

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS 58 NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES AT PINNING CEREMONY

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County Colleges Leadership Award



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From the Editor's Desk

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

Items for the August newsletter are due by Friday, July 11, 2025.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS 58 NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES AT PINNING CEREMONY



The graduates undertook the International Council of Nurses Pledge and received their pins.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) honored 58 graduates of its Associate of Science RN Nursing Program at Pinning and Traditional Candle Lighting Ceremonies on June 18, 2025. Held at the HCCC Culinary Conference Center, the event marked the transition from students to professionals as they recited the International Nurses' Pledge.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber and Nursing Program Director Dr. Lori Byrd congratulated the graduates from the day, evening, and weekend divisions. Faculty presented nursing pins and special honors including the Gloria Larsen Lobban, National League for Nursing (NLN) Leadership, Highest GPA, HCCC Achievement, and HCCC Excellence Awards.

The Pinning Ceremony represents the formal entrance into the nursing profession, while the Candle Lighting Ceremony honors

Florence Nightingale and the compassionate legacy of nursing. Graduates pledged to deliver ethical, respectful, and high-quality care in service of community health.

HCCC's Nursing Program combines general education and science with rigorous clinical training. Students benefit from experienced faculty, flexible schedules, and state-of-the-art labs. The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

With a 92.4% NCLEX pass rate and 96.6% job placement rate, HCCC's program continues to address the national nursing shortage. The College was the first in New Jersey selected for the "Pay It Forward Program," offering zero-interest loans and stipends to students in health care fields. Over 80% of HCCC nursing students receive financial assistance.

ON THE COVER: Hudson County Community College's Nursing Program celebrated its 2025 RN graduates at a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, June 18.



Join us in celebrating HCCC's 50th anniversary.

<https://www.hccc.edu/page/50th/index.html>



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S DR. NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLIOTI RECEIVES NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti, Vice President for External Affairs, Strategic Planning, and Senior Counsel to the President at Hudson County Community College (HCCC), was honored with the 2025 Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC). The award, presented during the Second Annual New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit, recognizes senior leaders who have made impactful contributions to the state's 18 community colleges.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber praised Dr. Chiaravalloti for his tireless advocacy and instrumental role in securing funding for initiatives such as the new Center for Student Success, technology upgrades, and the nationally acclaimed Hudson Scholars program. "He is a key liaison with public officials and strengthens our College's connection to the broader community," Dr. Reber said.

An educator, attorney, and former legislator, Dr. Chiaravalloti provides executive leadership in legal affairs and strategic



Hudson County Community College Vice President for External Affairs, Strategic Planning and Senior Counsel to the President Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti was recently presented with the New Jersey Council of Community Colleges' 2025 Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli Leadership Award.

planning, oversees government and community relations, and monitors legislation affecting HCCC and the community college sector. He also leads the HCCC School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, where

he has expanded access to high-demand skills and workforce pathways through grants and apprenticeship programs. Under his guidance, HCCC is preparing to launch its inaugural Athletics program, further enhancing student engagement.

Beyond HCCC, Dr. Chiaravalloti serves on several influential boards, including the New Jersey Broadband Commission, Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce Executive Board, and the Regional Planning Association's New Jersey Committee.

Before joining HCCC, he was Director of Community Engagement and Executive Director of the Guarini Institute at Saint Peter's University. A Bayonne native and son of Italian immigrants, he represented New Jersey's 31st Legislative District in the General Assembly from 2016 to 2022, serving as Majority Whip from 2020 to 2022. He was also the 2024 recipient of the Daryl Harrison Leadership Award from the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES FIRST KEARNY HIGH SCHOOL HCCC EARLY COLLEGE COHORT



Pictured here, Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) Early College graduates from Kearny High School with HCCC Early College Academic Counselor Joycelyn Wong-Castellano (far left) and HCCC Early College Executive Director Dr. Christopher Conzen (back row, right).

Twelve students from Kearny High School (KHS) graduated with associate degrees from Hudson County Community College (HCCC) two weeks ahead of receiving their high school diplomas. These students are the first KHS participants in HCCC's Early College program, which enables high schoolers to complete college courses and earn credits toward a degree.

