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HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED A "2026 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®" WITH HONOR ROLL DISTINCTION



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From the Editor's Desk

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

We welcome submissions highlighting **new programs, faculty and student accomplishments, College initiatives, awards, events, and other noteworthy news** from across the College community

Digital photos must be high resolution JPG. This means 300 dpi at actual print size.

Images in this issue used for other purposes is strictly prohibited without the express advance consent of the Communications Department.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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Deadline for the December newsletter: Friday, November 13, 2026.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED A "2026 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®" WITH HONOR ROLL DISTINCTION

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is one of 76 colleges and universities nationwide recognized by ModernThink LLC as a 2026 "Great College to Work For®." The honor recognizes institutions that successfully create great workplaces and understand the factors that shape organizational culture in higher education.

This is the fifth consecutive year HCCC has earned the recognition, receiving honors for excellence in Professional Development, Supervisor/Department Chair Effectiveness, Faculty and Staff Well-being, Shared Governance, Faculty Experience, and Inclusion, Belonging and Community. The College was also named to the Great Colleges Honor Roll for the third time, joining 42 institutions recognized most frequently across the award categories.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results. This year's recognition was based on responses from 171 colleges and universities. Of those, 76 earned recognition for specific workplace best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with HCCC included among the medium institutions.

The Great Colleges to Work For® program uses a two-part assessment that includes an institutional questionnaire covering employment data and workplace policies, and a survey of faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. Employee feedback is the primary factor in selecting institutions for recognition.

"We are honored to receive this recognition, which belongs to the entire HCCC community," said Dr. Lisa Dougherty, HCCC Interim President. "Hudson County Community College is a great college to work for because of the hard work, dedication, caring, and contributions of the entire College community. We are proud to work together in this special place where all are valued and supported."

ON THE COVER: ***HCCC faculty at the 2026 Commencement celebration.***

GIVING TUESDAY
is December 1, 2026

For giving options visit:
hccc.edu/foundation

COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date information, please visit https://www.hccc.edu/calendar.

Hudson County Community College reserves the right to modify the calendar as necessary.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMPUTER ARTS PROFESSOR RECOGNIZED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ADVANCED VISUAL INTERFACES

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Professor Jeremiah Teipen, Coordinator of Computer Arts, received the Best Interactive Experience Award at the international Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI). Selected from 51 presenters, Teipen earned the award for his independent work exploring the intersection of art and technology.

Encouraged by colleagues, he submitted his work to AVI2026, hosted by Italian universities in Venice. The conference brought together researchers, artists, and practitioners exploring human-computer interaction.

A highlight came when keynote speaker Hiroshi Ishii, associate director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab and a pioneer of tangible user interfaces, approached Teipen after the award presentation to discuss his work and offer career advice.

Teipen's award-winning installation, *Always Controlled by What We Control: Rewiring Algorithmic Perception in an Interactive Installation*, examines how algorithmic prediction systems shape perception, behavior, and beliefs. Participants interact with a hybrid physical and virtual environment, where their movements trigger animated hallucinations and alter projected imagery. They can also rewire the interface using patch cables, changing the system's parameters and rules.



Pictured with Professor Teipen (center) are Dr. Antonella De Angeli (left) of Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, Founding President of the University Ethical Committee Rector Delegate at the Ministry of University and Research; and Dr. Albrecht Schmidt (right), Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany), and Chair in Human-Centered Ubiquitous Media.

Teipen is exhibiting an expanded version of the installation in New York. **Watch the work in action at Vimeo (https://vimeo.com/1229166972).**

NEWS FROM HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE CRAIG GUY



An Update from Hudson County Executive Craig Guy on Building Affordable Housing in Hudson County

On October 7, Hudson County Executive Craig Guy hosted an affordable housing roundtable with Senator Andy Kim and Congressman Rob Menendez. During the discussion, County Executive Guy highlighted his Hudson County Affordable Housing Initiative, a program which aims to build new homes across four sites in Jersey City.

