

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHES 'HUDSON SCHOLARS,' AN INNOVATIVE, DEVELOPED-TO-SCALE STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM

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*"HCCC wants you to learn, and they go step-by-step in helping you understand challenging assignments, and assisting with any difficulties encountered in school. Hudson Scholars also helped me financially by providing a monthly stipend that aids in paying for books, bus fare, food, and minor bills."*

- Latisha Straker, Hudson Scholar

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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 April newsletter are  
due by Friday, March 11, 2022.

Please send your news items, comments  
and suggestions to:

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## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHES 'HUDSON SCHOLARS,' AN INNOVATIVE, DEVELOPED-TO-SCALE STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber and his colleagues seem to subscribe to the thinking of Robert F. Kennedy and George Bernard Shaw: "Some see things as they are and ask, 'Why?' I dream things that never were and ask, 'Why not?'"

Since taking the helm as Hudson County Community College's sixth president in 2018, Dr. Reber has made Student Success, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), overarching priorities. They are the foundation for the College's updated Mission, Vision and Values statements; Student Success Action Plan; DEI Action Plan; and 2021-24 College Strategic Plan.

"We have made great strides in addressing student support and success by undertaking major initiatives and programs," Dr. Reber stated. "We joined *Achieving the Dream*, the national reform network of high-performing community colleges dedicated to using data and best practices to promote student success and degree completion; instituted the Hudson Helps Resource Center, a compendium of wraparound services, programs, and resources that focus on basic needs beyond the classroom; and formed relationships with community and corporate partners to promote upward social and economic mobility for students and community members."

The entire HCCC community believed successful practices could be scaled up to ensure that a greater number of students who face financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities, complete their college educations. With this belief a priority, the College established "Hudson Scholars." The program utilizes best practices of New Jersey's highly successful Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program and the City University of New York's (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP).

"The retention and completion (graduation) rates for HCCC EOF students are exceptional. The Fall-to-Spring retention rate for our 2009-2019 EOF cohort of first-time, full-time students was a whopping 92%. Additionally, the completion rates for HCCC EOF students in two-, three-, and six-year terms are consistently three times that of our non-EOF students. The challenge of EOF is that we are provided state funding to serve about 200 students per year, and we need to assist many more times that number," Dr. Reber said. EOF is a proven program serving New Jersey's low-income, first-generation college students who demonstrate

commitment, motivation, and potential for success.

EOF has a storied history. Following the Summer 1967 riots in Newark, New Jersey's first Chancellor of Higher Education, Ralph A. Dungan, sent a memorandum to the presidents of all New Jersey institutions of higher education. In the memo, Dungan – who served as Special Assistant to President John F. Kennedy, and United States Ambassador to Chile under President Lyndon Johnson – outlined a program of special assistance to men and women from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. There was great enthusiasm for the proposal, particularly at those institutions participating in Upward Bound, the federally supported program that prepared high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds for college. Legislation to establish EOF was sponsored by then-freshman legislator Thomas Kean. The program has been an enormous success in New Jersey for more than 50 years.

EOF's exceptionally successful strategies include pre-college advisement, immersive summer onboarding of new students, basic skills testing, systematic retention efforts and high-touch coaching and mentoring, peer counseling and tutoring, academic support courses, high-impact learning experiences, multicultural curricula and human relations programming, student leadership development, financial support, and outcomes-based program evaluation, among others.

Now nearing its fifteenth anniversary, ASAP serves students at nine CUNY community and other colleges in all five New York City boroughs. ASAP is designed to assist 50% of students in attaining an associate degree within three years by providing academic, social, and financial support. ASAP features individualized course schedules; required full-time study; comprehensive and personalized advisement and career development services; scholarships for students with a gap between their financial aid and tuition; assistance to reduce the cost of textbooks; and unlimited MetroCards. The ASAP 53% graduation rate is more than three times the national three-year graduation rate for urban community colleges.

"We analyzed EOF and ASAP and determined that more of our students needed a program providing them with that same kind of holistic assistance," said Dr. Gretchen Schulthes, HCCC Associate Director of Advisement and Transfer. "Ideally, we need to scale up these proven strategies to all Hudson County Community

*Continued on page 9*

### On the Cover:

Latisha Straker is an HCCC student benefiting from the "Hudson Scholars" program.

From left to right: Hudson County Community College's Gabert Library, North Hudson Campus, STEM Building, and Culinary Arts Institute/Conference Center.



## THE NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS SPRING, 2022 IN-SERVICE

By Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director,  
North Hudson Campus

On Friday, February 4, 2022, the North Hudson Campus of Hudson County Community College held its spring 2022 campus in-service day for faculty, staff, and administrators. The in-service was well-received and attended by 56 participants. This in-service provided an opportunity to bring the North Hudson Campus community together. It provided for employee interaction, employee empowerment, and increased workforce engagement.

I want to give special thanks to Amaalah Ogburn, Jason Figueroa, Diana Galvez, and Aura Matias for helping make this day successful. I also want to thank Dr. Chris Reber, the President of Hudson County Community College, for attending the event and providing valuable updates regarding Hudson County Community College. Furthermore, thank you to all the presenters, including Diana Galvez, Sheila Aitouakrim, Deliana Acosta, Ja'Via Hall, Lisa Bogart, Sarah Teichman, Pat Barroero, Katherine Morales, Diana Perez, Tatiana Ganoa Zuniga, Kyara Martin, and Tejal Parekh, for providing exceptional departmental updates.

During the second part of the in-service, the North Hudson family attended a powerful presentation given by Nicole Lynn Lewis. Nicole is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Generation Hope, a non-profit organization that empowers and motivates teen parents to succeed in college by assisting them with many resources needed to be successful college students. A special thanks to Amaalah Ogburn and Yeury Pujols for working together to bring Nicole to the Hudson County Community College community. By working as a team, the North Hudson family continues to empower students to become productive and successful members of society.

## Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



### Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education

VIRTUAL FOR EACH DAY

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 to Friday, March 4, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

OPENING SESSION:

Tuesday March 1, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<https://www.hccc.edu/community/ctli.html>

### GUEST SPEAKERS



**Rebecca Lowell Edwards**  
Chief Communications  
Officer, American Civil  
Liberties Union



**Lillie Johnson Edwards, Ph.D.**  
Scholar, Public Historian,  
NJ Amistad Legislation



**Maud Dahme**  
New Jersey Hall of  
Fame Inductee, Former  
Commissioner NJ State  
Board of Education,  
Holocaust Survivor



**Carmella Glover**  
President Diversity Action  
Alliance, President-Elect  
Public Relations Society of  
America, New York

Prior to, but certainly since, the murder of George Floyd, our country, state, and communities have experienced a reckoning with racial and social justice that the media has thrust into our homes, workplaces, and consciousness. New Jersey's colleges and universities have taken vital steps to teach and learn from the current social climate and its impact on our personal and professional lives. This statewide symposium provides a platform for teaching and learning on issues related to social and racial justice that we are experiencing within and external to higher education.

### VIRTUAL LINK FOR EACH DAY

**\*\*REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED\*\***

<https://tinyurl.com/4kzk3fcd>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT :

Paula Roberson, Ed.D.

Director, Center for  
Teaching, Learning,  
and Innovation  
[proberson@hccc.edu](mailto:proberson@hccc.edu)  
201-360-4775



## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WEBINARS FOR MARCH 2022

**Post-Pandemic Mental Health**  
(Live – All Employees, Wednesday, March 16,  
12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

The COVID-19 pandemic has tremendously impacted our mental health on a global scale and for many, these mental effects will likely outlast the virus itself. In this session, learn more about these long-term effects and different ways to manage them.

**Developing Post-Pandemic Resilience**  
(Live – Leaders and Managers,  
Wednesday, March 23, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and  
3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

The pandemic has challenged us in many ways. It has certainly taxed our resilience, and that of our teams. Learn to manage your own post-pandemic resilience and inspire your team to manage theirs.

**Riding the Waves of Change (Pre-Recorded)**

Change in life is inevitable. While we can't always control what happens, we can control how we choose to respond to it. What we tell ourselves about change will have a large impact on our feelings and behaviors. During this webinar, we'll demonstrate techniques for successfully navigating change and using it as an opportunity for learning and growth.

To sign up for these webinars, visit [eap.ndbh.com](http://eap.ndbh.com), enter company code HCCC, scroll down to the "Check Out Our Webinars" box.

**Questions?** Connect with your EAP account manager, HR department or 800-624-5544.

*Your safety  
is important  
to us!*

**Mask Protocol:**  
**MASKS ARE REQUIRED  
ON CAMPUS.**

*Masks are available at security  
desks in all HCCC buildings.*

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

**10 Years**  
Lawrence Louie

**15 Years**  
Carmen Garcia

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

**One Year**  
Keiry Hernandez  
Atrell Johnson  
Elianny Severino

## NEW HIRES/TITLES

Stephanie Calo, ESL Program Specialist  
(Grant-funded) (effective Feb. 23, 2022)

Rashida David, Golden Door/La Puerta Dorada  
Project Director (Grant-funded)  
(effective Feb. 28, 2022)

Marian Habib, Accountant (effective March 1, 2022)

John J. Hernandez, Dean of Libraries  
(effective April 20, 2022)

Ara Karakashian, Associate Dean of Business,  
Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management  
(effective Feb. 23, 2022)

Jay Singh, Support Analyst (effective Feb. 23, 2022)

## TEMPORARY FULL TIME APPOINTMENTS

Athena Brown, Receiving Clerk  
(effective Feb. 23, 2022)

Haida Contla, Program Assistant  
(effective Feb. 28, 2022)

Jedediah Palmer, Interim Director of ESL  
and Academic Foundations English  
(effective Feb. 1, 2022)

Alison Wakefield, Interim Associate Dean  
of Humanities and Social Sciences  
(effective Feb. 1, 2022)

## SAVE the DATE



## 2022 COMMENCEMENT

Thursday, May 26, 12 p.m.  
Red Bull Arena - 600 Cape May Street,  
Harrison, NJ 07029  
Details coming soon!

## HUMAN RESOURCES FACULTY AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT HCCC

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) is committed to ensuring that opportunities for professional development are broad and comprehensive. All full-time faculty, full-time staff, part-time faculty and part-time staff are encouraged and welcome to invest in their professional and personal development here at HCCC. The Human Resource Department offers a variety of workshops via WebEx and/or Zoom, LinkedIn Learning, and NISOD to meet our goals, plans and mission for professional development.

### MARCH

- Coaching and Counseling for Performance Management
- Management Orientation

### FOR EMPLOYEES BY EMPLOYEES – Virtual Faculty and Staff Professional Development

Hudson County Community College offers a variety of professional development courses on an ongoing basis each semester and throughout the year. Check the workshop schedule and register on our Faculty & Staff Development page on the HCCC portal. To register, follow this link <https://myhudson.hccc.edu/fsdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>. Please check the portal for the exact times, dates, and login details for these trainings.

### APRIL

- Recruiting and Screening Practices
- Navigating Difficult Conversations with Employees
- Time Management
- Making the Most of Your WebEx Meetings

### LINKEDIN – On Demand Faculty and Staff Professional Development

LinkedIn Learning offers a variety of professional development courses that are currently available and FREE for all faculty, staff, and students at HCCC. Simply follow this link <https://lnkd.in/d/c9hWg> to review and register for all LinkedIn Learning offerings. An HCCC email address is required to register for these courses.

### NISOD – Virtual and On-Demand Faculty and Staff Professional Development

NISOD offers on-demand and live courses. Some courses are free to you as an employee of a member institution. You can now create a personal NISOD account. Once you set up your personal username and password, you will have access to a wide variety of faculty, staff, and administrative topics.

Not only can you acquire new knowledge, you can also share your knowledge. NISOD provides budget-friendly, high-quality, and faculty-focused programs and resources for community and technical colleges that want to make the most of their professional development dollars. For over 40 years, NISOD's customer-focused approach has helped align a wide array of benefits with the needs of members, which explains why the American Association of Community Colleges named NISOD, "the country's leading provider of professional development for community college faculty, staff, and administrators." Follow this link to view instructions for setting up your account: <https://www.nisod.org/membership/create-account/>

**Questions? Contact:** Lilisa Williams, MBA, Director of Faculty and Staff Development  
Human Resources • [lwiliams@hccc.edu](mailto:lwiliams@hccc.edu) | 201-360-4015

## SAVE THE DATE!

Human Resources and College  
Life Committee of the All College  
Council Invite You to Attend

### Professional Development Day

Theme: Continuous Improvement  
Through Higher Education

**March 18, 2022**  
**9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

This is a virtual event.  
More details to come.