The program is part of a growing national movement; 34% of U.S. high school students now take college-level courses, according to the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Programs. Research shows students in Early College programs are more likely to graduate and complete higher degrees, while saving time and tuition.

"These students have demonstrated drive, discipline, and excellence," said HCCC President

Dr. Christopher Reber. "They gain confidence, earn affordable college credits, and get an early start on their futures."

The 2025 KHS-HCCC graduates are headed to institutions including Penn State, Rutgers, NJIT, and Stevens, pursuing majors such as finance, engineering, and healthcare. One student plans to take a gap year.

HCCC's partnership with the Kearny Board of Education began in 2021. Students complete college-level courses taught by both KHS instructors and HCCC faculty, with credits transferable to four-year institutions. Participants can earn up to 18 credits annually.

This year, HCCC awarded degrees to 48 Early College high school graduates, including students from Bayonne, Lincoln, and High Tech high schools in fields such as Liberal Arts, Environmental Studies, and Criminal Justice.

To learn more, visit the HCCC Early College program at <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/academic-pathways/early-college/index.html>.

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Alexa Yacker

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Mahmoud Abouegila
Vincent Borrelli
Luis Diaz
Fadoi Essaoudi
Ciani Harper
Neivi Nunez
Ezgi Sirip

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>

UPCOMING EAP SERVICES WEBINARS

Communication Across Generations

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/01cae8b8-8799-4262-969b-1edce3ae3a89@ef97b8e8-8932-47a4-ad30-f73a92ff3768>

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c8828d6c-9e6e-4128-90f2-c5e9daa768d5@ef97b8e8-8932-47a4-ad30-f73a92ff3768>

Understanding and Leading Gen Z

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/29838635-73a3-43dc-97a1-7bbb0dcc920a@ef97b8e8-8932-47a4-ad30-f73a92ff3768>

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d340a914-ead2-4670-9c32-6d3af3cbeedb@ef97b8e8-8932-47a4-ad30-f73a92ff3768>

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Mariam Amer, Admissions Advisor
Effective June 16, 2025

Heather Evans, Academic Advisor
Effective June 17, 2025

Josefa Flores, Academic Advisor, Hudson
Scholars Effective June 17, 2025

Melanie Lopez, Admissions Advisor
Effective June 16, 2025

Harshkumar Patel, Support Analyst
Effective June 16, 2025

Samantha Ramirez, Academic Advisor
Effective June 17, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Karina Arango, Student Success Manager
(Grant-funded) Effective July 1, 2025 -
August 31, 2025

Marian Betancourt, Student Success Coach,
NJRC (Grant-funded) Effective July 1, 2025 -
June 30, 2026

Denisse Carrasco, Coordinator, Gateway to
Innovation Program (Grant-funded) Effective
July 1, 2025 - April 30, 2028

Evani Greene, Coordinator, Gateway to
Innovation Program (Grant-funded)
Effective July 1, 2025 - April 30, 2028

Sean Kerwick, Associate Director, Center for
Workforce Innovation, Supply Chain
Management (Grant-funded) Effective July 1,
2025 - September 30, 2025

Fabiola Ocean, Student Success Manager
(Grant-funded) Effective July 1, 2025 -
August 31, 2025

Maritza Reyes, Director, Center for Adult
Transition (Grant-funded) Effective July 1,
2025 - August 31, 2025

Maria Lita Sarmiento, Career and Employment
Manager, Gateway to Innovation Program
(Grant-funded) Effective July 1, 2025 -
April 30, 2028

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

Heather Anne Uccello, Instructor, OB/PEDS,
Weekend/Evening Division (Tenure-Track)
Effective August 16, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL- TIME FACULTY

Kira Wei-Hsin Jacobson, Instructor, ESL
(Non-Tenure track) Effective August 16, 2025
- December 31, 2025

Joanna Karnicka, Instructor, ESL,
(Non-Tenure track) Effective August 16, 2025
- December 31, 2025

