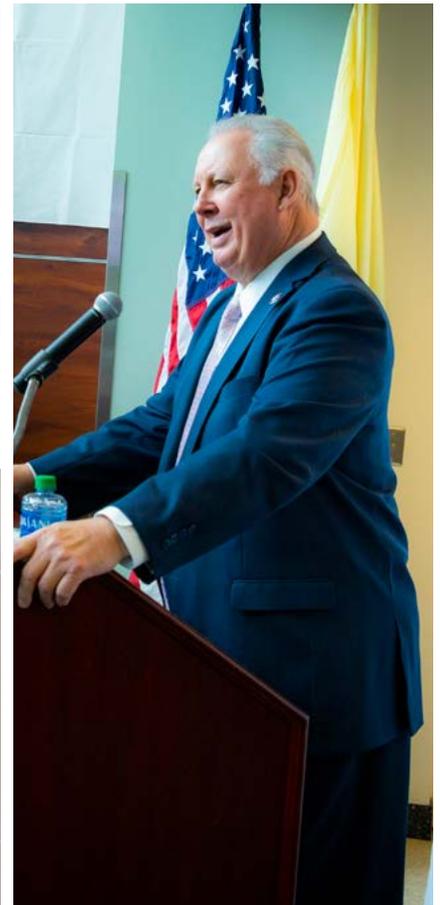


# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS  
WITH DEDICATION TO  
CONGRESSMAN ALBIO SIRES**





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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 June newsletter are due by Friday, May 13, 2022.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

**Communications Department**  
**162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor**  
**Jersey City, NJ 07306**  
**Phone: 201.360.4060**  
**Fax: 201.653.0607**  
**[communications@hccc.edu](mailto:communications@hccc.edu)**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS WITH DEDICATION TO CONGRESSMAN ALBIO SIRES**

On a sunny September Wednesday in 2011, more than 100 individuals gathered outside 4800 Kennedy Boulevard in Union City, New Jersey, to celebrate the grand opening of the \$28.2 million Hudson County Community College (HCCC) North Hudson Higher Education Center (now the HCCC North Hudson Campus). Elected and appointed officials, college and university presidents, Hudson County area grade-school and high-school principals and counselors, and HCCC students, trustees, faculty, and staff came together for a day of festivities that included music, guided tours, ice cream socials, scavenger hunts, keepsake photos, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony with formal remarks.

Like so many things that were intended to happen in 2021, the 10th Anniversary celebration of the HCCC North Hudson Campus was put on hold until now.

On Monday, April 25, 2022, Hudson County Community College commemorated the North Hudson Campus 10th Anniversary by naming the building’s towering Atrium for someone who made the HCCC North Hudson Campus possible – Congressman Albio Sires. The dedication program included remarks from HCCC President, Dr. Christopher M. Reber; HCCC Board of Trustees Chair, William J. Netchert, Esq.; Hudson County Executive, Thomas A. DeGise; and Congressman Sires.

“It is altogether fitting that this space is named for Congressman Sires,” Dr. Reber stated. “Yes, he was responsible for obtaining the funding for this building. Perhaps more importantly, his public service record demonstrates that he shares the experience of so many HCCC students by navigating challenges, achieving excellence, and serving others. At the age of 11, Congressman

*Continued on page 9*

*On the Cover: Congressman Albio Sires with Hudson County Community College leadership and elected officials at the North Hudson Campus 10th Anniversary Celebration, during which the Atrium was named in his honor. At bottom right, Congressman Sires addresses attendees at the gathering.*

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND STOCKTON UNIVERSITY SIGN DUAL-ADMISSION TRANSFER AGREEMENT**



*HCCC President, Dr. Christopher M. Reber (left) and Stockton University Chief Enrollment Management Officer, Dr. Robert Heinrich.*

Recently, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher M. Reber and Stockton University Chief Enrollment Management Officer Dr. Robert Heinrich signed a five-year dual-admission/transfer agreement that increases students’ options and provides opportunities beyond those offered in the Lampitt Law.

The 2008 Lampitt Law, also known as New Jersey’s “Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement,” enables students to transfer smoothly from a New Jersey community college to a New Jersey public, four-year college or university. The Lampitt Law ensures that credits from Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degrees transfer fully toward a bachelor’s degree in a similar major at a four-year college and university.

Under the HCCC-Stockton University agreement, HCCC students will save time and money when counseled on course-to-course equivalency, program-specific requirements, reverse transfer options, admissions procedures, financial aid, and other matters. HCCC and Stockton University advisors will work one-on-one with students on-site at HCCC. When students complete their associate degrees, they will automatically transfer with junior status to Stockton, and the Stockton application fee will be waived. Stockton University will provide five one-year, \$2,000-per-year scholarships to HCCC students enrolled in the dual admission program. HCCC students with adjusted gross incomes of up to \$65,000 are eligible to participate in the Garden State Guarantee program at Stockton that continues to cover the cost of tuition and fees.

*Continued on page 9*

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES FRANK GARGIULO TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) welcomed The Honorable Frank J. Gargiulo as a new member of its Board of Trustees (BOT) at the Board's regular meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Mr. Gargiulo succeeds Adamarys Galvin, who joined the Board in October 2019.

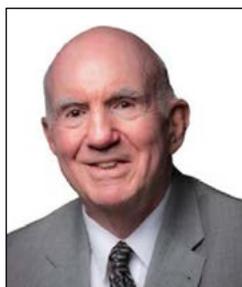
"On behalf of the entire College community, it is a great pleasure to welcome our newest Trustee, Frank J. Gargiulo," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Commissioner Gargiulo brings extraordinary education and public service leadership to the College. He will serve on the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Welcome, Trustee Gargiulo!"