### Questions:

Lilisa Williams [lwiliams@hccc.edu](mailto:lwiliams@hccc.edu)

**H**uman Resources and the College Life Committee of the All College Council are proud to once again host Professional Development Day 2022. On March 18, 2022, you will have an opportunity to join with colleagues and College community members in a day of professional development by employees, for employees at our 2nd Annual Professional Development Day 2022. This year, our special guest speaker is Chastity Farrell, Director, Continuing Education and Workforce Development.

A full program and agenda will be announced later. Please be on the lookout for these updates. To register for this event go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/professional-development-day-2022-virtual-tickets-271284548387>.

This event is open to all full-time staff, full-time faculty, part-time staff and part-time faculty. Please feel free to share news of this event with your staff, team, committee members, coworkers, and others here at HCCC. Come prepared to learn from one another and to share your experiences and knowledge with others.



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

### Scholarships Administered by Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa administers scholarships using a common application. Applicants may apply for one or more scholarship on the common application. PTK's Scholarship application process is open year-round with two deadlines.

When initiating an online application, students must take and pass an eligibility quiz. Visit <https://www.ptk.org/scholarships> for more information.



*Beta Alpha Phi Chapter volunteered at the Lunar New Year Parade in New York City on Saturday, Feb. 12. Volunteers included members of the Information Technology Services (ITS) College Libraries teams.*

## We are here for you!

Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty in a course?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

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

Please complete the General Concern Form at <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>. A member of the CARE Team will respond to you shortly.



## HCCC IS PRESENTED WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD BY THE SALVADORAN PARADE OF NEW JERSEY

This past December, during the 7th Annual Gala of the Salvadoran Parade of New Jersey in Little Ferry, NJ, Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, accepted the Community Partner Award on behalf of Hudson County Community College President Dr. Chris Reber.

"Hudson County Community College is an exemplary destination institution that works to create opportunities for individuals pursuing a college degree," stated Ingrid Echevarria, executive board member of the Salvadoran Parade. "Furthermore, I have experienced firsthand the unparalleled commitment to empowering Latinos through community engagement initiatives."

The gala kicks off yearlong festivities of cultural pride celebrations culminating in the annual parade down Bergenline Avenue this September through the townships of North Bergen, Guttenberg, West New York, and Union City. The parade features



*Pictured from left: John Sanchez, President, Essex County Latino American Chamber of Commerce; Flor Gonzalez, Commissioner, City of Plainfield; Bladimir Quito, HCCC alumnus and community leader; Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Natalia Vazquez-Bodkin, HCCC Associate Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and Heidi Castrillon, business community leader*

honorees and well-known community members and draws hundreds of spectators for a day of music, folkloric dancing, marching bands, and fabulous floats.

"We are honored for this recognition and proud to support partner organizations that celebrate our diversity and cultural heritage while also highlighting the importance of education, which is key to the individual and collective development of the communities we serve," stated Yeurys Pujols.

September 15 marks the day when five countries in Central America declared independence from Spain in 1821. Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras joined together against Spanish forces to gain their independence. As such, members of the Salvadoran community across New Jersey celebrate their cultural heritage during the annual parade organized by the leadership and volunteers of the Salvadoran Parade of New Jersey.

## HCCC RN NURSING PROGRAM SUPPORTS NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY 2022 FOR WOMEN'S HEART DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH



On Friday, February 4, the RN Department of Hudson County Community College's Nursing Program participated in the National Wear Red Day. Wear Red Day® is observed on the first Friday in February to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease, particularly in women.

## DON'T MISS

Hudson County Community College

OUT of the BOX  
PODCAST



Tune in to our monthly podcast for a timely discussion about education, people, programs, events, issues, and solutions that affect those who live and work in Hudson County.

Each session is hosted by HCCC President, Dr. Chris Reber, and features special guests and HCCC students.

To listen, visit [www.hccc.edu/outofthebox](http://www.hccc.edu/outofthebox).

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,700+ works is installed in the public areas of ten 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 work is in the collection, and new additions to the collection.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Roy Groething for the wonderful framed Miles Davis "Kind of Blue" poster.

Thank you to Melissa Meyer for the beautiful lithograph.

Thank you to Annina Nosei for donations of terrific artworks by Myriam Laplante, Heidi McFall, Michelle Mercurio, Boriana Song, and Jenny Watson.

Thank you to Nina Yankowitz for the generous donation of "Remember the Other Side," a 24 1/2" high x 26 1/2" long x 8 1/4" deep work of mixed-media art. This cantilever painting/partial picture was originally installed in 1997 at the Frederieke Taylor gallery in Soho, New York. What's interesting about this work is that parts of the painting appear to be sinking into the wall. Passers-by viewed the works in the exhibit through store windows on the street level. We are considering this as we explore where it should be placed on campus. In the previous exhibit, the artist asked that the viewers use memory to imagine what was on the other side of the wall for each artwork. We are looking forward to finding a good home for this fabulous, provocative object. Thank you also to the artist for the audio work, "Scenario Sounds," and the accompanying silkscreen prints.

