival in November in New York City.

If you like **Kiki Smith's** work on the sixth floor of the STEM Building, you may want to take a trip to Manhattan to see her first New York City solo show in six years, at 125 Newbury, a gallery at 395 Broadway. (We know, the gallery name is confusing. It's named after the first location of the Pace Gallery at 125 Newbury Street in Boston.) The show is called, "Kiki Smith: The Moon Watches the Earth." The exhibit will be on view through January 10, 2026.

Right around the corner from that show, you can see work by **Judy Pfaff** (whose art is on view at HCCC on the third floor of 70 Sip Avenue in the Hudson Helps area). The show is on through December 20 at Cristin Tierney Gallery, 49 Walker Street, New York City.

Further uptown, **James Siena**, whose work is on view on the sixth floor of Gabert Library, is having a show through December 20 at Miles McEnery Gallery at 511 West 22nd Street in New York City.

While we probably won't get to Singapore to see **Pacita Abad's** newest show, "Common Ground" (through December 13, 2025) at STPI on 41 Robertson Quay, this might be a great time to come up and see our Jersey City gallery devoted entirely to Filipino art. The third floor lobby in the Gabert Library features 15 works by Filipino artists, including Abad.

Happy Holidays to all.

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 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.

To donate artwork, find detailed information here: 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.

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS presents



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES “FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE” WITH NEW EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF JERSEY CITY HISTORY



On left: HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (second from right) at the opening reception with, from left, Mirta Sanchez, Madeline Rivera, Royal Ross and Sandra Aviles.



On right: Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti delivers a presentation on “Hudson’s History.”

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) celebrated its 50th anniversary with the opening of *Fifty Years of Excellence*, a first-of-its-kind exhibit highlighting the College’s five decades of impact on Hudson County. The exhibition opened on Friday, Nov. 7th at the Museum of Jersey City History, 298 Academy Street, Jersey City, and will remain on view through March 7, 2026.

The event featured welcoming remarks

by HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, followed by “Hudson’s History,” a discussion led by Hudson County native and former New Jersey State Representative Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti.

Fifty Years of Excellence guides visitors through HCCC’s legacy of empowering residents through education, innovation, and community service. The exhibit showcases student achievements, faculty milestones,

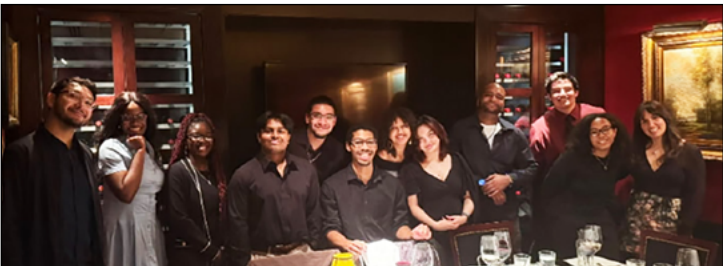
award-winning programs, historic yearbooks, student publications, media features, and rare photographs documenting the College’s growth from its early days in Journal Square to today. Displays also include graduation gowns from different eras and other memorabilia representing the College’s evolution.

“For half a century, Hudson County Community College has opened doors of opportunity and transformed lives,” said Dr. Reber. “This exhibit honors our history while celebrating the enduring spirit of our students, faculty, and community.”

The Museum of Jersey City History, also known as the Van Wagenen or Apple Tree House, provided a fitting backdrop. The 1740 landmark, steeped in Revolutionary War legend, once hosted a meeting between George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette.

The exhibit invites students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members to celebrate HCCC’s lasting role in shaping Hudson County’s educational and cultural landscape.

THE CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE (CAI) NEWS



On left: Students dining at and touring The Capital Grille Restaurant in Paramus. On right: The students’ hard work at the Driscoll’s Food Show is rewarded – with hamburger patties from a reputable local butcher!

The Culinary Arts Institute (CAI) kicked off the 2026 academic year with a series of exciting events showcasing student talent, creativity, and community engagement.

On September 29, students from Marissa Lontoc’s Table Service class participated in Driscoll’s Food Show, where they teamed up to cook and serve at various work stations. For many, it was their first experience preparing food for a large crowd—a rewarding challenge made even sweeter by a generous gift: each student received a box of premium hamburger patties.