Amr Khalil, Instructor, ESL (Non-Tenure-
track) Effective August 16, 2025 - December
31, 2025

Artur Ujazdowski, Instructor, ESL
(Non-Tenure track) Effective August 16, 2025
- December 31, 2025

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Student Services Assistant to
Admissions Advisor (Salary 105 to 109)
Effective June 11, 2025

Senior Assistant to Director, Advisement
to Senior Assistant Director, Student
Engagement and Experience, Advisement
(Salary 104) Effective June 11, 2025

Administrative Assistant, Advisement
(Salary 108) Effective June 11, 2025

Fall 2025 Startup Dates



Friday, Aug. 22
College Service Day

Monday, Aug. 25
All College Adjunct
Faculty Orientation

Wednesday, Aug. 27
New Student Convocation

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES REVEREND DR. FRANCES SNELLING TEABOUT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees Chair Jeanette Peña announced the appointment of Reverend Dr. Frances Snelling Teabout to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Teabout was sworn in during the Board's June 10, 2025 meeting and succeeds Trustee Emerita Pamela Gardner, who served for eight years, including as Vice Chair.

"We are very happy to welcome Reverend Dr. Teabout, whose leadership has helped impact and improve the lives of countless individuals within our community," said Peña. "We also wish to acknowledge and thank Pamela Gardner for her tireless advocacy on behalf of our students."

Reverend Dr. Teabout brings decades of experience in education, youth development, and community service. She currently serves as Director of Mission for New Community Corporation in Newark and is the Founder and Pastor of Open Door Worship Center in Jersey City. She also teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Petrocelli Center for Continuing Education.

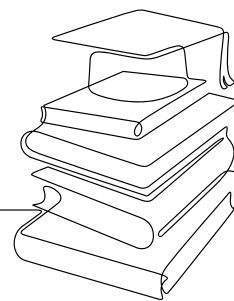
Her previous roles include positions at Rutgers University, the Newark Board of Education, and New Community Corporation, where she supported students and families through counseling, after-school programming, and youth services.



Reverend Dr. Frances Snelling Teabout was recently sworn in as a member of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees.

A graduate of McNair Academic High School, Reverend Dr. Teabout holds a Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University, Master's degrees in Divinity and Counseling/Psychology, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

As a voting member of the Board, Reverend Dr. Teabout will serve a four-year term. HCCC's Board includes ten voting members — two appointed by the Governor and eight by the County Executive — and two non-voting members: the College President and a student from the current year's graduating class.



COLLEGE-WIDE TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

**Preparing for Shortened
Academic Terms:
Strategies and
Best Practices**

**Tuesday, July 29, 2025
and
Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

Journal Square Campus
Breakfast and lunch included

Watch your email for updates.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has appointed Zachary Forrest as Associate Director of Veterans Affairs and International Student Services.

In this role, Mr. Forrest will support enrollment, engagement, and academic success initiatives for veterans and international students; build partnerships with the community to improve educational access and completion; and collaborate across the College to enhance support for students, faculty, staff, and community members.

"We are excited to welcome Zachary Forrest to the HCCC family," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "He will lead efforts to expand global travel opportunities, enhance veteran engagement, and increase enrollment for both student populations."

Mr. Forrest previously served as International Admissions Coordinator at Western Carolina University's Office of Global Engagement and led an internship program at the University of Technology Sumbawa in Indonesia.

He holds a Master of Science in Global Studies and International Relations, with a concentration in Global Student Mobility, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Political Science, both from Northeastern University. His international experience includes study-abroad programs such as "The Twenty-First Century City: Tokyo and Kyoto" at Meiji University and Northeastern University's N.U.in Program in London.

Mr. Forrest is certified as a Designated School Official (DSO), Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO), and Passport Acceptance Agent—qualifications that will support his leadership in student mobility and services at HCCC. He has also presented on international education at national conferences, including the 2024 North Carolina Association of International Educators and the 2023 NAFSA: Association of International Educators.



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.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Thank you to Nancy Sambul for the generous donation of seven works of art.