## Artist News

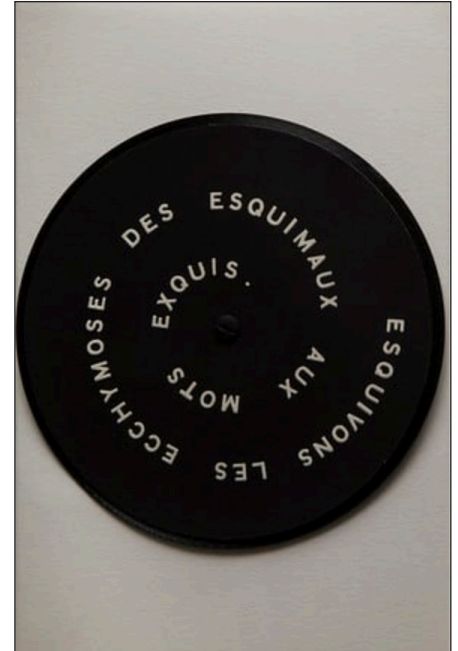
**Nancy Cohen**, whose work is on view in the Hudson Helps area on the third floor of 70 Sip Avenue and in the Dean's mezzanine reception area of the Cundari Building, is having a solo exhibition, "Walking a Line," at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in New York City through March 26, 2022. The artist notes, "the line between existence and its opposite has been sharpened for all of us in recent years with the climate crisis and, more recently, the COVID pandemic. At the same time, the line between our individual fragilities and those of the collective and the planet have been blurred. Individually, we have often been isolated—themes of escape and flight, literal and imagined, figure heavily in work I've produced in the pandemic period—but our fragile bodies and our fragile environment are inextricably linked. More than ever, we walk the line together."

**Marcel Duchamp** (1887–1968) was an influential artist who helped originate what we now call "modern" and "contemporary" art. If you like the Marcel Duchamp work on the first floor of 2 Enos Place, you might enjoy taking a look at the entire Marcel Duchamp archive (over 50,000

digitized images) now online, with free access. This website makes available a significant portion of primary source materials related to Duchamp. The portal is available at Duchamp Research Portal ([duchamparchives.org](http://duchamparchives.org)). This came about through the collaborative work of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Association Marcel Duchamp, and Centre Pompidou. As you may know, the only North American Pompidou center will be opening in 2024 in what was formerly the HCCC Pathside classroom building on Journal Square.

If you like the art by **Pablo Picasso** on the first floor of the Gabert Library, or the art by **May Stevens** and **Emma Amos** on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library, you might enjoy knowing about the artists' history as a group whose works were part of the Civil Rights Movement. In the 1960s, significant protests by Tougaloo College students in Jackson, Mississippi, started at the public library, where they demanded the basic right for black people to read the books available to white people. Learning about these protests, New York activists donated art work to Tougaloo College, a historically black liberal arts college, to support this protest of then-standing Mississippi law: If you were a black person who lived in Mississippi, you could not enter an art gallery or a public library. The activists sent the college many works of art by important modern American and European artists (including Picasso, Stevens, Amos, and Benny Andrews—his recently-donated work is at the framer and we hope to install it later this year). This donation to Tougaloo established the first collection of modern art in Mississippi. To learn more about Arts and Civil Rights, check out this pamphlet: [www.tinyurl.com/MMA-ArtandCivilRights](http://www.tinyurl.com/MMA-ArtandCivilRights)

In a recent interview, Sunil Iyengar, the Research and Analysis Director of the National Endowment for the Arts, said that the "benefit of the arts is notoriously difficult to measure." He was discussing a recent study about art benefits in the *Journal of Positive Psychology* which call art museums, "instruments of human flourishing." There is peer-reviewed data showing that visiting museums can extend empathy and cause a decline in doctor visits, but so much remains to be explored! If you have found benefit in our arts programming and exhibitions, please let us know. You can send an email to [ASiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:ASiegel@hccc.edu).



Marcel Duchamp, "Contrepetrie," (1968) Print, 11 x 7 in. This was one of Duchamp's last works.

**We welcome anecdotes and information about how the Art Collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the Art Collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact [ASiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:ASiegel@hccc.edu) and tell us the story of how the Art Collection works for you.**

**To make a monetary gift in support of the Foundation Art Collection**, please contact Nicole Bouknight Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications, at (201) 360-4069 or [nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu](mailto:nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu)

**To donate artwork, find detailed information here:** [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html)

**Explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools!** Go to [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html)



**Watch Dr. Andrea Siegel's presentation, "How to Create a Great Art Collection on a Budget," on the official TedX Talks YouTube page!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dxeNik2Y8>

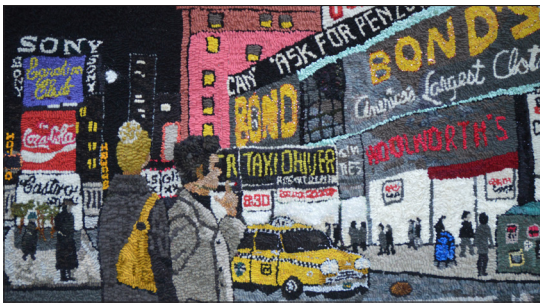


## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents

Join the Department of Cultural Affairs for another month of art, interviews, and music on the 6th Floor of the Gabert Library. For more information, to RSVP for programs, or to visit the gallery, email: [mvitale@hccc.edu](mailto:mvitale@hccc.edu).

### HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 'LIVING IN THE INVISIBLE' EXHIBIT FEATURES WORKS BY ARTISTS WITH UNSEEN CHALLENGES



Pictured here, "Times Square 1976" by Mary Tooley Parker.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Department of Cultural Affairs invites the community to view "Living in the Invisible," an exhibit of works by artists who live with unseen physical and mental health challenges. The exhibit may be viewed now through March 23, 2022, at the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery on the sixth floor of the HCCC Gabert Library located at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City. An Artist Reception and Artist Talk will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

An estimated ten percent of the United States population has a condition that may be considered an "invisible disability." While symptoms are not obvious to onlookers, the impact and stigma are real to those who suffer from chronic pain, nerve disorders, autoimmune disorders, cognitive dysfunctions, mental health issues, learning differences, and hearing and vision impairment.

Inspired by internationally renowned American artist Judith Scott, who was born deaf and with Down syndrome, the exhibition celebrates the featured artists for their resilience. First presented as a virtual exhibit by Art House Productions last year, this new incarnation was curated by Michelle Vitale, HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and includes additional artists and a new exhibition partnership with Wonder Women Artist Residency.