Soon after, the highly anticipated Annual Thai Pop-Up—organized by Chefs Puk,

Vazquez, Pascua, and Lewis—transformed the Culinary Conference Center Banquet Room into a vibrant celebration of Thai, Antiguan, and Filipino cultures. Guests enjoyed live Antiguan steel pan music, traditional Thai dance performances, and authentic Filipino desserts. Attendees included current and former HCCC employees, family, friends, and community leaders. The event raised \$10,000 for the Paul Dillon Scholarship Fund benefitting CAI students.

As part of their professional learning, Diana Ramirez’s students dined at The Capital Grille Restaurant in Paramus, where they were treated to a facility tour of the wine cellar and kitchen.

Students met with the Front of House manager and sommelier, gaining insight into fine dining operations.

October concluded with the School of Business, Culinary and Hospitality Management Advisory Board Meeting, an event meticulously coordinated by Cristina Vazquez. The meal was prepared by Chef Puk, while Chef Katie Lewis crafted the desserts and favors that capped off the evening.

With such a dynamic start, the Culinary Arts Institute looks forward to an even busier—and more flavorful—remainder of the semester.

HUDSON HELPS RESOURCE CENTER HOLDS ANNUAL RESOURCE FAIR



On Wednesday, Oct. 22, the Hudson Helps Resource Center hosted its Fourth Annual Resource Fair. The event connected students with local community services and provided free giveaways and raffle prizes.

REVERSE JOB FAIR: CITY COUNCIL EDITION



On Monday, Oct. 27, Hudson County Community College's Professional Association held a "Reverse Job Fair: City Council Edition," during which the College community interacted with candidates for Jersey City's council. Pictured: Jersey City Councilwoman-at-Large Joyce Watterman, mayoral candidate, and members of her ticket.

HCCC CELEBRATES ITALIAN HERITAGE



In November, Hudson County Community College celebrated Italian Heritage and honored the contributions of its remarkable members who embody the richness of Italian culture, creativity, and scholarship.

On November 5, 2025, the North Hudson Campus proudly hosted an Italian Heritage Celebration event. This event was dedicated to honoring the rich cultural traditions and lasting contributions of the Italian-American community. The celebration featured an afternoon filled with delicious Italian cuisine, lively music, and a thought-provoking panel discussion that highlighted the significance of heritage and identity.

"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our distinguished panelists: Dr. Catherine Sirangelo, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences; Laurie Riccadonna, Professor and Coordinator of Studio Art; and Dr. Rose Grimaldi, Adjunct Professor of English," said Dr. Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the

North Hudson Campus. "Each of them shared personal reflections on their Italian heritage, offering insight into how their cultural roots have shaped their personal and professional journeys. Their heartfelt stories and experiences made the event truly meaningful and inspiring for all who attended."

"I also thank Michele Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs, and Jack Engdall, Gallery Educator, for providing the music for this event," said Dr. Caniglia. In addition, on November 6, students, faculty, staff, and administrators had the opportunity to attend the performance of "My Italy Story," a play written by Professor Joseph Gallo, Coordinator of Theatre and Film. The production was exceptional and provided a captivating portrayal of the Italian-

American experience. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, which beautifully complemented the week's celebration of Italian culture and history.

Events such as these remind us of the importance of celebrating our diverse backgrounds and the many ways in which cultural heritage enriches our campus community.

MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY MEETING



On Friday, Nov. 14, the College's Self-Study Committee held its second meeting. The Self-Study is a precursor to evaluation and renewal of accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

MICROHISTORIES FELLOWSHIP WINNERS SELECTED



Co-Directors of the Hudson Oral History Project Antonio Acevedo, Associate Professor of History (rear right) and Dr. Sean Egan, Assistant Professor, English (rear center), and program student intern Victoria Lenga (front left) congratulate Jaya Jones (rear left), Rose Marie Shields (front right), and Gary Wilson (not pictured), HCCC students who were awarded Microhistories Fellowships. The program funds and supports students in becoming oral historians and content creators.

HCCC FOUNDATION 28TH ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATES THE COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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President & CEO of Provident Bank. "For more than two decades, we've partnered with HCCC to expand access to education, support student success, and strengthen our communities. As HCCC celebrates 50 years of impact, we look forward to continuing this partnership and helping ensure all students can achieve their goals."

For over 85 years, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBSNJ) has served generations of New Jersey families and businesses. The company is 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 New Jersey's residents.