Dr. Reber also thanked Trustee Galvin for her service: "Adamarys Galvin brought the knowledge and skills she developed during her distinguished career in Bilingual and ESL education to her tenure at the College. We are grateful for her dedication and contributions."

A former New Jersey Assemblyperson, Frank J. Gargiulo has served as the elected Public Works Commissioner of North Bergen since 1989. Mr. Gargiulo holds a bachelor's degree from Notre Dame University and a master's degree from Seton Hall University. His career as an educator spans more than four decades, during which he was principal and football coach at St. Joseph High School in West New York.

From 1990 to 2019, Gargiulo served as Superintendent of Hudson County Schools of

Technology (HCST). Under his leadership, HCST High Tech and County Prep High Schools opened, as well as HCST Explore 2000 Middle School, the first vocational middle school in New Jersey history. In 2018, his exemplary service as HCST Superintendent was recognized by naming the HCST Secaucus Campus for him. In 2019, the Hudson County Community College Foundation presented Mr. Gargiulo with the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award.



The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Hudson County Community College and is responsible for leading, advocating, and supporting the College's mission; ensuring fiduciary responsibility; establishing overarching goals and policies; and hiring, supporting, and evaluating the President.

The Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees comprises eight individuals appointed by the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners; and at least two individuals appointed by the Governor. Trustees maintain their trustee status until reappointed or replaced by the appointing authorities. The HCCC President serves as an ex-officio member. The College's student body elects a representative from the graduating class to serve one year as a non-voting student alumni representative.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SIGN TRANSFER AGREEMENT



Pictured here with HCCC students, Montclair State University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Junius Gonzales (seated left), and Hudson County Community College President, Dr. Christopher Reber (seated right).

Recently, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher M. Reber and Montclair State University (MSU) Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Junius Gonzales signed a six-year transfer agreement. HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Darryl Jones; HCCC Dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment, Dr. Heather DeVries; MSU Vice President for Enrollment

Management, Dr. Wendy Lin-Cook; MSU Associate Provost for Hispanic Initiatives and International Programs, Dr. Katia Paz Goldfarb; MSU Registrar, Leslie Sutton-Smith; and MSU Associate Registrar, Julianne Vitale joined the event.

Continued on page 9

**SAVE the DATE**

# 2022 COMMENCEMENT

## Thursday, May 26, 12 p.m.

Red Bull Arena - 600 Cape May Street,  
Harrison, NJ 07029

Scan Code for more  
Commencement  
information!

Please join HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber for a

# TOWN HALL MEETING

on Monday, May 23 | 12 p.m.

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

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

**North Hudson Campus**  
 4800 Kennedy Blvd.,  
 Room N703, Union City, NJ

**Virtual at:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/TownHall-May>  
 Meeting ID: 2631 119 2107  
 Password: MayTH2022

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Cheryl De Dios  
Shirley Parra  
Marcelo E. Cazar Espinoza

#### 10 Years

Jacqueline Castillo

#### 15 Years

Christian Sanchez

## NEW HIRES

Suhani Aggarwal, Accounts Payable Officer  
(effective April 13, 2022)

Denzil Hinds, Senior Maintenance Mechanic  
(effective April 18, 2022)

Ismael J. Ramos-Peñaherrera,  
Customer Service Clerk (effective April 13, 2022)

## TEMPORARY FULL-TIME APPOINTMENT:

Deliana Acosta, Social Worker  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

Tatiana Gaona Zuniga, Interim Director of  
Career Services (effective April 14, 2022)

Brianna Heim, Coordinator, Continuing  
Education and Workforce Development  
(effective April 13, 2022)

Mackenzie Johnson, Academic Counselor  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

Nicholas Mangal, Academic Counselor  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

Richard Remoura, Academic Counselor  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

Alyssa Rupnarain, Academic Counselor  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

Elizabeth Ryan, Academic Counselor  
(Grant-funded) (grant extension)

## MODIFICATION TO STAFFING TABLE: NEW TITLES

Pamela Bandyopadhyay, Associate Dean,  
Academic Development and Support Services  
to Associate Dean, Academic Affairs  
(effective April 13, 2022)

Patrizia Barroero, Associate Director,  
Writing and Tutoring Center to  
Associate Director, ESL Programs  
(effective April 13, 2022)

Kenny Fabara, Director, Writing and Tutoring  
Center to Director, Academic Affairs  
(effective April 13, 2022)

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS FOR MAY 2022

### Languishing and Flourishing

(Live – All Employees, Wednesday, May 18,  
12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

If you've ever felt lackluster, disconnected, or just blah, you may have experienced languishing. In this session, understand what languishing is and how to identify it, and learn some techniques to help you thrive again.

### Confident Leadership (Live – Leaders and Managers, Wednesday, May 25,

12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Even as leaders, it's not uncommon to feel self-doubt. In this session, we'll learn to assess our own level of confidence, how to self-empower, and how to help our team members to enjoy improved self-esteem.

### Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Grief, Illness and Family Care-Giving (Pre-Recorded)

While companies believe they have policies and procedures implemented to manage difficult employee situations, the real challenge is the day-to-day interaction with the employee or workgroup, as needs are personal, and no two situations are the same. This webinar will provide everyone with practical advice on communicating, managing the situation, requesting the support needed to balance work with home life and providing guidance for co-workers to support and understand the challenges of both the employee and the employer.