The exhibit includes works by:

- Mary Tooley Parker, an award-winning textile artist who has dealt with Type 1 Diabetes for 53 years. Her rug-hooking art focuses on realistic interpretations of people and nature.
- Doris Cacoilo, an artist, activist, curator, and educator who is the director and founder of

"I have had Type 1 diabetes for 53 years. I have always kept it a secret from other people because I didn't want to be judged by them. Most of my life I have honestly done the minimum to control my blood sugar levels. And all that time my doctors, the media, and others have told me I would pay for that with my life. Now that I've actually managed to get old (63), I feel the noose tightening and my anxiety over it increasing. I find relief from all of this in my work. I look for safety in my work. Sometimes I express nostalgia for my carefree, fearless youth. Other times I look for strength in others. Lately, I find that just documenting my immediate surroundings helps me see and feel the beauty, love, and comfort in my life right now. My creativity balances my fear."

— Mary Tooley Parker

gaia, a collective working to support women artists and women's issues.

- Eun Young Choi, an artist and Studio Arts professor at HCCC.
- Sharon Lee De La Cruz, a Fulbright Fellow, storyteller, educator, and activist from New York City.
- Allison Green, who lives and paints in Jersey City, and whose work is included in the Brooklyn Museum, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, and the City of Jersey City-City Hall.
- Roger Sayre, a Jersey City artist who teaches at Pace University and whose works have been featured in *Photography Now*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and numerous other publications.
- Stephanie Tichenor, a fiber artist, crafter, and painter who is inspired by youth, moss, leeks, stuffed animals, rainbows, and scraps of paper.

"Living in the Invisible" may be viewed free of charge by all who visit HCCC. Visitors must check-in at the Gabert Library Security desk, and observe the College's COVID-19 safety guidelines – masks are mandatory. The Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, 12 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

The HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs offers a variety of free, educational opportunities for community members throughout the year. Information on all upcoming HCCC Department of Cultural Affairs exhibitions and educational programs may be obtained by contacting Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at 201-360-4176 or [mvitale@hccc.edu](mailto:mvitale@hccc.edu).

### HCCC CELEBRATES JERSEY CITY INAUGURAL POET LAUREATE RASHAD WRIGHT



Rashad Wright, 2020 Inaugural Poet Laureate of Jersey City, reads some of his works at a live performance on Friday, Feb. 11. Wright's poem, "Art in Cadence," is installed at the sixth-floor Atrium of the College's Gabert Library.

## Follow Us



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[gallery@hccc.edu](mailto:gallery@hccc.edu) or visit

[www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html)

## ENROLLMENT NEWS

### HCCC BECOMES JED FOUNDATION CAMPUS MEMBER

**H**udson County Community College is a JED Foundation Campus member. We are one of two New Jersey community colleges chosen to be in the initial working group.



JED Foundation provides the following opportunities:

- Assistance in building a multi-disciplinary team to work on this initiative with support and involvement from senior leadership on campus.
- The JED Campus baseline assessment measuring systems, policies, and programs, as well as a post-assessment in year 4 measuring system change achieved during the program.
- Two administrations of the Healthy Minds Study survey—in year 1 and year 4—measuring students' attitudes, behaviors, and awareness of emotional well-being and substance abuse issues.
- A comprehensive feedback report outlining areas for enhancement and growth.
- A site visit to conduct a student focus group, review feedback, and begin strategic planning.
- A mental health strategic plan with objectives and action steps for implementation.
- Ongoing support from a dedicated JED Campus Advisor throughout the four-year program.

Hudson County Community College has been working with the Foundation since the summer of 2021, and we have assembled a HCCC/JED Team. The first Healthy Minds Study survey was completed in December 2021.

The feedback from the survey was distributed to the HCCC team. Our next major step is the site visit with a student focus group led by Ryan Bunts, our JED Campus Advisor. Student input is critical in the creation of the strategic plan and implementation.

Our site visit is planned for March 23 and 24 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the Journal Square Campus. Students willing to participate in the student focus group, should contact: Dr. Sheila Dynan – [sdynan@hccc.edu](mailto:sdynan@hccc.edu). Transportation from the North Hudson Campus will be available both ways. Food will be provided.

### EOF VOLUNTEER FOR MLK DAY OF SERVICE

**T**he Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country take the lead to make our communities more equitable, and to take action in creating the Beloved Community of Dr. King's dream. While Dr. King believed the Beloved Community was possible, he acknowledged and fought for systemic change. His example is our call to action.

Observed each year on the third Monday in January, MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service (DOS) to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. EOF has led in this effort along with Jersey Cares and AmeriCorps for the past couple of years by packaging food for distribution, cleaning parks, making appreciation packages for teachers and veterans, and painting interiors at a local district school. This year we promoted efforts using digital projects and communication resources.

We encourage our EOF Scholars to recommit as citizens by volunteering in service to others,

especially for MLK Day of Service. Because just like EOF, our communities are an extension of the family, and it is a way we can strengthen ties to our communities and one other while honoring the legacy of Dr. King.

On January 17, 2022, our EOF Scholars – Ayah Awawdeh, Brian Aguirre, Justin Cruz, Wendy Carrero, and Anthony Eryan – volunteered their time on Martin Luther King Day of Service. On behalf of the EOF Program, we would like to thank them for their service.

#### Thank you to these scholars for their service:

Ayah Awawdeh  
Brian Aguirre  
Justin Cruz  
Wendy Carrero  
Anthony Eryan

### THE NEW FACES OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND PROGRAM



*Members of the EOF team at HCCC – seated from left: Victoria Migochi, EOF Tutoring Coordinator; Rosa Perez, EOF Secretary; and Samantha Ramirez, EOF Specialist. Standing from left: Jose Lowe, Director, EOF; Kyara Martin, EOF Counselor; Tejal Parekh, Interim EOF Assistant Director; and Tytianna Jackson, EOF Financial Aid Liaison.*

**T**he New Year brought changes to the EOF family, including the departure of Knight Ambubuyog, who is now Director of the EOF Program at Saint Peter's University. Several new staff members are familiar to Hudson County Community College and our EOF family: Tejal Parekh has assumed the role of HCCC EOF Interim Assistant Director; 2015 HCCC Alumna, Kyara Martin is our new EOF Counselor; 2019 HCCC Alumna, Victoria Migochi is our EOF Tutoring Coordinator; and 2018 HCCC Alumna, Alumna Tytianna Jackson is our EOF Financial Aid Liaison. In addition, Samantha Ramirez is now EOF Specialist. Please visit the EOF Department located at 2 Enos Place (Building J), Room 008.



### HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC? Are you willing to contribute time? Do you want to inspire others with your success stories? Are you looking for career support?

#### If so join, socialize and network!

For information about the College's Alumni Association or membership benefits, please email [alumni@hccc.edu](mailto:alumni@hccc.edu).



## HCCC ESTABLISHES 'HUDSON SCHOLARS'

*Continued from page 2*

College students. We decided to use a portion of the funding the College received from COVID-19 related federal stimulus dollars as seed money to develop a customized, holistic and sustainable HCCC program we call 'Hudson Scholars'."

Utilizing some key EOF and ASAP best practices, HCCC formulated the "Hudson Scholars" program to initially serve almost 800 students – four times the number of students currently enrolled in the HCCC EOF program, impacting nearly 1,000 HCCC students on the College's journey to involve all students in this program eventually. "Hudson Scholars" is open to incoming students enrolled for at least nine credit-hours of coursework at HCCC, including students in their final semester of English as a Second Language (ESL), and all levels of Academic Foundations English. "Hudson Scholars" students have the advantage of meeting regularly with "Hudson Scholars" academic counselors, whose caseloads are 80% less than those of other advisors, and who keep students on track by following academic progress and communicating with faculty regularly.

Working closely with faculty, who provide progress reports on "Hudson Scholars" students through a home-grown early-alert system, "Hudson Scholars" academic counselors assist students in setting academic and career goals; monitoring outside factors that may impact students' progress; and making referrals to on-campus services such as tutoring and mental health counseling. "Hudson Scholars" students are further incentivized to participate in high-impact practices each month, and receive stipends of \$125 to \$250 for completing designated tasks and achieving important academic milestones.

"Hudson Scholars" student Latisha Straker is a 26-year-old Business Administration major who looks forward to working for a Fortune 500 company and making a difference in her community. She credits the program with helping her stay on top of her coursework by texting and emailing about assignments and deadlines. "HCCC wants you to learn, and they go step-by-step in helping you understand challenging assignments, and assisting with any difficulties encountered in school," she said. 'Hudson Scholars' also helped me financially by providing a monthly stipend that aids in paying for books, bus fare, food, and minor bills."

"The most valuable aspect of the program is being able to reach out to someone and receive a quick response via text or email. I was able to ask questions about registering for class, tutoring, and financial aid, and my counselor was always available to address my concerns. I am thankful because, were it not for 'Hudson Scholars', I would be lost and confused about a lot of resources that are available to help me throughout college," Ms. Straker stated.

Early outcomes of the "Hudson Scholars" program are exceedingly positive and indicate the program may be sustained and grown beyond the period of grant funding through its impact on student retention and the resulting increased revenue. Dr. Reber said the College is confident the scaled-up program will have significant impact in the near- and long-term. "This program assists students in their whole-life needs and in completing their degree work in a more timely and effective manner, and thereby enables them to advance eventually into careers that will provide substantial socioeconomic benefits for their families and community. We are committed to sustaining and enlarging successful elements of the program to eventually serve all HCCC students," he stated.

## OUR STORIES UNTOLD

Submission by Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources and Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Over 50 faculty, staff, and students joined Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Nadia Hedhli on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, as the featured storyteller of *Our Stories Untold* series—opening the spring semester. The STEM Division was in full presence supporting a colleague. One of the participants shared that the story was "very relatable and her journey and experiences are very inspiring."

Dr. Hedhli began her story and presentation through a timeline about her family and cultural background, and history. She shared that she is a mother of two, a 4-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy. Showcasing a map of North Africa, we learned that she is a daughter of a Moroccan mother and a Tunisian father who met in France while studying. Nadia shared beautiful pictures of both countries, including sandy beaches and delicious couscous.

As a child, Nadia's father sent her to Tunisia for schooling to learn the culture, religion, and language. While she is now fluent in both Arabic and French, she shared that the experience of growing up in a different country was challenging and harsh at first, and met with resistance. Yet she later understood the importance and potential of being introduced into a culture, which shaped the person that she is today.

At 16 years old, she came back to the United States. Nadia knew she needed to go to college. Her father accompanied her to Hudson County Community College to take the placement test, waiting for her behind the door. While she did well, the experience of learning about enrollment,

class registration, financial aid, and book vouchers were overwhelming for someone who came from overseas. She nevertheless found support in many people at the College who helped her, including counselors and faculty.

She went on to transfer to Rutgers University, and following in her father's footsteps, majored in Biology with a minor in Anthropology. Soon after, as a junior she intentionally looked for internships, and landed a summer appointment which paid \$4,000 at Rutgers Medical School in a lab of a famous cardiologist. The work in the lab, examining the stresses on the heart, helped her enter a Ph.D. program. She most enjoyed finding an answer to the question she was after and reshaping the science world. This led to a breakthrough that allowed her to enter the world of scholars with several publications on proteasome activation during cardiac hypertrophy by the chaperone H11 Kinase/Hsp22.

Dr. Hedhli spent some time at Yale University before moving closer to home, working at Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan, expanding her research. She quickly realized that she had a passion for teaching when she was an adjunct while completing her doctorate, and reflected that she enjoyed teaching, felt like she belonged and that it did not feel like work. So, she began her professional journey at HCCC as an adjunct and is currently a tenured Associate Professor. She found her true passion in teaching and sharing what she loves.

The audience got to see Professor Hedhli in action when one of the students shared their experience. She was quick to advise, to support, and to empathize with the student's concerns. Nadia shared that education and knowledge has had great meaning for her by giving her leverage in life, and advocating for life-long learning. A student later shared that her story encouraged everyone to "achieve any goals at any age."

Dr. Hedhli ended her story with a reflection of experience and learning during COVID. She noted that sometimes you must stop, take it in, try to be present, and appreciate the current world we're living in.

"The entire *Our Stories Untold* program is powerful in connecting employees," a participant stated. *Our Stories Untold* emerged as a partnership between the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This series highlights the HCCC community members' personal, educational, and professional experiences, advice, and insight. Each program aims to introduce some of our outstanding and influential colleagues to enhance inclusion and create community.