ARTIST NEWS

We are sad to report the recent passing of artist **Henrietta Mantooth** at age 100. Her wonderful "Jailbirds" paintings, addressing issues faced by incarcerated people, adorn the sixth floor hallway of the Gabert Library. Here's a link (<https://seniorplanet.org/henrietta-mantooth-97-painter-and-unabashed-humanist/>) to an interview with the artist when she was 97 in AARP's Senior Planet entitled *People We Love: Henrietta Mantooth, 97, Painter and Unabashed Humanist - Senior Planet*. She was always passionate about social justice. In the interview she said, "Ever since I grew up as a white child in a totally segregated Kansas City, Missouri, I have been interested in race and what has been happening forever in our country. In fact, it was at the second 'Jailbird' installation that I started asking people the question: 'How has segregation affected your life?' because we're all affected in some way by racism. One time I asked a taxi driver the question – he turned around and said, 'you mean it's over?' So, I've changed the verb tense to 'how does segregation affect your life?' The interviewer asked why she kept asking this question. Henrietta said, "I ask out of deep feeling a need to talk to each other. I find that people welcome opening up. Even when I go to a cocktail party, there is always someone who is willing to share their experience and open their heart."

The Jewish Museum in New York City has a major retrospective of art by **Ben Shahn** through October 2025. The exhibit was the Critics Pick by *The New York Times* in a review, "Ben Shahn's Social Realist Art Feels Relevant Again in Landmark Survey, An old master



Henrietta Mantooth, Caged America (Blue Bird) (2014), Mixed Media: Acrylic Paint on Carboard or Brown Paper, 74.25" x 39.75"

of the Great Depression painted a portrait of America as it still may be." Britannica.com defines Social Realism as, "[a] trend in American art originating in about 1930 and referring in its narrow sense to paintings treating themes of social protest in a naturalistic or quasi-expressionist manner." *New York Times* art critic Blake Gopnik notes, "Those works use the time-honored art of painting to make the modern world, and its signature troubles, as present as Shahn can manage. The effect is gripping, and feels utterly relevant for the troubled moment we are living in now." Shahn reached his peak of fame in the period around World War II. He is best known for his portraits of workers and social-justice heroes or martyrs. After that period, his artwork that brought attention to

real social problems, was less fashionable than the abstract painting that took center stage in the art world. Gopnik notes, "What Shahn couldn't have realized, as he turned away from his potent visions of the 1930s and 40s, was that they would find new purchase almost a century later, when once again we face issues of racial injustice, and what our nation might do about it, and prosecutions that can seem to serve politics, not justice." Closer to home, Shahn's work can be seen in the North Hudson Library and Multipurpose Room. Shahn lived in New Jersey for much of his career.

If you've never been to the Art Students League on 57th Street in Manhattan, it's worth a visit, if only for the very tiny art supply store where prices are quite reasonable. You might also want to check out the new exhibit, "Shaping American Art: A Celebration of the Art Students League of New York at 150" through August 17. Included in the exhibit are many works by artists who studied or taught at the League. The following artists in the show also have work on exhibit on the walls of Hudson County Community College: **Will Barnet** (North Hudson and Gabert Library), **Alexander Calder** (STEM), **Audrey Flack** (Culinary), **Rockwell Kent** (Gabert Library), **Hughie Lee-Smith** (North Hudson), **Reginald Marsh** (Gabert Library), **Fairfield Porter** (Culinary), **Robert Rauschenberg** (Gabert Library), and **Ben Shahn** (North Hudson).

28th Annual Gala

Thursday,
December 4, 2025
6 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Details to follow!

Save the Date

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

HCCC COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH WITH CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM AND RESILIENCE



The Hudson County Community College 2025 Juneteenth Celebration featured inspirational music, dance and spoken word presentations, including the keynote address by Reverend Paul P. Martin, Esq. of Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church (above far left) and a performance by Asha DaHomey, tap dancer, songwriter and producer (second from left). The Choir of Mt. Pisgah AME Church (photo second from right) rendered musical selections, and University Academy Charter High School (photo at right) performed song and dance numbers.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted its annual Juneteenth Celebration on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery at the Gabert Library. The event honored the historic day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas — two years after the Emancipation Proclamation — to enforce the freedom of enslaved African Americans.