Together with its affiliates, Horizon provides a wide array of medical, dental, vision and prescription insurance products and services. As New Jersey's health solutions leader, Horizon is transforming healthcare by working with doctors and hospitals to deliver

innovative, patient-centered programs that improve quality and lower costs.

Founded in 1974 as a one-building "contract" college, HCCC has grown into one of New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive colleges, with three state-of-the-art locations serving Hudson County. Thousands of students have proudly said, "Hudson is Home!" and have gone on to achieve new successes. The College continues to meet the needs of a growing and transforming county.

Established in 1997, the HCCC Foundation builds awareness and secures financial resources to support students and the College. The Foundation generates scholarships, seed funding for new programs, faculty development support, capital for campus expansion, and resources that address basic needs for students and community members.

Tickets for the 2025 HCCC Foundation Gala are available at the HCCC website, <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/events/gala.html>.

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

Get your Golden Ticket!

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:

foundation@hccc.edu | (201) 360-4778

License Number: RL 004735-2025



Join us for the All College Council / College Life Employee Holiday Party

Thursday, December 11, 2025
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Alcohol will be available at the party with two drink vouchers per person.

Join us for singing, dancing,
and holiday cheer!

Please join us while we
celebrate you!

4TH ANNUAL ASPIRING STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND SCIENCE FAIR BY DR. JOSEPH CANIGLIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS



The North Hudson Campus hosted the 4th Annual Aspiring Student Leadership Conference and Science Fair on Nov. 17, welcoming 260 students from HCCC and local high schools for a dynamic day of learning, leadership, and discovery. The event featured an inspiring keynote by nationally recognized speaker and trainer Dave Kelly.

The North Hudson Campus hosted its 4th Annual Aspiring Student Leadership Conference and Science Fair on Nov. 17, 2025, welcoming 260 students from Hudson County Community College and local high schools, including José Martí STEM Academy, Rising Star Academy, Union City High School, North Bergen High School, and Memorial High School. Their enthusiasm created a vibrant atmosphere for a full day of learning, leadership, and discovery. We extend special thanks to the faculty who brought their students to participate.

The conference opened with an inspiring keynote by Dave Kelly, America's Student Leadership Trainer. A nationally recognized speaker, trainer, author, and coach, Kelly has spent more than 21 years helping students become ethical and effective leaders. He has delivered over 700 presentations to colleges, high schools, and education conferences and has held leadership roles in student government, the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, and Circle K International, where he served as International President.

Kelly's extensive contributions to student leadership have earned him notable honors, including Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) Campus Speaker of the Year (2019 and 2022) and Lecturer of the Year (2023) from the Canadian Organization

for Campus Activities. He currently serves as National Coordinator of APCA and maintains active memberships with the American Student Government Association and the American Institute of Parliamentarians. His expertise in parliamentary procedure, servant leadership, engagement, and advocacy made his keynote both practical and motivational for students.

Following the address, students engaged in a series of dynamic, student-centered workshops led by members of the North Hudson and HCCC community: Mark McCarthy, Coordinator, North Hudson Campus Tutoring Center; Lisa Bogart, Director, North Hudson Library; Luz Tellez, Career and Transfer Specialist; Raffi Manjikian, Instructor, Chemistry; Keisha Taylor, Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership; Joycelyn Wong, Academic Counselor, Early College Program; and Dr. Cristhian Altamirano, Associate Director, Early College Program. Students responded enthusiastically to the sessions, noting the relevance and value of the insights shared.

The Science Fair showcased 79 poster presentations from HCCC and high school students. These projects demonstrated impressive creativity, scientific curiosity, and academic rigor, reflecting the hard work of all participants.



To conclude the event, Jeanette Peña (right), Chair of HCCC's Board of Trustees, delivered remarks calling the student attendees to action. She is pictured with Dr. Joseph Caniglia (center), Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus.

To close the event, Jeanette Peña, Chair of the HCCC Board of Trustees, delivered motivating remarks that emphasized perseverance, educational opportunity, and the importance of leadership. Her message resonated strongly with students and reinforced the conference's goals.

"I extend sincere appreciation to Angela Tuzzo, Associate Director, Student Life and Leadership, and Joycelyn Wong Castellano, Academic Counselor, for their leadership on the planning committee," said Dr. Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus. "I also thank faculty members Dr. Sirhan Abdullah, Dr. Fatima Tat, and Dr. Jihan Nakhla for serving as Science Fair judges and providing thoughtful evaluations."