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

## FULL CIRCLE: HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT MENTORS & STUDENTS



Pictured left to right: Abraham Aguilar, Mr. Hamer, Angel Ayala

When speaking of life's "full circle," we often reconnect with people from our past who helped mold who we have become. The Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management (BCH) division is proud of its graduates, who receive mentorship from our devoted faculty. Our faculty interact with alumni, who recognize them throughout their daily routines. For example, on a recent flight on United Airlines, an adjunct faculty member from the Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management (BCH) division and inflight crew member Robert Hamer reunited with two alumni from the AAS Hospitality Management program at HCCC. Abraham Aguilar was the ticketing agent for the flight, while Angel Ayala was on the inflight cabin crew flying from Newark to Houston. This "full circle" moment was genuinely memorable for Robert and the alumni and worthy of recognition.

## FREE SOUP SPONSORED BY THE CULINARY CLUB OF THE CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE

The Culinary Club of HCCC has been preparing hot meals with Chef Anuchit Pukdeedamrongrit (Chef Puk) since July 2020. There have been close to 10,000 meals donated to the HCCC community through the Hudson Helps food pantries at the Journal Square and the North Hudson Campuses. From February 16 through March 23, 2022, the Culinary Club took on the additional role of providing complimentary hot soup on Wednesdays from the Foundation Subscription Dining Series in the Culinary Conference Center. 300 hot soups were distributed to members of the HCCC family. The Culinary Club will continue to serve the College community with pride. They realize giving back to the community supports their success. After all, Hudson is Home!



Pictured left to right: Victoria Ann Collins, Mariana Castano, Marina Youssef.

# STAR RECOGNITION RECEPTION



Pictured from left: HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber (pictured at right in each photo) congratulating honorees Willie Malone (25 years of service), Angela Tuzzo (20 years), Deseree McFarlane (20 years), and Lawrence Louie (10 years).

On Thursday, April 21, Hudson County Community College held its ninth annual Special Thanks And Recognition (STAR) event to acknowledge employee service milestones. Every year, the College recognizes and celebrates

service anniversaries starting from five years, and this year recognizing up to 30 years of incredible service. Nearly 100 members of the HCCC community joined the celebration. The STARs shared memories

of their time at the College, and Anna Krupitskiy, Vice President for Human Resources, shared fun facts from starting years while serving as mistress of ceremonies. The College also extended its appreciation to those retiring.

## FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

### FIVE YEARS

- Eric Adamson
- Faisal Aljamal
- Maurice Dasent
- Lisa Dougherty, Ed.D.
- Matthew Fessler
- Karen Galli
- Jenny Henriquez
- Maria Lynette Lacson
- Leslie Lang
- Samaya Yashayeva
- Wajia Zahur

### 10 YEARS

- Shannonine Caruana
- Jacqueline Castillo
- Patrick Del Piano
- Emanuele Infurna
- Nadia Hedhli
- Miryam Hernandez

- Shameka Jennings
- Lawrence Louie
- Craig McLaughlin
- Diana Perez

### 15 YEARS

- Carmen Garcia
- Alexa Riano
- Christian Sanchez

### 20 YEARS

- Angela Hebert
- Deseree McFarlane
- Ana Moran
- Angela Tuzzo
- Cathie Seidman

### 25 YEARS

- Willie Malone

### 30 YEARS

- Marie Mahood

## PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

### FIVE YEARS

- Michaelangelo Alkuino
- Rushi Bhatt
- Ronny Canales
- Matthew Gomez
- Carmen Guerra
- Justin Jandik
- Suton Jordan
- Farhan Khan
- Erika Ramirez
- Ana Velasquez

### 10 Years

- Laura Burnett
- Carlos Dunn-Fernandez
- Marina Laborde
- Angelita Tubungbanua

### 15 Years

- Lewis Livesay
- Olivia Na

### 30 Years

- Hussein Odeh

### RETIREES

- Maria Arroyo
- Nitzia Berrio
- Anthony Choo-Yick
- Mary Ellen Cvek
- Gilda Darias-Hershberger
- Lidia Fernandez
- Salvador Figueras
- Siroun Meguerditchian
- Jennifer Oakley
- Harvey Rubinstein
- Rosie Soy
- Gregory Smith
- Marcella Williams



## Ignite HCCC's Future

**Give \$20.22 to pay it forward to future HCCC grads.**

Your gift opens a world of possibilities to HCCC students and our community. Together, we ensure the future of our students, and our College looks brighter than ever. Help us bring students' dreams to life. Make your \$20.22 gift to support tomorrow's graduates. Thanks to you, HCCC's future is bright!

Su donación abre un mundo de posibilidades para los estudiantes de HCCC y nuestra comunidad. Juntos, aseguramos el futuro de nuestros estudiantes y nuestro Colegio se ve más brillante que nunca. Ayúdenos en hacer realidad los sueños de los estudiantes. Haga su donación de \$20.22 para apoyar a los graduados de mañana. ¡Gracias a usted, el futuro de HCCC es brillante!

You Can Make a Difference.



**DONATE NOW:**  
[www.hccc.edu/foundation](http://www.hccc.edu/foundation)

For questions, or to give through ACH, wire, or check contact: [foundation@hccc.edu](mailto:foundation@hccc.edu)



Join us to celebrate

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony**  
Thursday, May 26, 2022  
12 p.m.