Juneteenth, now a federal holiday, commemorates Black liberation and resilience. HCCC's program reflected this spirit through powerful words, music, and movement. HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber welcomed guests, and Reverend Paul P. Martin, Esq. of Mt. Pisgah AME Church delivered a stirring

keynote address. Dr. Reverend Dorothy Patterson (Wallace Temple AME Zion Church) led the invocation, and Dr. Bertha Reels (Higher Dimension World Ministry) served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Closing remarks were offered by former HCCC Trustee Pamela Gardner, with additional greetings from members of the HCCC Board of Trustees and the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners.

The celebration featured dynamic performances highlighting African American culture and creativity. HCCC student Zaria Keith opened with the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Tap dancer and artist Asha DaHomey shared expressive movement and storytelling, while Student Poet Laureate Nicole Spearman presented original

spoken word. University Academy Charter High School student Zion Daise-Torres performed a dance piece, and vocal and instrumental performances by Nia Caldwell, Desiree Huntley, Dion Mitchell, Keyon Hampton, and Nathaniel Saint Jean rounded out the evening.

Rooted in historical significance and vibrant cultural expression, HCCC's Juneteenth celebration paid tribute to the past while affirming a commitment to justice and joy in the present.

Follow Us

For more information, email:

mvitale@hccc.edu or visit

www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOSTS 23RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation hosted its 23rd Annual Golf Outing on Monday, June 23, 2025, at Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, NJ. Held in memory of longtime supporter and former Foundation Chair Philip Johnston, the event raised funds for student scholarships and supported the College's continued growth. Johnston, who passed away in December 2023, served on the Foundation Board beginning in 2000 and was instrumental in launching the Golf Outing in 2003. His company, Johnston Communications (now JCT Solutions), helped build HCCC's fiber optics network in the 1990s.

The HCCC Foundation, a nonprofit established in 1997, provides critical financial and



programmatic support to students and the College. With a mission to ensure higher education is accessible to all Hudson County residents, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$4 million in scholarships. The Foundation's endowment

plays a key role in sustaining this support, enabling long-term investment in student success. These funds help HCCC students—many balancing academics, work, and family—pursue their education and achieve their goals.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Marolla Youakim, intern at the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates.



Mina Abdelmaseeh, at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



Instructor Raffi Manjikian at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Big Climb.

Student Internships

Two recent HCCC graduates, Marolla Youakim and Mina Abdelmaseeh, started their internships the week of June 2.

Marolla Youakim is participating in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates at Queensborough Community College. She graduated in May from HCCC with an Associate in Science in Nursing.

Mina Abdelmaseeh has begun an internship with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He recently graduated with an Associate in Science degree in Engineering Science.

Big Climb Fundraiser

Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry, represented Beta Alpha Phi Chapter at The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Big Climb on May 18. Manjikian committed to a fundraising minimum, and then on May 18, climbed up and down 2,500 steps of Citi Field's upper tier and ran the concourses. The fundraiser supports the mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society – to cure all blood cancers and improve quality of life for patients and their families.

AFFIRMING YOUR IDENTITY IN THE WORKPLACE



HCCC Libraries partnered with Career and Transfer Pathways, Hudson Helps Career Closet, and Primark for an event centered on affirming identity in the workplace and finding affordable professional attire. Attendees explored future career opportunities by engaging with campus career resources and speaking directly with recruiters from Primark.

Hudson County Community College
invites you to enjoy the newest episode of our video series, "Hudson Headliners!"

HUDSON HEADLINERS!

Now Featuring

CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE



In this newest episode of "Hudson Headliners" you'll learn about the degree and certificate studies that open doors to culinary and hospitality career opportunities throughout the world.



Tune into—

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

Watch for news about the next Hudson Headliners!