This includes hundreds of permanently affordable homes for working families. Senator Kim and Congressman Menendez stressed the importance of the ROAD to Housing Act, legislation which the National Association of Counties called the most significant federal housing bill over the last three decades. County Executive Guy, Senator Kim, and Congressman Menendez then hosted a panel discussion with leading affordable housing experts.

"I have been adamant and I remain steadfast that Hudson County government can do something to resolve the housing affordability crisis here in our community. Hudson County is leading the way with our plan to build over 1,000 new homes, including up to 300 new affordable homes on County-owned land near County Plaza," said Hudson County Executive Craig Guy. "Of course, we can't do this without our partners in municipal, state, and federal government, and I am excited to continue our work with Senator Kim, Congressman Menendez, the Board of County Commissioners, and Mayor Solomon to put these new programs to work to ensure that people can better afford housing throughout Hudson County."

"Everyone at the table is dedicated to the goal of making housing more affordable for New Jerseyans," said Senator Andy Kim. "We've taken real steps at the federal level by passing the ROAD to Housing Act, but we need to make sure it's implemented in a way that actually makes an impact. Conversations like these make sure we're on track and help us work together and sync our efforts on this essential and common goal."

"Safe, affordable housing is a fundamental human right, yet too many families are being priced out of the very communities they helped build," said Congressman Rob Menendez. "I am grateful to Senator Kim, Hudson County Executive Guy, and Mayor Solomon for bringing us together today to tackle these challenges head-on. While there is still more work to do to solve this crisis, I was incredibly proud to vote for the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act as a meaningful step forward, and I will always fight for the resources our families need to stay right here at home."

Jersey City Mayor James Solomon and Hoboken Mayor Emily Jabbour also provided remarks at the roundtable. The roundtable panelists included the following:

- Zoe Baldwin- Vice President, State Programs – Regional Plan Association
- Sam Gilman- Senior Strategist for Housing & Affordability – Office of the Governor
- Adam Gordon- Executive Director – Fair Share Housing Center
- Bill Matsikoudis- General Counsel – Hudson County Improvement Authority
- Camilo Mendez- Chief Financial Officer – Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- Peter T. Rosario- President & CEO – La Casa de Don Pedro
- Nicole Vecchione- Director of Research – Laborers Eastern Region Organizing Fund

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Dauri Abad Ramirez
Melanie Ibarra
Julie Rosario

Five Years

Tahrier Ahmad
Janet Chavez
Madeline Rivera
Hamza Saleem

10 Years

Matthew Fessler
Maurice Dasent

15 Years

Patrick Del Piano

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Lacresha Berry
Raycily Castillo
Carlos Cueto
Sabrina Gonzalez
Taylor Grant
Ethan Nardone
Jocelyn Rodriguez
Samantha Rodriguez
Erin Taylor
Joseph Wolf

Five Years

Suaad Aziz
Beverly Figueroa
Andrea Goodwin
Dhyey Patel
Margie Tabora
Juliet Veiga Da Souza

THANKFUL FOR HEALTHY HABITS: SMART EATING & DIABETES AWARENESS

November is a time to be grateful for the habits that support our health and well-being. As we observe National Diabetes Month, it is important to recognize that healthy choices such as smart eating, regular exercise, and maintaining a healthy weight can help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Diabetes affects millions of Americans and can lead to serious health complications, but adopting healthy habits today can contribute to a healthier future.

DID YOU KNOW....

Did you know EAP assists with resources to support your whole health? https://eap.lucethealth.com/topic/family-lifestyle/physical-health/

DISCOUNTS

HCCC has partnered with Working Advantage to provide employees with exclusive discounts on everyday purchases and exciting experiences! Through this program, employees can save on amusement parks, movie tickets, car rentals, hotels, retail shopping, sporting events, and much more. https://www.workingadvantage.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, November 3, 2026, is Election Day – Go Vote!

Wednesday, November 25, 2026, HCCC will close at 2 p.m.

Thursday, November 26, 2026 and Friday, November 27, 2026, HCCC will be closed!

HEALTHY HOLIDAY TIP

The holiday season doesn't mean giving up healthy habits. Focus on balanced meals, mindful portions, and enjoying your favorite foods in moderation. Healthy eating is about consistency, not perfection.