Red Bull Arena -600 Cape May Street, Harrison, NJ 07029

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,750+ 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.



Donald Baechler, *The Long and the Short* (2004),  
32" x 44" 21 Color Silkscreen Collage

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to Alexandre Baldassano and Francesca Baldassano for the generous donation of six beautiful artworks by Vincent Baldassano.

Congratulations to former HCCC art professor Christopher Schade on his May 1-29 solo exhibit, "Fortifications," at Park Place Gallery. The gallery is open Friday – Sunday (noon to 6 p.m.) and is located at 167 Wilson Avenue in Brooklyn, NY.

## Artist News

If you like the work of **Meret Oppenheim** installed on the first floor of 2 Enos Place, you might enjoy the new piece about her in *ARTnews*: <https://tinyurl.com/ArtOppenheim>. The item reviews the retrospective of her work now on view at the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. She is most famous for a surreal sculpture called *Object*, a fur-lined teacup in the Museum of Modern Art collection. What's the story behind that work? She made *Object* in 1936 when she was 23. "[T]he familiar assemblage, comprising a teacup, saucer, and spoon, all clad in fur, was conceived one day while Oppenheim was enjoying tea at a Parisian café, where she was joined by Pablo Picasso and

Dora Maar. Having gotten her start making ostensibly functional things, Oppenheim was wearing a bracelet she designed for the Italian company Schiaparelli, a thick metal bangle coated in ocelot fur. The three friends joked, as the story goes, that just about anything could be covered in fur, 'even,' Oppenheim suggested, 'this cup!' She called the waiter over: 'Garçon, more fur!' Reflecting on the work decades later, the artist pointed out that it made some sense, after all, to use a fur coat to keep her beverage warm."

A recent *New York Times* article about **Faith Ringgold's** newest book *Faith Ringgold: Politics/Power* (written with her daughter Michele Wallace and Kirsten Weiss), notes that her art from the 1960s onward "pushes the viewer toward ... questions: about the whiteness of women's liberation, about the exclusion of Black artists from the establishment, about criminal justice. The oil paintings, collages, photos, and textiles ... trace 25 years of U.S. history through the eyes of a key figure in the Black Power and Black feminist movements." The artist says, 'I didn't want people to be able to look, and look away ... I want to grab their eyes and hold them because this is America.'" Her work is on display on the third and sixth floors of the Gabert Library.

Recently, *The Washington Post* reported on new artwork by Yoko Ono (<https://tinyurl.com/Art-Ono/>): Every day in March, between 8:22 p.m. and 8:25 p.m., in New York City's Times Square, the words "Imagine Peace" appeared on a giant billboard. In New York in the 1960s, Ono was part of a group of artists called the Fluxus group: "They believed that everything is art and anyone can do

it." What do you think art is? Does this billboard fit into your idea of art?

The College recently installed a limited-edition print by Newark-born artist **Barbara Kruger** on the second floor of 2 Enos Place. She is also featured in a profile in the *Art Newspaper*, "Barbara Kruger: 'Thank God I'm an artist and not a movie or TikTok star.'" The article celebrates her retrospective, now on view at the Chicago Art Institute. The artist, who refuses to use TikTok or Instagram, says, "We live in this digital universe. Digital life has been emancipating and liberatory, but at the same time, it's haunting and damaging and punishing and everything in between. It's enabled the best and the worst of us."

**Shirin Neshat**, whose work the Foundation Art Collection recently acquired, says, "For me, Art was a way to encounter my problems as a human being with anxiety, pain, and insecurity." To see a beautiful short video about the artist, go here: <https://moca.ca/exhibitions/shirin-neshat-2022>. This video was created in conjunction with her new show at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Toronto through July 31.

Rest in Peace, **Donald Baechler**, who died last month at 65. His ideas live on in his art, which you can see on the second floor of the Gabert Library. People either love it or hate it. *ARTnews* noted: "Critics were often split on the merits of Baechler's work, with some praising it for its simplicity and others disparaging it for a perceived vacuousness. Robert Pincus-Witten once wrote it was important to see a kind of humor in Baechler's work, saying, 'While maintaining his attraction to the scale of Abstract Expressionist painting, Baechler yielded to the appeal of children's drawings and the range of imagery associated with American folk art. Yet there is nothing of the 'outsider' in his work, even if the edgy recognition of the faux-naïf is ever present in our minds — a kind of warning signal never to take his works too seriously, however serious their execution may be.'" (<https://tinyurl.com/ArtBaechler>)

**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 at (201) 360-4069 or [nicolejohnson@hccc.edu](mailto:nicolejohnson@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)

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
presents



For more information, email: [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)

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEBUTS  
COSMIC SPATIAL REASONING**



Pictured left to right: Eric Jiaju Lee, Eun Young Choi, Michael Lee, Jeremiah Teipen, Furen Dai, and Katie Niewodowski.

During the recent celebration of Hudson County Community College's North Hudson Campus 10th Anniversary, campus tours included a new Art Concourse located in the NHC Library. The inaugural exhibit in this new space is "Cosmic Spatial Reasoning."



Eric Jiaju Lee

In partnership with the North Hudson Campus, the College's Department of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion marked the 10th NHC anniversary with a new art concourse to unite our community through arts. Each semester, the department will create an exhibit and art reception with music, poetry readings, and more to enhance the college experience.