Do you know someone with an inspirational story? Do you want to tell your story? Tell us by contacting [dei@hccc.edu](mailto:dei@hccc.edu).



# CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Upcoming Programs & Events

March 2– 16:

**E-mail Etiquette**

Register at: <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/business/email-etiquette.html>

March 2-16:

**Crushing Your College Essay**

Register at: <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/computer-software/ms-excel.html>

March 3-24:

**Microsoft EXCEL Level 1**

Register at: <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/computer-software/ms-excel.html>

March 8, 1:30 p.m.

**Hire Me! (Workshop)**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/Maria-Lita-Sarmiento>

March 17, 6 p.m.

**The Rise and Voices of Alumni**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Alumni-Association>

March 17 – 31:

**The Basics of Infographics**

Register at: <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/business/basics-infographics.html>

March 17:

**Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification**

Register at: [www.tinurl.com/HCCCWinter2022](http://www.tinurl.com/HCCCWinter2022)

March 22:

**Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification**

Register at: [www.tinurl.com/HCCCWinter2022](http://www.tinurl.com/HCCCWinter2022)

March 30, 1:30 p.m.

**Financial Management 101**

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/Maria-Lita-Sarmiento>

**FOR MORE**

**INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Department of Continuing Education**

**161 Newkirk Street, Room E504**

**Jersey City, NJ 07306**

**(201) 360-4224**

**CE@hccc.edu**

### IUOE Local 825 Orientation Event

On Wednesday, January 19, IUOE Local 825 apprentices began their journey on the "Earn & Learn" program. CEWD greeted 30 students as they began their 18-month apprenticeship. (Student Apprentices commit to both HCCC & IUOE Local 825.) These students will earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Technical Studies through virtual classes at HCCC. They will also receive hands-on and classroom instruction required to complete their apprenticeships with Local 825.

As stated by Dr. Chris Reber, HCCC President, "This agreement will advance career opportunities, benefit our local economy, and support the advancement of equity." Following the program, the students will have the educational and hands-on experience to become skilled journey workers.



### "Sunday Brunch Live" Celebrates Black History Month at the Continuing Education Culinary Club

On Sunday, February 6, Continuing Education's Culinary Club on Facebook aired "Sunday Brunch Live" - a Zoom event dedicated to Black History Month. This bimonthly series is hosted by HCCC alumnus Chef Rene Hewitt, star of "In the Kitchen with Chef Rene" on Comcast. The show features a variety of guests who discuss food, recipes, culture, and more. The special Black History Month episode was dedicated to fashion legend Andre Leon Talley and featured cook Anthony Spirito, Chef David Ramsay of "The Cooklyn Channel", and fashion icon Audrey Smaltz. The discussion centered around African American people and their great contributions to food and the culinary world.

Everyone is invited to join the Continuing Education Culinary Club on Facebook! This and past episodes are available for viewing at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/culinaryhccc>

### Port Authority Police Department (PAPD)

On February 23, the Port Authority Police Department joined us for the second time to promote the Police Department Recruitment application period. Students visited the Gabert Library to meet with officers, get more information on the process, and have their questions answered. We had a great turnout of interested students at the Fall and Spring semester events with the PAPD.

### Centers for Workforce Innovation

New Jersey's Community Colleges and New Jersey Business and Industry Association are collaborating to address the rapidly changing needs of employers and providing students and workers with the career pathways they need to be successful. As part of the effort, the New Jersey Council of County Colleges has launched 10 Centers of Workforce Innovation specifically focused on building pathways to serve the learning lifespan of students and workers, a key component of this coordinated workforce preparation effort. The Centers are clustered in four industries, Healthcare, Technology and Innovation, Infrastructure and Energy, and Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management. HCCC is the administrative lead on two centers, Construction and Supply Chain Logistics. HCCC is partnered with Rowan College of South Jersey for the Construction Center, and with Rowan College at Burlington County, Salem Community College, and Union County College for the Supply Chain Logistics Center. There was a statewide convening on January 19 to kickoff the planning phase of the work.

## FINANCIAL 1-ON-1 COUNSELING



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[money matters@hccc.edu](mailto:money matters@hccc.edu)

*We are here for you!*

## SAVE THE DATE FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING



**Monday, July 11, 2022**





## CALENDAR

**For event updates, go to:**  
<https://www.hccc.edu/calendar/>

### Tuesday, March 1

Managing Your Gradebook in Canvas and Liberty Link Workshop, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Snackitivity Tuesday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Student Center, 81 Sip Ave.

### Wednesday, March 2

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 11 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

Accessibility and Ally Workshop for Faculty, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Pizza with the President, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Journal STEM Building Lobby, 263 Academy St.

Accommodations at HCCC Workshop, 7 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Thursday, March 3

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 6 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Friday, March 4

Speaker Series featuring Dr. Armon R. Perry, 11 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m68179255b83ccfe49e2948d12c1c0b72>; Meeting number (access code): 2632 630 3860; Meeting password: PAculture

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Monday, March 7

Pizza with the President, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

Spring Semester Mixer, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge. RSVP at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/79317061>

### Tuesday, March 8

Women's Empowerment Festival, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 2 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

Spring Semester Mixer, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Journal Square Campus, Student Center. RSVP at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/7931707>

### Wednesday, March 9

Win It Wednesday, Entries to be submitted between 9 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. for our "Win It Wednesday" raffle to win an Amazon gift card! Twenty students will win a \$25 Gift Card! Enter here: <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/7930705>

Social Service Day, 10 a.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

Breakfast Bar, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

### Thursday, March 10

Transfer Fair, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., North Hudson Campus

### Friday, March 11 – Thursday, March 17

Midterm Exams/Advisement Period

### Friday, March 11

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 10 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Getting Started with Canvas Workshop for Faculty, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

### Saturday, March 12

Accommodations at HCCC Workshop, 10 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Tuesday, March 15

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 11 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

Copying Content from an Old Course to a New Course Workshop, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Snackitivity Tuesday, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Student Center, 81 Sip Ave.