FUN FACT

Laughter as a workout: Laughing roughly 100 times provides cardiovascular benefits comparable to about 15 minutes on a stationary bike.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Healthy Eating & Diabetes National Diabetes Month https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/community-health-outreach/national-diabetes-month

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) - National Diabetes Month. https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/community-health-outreach/national-diabetes-month

American Diabetes Association (ADA) - Diabetes Prevention Resources. https://diabetes.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/11625-DPP-Consumer-Downloadble-DIGITAL-3-25-25.pdf

HUMAN RESOURCES IS AT NORTH HUDSON!

To better serve our entire college community, Human Resources is establishing a regular presence at the North Hudson Campus. Cynthia Reyes, Director of Talent Management, will be on-site weekly on Wednesdays in Room N703P. Whether you have specific HR questions or just want to say hello, feel free to drop in!

Instructor and Adjunct Recruitment Spotlight: Help Us Find HCCC's Next Great Educators!

Know someone who would be a great addition to our classrooms?
HCCC continues to seek talented educators who are passionate about teaching, supporting students, and making an impact in our community. Share the Opportunity. Inspire a Connection. Help Us Grow HCCC.

For Recruitment and Job Opportunities visit:
https://schooljobs.com/careers/hccc

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES SHAWN BRAGG AS ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

As Hudson County Community College (HCCC) prepares to launch its inaugural men's and women's basketball seasons, the College has appointed Shawn Bragg, M.S., EP-C, CPT, as its first-ever Associate Athletics Director.



Bragg reports to HCCC Director of Athletics Jonathan Sisk, and will assist with the College's athletic programs and activities, promote a culture of academic achievement and integrity, monitor student-athletes' academic progress, coordinate academic support, and help market and promote HCCC Athletics through regional, state, and national organizations.

"Shawn has extensive experience in the athletics industry and is well respected in all circles," said Mr. Sisk. "He brings a depth of knowledge of operations that will be invaluable as we grow the office and increase programming. Shawn is a natural leader who enjoys collaborating with students, colleagues, and community partners to provide resources for our student-athletes, and I look forward to working with him for years to come."

Bragg began his college athletics career while earning a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education/Fitness from Kean University, where he earned Dean's List and Lambda Alpha Sigma honors. He holds a master's degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania and is an American College of Sports Medicine Certified Exercise Physiologist.

Bragg joins HCCC from Saint Michael's College (VT), where he served as Director of Athletics Internal Operations since 2024. Previously, he served as Associate Director of Athletics for Operations and Compliance and briefly as Interim Director of Athletics at Saint Elizabeth University (NJ). He also held operations and aquatics positions at Division I Rider University and worked as a Clinical Exercise Physiologist at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and Recreation Coordinator with Atlantic Health System.

"Everyone at Hudson County Community College joins in welcoming Shawn Bragg to our team," said HCCC Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty. "We look forward to working with him and Jonathan as they prepare us for this exciting new chapter."