The inaugural Art Concourse at North Hudson Campus exhibition hosts works by HCCC Computer and Studio Art Professors Eric Jiaju Lee, Eun Young Choi, Michael Lee, Jeremiah Teipen, Furen Dai, and Katie Niewodowski. Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs, curated the exhibit.

**DOCA HOSTS 'WORDS-WORTH:  
A POETRY MONTH EVENT'**



Pictured from left: Michelle Vitale, HCCC Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Gerald Lyons, Jersey City Public Schools Board of Education President; Ellen M. Ruane, Jersey City Public Schools Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Erika Schulz, Jersey City Public Schools Language Arts Supervisor; and Sara Riccobono, Jersey City Public Schools Instructional Specialist.

In partnership with Jersey City Public Schools and families, the Department of Cultural Affairs hosted a special poetry celebration at the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery. Over 250 people were in attendance throughout the first week of April.

**DON'T MISS**  
Hudson County  
Community College

**OUT of the BOX**  
PODCAST



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

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.

**MEDICAL ASSISTING PROGRAM RECEIVES  
CAAHEP ACCREDITATION**

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) voted on Friday, March 18, 2022, to award initial accreditation to the Medical Assisting Associate Degree program at Hudson County Community College.

A "recent peer review conducted by the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) and CAAHEP's Board of Directors recognizes the program's compliance with the nationally established accreditation Standards," according to the notification sent to the College.

Subsequent evaluation of the program will occur by Spring 2027.

CAAHEP accredits educational programs that prepare health professionals in various

disciplinary areas. Accreditation is one step in a process intended to protect the public and ensure a supply of qualified health care professionals. CAAHEP accredits programs after assessing them as meeting the educational standards and guidelines established by a profession.

HCCC's Medical Assisting Program prepares graduates for employment in ambulatory settings such as medical offices and clinics. The College assists students in building essential administrative skills and clinical procedures. Medical Assisting Program graduates are prepared to complete their externship hours in clinical sites and qualified to sit for certification exams.

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR AND PROFESSOR RECEIVE PHI THETA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AWARDS



*HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber presents Veronica Gerosimo, Assistant Dean of Student Life and Leadership, with the Phi Theta Kappa 2022 Distinguished College Administrator Award*



*Professor Theodore Lai, longtime advisor of Beta Alpha Phi Chapter, is the recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa 2022 Continued Excellence Award for Advisors. The award was presented during the Catalyst convention in April.*

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) announced that two members of the HCCC family were recognized with awards from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the premier international honor society.

Professor Theodore Lai is the recipient of the PTK 2022 Continued Excellence Award for Advisors. Veronica Gerosimo, the College's Assistant Dean of Student Life and Leadership, is one of just 28 individuals to receive the PTK 2022 Distinguished College Administrator Award. Professor Lai and Ms. Gerosimo were recently honored at the 2022 PTK Middle States Regional Convention in Galloway, NJ. In April, they were also formally recognized at the Society's annual convention in Denver, Colorado.

"I know I speak on behalf of the entire HCCC family in congratulating Professor Lai and Dean Gerosimo on these well-deserved honors," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher M. Reber. "Their commitment to helping our students achieve their

academic dreams, and to providing students with opportunities to progress from being student leaders to community leaders is exemplary and inspirational."

The Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society was established in 1918 to recognize high-achieving students at associate-degree-granting colleges and help them reach their full potential. PTK provides members with opportunities to develop professional and leadership skills, earn scholarships, explore career paths, and improve communities. Today the honor society has more than 3.8 million members at nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries.

The HCCC Beta Alpha Phi chapter of PTK has earned the distinction of Five Star Chapter Status, the Society's highest level of recognition. The PTK chapter plan offers five levels of engagement, with each level consisting of prescribed activities to build a strong, active chapter. To be eligible for Beta Alpha Phi membership, students must complete

at least 12 hours of coursework toward a college degree or at least six hours of coursework toward a one-year certificate and maintain a cumulative 3.5 grade point average (GPA).

HCCC PTK members dedicate their time and talents to a variety of community projects, including environmental cleanups at Liberty State Park and other locations; mentoring incarcerated students; spearheading blood and bone marrow donation drives; participating in Bike MS and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walks; volunteering in food pantry and homeless projects; and much more.

HCCC students and leaders are the recipients of many PTK honors.

- Each year, Beta Alpha Phi students are named to the PTK New Jersey All-State Academic Team.
- For the past several years, PTK has named Beta Alpha Phi members to its prestigious All-USA Academic Team of high-achieving students and awarded them scholarships.
- In 2020, HCCC alumnus Abderahim Salhi was one of 15 recipients of the PTK Guistwhite Scholarship.
- HCCC 2021 Valedictorian Pedro Moranchel, now a Princeton student, received the 2021 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship that covers tuition, living expenses, books and required fees up to \$40,000 a year for three years.
- HCCC 2021 grad Adoum Allamine was also a recipient of the 2021 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship; he is now attending Columbia University.
- Dr. Reber was also recognized with the PTK "Paragon President" award in 2020.



*Nearly 140 prospective students and their guests visited the Journal Square Campus on Saturday, April 23 for the College's Spring Open House.*



*On Wednesday, April 20, the Hudson Helps Resource Center celebrated its first anniversary.*



*The Office of Transfer Pathways, in collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Fund Program, held a Transfer Fair at the North Hudson Campus on Thursday, April 14, where 13 colleges met with HCCC students.*

## EOF DAY AT THE CAPITOL



EOF Program Departments and Scholars from around the state gathered for EOF Day in Trenton.