Thank you to Jason Figueroa, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus, Diana Galvez, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus, Aura Matias, Administrative Support Specialist, and Yadeline Tineo for helping make the event run smoothly.

The 2025 Aspiring Student Leadership Conference and Science Fair celebrated the strength of our community and our shared commitment to student growth. We look forward to building on this success in future years.

HUDSON HEADLINERS!

Tune into —

<https://www.hccc.edu/news-media/headliners/index.html>

Watch for news about the next Hudson Headliners!



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING FOR 'THE CALM ZONE' AT NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Calm Zone at its North Hudson Campus on Monday, November 10, 2025. The OSHA Mental Health Education Grant made "The Calm Zone," located on the fifth floor, possible. Light refreshments followed the ceremony on the third floor.

HCCC created The Calm Zone to provide a dedicated space for students, faculty, and staff to manage stress, practice mindfulness, and prevent burnout. The tranquil area offers a lounge-like setting for relaxation and reflection amid academic and professional demands.

"Mindfulness is essential to physical and emotional health," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "The HCCC Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center dedicated this area as a place to rest, relax, and reset."

Earlier this year, *Insight Into Academia* magazine honored HCCC with the 2025



HCCC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony of "The Calm Zone" at the College's North Hudson Campus. The space, located on the fifth floor, is a place to rest, relax, and reset for staff, students, and faculty.

Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award for its commitment to fostering a culture of mental health awareness in a safe, stigma-free environment. The Calm Zone expands on the services of HCCC's Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center, which supported students through mental

health screenings, counseling, support groups, and 24/7 multilingual peer assistance via TalkCampus. Additional resources include Uwill Teletherapy and a partnership with the Jed Foundation.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY FALL 2025



HCCC's American Chemical Society (ACS) chapter successfully held an active schedule of activities during the Fall term, including events and excursions during National Chemistry Week and attendance at the 2025 Frances S. Sterrett Environmental Chemistry Symposium.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) chapter of Hudson County Community College (HCCC) was hard at work this Fall 2025 semester. The organization participated in many events, but four stood out the most. The first was during National Chemistry week, and on October 22nd, along with Instructor Raffi Manjikian's North Hudson College Chemistry I class, hosted ACS - Chemistry For Life - 2025 Program-in-a-Box: "The Hidden Life of Spices." This was a 90-minute interactive livestream celebrating the hidden life of spices, relating chemistry to the science of food and cooking.

On Saturday, October 25, in collaboration with the HCCC Art Club, students and advisors attended the New York Botanical Gardens. This was a great opportunity for students to see the connections between chemistry and art by viewing the Van Gogh exhibit.

On Monday, October 27, the ACS had a Spooky Slime experiment. This event allowed students to create their own colorful decorated slime, while also enjoying the Halloween season with delicious candy and treats.

On Saturday, November 8, the ACS attended a one-day chemistry conference at Hofstra University for the second year in a row. The Long Island Subsection of the New York ACS presented the 2025 Frances S. Sterrett Environmental Chemistry Symposium focused on forever chemicals, i.e. polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This event brought together top scientists to discuss how to detect PFAS, their impact on human health, and various mitigation strategies.

As one can see, the HCCC ACS chapter is hosting events and adhering to the mission of advancing scientific knowledge, empowering a global community and championing scientific inquiry. To join chapter or ask questions, please contact faculty advisor Instructor Raffi Manjikian.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

The Giants Foundation 5K

On Sunday, Oct. 26, Beta Alpha Phi participated in The Giants Foundation 5K, one of three activities held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. HCCC participants included chapter president Kenia Sandoval; chapter secretary Anuvhuti Bisht; and Instructor Raffi Manjikian and his wife Beata.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support of up to \$55,000 per year for two to three years, college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with the thriving community of fellow Scholars. The application period closes on Jan. 7, 2026; learn more and apply at www.jkcf.org.

NISOD Scott Wright Student Essay Contest

Each year, students are invited to share how a faculty member, staff member, or administrator inspired them to persist in their college

journey. Three winners are chosen nationwide. Each winning student and the featured employee receive \$1,000, complimentary registration and lodging for the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas, and travel support. Winning essays are published on the Community College Week and NISOD websites, along with photos of the honorees and their college presidents.



Kenia Sandoval and Anuvhuti Bisht volunteering at The Giants Foundation 5K and Kids Run on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Submission deadline is March 6, 2026. Please visit <https://www.nisod.org/membership/student-essay-contest/> for more information.