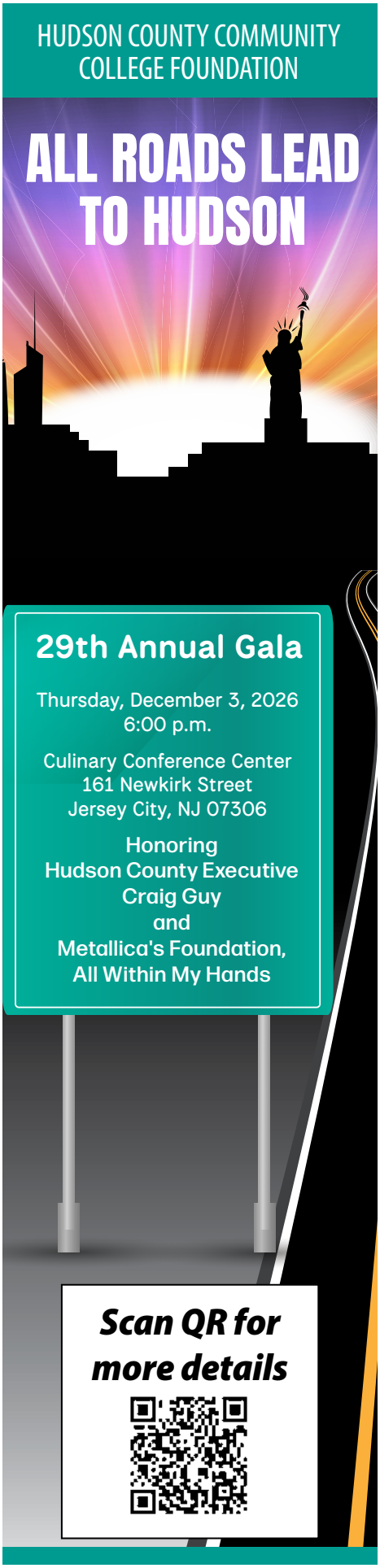
HCCC recently unveiled its new team name and mascot, the Hudson Hornets. The College will compete in NJCAA Region 15 Division III, launching men's and women's basketball this fall, followed by volleyball in Fall 2027 and additional varsity teams over the next five years.

HCCC HOLDS FALL OPEN HOUSES





Hudson County Community College (HCCC) welcomed prospective students to Open Houses at its North Hudson Campus on Thursday, Oct. 15 and Journal Square Campus on Saturday, Oct. 24. Guests connected with Academic Schools to explore programs and had the opportunity to apply for admission on-site.



Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,200+ works is installed in the public areas of campus buildings. The entire College is an educational art museum. This Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural history from the Hudson River School period to today.

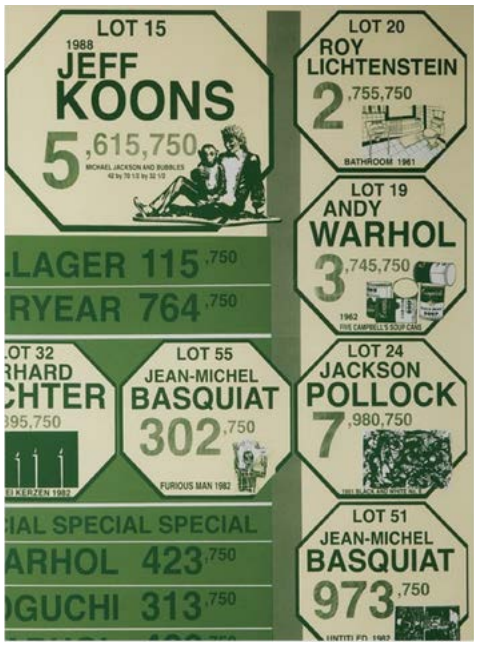
This page in HCCC *Happenings* provides updates on artists whose works are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you to Dr. Peter Acker for his generous donation of funds to support the Foundation Art Collection and the event celebrating the North Hudson Campus installation of works by his brother, artist **David Acker**. We look forward to announcing the event in the next few months. Everyone is welcome!

ARTIST NEWS

If you happen to be in Paris before January 27, be sure to check out the **Kerry James Marshall** exhibit, "Kerry James Marshall: The Histories" at Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. Closer to home, you can see the artist's work on the second floor of 2 Enos Place. Our work, called, "2001-05-15," critiques the ridiculous prices of art in the contemporary art market, showing the artist names and prices like a supermarket advertisement for what's on sale. The Paris exhibit features 70 works, four decades of art created by this most influential of contemporary painters. He is famous for his "large-scale compositions that center Black people, frequently elevating the everyday to the epic... Kerry James Marshall addresses themes including the Middle Passage [this term is used to describe 'the journey of captured Africans across the Atlantic to be sold as slaves'] and the legacies of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements, without directly depicting violence or alienation." He raises "questions about representation in art history and who and what has been excluded. The artist's radical approach—using a range of black pigments mixed



Kerry James Marshall, **2001-05-15** *(2004), 4 color Silkscreen, 28" x 23", Edition. R.I. (Rutgers Impression) 7/10*

with other colors—affects the viewer's perception of his figures."