On Thursday, March 24, 2022, Hudson County Community College Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Scholars and staff traveled – with their EOF counterparts from Saint Peter’s University and New Jersey City University – to the EOF Statewide Student Day at the Capitol in Trenton. This important annual event provides opportunities for EOF Scholars from every New Jersey higher education institution to meet with legislators, and advocate for the EOF Program’s continuation by speaking about the impact the program has had on their

lives. Legislators, who indicated their continued support of EOF by approving funding each year, also provided all EOF Scholars with opportunities to intern – in the legislators’ offices – on an array of projects.

HCCC EOF Academic Achievers and EOF Professional Association of New Jersey were accompanied by HCCC EOF Assistant Director, Tejal Parekh, MSW; EOF Counselor, Kyara Martin, MSW; and EOF part-time staffer, Samantha Ramirez.

## HCCC AND STOCKTON UNIVERSITY SIGN DUAL-ADMISSION TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Continued from page 2

“This transfer agreement demonstrates Hudson County Community College’s commitment to providing our students with seamless, high-quality educational pathways that lead to upward social and economic mobility,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher M. Reber. “We are proud to continue working with President Kesselman and his team to expand opportunities for HCCC students.”

Dr. Reber stated that this agreement takes the College’s dedication to providing a

transformational, cost-effective education even further. “HCCC students realize more than \$20,000 in tuition savings before transferring to a four-year college or university,” he said. “More than 83% of HCCC full-time students receive financial aid, and the HCCC Foundation awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships last year.”

“Our enrollment of students from Hudson County has been growing,” said Stockton University President Dr. Harvey Kesselman. “This program will provide even more students with the opportunity to earn an affordable four-year college degree.”

## HCCC AND MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY SIGN TRANSFER AGREEMENT

Continued from page 3

Beginning in September, HCCC and MSU advisors will counsel HCCC students one-on-one and assist them in selecting classes with course-to-course equivalency for nearly 20 associate-to-bachelor degree programs. These include opportunities for seamless transfer from HCCC’s Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), and Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.) degree programs to corresponding Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), and Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) programs offered at Montclair State University.

HCCC students who meet MSU admission standards and comply with admissions procedures are eligible to benefit from these agreements. Both HCCC and MSU will work to minimize duplicate coursework. HCCC students who attain their associate degrees at HCCC will have their credits

transfer seamlessly to corresponding bachelor degree programs at MSU.

“We are proud to expand our partnership with Montclair State University. This agreement further opens the doors for HCCC students to pursue direct pathways to attain their baccalaureate degrees,” Dr. Reber said. “They will be counseled on program-specific requirements, reverse transfer options, admissions procedures, financial aid, and other matters that will ultimately save them time and money.”

“This transfer agreement exemplifies Hudson County Community College’s commitment to our mission of providing our students – and the entire Hudson County community with high-quality educational programs and services that promote student success and upward social and economic mobility,” Dr. Reber stated.

## HCCC MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

Continued from page 2

Sires emigrated to the United States with his family from Cuba, learned English, attended Saint Peter’s College on a basketball scholarship, earned his master’s degree, and dedicated his life to serving the people of his adopted home – Hudson County.”

Chairman Netchert said that the Congressman was a teacher and a business owner before entering public service. He first served as Mayor of West New York for 12 years. As the New Jersey Assembly Speaker, he created the STARS (Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship) and STARS II programs, which offer full county and state college tuition scholarships to thousands of students. He was also responsible for passing a \$760 million public education bill.

“Albio Sires provided the impetus for building this North Hudson Campus. He and his Hudson County colleagues in the Assembly and Senate advocated a full HCCC campus, not just a satellite facility, right here where many of our students reside,” Mr. Netchert said.

The magnificent, seven-story HCCC North Hudson Campus is replete with lecture halls, classrooms, and labs, all outfitted with up-to-the-minute technologies. The campus includes an Enrollment Center; Bookstore; Community Education Office; outdoor courtyard with seating and tables; Student Lounge/Cyber Café; 2,400 square-foot Multipurpose Room; 3,600 square-foot Learning Resource Center and Library; Art Studio; and a bridge walkway that provides secure, direct access to the New Jersey Transit Bergenline Avenue Transportation Center.

Students can complete 19 academic programs at the HCCC North Hudson Campus, including Associate in Science degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice-Homeland Security, and Environmental Studies; Associate in Arts degrees in Business, Elementary/Secondary, Education-Elementary/Secondary (Liberal Arts), English, History, Liberal Arts (General), Psychology (Liberal Arts), Sociology, and Special Education; Associate in Applied Science degrees in Early Childhood Education (Liberal Arts) and Health Sciences; Digital Art and Design Proficiency Certificate; Early Childhood Education Child Development Associate (CDA) Coursework; and Infant/Toddler CDA Professional Development.