(Editor's Note: An HCCC student was selected as a 2025 NISOD Student Essay Contest winner. Please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/news-media/news/05162025.html> to read more about him.)

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



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?



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>

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS DONATES TO HCCC CAREER CLOSET



Fidelity Investment recently collaborated with the Hudson Helps Resource Center recently to donate 300 professional clothing items for the Career Closet. The Closet provides business attire to students for internships, job interviews, and other professional opportunities.

HCCC's Career Closet, a repository of professional clothing for students, recently received a sizeable contribution from Fidelity Investments.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2026 SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 27, 2026

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ

FOR MORE DETAILS
SCAN QR CODE



HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

Join, socialize, and network!

For information about the College's Alumni Association and membership benefits, please email alumni@hccc.edu.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 39th Annual Conference



Dr. Jose Lowe (right), HCCC Director of EOF and his counterparts at Saint Peter's University, Knight Ambubuyog (left) and New Jersey City University, Sarah Najdi present "Celebrando Juntos: Cost Effective EOF Partnerships among HSI's for Success" at the HACU 39th Annual Conference, in Aurora, CO. They are pictured with HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber.

2025 AMA Symposium for the Marketing of Higher Education



HCCC's Vice President for Advancement and Communications and Executive Director of the HCCC Foundation, Nicole Bouknight Johnson (center), joined higher education leaders at the 2025 AMA Symposium for the Marketing of Higher Education in National Harbor, MD. Johnson served as a panelist for "Beyond the Acronyms: Evolving Inclusion in Higher Ed Marketing." Pictured from left with Johnson are Gregory Smith, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District; Lauren Finch, Senior Director of Integrated Marketing & Communications, Chicago State University; Jeri Bingham, Vice President, External Affairs, Prairie State College; and Andrew Teie, SVP Brand Strategy, Yes&.

2025 ACCT (Association of Community College Trustees) Leadership Congress



Elana Winslow, Associate Professor – Business, accepts the ACCT Faculty Member Award for the Northeast Region at its Leadership Congress on Oct. 24.

HCCC Students Present at the 2025 Physics and Astronomy Congress



HCCC students Daniel Camarillo, Cristina Negrón, Neivi Nunez, and Cristal Ventura Flores attended the 2025 Physics and Astronomy Congress in Denver, Colorado, from October 30 to November 1. The event, held every three years and organized by the Society of Physics Students with support from the American Institute of Physics, brought together over 1,000 students from across the country. During the conference, the students participated in a variety of workshops in physics and engineering, engaged with academic and industry experts, and attended an inspiring

keynote by Nobel Laureate Eric Cornell, winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics. They also had the rare opportunity to interact with Dr. Cornell during the question-and-answer session.

A special highlight was the presentation by Daniel Camarillo and Cristina Negrón, who showcased their engineering project Automated Feeder System, mentored by Dr. Clive Li. The conference was a great opportunity for students to learn, network, and get inspired by the world of physics and engineering.

Pictured from left: Dr. Clive Li, Associate Professor, Engineering Science, with HCCC students Cristal Ventura Flores, Neivi Nunez, Daniel Camarillo, and Cristina Negrón at the Physics and Astronomy Congress.

HUDSON BEST STUDENTS TOUR AMAZON IN EDISON



Hudson BEST students toured Amazon's Edison Fulfillment Center, gaining first-hand insight into robotics, operations, and career pathways as part of the program's immersive business education and mentorship program.

PIZZA WITH THE PRESIDENT AT NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS



Students enjoyed great conversation — and delicious pizza — with HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (right) during this informal meet-and-greet on Nov. 10. Events like these give students the chance to share their ideas, ask questions, and connect directly with College leadership in a relaxed setting.

CPR TRAINING



HCCC employees recently participated in CPR training to strengthen campus safety and readiness. The hands-on session equipped staff with essential life-saving skills to respond confidently in emergency situations.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development's Successful Gateway Week



GTI staff and students featured with participants from the Oct. 30 Career Panel event.

Gateway Week concluded on a high note, delivering three days of career-focused programming which brought students, employers, and community partners together. From Oct. 28 to Oct. 30, the Gateway to Innovation (GTI) team hosted a slate of events that strengthened career readiness and expanded opportunities for participants.