"Women's Drawings, Feminist Works on Paper" were recently on view at Duane Thomas Gallery, 137 West Broadway, 3rd floor in New York City. Featured are works by **Joyce Kozloff**, whose art can also be seen at the Gabert Library on the fifth and sixth floors. The gallery notes, "Characteristic of Kozloff's engagement with pattern and decoration, the work reflects the expanded interest of the 1970s in ornament, repetition, craft, and decorative structures. Pattern



David Acker, **Untitled** *(1980), Watercolor and Pastel on paper, 23" x 30"*



Joyce Kozloff, **Voyages 13: Sardaigne (2004)***, Cast Paper, Watercolor and Acrylic, 8" x 5" x 4"*

offered artists a means of questioning the hierarchies that had historically separated the supposedly serious from the supposedly decorative, and fine art from forms of production traditionally associated with women."

The HCCC Foundation Art Collection is a treasured part of our College community, reflecting our commitment to culture and artistic expression. Your support funds professional framing, conservation, documentation, and ongoing care, keeping these works accessible to future generations of students, faculty, and visitors.

Help Keep Art Inspiring

Your generosity helps meaningful works of art enrich our campus and contribute to the cultural life of our College for years to come. Please consider making a financial contribution to the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

To make a gift, visit www.hccc.edu/foundation **or contact** foundation@hccc.edu **to learn more about how you can help.**

Office of
Institutional Engagement and Excellence
presents



¡BAILA CONMIGO! SALSA NIGHT BRINGS HCCC COMMUNITY TOGETHER



The College community convened for "¡Baila Conmigo! Salsa Night" in September as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

HCCC students, faculty, and staff came together on Friday, Sept. 25, for "¡Baila Conmigo! Salsa Night," an evening of music, dancing, and cultural celebration at the Journal Square Campus. The event welcomed nearly 70 attendees to the Gabert Library's sixth-floor Atrium. Organized by the ESL Department, Student Life & Leadership, and Institutional Engagement & Excellence, the celebration featured an energetic Zumba instructor, a live DJ, Bad Bunny-inspired photo props, and delicious food provided by FLIK. The evening celebrated cultural diversity and strengthened connections across the HCCC community in a lively, welcoming setting.

Upcoming Cultural Affairs Events

Tuesday, November 10

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Highlighting Hudson's Finest exhibition closes; Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Dineen Hull Gallery, Sixth Floor

2 p.m. – Literary Lounge: *Dark Tales* by Shirley Jackson discussion

Wednesday, November 11

5:30 p.m. – HCCC Film Society: Stalker (1979); Gabert Library , 71 Sip Avenue. Sixth Floor Atrium

Tuesday, November 17

2 p.m. – Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Contributions to the World panel; Culinary Conference Center, 16 Newkirk Street, Banquet Room

Wednesday, November 18

12 p.m. - 3 p.m. – Literary Lounge Book Swap; Student Center, 81 Sip Avenue

5:30 p.m. – HCCC Film Society: *Hard Boiled* (1992); Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Sixth Floor Atrium

Friday, November 20

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. – 2026 Annual Holiday Art Market; Gabert Library, Dineen Hull Gallery, Sixth Floor, 71 Sip Avenue

For more information,
https://involved.hccc.edu/

REGISTER NOW!



HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

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

WINTER CLASSES
begin on Tuesday, January 5, 2027

SPRING CLASSES
begin on Friday, January 22, 2027

View Course Schedule: www.hccc.edu/schedule

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

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

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

FREE TUITION for Eligible Students
through the Community College Opportunity Grant
(for those who qualify) For more information, go to: www.hccc.edu/freetuition

Community College Opportunity Grant

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

Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College Environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

CARE TEAM

Please complete the General Concern Form
Click here: https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care
or scan the QR code. The form is NOT monitored 24/7.

A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.
If you need immediate help call or text 988 or visit https://988lifeline.org

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELECTED FOR BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY EXPANSION LAB

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is one of six U.S. higher education institutions selected for the inaugural cohort of the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) Institutional Capacity Expansion Lab through its Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Innovation Center. HCCC is the only community college selected.