“The North Hudson Campus Atrium, with its soaring ceiling, is filled with light. Naming this space for Albio Sires will forever commemorate the hope, promise, and light he brought and continues to bring to so many Hudson County residents,” Dr. Reber said.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Upcoming Programs & Events

May 5, 2022 - May 19, 2022  
**The Basics of Infographics**  
 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/217048657377>

May 10, 2022 - June 10, 2022  
**Conversational Italian – Intermediate to Advanced Learners**  
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays and Fridays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/327532999017>

May 10, 2022 - June 28, 2022  
**Social Media Marketing Certificate Program**  
 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/311963470137>

May 12, 2022  
**Basic Life Support Certification (BLS)**  
 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (Thursday)  
[www.tinyurl.com/BLSSpring22](http://www.tinyurl.com/BLSSpring22)

May 12, 2022 - June 16, 2022  
**Microsoft Office Excel III**  
 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/293398451667>

May 19, 2022 - June 2, 2022  
**Financial Basics for Personal Finances & Wealth Building**  
 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/293412313127>

May 24, 2022  
**Basic Life Support Certification (BLS)**  
 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (Tuesday)  
[www.tinyurl.com/BLSSpring22](http://www.tinyurl.com/BLSSpring22)

May 31, 2022 - July 12, 2022  
**Welcome to Computer Basics**  
 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Tuesdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/330666230597>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
 Department of Continuing Education  
 161 Newkirk Street, Room E504  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 (201) 360-4224 | [CE@hccc.edu](mailto:CE@hccc.edu)  
[www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation](http://www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation)



*Scenes from Continuing Education's ESL courses with instructor Marwa Abdelaziz.*

### Register Now! Continuing Education's ESL In-Person & Online Classes for Summer/Fall 2022

Learn English with Hudson County Community's Continuing Education experts! We will develop a personalized ESL plan to help you achieve your goals and seek opportunities! To register, please call Continuing Education at (201) 360-4224 or email [ce@hccc.edu](mailto:ce@hccc.edu). To learn more visit: <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/esl.html>



*Students visit the Statue of Liberty during Continuing Education's Classroom Au Pair travel course: Exploring Digital Photography and NYC: The Big Apple.*



*Scenes from Continuing Education's Classroom Au Pair destination course: Exploring Digital Photography and South Florida - Miami and Key West.*

To learn more visit:

<https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/au-pair/index.html>



*Scene from Continuing Education's course, Digital Marketing Strategies for Impact and Influence, with instructor Chastity Farrell.*

## EMPLOYER HIGHLIGHTS

**John Sasso** is the Associate Director of EY Technology, working within the Information Security organization as part of the Business Enablement team. In his current role, he supports people initiatives and programs, and leads DEI and global campus and learning programs. Previously, he led the Technical Experience Support Department for the New York EY offices and was responsible for providing technical support and services to over 12,000 customers across the NY market. A graduate of Saint Peter's University, and a co-lead for the tri-state AccessAbility resource network at EY, over the past 25 years, he has been involved in volunteer efforts with organizations to support students with disabilities and work to increase employment. He is a volunteer board member with NYC DoE Career and Technical Education (CTE), NJ Advisory Board member NPower, and a volunteer mentor to many finance and technology students. John is an organizer and sponsor of the EY speaker series and is a member of the Gateway to Innovation Employer Advisory Board.

**Luis De La Hoz** is the Regional Director at Valley Bank and Chairman, Board of Directors for the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of NJ. He is a driven leader dedicated to making a difference in the Latino Business Owner market. He supports not-for-profit organizations and partners with corporations to facilitate community outreach programs. Luis works exceptionally well with the Latino Small Business Owner market by acting as an advisor to Latino Entrepreneurs with specialized training, certifications, and bilingual services so business owners and corporations can feel confident in their community involvement. Luis holds multiple community events at HCCC and is a member of the Gateway to Innovation Employer Advisory Board.



## CALENDAR

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

### Monday, May 2

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>

Mental Health Awareness Month De-stress event, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Gabert Library Makerspace, 71 Sip Ave. RSVP at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/8086430>

### Tuesday, May 3

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

NHC Grad BBQ, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., North Hudson Campus, Student Lounge

Radiography Program Q&A Session, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register/join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m624a4a3ac91c7afdf50a0839b9b831d9e>; Meeting number: 2634 226 9430; Password: FXnjBgce674

### Wednesday, May 4

Mental Health Awareness Month De-stress event, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., North Hudson Campus. Student Lounge. RSVP at <https://involved.hccc.edu/>

Balance and Stabilization Assessment, 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Gabert Library Makerspace, 71 Sip Ave.

JSQ Grad BBQ, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Culinary Plaza Park

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

### Thursday, May 5

La Hermandad/The Sisterhood Storytelling Event, 12 p.m. Register at <https://zoom.us/join/register/tJAqdu6prDMiGdR3jEKca3dZDkP-SWOSkOQAB>

Honors Speeches/Paper Presentations, 2 p.m. Join at <https://tinyurl.com/paperspring22>; ID: 929 9379 4247; Password: 626792

Dollars for Scholars, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Gabert Library, 71 Sip Ave., Room 314, and North Hudson Campus, Room 409

### Friday, May 6

Fitness Friday, 3 p.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m94b5d3cd01c81a55342b4f27825e6ab>; Meeting number: 2632 873 7367; Password: wellness

National Society of Leadership and Success Induction, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Student Center Multipurpose Room, 81 Sip Ave.

EOF Graduation Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St.

### Saturday, May 7

Phi Theta Kappa Induction, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, Banquet Room, 161 Newkirk St. Join virtually at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m3a63a2ac3f8df52e80c3aace5c083f3d>

### Monday, May 9

Honors Program Virtual Poster Presentation, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Join at <https://tinyurl.com/posterspring22>; ID: 958 1220 6815; Passcode: 945152

### Tuesday, May 10 – Monday, May 16

Last classes and/or final exams

### Tuesday, May 10

Learning Community Day, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=mb0c3824c025bc65cc57cd3b1efb21b61>; Meeting number (access code): 2635 289 1601; Meeting password: iyD3QqCn3e8

Kente Graduation, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St., Banquet Room

### Wednesday, May 11

Alpha Sigma Lambda Induction, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Student Center Multipurpose Room, 81 Sip Ave.