The week began with a "Pack the Pantry" community service initiative; continued with

a well attended job fair featuring employers across tech, finance, healthcare, and skilled trades; and concluded with an engaging Career Panel where industry professionals shared insights on pathways, skills, and emerging trends.

Gateway Week showcased GTI's commitment to providing meaningful, hands-on experiences that support student success and community connection.

Holiday Culinary Classes with Continuing Education



On Nov. 22, Continuing Education welcomed a full kitchen of baking students for an afternoon of seasonal pie-making fun with Pastry Chef Katie Lewis. Students rolled, shaped, and baked two holiday classics – apple

crumb and pumpkin pie – while molding flaky crusts, spice balancing, and decorative finishes. Everyone left with fresh pies, new skills, and the confidence to keep baking at home.

Up Next: Holiday Cookies & Treats Class (Dec. 6)

Ready to continue the holiday baking magic? CE's upcoming hands-on Holiday Cookie and Treats class is the perfect way to kick off December! Learn festive flavors, creative shaping, decorating tips, and bakery-style tricks. Take home fresh batches of your creations for friends and family!

For details and registration, contact:
ce@hccc.edu or rmaurer@hccc.edu
 call 201-360-4224 or visit
<https://bit.ly/holidaycooking2025>

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DECEMBER

HOLIDAY COOKIES AND TREATS

Saturday, December 6, 2025 | 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. | Price: \$55
<https://tinyurl.com/spsfek2v>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/mukws3x3>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Saturday, December 20, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/mukws3x3>

JANUARY

CANNABIS HEALTH & SAFETY ONLINE COURSE (ONLINE)

January 23, 2026 to March 13, 2026 | Price: \$525
<https://tinyurl.com/5n93x2y8>

Certificates in Construction Management CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PLANNING AND CONTROL (REMOTE)

January 23, 2026 to May 15, 2026 | 6:30 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.
 (Fridays) | Price: \$600
<https://tinyurl.com/yzaubpnp>

CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES, MATERIALS, AND TESTING (REMOTE/IN-PERSON LAB)

January 27, 2026 to May 14, 2026
 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (Tuesdays (Lecture Remote)
 and Thursdays (In-Person Lab) | Price: \$1,200
<https://tinyurl.com/yzaubpnp>

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND CALCULATIONS (IN-PERSON)

January 28, 2026 to May 13, 2026
 5:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (Wednesdays) | Price: \$735
<https://tinyurl.com/yzaubpnp>

CONSTRUCTION CODES (REMOTE)

January 26, 2026 to May 18, 2026
 6:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. (Mondays) | Price: \$600
<https://tinyurl.com/yzaubpnp>

CANNABIS COMPLIANCE COURSE (ONLINE)

January 23, 2026 to March 13, 2026 | Price: \$525
<https://tinyurl.com/yjm7fbfs>

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

ALUMNI CORNER

Jonathan Drayton

A.A. Theatre Arts, Class of 2015

Jonathan is a Bayonne native and a professional actor playing significant roles in productions including *DANIEL* and *NOAH* at the Sight and Sound Theatre.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRES

What brought you to HCCC?

I am a native of Bayonne, NJ. I initially wanted to attend a college or university further away, but I eventually applied to HCCC and it was honestly one of the best decisions I made in my college career.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

The close proximity to my home and accessibility to campus via mass transit, as well as the price of tuition made HCCC such a great decision for me. I went to a predominantly white (though still very diverse) high school. HCCC exposed me to thriving in a more racially and culturally diverse environment.

Where did you continue your education after HCCC?

After graduating in 2015, I continued my education at New Jersey City University and received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Musical Theatre in 2018. I then attained my Master of Arts degree in Higher Education in 2023 from Montclair State University.

How did you initially become interested in the world of theatre?

I've always been involved in the arts from a young age. I started out singing in my church's youth choir, and then eventually managed an entire music department at that church. I saw a production of *Anything Goes* at my high school and from then on, I knew I wanted to try out musical theatre.

What are some of the notable roles you have played so far?

Recently, I played the role of Ezekiel at Sight & Sound Theatres' production of *DANIEL* in Lancaster, PA. This has certainly been one of the highlights of my theatrical career because this theater seats over 2,000 people 11 times a week. That means I've had the privilege of sharing that story to over 22,000 people a week for nine months. Another notable credit

was working briefly for Disney Cruise Line as one of their main stage performers during the holiday season while I was in grad school. This year I am blessed to be a part of another Sight & Sound production, *NOAH*, playing the role of Nod Priest. Both this particular production and *DANIEL* were streamed in movie theaters across the nation!