Student Introduction to Online Learning, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Notifications/Settings Workshop for Students, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. For virtual login information, please see the Public Notice at <https://www.hccc.edu/abouthccc/board-of-trustees.html>

Wednesday, March 16

Student Introduction to Online Learning, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Accessibility and Ally Workshop for Students, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Accessibility Services Faculty Update Session, 6 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Thursday, March 17

Videoconferencing with Webex in Canvas Workshop, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Women in STEM Presentation: "The Road to CRISPR" featuring Dr. Irene Matejko, 3:30 p.m., STEM Building, 263 Academy Street, First Floor, Multipurpose Room

Communication Studies Option Program Virtual Information Session, 5 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?RGID=r0b8b3aed52eedcb706558fecbb348335>

Accommodations at HCCC Workshop, 7 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Friday, March 18 – Monday, May 16

Online Session B

### Friday, March 18

Professional Development Day, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register at <https://myhudson.hccc.edu/fsdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Identity Signs – Safe Space, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Journal Square Campus, Student Center Club and Organization Suite; RSVP at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/7824632>

Student Introduction to Online Learning, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

Trivia Night, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Join us at: [https://zoom.us/joining/register/tJ0kcuupqT4tHNR8cTYhGB\\_UjgKvgiu5odlj](https://zoom.us/joining/register/tJ0kcuupqT4tHNR8cTYhGB_UjgKvgiu5odlj)

### Monday, March 21

Interactive Video Discussion with "FlipGrid" in Canvas Workshop, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

### Tuesday, March 22

Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor. For virtual login information, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/calendar>.

Unichack software Workshop for Faculty, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

"Si Se Puede" Information Session, 6 p.m. (EOF Program); join virtually at <https://bit.ly/HCCCSiSePuede>

### Wednesday, March 23

Win It Wednesday, Entries to be submitted between 9 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. for our "Win It Wednesday" raffle to win an Amazon gift card! Twenty students will win a \$25 Gift Card! Enter here: <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/7930706>

Breakfast Bar, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

All College Council General Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor. Join virtually at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=mb73f8914534c8a606b7acc39ce31060b>; Meeting number: 2632 335 4543; Password: ncW637wQUdP

### Thursday, March 24

Last day to submit Midterm Advisory Grades

Transfer Fair, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Student Center, 81 Sip Ave.

### Friday, March 25

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

Trivia Night, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Join us at: [https://zoom.us/joining/register/tJ0kcuupqT4tHNR8cTYhGB\\_UjgKvgiu5odlj](https://zoom.us/joining/register/tJ0kcuupqT4tHNR8cTYhGB_UjgKvgiu5odlj)

### Saturday, March 26

Accommodations at HCCC Workshop, 10 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Monday, March 28 – Sunday, April 3

Spring recess – no classes

### Monday, March 28

All About Assignments in Canvas Workshop for Faculty, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

### Tuesday, March 29

Accommodations at HCCC Workshop, 7 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/jsafont>

### Wednesday, March 30

Canvas Analytics Workshop for Faculty, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/hccccenter-for-online-learning-10899964365>

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## JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 Phone (201) 714-7100

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 Union City, NJ 07087  
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## SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of  
 the Hudson County Schools of Technology  
 One High Tech Way  
 Secaucus, NJ 07094

# ALUMNI CORNER

## Kyara Martin

Class of 2015

Associate in Arts – Elementary and Secondary Education

### What factors led you to decide to attend Hudson County Community College?

The cost and location led me to making the decision of starting my undergraduate education journey at HCCC. As a first-generation student, I knew college was nonnegotiable because I wanted to open the door for more opportunities for myself and family. Also, an HCCC representative from the Educational Opportunity Fund spoke to a cohort at my high school. The representative instilled hope and also shared their personal story of how the program provided them a world of opportunities. If it wasn't for the EOF program, I'm sure I wouldn't have the grit and perseverance that I have now.

### How did you become interested in your career?

My passion to genuinely help others sparked my interest in education. After a few courses, I realized the limitations I would have in the classroom and began to conduct a career exploration. Eventually, I would begin my journey into the Social Work world. This passion grew as I volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, shelters, and food pantries where I witnessed hardships people faced. Researching and advocating for the disadvantaged and marginalized in my community gave me a sense of purpose that I was seeking.

### How did your time at HCCC prepare you for your career/ life now?

My time at HCCC was the first step of my career and adulthood. A few challenges did arise along the way; thankfully I was able to seek assistance from faculty and staff. These challenges prepared me to understand although they are a part of life it is okay to seek help and not feel ashamed or as if you have to figure it out on your own. Hudson is truly a family and if you put your portion of effort in, things will work out as they should. Lastly, HCCC has taught me to step out of my comfort zone and refrain from placing restrictions on myself.

### What is a typical work day for you?

A typical work day for me consists of working with current HCCC students who are in the EOF Program: working alongside the EOF team to meet our students where they are by assisting and providing services such as tutoring, programming, workshops and also serving as a student advisor.

### What has been the most memorable project you have worked on?

Graduation events and the Commencement ceremony have truly been the most memorable projects I have worked on. The ability to witness students earning their degree, some of whom may have been visible on campus and others who haven't, and the smiles and joy on their faces are utterly priceless in that moment. It's also memorable when students share their personal stories during this time and it is similar to your own story. Long days of studying, unfamiliarity with the course, learning the importance of time management and sacrifice and hard work led them to this day. What an amazing time!

### Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work in some way?

The biggest inspirations that have impacted my work are my family, friends, and mentors who are employed here at HCCC. They have reminded me to stay goal-oriented, focused despite what obstacles may come my way. This has truly contributed to my work.

### What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

Remain a student, always look to enhance your skills, and don't be afraid to spread your wings. It's okay not to have everything figured out once you've graduated. Continue to do your research; you'll find your niche. Don't forget networking is a great asset. You are a human being; give yourself some grace because you deserve it. Sometimes we can be our worst critic.

### What advice do you have for those students who are just starting their college careers?

Take heed of all resources that are available to you. Hold your head up high and remain a student; you are in college to learn academically, socially, and professionally. Take one step at a time and give yourself grace that all things work out for your good. Get involved – join a club, an organization, an honor society, and meet new people. Remember, balance is key; you cannot pour from an empty cup (SELF-CARE!). Broaden your horizons and take a step out of your comfort zone; it opens many doors. How will you know what's on the other side of the door if you're afraid to open it?



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