A 2024 BHEF study found that 55% of students at two-year colleges wanted internships, but only 13% received opportunities. Internships, apprenticeships, and project-based learning help students develop skills, explore careers, and transition into higher-paying jobs while enabling employers to recruit emerging talent and strengthen community partnerships.

Supported by the Educational Credit Management Corporation Foundation, the BHEF Lab will provide customized guidance, peer learning, and access to BHEF's partner network. Participating institutions will assess their WIL infrastructure, identify priorities, develop action plans, and launch pilot programs to expand and sustain opportunities.

"Hudson County Community College continues to expand our robust workforce development initiatives across all our programs," said HCCC Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty. "High-quality work-integrated learning opportunities provide students with significant advantages in the job market. We thank BHEF for selecting Hudson County Community College and look forward to learning and implementing new strategies that benefit our students and community partners."

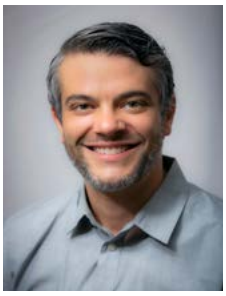


Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has been selected to participate in the first cohort of the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) Institutional Capacity Expansion Lab through its WIL Innovation Center. Pictured here, HCCC students at a Career and Tech Fair.

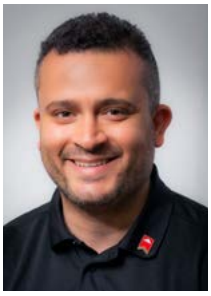
"These six institutions are doing the hard mission-critical work of building durable capacity for work-integrated learning – the vision, internal systems, employer relationships, and leadership alignment that turn a pilot into standard practice," said BHEF CEO Kristen Fox.

HCCC offers a range of workforce development programs, training opportunities, and partnerships with area businesses and organizations. Learn more at https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/workforce-development/index.html.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES



Dr. Christopher Cody



Raffi Manjikian

Dr. Christopher Cody, Assistant Professor, History, has been elected president of the New York State Political Science Association (NYSPSA). The NYSPSA is an academic organization dedicated to advancing the study of public institutions, political behavior, and public policy by fostering collaboration between scholars and practitioners.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) has launched a new national Graduate Mentorship Program designed to support chemistry graduate students as they explore careers in academia and industry. HCCC Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Raffi Manjikian** will serve as a mentor in the American Chemical Society's (ACS) new national Graduate Mentorship Program. The six-month initiative connects chemistry graduate students with experienced professionals to explore career opportunities in academia and industry.

MIDDLE STATES WORKING GROUPS MEETING



On Friday, October 10, Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-Study Co-Chairs Dr. Nadia Hedhli and Dr. Heather DeVries held the first of two in-person working sessions for the Fall 2026 semester. The day's agenda brought together members of the working groups for each of the seven Middle States Standards and members of the Institutional Research and Planning and Finance teams. Drs. Hedhli and DeVries presented on their findings from the groups' Evidence Analysis Spreadsheets and established goals for the fall semester. Groups utilized the morning to assess their evidence collection and determine a strategy for creating the first draft of their chapter.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is currently in year two of the three-year Self-Study Process. The College's Self-Study is projected to be submitted to Middle States in December 2027 with the Peer-Evaluation Team visiting campus sometime in Spring 2028.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Members and officers of Beta Alpha Phi attended Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Middle States Region's 2026 Fall Leaders in Action Conference on Saturday, Oct. 10, at Delaware Technical Community College, Stanton Campus.



The chapter participated in service events at Liberty State Park, Central Park, and Hudson River Park during the weekend of Oct. 17-18.



Beta Alpha Phi Chapter volunteered at the St. Jude Walk at Rockefeller Park in New York on Sept. 20.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships

The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is now open for applications through the Common App for Transfer. This scholarship is for high-achieving community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degree at a four-year institution and provides up to $55,000 per year in last-dollar funding along with comprehensive advising and support.