### Thursday, May 12

HCCC Foundation West Hudson Scholarship Committee Wine and Cheese Event, 5:30 p.m., Gabert Library, 71 Sip Ave.

### Friday, May 13

DEISPP Completion Ceremony, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Gabert Library, 71 Sip Ave., Sixth Floor Gallery Atrium

### Saturday, May 14

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

### Monday, May 16

Lavender Graduation, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Gabert Library, 71 Sip Ave., Sixth Floor Gallery Atrium

### Tuesday, May 17

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/91565515084?pwd=amFnM2lFVFJmZjA3V3Q2RmhjVVV3Zz09>; ID: 915 6551 5084; Passcode: 715606

“Si Se Puede” Information Session, 6 p.m. (Accessibility Services); join virtually at <https://bit.ly/HCCCSiSePuede>

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

### Wednesday, May 18

2022 Academic Excellence Recognition Ceremony, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St., Banquet Room

### Thursday, May 19

Last day to submit final grades

Commencement Formal, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Hudson House, Jersey City, NJ, Tickets must be purchased in advance.

### Saturday, May 21

The Summer Kick-Off, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2 Enos Place, Jersey City

### Monday, May 23

Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor. Join virtually at <https://tinyurl.com/TownHall-May>; Meeting ID: 2631 119 2107; Password: MayTH2022

2022 Student Leadership and Achievement Recognition Ceremony, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St., Banquet Room

### Tuesday, May 24

ESL Pathways to Graduation Celebration, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk St., Banquet Room

### Thursday, May 26

Commencement, Red Bull Arena, Harrison, 12 p.m.

### Saturday, May 28

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

### Monday, May 30

Memorial Day – College closed

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For more information on how to register, go to

[www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes](http://www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes).

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Royal Mainor

**Class of 2008**

**Associate of Applied Science in Accounting**

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

I was a high school dropout who desired better for myself and my two daughters. This led me to attend HCCC's GED Preparation classes. After taking the math section three times, I passed, exceeding the score. I did not want to settle with only a GED. Therefore, I decided to enroll as a college student at HCCC in 2005 and major in accounting.

#### What is your favorite memory of the College, in or out of the classroom?

My favorite memory was Student Achievement & Excellence Awards Ceremony, held on Monday, May 5, 2008. I could not believe that as a high school dropout, a single mother of two daughters, the oldest sibling of 16, and a member of underrepresented population, I had earned and achieved through the many tears, hardships, struggles, and wanting to give up. I was awarded the following: Achievement, Career and Transfer Center, presented by Cynthia Hawkins, Counselor; Outstanding Achievement Award, Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), presented by Ruben Melendez, Director; Academic Achievement, GPA averages 3.2 to 3.4, Presented by Ruben Melendez, Director; Outstanding Academic Achievement (GPA averages between 3.50 and 3.99), presented by Ruben Melendez, Director.

#### How did you become interested in Accounting?

As a high school dropout seeking employment, I landed multiple positions at H&R Block. Certainly, I did not know I'd be given an opportunity by my supervisor to work as a receptionist at 17 years of age. Then two years later, I was encouraged to take the tax preparation course; if I passed with a score of 80, I would be hired as a Tax Professional. I passed with a score of 90 on the first attempt. Oh, how excited I felt! In my first year, I prepared more than 50 clients' tax returns and received my first end-of-season bonus check of more than \$1,000, which led to my interest in accounting. Moreover, years later, I taught a Basic Tax Preparation course.

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

HCCC will forever be a world of possibilities through my lens. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to be part of an amazing staff, faculty, leadership, and student body. While furthering my education at New Jersey City University and Saint Peter's University, I was afforded an opportunity



in my academic career at HCCC to be a note-taker, tutor, Learning Community assistant, and a Foundations summer tutor; all of these positions enabled me to acquire classroom management skills and knowledge while assisting in classroom settings with the following faculty members: Dr. Mary Daane, Executive Director Joseph Caniglia, Professor Brian Plunkett, and Professor Craig McLaughlin. I am grateful and humble in my career at HCCC as a full-time Admissions Recruiter and Accounting & Business Instructor. Presently, I am pursuing my Ed.D. in Community College Leadership at NJCU. In addition, I authored a new book, *She Is Pretty Strong Prayer Devotional Journal*. I am the Founder/Owner of a startup business: She Is Pretty Strong LLC.

#### What is a typical workday for you?

A typical workday for me is executing my duties in the Office of Enrollment Services. Additionally, twice a week I teach Principles of Accounting I and Introduction to Business courses remotely.

#### What has been the most special project/case you have worked on?

I participated in a discussion panel titled "Women in the Workplace" during a Women's History Month hosted by the College. I shared my life experiences as a professional woman. I discussed how I chose my career and offered suggestions to the attendees on managing challenges in their lives.

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

So many individuals have impacted my life. My biggest inspirations are my dad and mom. My mom will always be the first Pretty "Strong" woman I love. Certainly, the people I meet day-to-day as a recruiter and other students I get to meet every semester after teaching since 2014. They motivate me to continue doing my very best as an educator.

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

Stay focused and never stop learning.

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

I would encourage students to find a mentor and surround themselves with positive people; keep the faith, and never give up.

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