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>



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)



Students must register at least one day prior to the first class meeting.

15-Week Fall Term

Thursday, August 28, 2025

12-Week Quick Term
and Classes at Secaucus Center
Thursday, September 18, 2025

7-Week Online Classes
Fall Online A and Fall 7-Week 1:
Thursday, August 28, 2025

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

Fall Course Schedule available for viewing NOW at
www.hccc.edu/schedule!

APPLY NOW for Fall classes at www.hccc.edu/apply!

For more information on how to register, go to
www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes

For more information contact:

admissions@hccc.edu

text (732) 509-4222 call (201) 714-7200

CONFERENCE COVERAGE



National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development

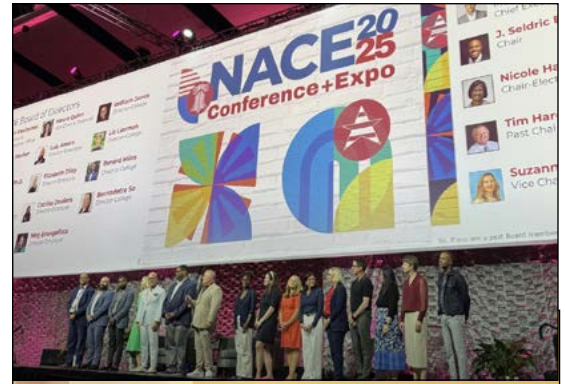
In May, a delegation of Hudson County Community College administrators, faculty, staff and students attended the Annual Spring Conference of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) in Austin, Texas. The weekend included engaging workshops and the exciting presentation of the Excellence Awards.



Presidents of New Jersey's community colleges during the Presidents' Meeting at the New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit, which highlighted the vital role community colleges play in building a stronger, more inclusive New Jersey.

New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit

As part of the second annual New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC) proudly hosted an Awards Dinner Ceremony on June 5, 2025, at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City. The event honored outstanding individuals and organizations whose leadership, innovation, and dedication have strengthened New Jersey's community colleges and advanced equity and opportunity across the state.



2025 Conference + Expo of NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers)

HCCC team members attended the 2025 Conference + Expo of NACE in Philadelphia, PA from June 9 to June 11. NACE connects college career services professionals and employers to support student career readiness and equitable workforce development. Through research, professional development, and best practice guidance, NACE helps shape effective college-to-career pathways.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Sonja Rodiger-Radovic, HCCC ESL/English Instructor, is exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can support teaching and learning in English as a Second Language (ESL) classrooms. In her presentation, "AI in ESL – Friend or Foe?," Rodiger-Radovic shares insights from her own classroom experience.



At the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Conference in May, highlighting AI's potential to transform ESL instruction. Her presentations address both the opportunities and ethical concerns of AI use, and how it may affect teacher roles and student engagement.

Her work encourages thoughtful discussion about how AI can serve as a helpful resource rather than a threat—empowering educators and students alike.

PACE (President's Advisory Council for Institutional Engagement and Excellence) Annual Summer Retreat

Reflect, Engage, and Renew

Thursday, August 14, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Multipurpose Room N203, Union City, NJ 07087

*This retreat is designed to inspire both personal insight and collective action
—together, let's learn, grow, and renew our commitment to each other.*



GUEST SPEAKER

MarTeze Hammonds, Ed.D.
Owner/Principal Consultant,
MDH Consulting Group, LLC

For more information, contact:
Diana F. Gálvez
dgalvez@hccc.edu | 201-360-4608

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE INFORMS AND INSPIRES STUDENTS AT 12TH ANNUAL GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM



Pictured from left: Participants experience "Exploring Careers Through Virtual Reality" courtesy of HCCC's ACCESS Program; students in attendance from County Prep High School; and a panel of technology professionals discusses their careers with over 200 students from HCCC and local high schools.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted its 12th annual "Girls in Technology Symposium," convening more than 200 students, professionals, and industry leaders to promote and support women in STEM. The event featured hands-on activities and motivational talks aimed at encouraging young women to explore tech-related fields. "Our annual event is all about sparking excitement in young women for STEM," said Chastity Farrell, HCCC's Assistant Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development. "We want to help them explore career paths ... and support their journeys to find their passion."