Deadline is December 9. Learn more about eligibility requirements and apply at www.jkcf.org/apply.

Essay submissions are not required for a complete application this year. However, the Cooke Foundation will ask for essay submissions from applicants who advance in the selection process.

HCCC INTERIM PRESIDENT MEETS WITH HISPANIC MEDIA



Seated from left: Dr. Lisa Dougherty, HCCC Interim President, and Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence. Standing: members of the local Hispanic media.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, Hudson County Community College hosted a media roundtable with local Hispanic media outlets to introduce Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty.

HCCC FOUNDATION HOSTS 19TH ANNUAL DONOR-SCHOLAR RECEPTION



The Hudson County Community College Foundation celebrated its 19th Annual Donor-Scholar Recognition Celebration on Oct. 7 at the College's Culinary Conference Center. The annual event honors the generosity of HCCC's donors and celebrates the academic achievements of our outstanding scholars.

Hudson County Community College Foundation's "50th Anniversary Raffle!"
Tickets $100 each
Cash Prize One Winner Only (Maximum prize of $50,000)
Only 1,000 tickets available - 50/50
Winning ticket will be drawn at the 2026 Gala
on Thursday, December 3. Winner need not be present to win.
All proceeds will support Hudson County Community College Foundation Scholarships/Endowments

To purchase a raffle ticket, scan the QR code.
License Number: RL 004735-2025

For information, please contact:
HCCC Foundation 26 Journal Square , 14th Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306
foundation@hccc.edu (201) 360-4778

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS





Bringing Culinary Excellence to the Community: Expanding HCCC Continuing Education Culinary Programs

Hudson County Community College's School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) is expanding its cooking and food-related programs, bringing the excellence of its nationally recognized Culinary Arts Institute to the broader Hudson community. The expanded offerings include hands-on workshops, date nights, and classes for children and families, providing opportunities to develop new skills, explore creativity, and connect through shared experiences.

From interactive cooking sessions for couples to Youth Culinary Camps, CEWD offers experiences for a variety of ages and interests. Participants can explore everything from kitchen safety and dough making to pastry fundamentals in an engaging, welcoming environment. Kitchens CEWD also offers customized private group experiences for corporate team-building events, birthday celebrations, and community organizations seeking a unique opportunity to prepare and enjoy a meal together in HCCC's professional kitchens.

We keep the learning fresh and engaging by regularly rotating subjects and bringing back celebrated alumni to teach authentic cultural specialties. Outside sommeliers and artisans co-host specialty evenings. We are building a vibrant bridge between HCCC's degree programs and our local neighbors.

Diverse Offerings & Fan-Favorite Workshops

Explore Our Experiences

Culinary Fundamentals: Build essential kitchen skills through workshops in knife techniques, handmade pasta, and wood-fired pizza.

Food, Culture & Connection: Discover new flavors through Steakhouse Date Nights, Caribbean brunches, and Cuban cuisine classes featuring HCCC alumni guest chefs.

Specialty Workshops: Explore creative offerings such as gourmet doughnuts, seasonal baking, and wine and cheese pairings led by industry professionals.

Private Group Experiences: Celebrate, collaborate, or simply enjoy a shared meal with a customized experience in HCCC's professional kitchens.

NEW to Our Menu: Launching Live Interactive Culinary Webinars

To bring professional instruction directly into home kitchens, Continuing Education is launching a new culinary series of live, interactive webinars. Every student receives downloadable grocery lists, *mise en place* (set up) guides, and lifetime access to high-definition recordings. Our fall highlight is the Thanksgiving Table Collection, a curated three-part bundle guiding home cooks to "Prep, Roast, and Host" with confidence. Each live broadcast features real-time Q&A, delivering the personalized coaching and culinary care that define the HCCC experience.