What are some of the films and or actors that inspired you to get into acting?

Honestly, I wouldn't say that there was a particular film or actor that inspired me to get into the arts. Instead, I think it was more the fact that growing up, I was always around it. As a kid, my parents put me in piano lessons, had me sing in the church choir, and enrolled me in dance school. I think that particular upbringing led me to believe that I was destined to have a career in the arts! That said, I love actors such as the late James Earl Jones. I also love Lynn Whitfield, Angela Bassett, and of course, Denzel Washington.

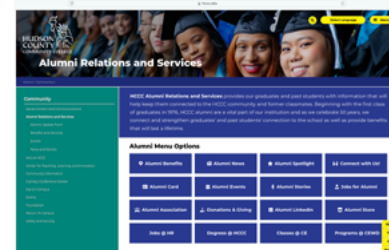
Tell us about your experience/role at Sight and Sound Theatres!

Professor (Joseph) Gallo was the first person to introduce me to Sight & Sound Theatres. In fact, he encouraged me to transfer to Sight & Sound's Conservatory after graduating from HCCC, after starting the theater program in 2013. Fast forward to 2023, I attended a play that Professor Gallo wrote. I saw him after the program and he asked me whatever happened with Sight & Sound, and I said, "You know what? I'll audition!"

From there, I went to their audition call, and now I am part of the company! My experience at Sight & Sound has been phenomenal. I never thought I would be a part of not just a theater, but a ministry of this great magnitude at the same time. As stated earlier, this venue performs 11 shows to a sold out 2,000+ seat house every week- that's more than Broadway! This place

Continued on page 12

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!



The Alumni Association has launched its new Instagram page!

**Follow us at
@hccc_alumni**

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Hudson County Schools of Technology
One High Tech Way
Secaucus, NJ 07094
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of an HCCC student by
making your gift of any
amount today.**



ALUMNI CORNER

continued from page 11

has a 300-foot wraparound stage with set pieces up to 30 feet high, with live animals such as horses and camels. I am also honored to be a part of two original cast soundtrack recordings now, as well as two stage productions that have been broadcasted live to movie theaters across the United States. I am so blessed to be a part of a theater that tells biblical stories to thousands of people a week.

How did your time at HCCC help prepare you for your career path as an actor (if it did)?

HCCC definitely prepared me for my career today! He may not know it, but I believe that

God used Professor Gallo to push me to where I ought to be today. Had it not been for Professor Gallo, I still to this day may not have heard of or even tried to audition for Sight & Sound. Not only that, but HCCC has given me the opportunity to further my education at such a low cost, and meet some of my lifelong friends that I now consider family. This is the place that has exposed me to so much knowledge that I didn't realize I would need in the future. It was one of the best decisions I could have made. As a professional, I always refer students who are in the area to this particular institution. Thank you, HCCC!

50TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI NETWORKING EVENT AND ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP ELECTED

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted a special Alumni Networking Event on Thursday, Nov. 13, as part of the College's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Fifty and Forward.

The event brought together HCCC alumni and community partners for an evening of speed networking, professional connections, and career exploration. Employers such as PNC Financial Services, WomenRising, and Soccer Shots participated in the event, offering attendees opportunities to expand their networks and learn about career pathways. The newly elected 2025–2027 HCCC Alumni Association officers were announced, and light refreshments were served.

The evening featured a keynote address by distinguished alumnus Bladmir Quito, Vice Consul of Queens for the Government of Ecuador. A proud HCCC graduate, Mr. Quito earned his associate degree in Criminal Justice before completing a bachelor's in Political Science from New Jersey City University and a master's in Global Affairs from New York University. He previously served as Vice Consul in New Jersey and as an advisor to Ecuador's National Assembly. Recognized as one of HCCC's 50 Faces of Alumni, Mr. Quito shared



Pictured from left: HCCC Alumni Association officers Rene Hewitt (President), Koral Booth (Vice President), and Nydia James (Treasurer).

insights into his career and his journey in public service and international relations.

"Our alumni are an essential part of the College's history and future," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "This event celebrated their achievements, strengthened their connections, and inspired the next chapter of their success stories."

HCCC invited all alumni to reconnect with old friends, make new professional connections, and celebrate the College's legacy of opportunity and achievement.



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.