The gathering featured an engaging discussion with a star-studded panel of women who forged different paths to successful careers in technology- and engineering-related fields. The panel was moderated by Alka Kustagi, Principal of a-Squared LLC, an architectural design firm. Panelists included Denise Dagadu, Partner Manager at Google; Ceallaigh Lorenz, Founder of Salvation Wellness; Allison Wesley-Jones, Senior Services Engagement Manager at life sciences software firm Veeva Systems;

Hilary Padget, Registered Architect, CPHD and Partner at pHdesign; and Jade Sessions, Software Engineer at the Farmer's Dog.

Xena Khan, a Computer Science and Cybersecurity major at HCCC, and President of HCCC's Girls Who Code Club, explained, "I was motivated to get into cybersecurity by the massive data breaches over the last few years – I realized that the industry needs skilled people to work on these complex challenges, and I want to be part of the solution."

Other activities included keynote speeches, networking opportunities, and hands-on workshops designed to equip attendees with experience and skills for the future. Additionally, there was a student display contest, which Laura Salamanca Rojas and Helen Ortega of North Bergen High School won for their display on instant cameras, and a student essay contest, won by Gisella Guerra of Jose Marti STEM Academy, who delivered opening remarks. Event sponsors included Eastern Millwork, EY, eMazzanti Technologies, MAST Construction, Velez Consulting Services, ISC2 Chapter, and Provident Bank.

For information on the 2026 Girls in Technology Symposium please contact Chastity Farrell at cfarrell@hccc.edu or visit

<https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/events/girls-intechnology.html>

CONTINUING EDUCATION Upcoming Programs

NICET LEVEL II HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREP COURSE (ONLINE)

Monday and Wednesdays | July 7, 2025 - August 11, 2025
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nicet-level-ii-highway-construction-inspection-certificate-prep-course-registration-1046854829977?aff=oddtcreator>

MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL ADVANCED LEVEL (IN-PERSON)

Tuesdays (6 Sessions) | July 29, 2025 - September 2, 2025
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Price: \$175
Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/microsoft-office-excel-advanced-level-registration-133393959229?aff=oddtcreator>

NON-CREDIT ESL SUMMER SESSION BEGINS

Mondays-Thursdays (In-Person)
July 14, 2025 - August 14, 2025 | Levels 1 & 2
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Jersey City and Union City

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (In-Person)

July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 | Levels 3 & 5
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Jersey City and Union City

Mondays-Thursdays (In-Person)

July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025 | Levels 3 & 5
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Jersey City and Union City

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

Dr. Nadia S. Dob, PharmD

A.S. Biology, HCCC Class of 2019

Dr. Nadia S. Dob recently earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers University and completed her residency at Virtua Health. She will pursue a Postgraduate Year Two (PGY-2) residency in Oncology at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York.



How did you decide to attend HCCC?

When I moved to the United States in the summer of 2016, fresh out of high school in Algeria, everything was new, uncertain, and overwhelming. I had no idea where to start, but I was determined to continue my education. HCCC was the closest college to where I lived, and I had a friend, another Algerian student, who went through the process before. She came with my sister and me to help us register. We took the placement test, enrolled in ESL classes, and just like that, my journey in American higher education began.

How did HCCC help you to get to where you are today?

Looking back, HCCC wasn't just a starting point — it was the *right* starting point. The small class sizes allowed for personalized attention, and I always felt seen and supported. Both the Academic and Student Affairs departments were incredibly helpful. As a new immigrant navigating an unfamiliar education system, I had so many questions, and the staff at HCCC never hesitated to guide me. Their support played a huge role in shaping the path I'm on today.

Tell us about your educational journey since HCCC.

After completing all the prerequisites and earning my Associate of Science in Biology at HCCC, I transferred to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University. In May 2024, I proudly graduated with my Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. It has been a long and transformative journey, and it all started with that placement test at HCCC.

How did you become interested in a career as a pharmacist?

My interest in pharmacy was inspired by both personal and family experiences. I grew up surrounded by healthcare — my aunt and uncle were nurses, my father is a chemist, and my mother is a biologist. Science was in my blood. But the true turning point came in December 2016. Just months after moving to the U.S., I experienced a health scare caused by an over-the-counter medication. That incident made me realize how important it is to understand the medications we take and the impact they can have. From that moment on, I knew I wanted to educate others about safe

medication use and prevent similar incidents from happening to others.

What does your workday look like?

Today, I am pursuing a postgraduate residency — an intensive one-year training program for pharmacists — as I work toward becoming a clinical pharmacist. My day usually starts early in the morning. Depending on the rotation, which right now is Pediatrics and NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), I review patient charts, assess medication appropriateness, check for drug interactions, monitor for side effects, and ensure each medication regimen is safe and effective. I then make the rounds with the medical team to discuss each patient in detail.

My afternoons are filled with verifying discharge prescriptions, participating in topic discussions, and following up on longitudinal projects related to medication safety, research, and clinical administration. Each day brings a new learning opportunity.

What are your next career goals?

One of the most exciting milestones in my journey just happened — I recently matched for a Postgraduate Year Two (PGY-2) residency in Oncology at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York! I'm beyond excited to begin this next chapter and to take a big step closer to my goal of becoming an oncology clinical pharmacist. Cancer care has always been an area I'm passionate about, and I feel incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to specialize in it.

Can you tell us about a challenge you overcame on your way to what you've accomplished?

Of course, this journey hasn't been without its challenges. As an immigrant, one of the hardest obstacles was the language barrier and adjusting to the U.S. education system, which was very different from what I knew back home. But thanks to the supportive community at HCCC — from my advisors to the EOF program — I was able to piece things together and move forward, one step at a time.

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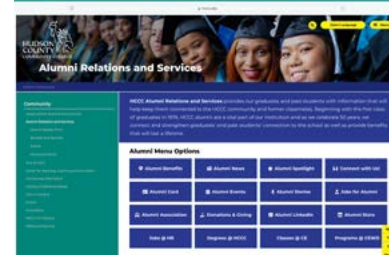
Alumni Survey:

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

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 these 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!

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ALUMNI CORNER

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What advice would you give to other HCCC students interested in a career in pharmacy/healthcare?

To any current HCCC students considering a career in pharmacy or healthcare: Don't be afraid to ask questions. Reach out to professionals in the field, try to shadow someone, and explore all the different paths pharmacy can offer — whether it's retail, hospital, clinical, or industry. There are tons of options! It's okay if you don't have everything figured out at the beginning. What matters is starting — the clarity will come with time and experience.

Lastly, any favorite memories of HCCC you'd like to share?

I have so many cherished memories from my time at HCCC — from engaging in EOF workshops and attending student events, to traveling for Phi Theta Kappa conferences. Those were some of the most formative and joyful moments of my academic journey, and I'll always look back on them fondly.

ALUMNI AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On September 9, 2025, we will begin celebrating Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) 50th Anniversary! The festivities will culminate with the official grand opening of the HCCC Center for Student Success in late 2026.

This year, we will hold HCCC Homecoming for the first-time with a Block Party and Open House in October. It's the perfect opportunity for Alumni to reconnect with the College and former classmates, and to join with current students in celebrating HCCC. We hope you will attend.

Go to <https://www.hccc.edu/page/50th/index.html> for information about the HCCC Golden Anniversary Events:

- 50th Anniversary Kick Off Event – Tuesday, September 9, 2025
- Homecoming Block Party & Open House – Saturday, October 18, 2025

In addition, we have planned three Alumni-focused events:

- Alumni Meeting – Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 5 - 7 p.m.
- Alumni Networking – Thursday, November 13, 2025, 5 - 7 p.m.
- Alumni Reunion – Thursday, May 7, 2026, 5 - 7 p.m.

Please register for the Alumni events at

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c9c3381ed9864492866ac6a97a93bc70>.



**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.