Join our mailing list to hear about these new upcoming courses please contact cvazquez@hccc.edu.

https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary/index.html

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

HARVEST PASTA: FROM DOUGH TO DESIGN (IN PERSON)
Learn how to make fresh homemade pasta using seasonal flavors and Pinterest worthy designs!
Saturday, November 7, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Price: $85
https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary/harvest-pasta.html

KNIFE SKILLS 101 (ONLINE)
Learn how to prep like a pro and sharpen your kitchen skills!
Friday, November 13, 2026
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Price: $20
https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary/knife-skills-101.html

TURKEY TALK (ONLINE)
Don't serve another dry turkey this year. . .
Learn how to make the most delicious Thanksgiving turkey!
Thursday, November 19, 2026
6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Price: $35

SPECIALTY SLICE NIGHT: PIZZA WORKSHOP (IN PERSON)
Not your average pizza night. Learn how to make homemade artisanal pizza using seasonal ingredients.
Friday, November 20, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Price: $70

THE ART OF HOSTING (ONLINE)
Set the table with style. Learn how to complete your dining experience this holiday hosting season.
Sunday, November 22, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Price: $20
https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/continuing-education/programs/culinary/index.html

ATI TEAS TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP FALL 2026 (ONLINE) Science/Math Prep Only
Saturdays | November 7 through December 12, 2026
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.| Price: $152
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ati-teas-test-preparation-workshop-fall-2026-online-tickets-1993463193073?aff=oddtdtcreator

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)
Monday, November 9, 2026
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Price: $81
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2026-dates-tickets-1992763905485?aff=oddtdtcreator

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)
Sunday, November 21, 2026
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Price: $81
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2026-dates-tickets-1992763905485?aff=oddtdtcreator

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
(201) 360-4224 / 5358 | cvazquez@hccc.edu

ALUMNI CORNER



Angel Matos A.A., Criminal Justice, HCCC Class of 2008

What made HCCC the right choice for you?
HCCC gave me an opportunity to build a strong foundation while staying close to home and balancing my responsibilities. I wanted an education that was practical, affordable, and would help me move forward professionally.

One of the biggest lessons I carried with me was "work smarter, not harder." That mindset taught me to look at problems differently, find efficiencies, understand the resources available to me, and focus my energy on achieving results.

What were your next steps after HCCC?
I continued building my career in the wireless industry. I spent more than a decade with Verizon, where I gained experience in sales, operations, leadership, indirect channels, and business strategy.

After Verizon, I joined Your Wireless, where I was able to take what I learned throughout my career and apply it from an entrepreneurial and strategic perspective. That transition was important because I went from being part of a large corporation to helping shape the direction of a growing business. It gave me the opportunity to think not only about sales, but also about marketing, profitability, people, technology, customer experience, and long-term growth.

Your Wireless, a Verizon Authorized Retailer, operates retail locations that help customers with their mobile technology needs. We are a local organization operating within a national wireless ecosystem. Our stores are part of their communities, and our teams build relationships with customers locally.

One major focus is making sure people know we're there. In today's environment, having a great store isn't enough— you have to make sure customers can find you, understand what you offer, and have a reason to visit. That's where marketing and digital strategy become important.

Tell us about your role as Executive Director of Strategic Planning for the company.
I look at the business from a big-picture perspective and figure out how we can grow smarter and operate more effectively. Some days I'm focused on marketing strategy and digital performance. Other days I'm looking at training front-line employees, store performance, new locations, partnerships, technology, or upcoming company initiatives. I work closely with different parts of the organization to ensure we're aligned on where we're going and, more importantly, how we're going to get there.

I oversee our marketing strategy across our retail footprint. We have 250+ store locations, so a major challenge is creating strategies that work at scale while allowing individual stores to connect with their local communities.

Strategic planning is about connecting the dots. If we're opening a new store, I want people in the community to know the store exists. I want our Google presence to be accurate, our social media to support awareness, our advertising to drive traffic, and our employees to understand how they contribute to the bigger picture.

Any advice you'd give to current students?
Don't underestimate where a community college can take you. You don't have to have your entire life figured out at 18, 20, or even 25. Your career may take you in directions you never expected. Build relationships with the people around you. Talk to people working in the industries you're interested in. Ask questions. Learn skills that can be applied in the real world.

Working hard is important, but working hard without a plan isn't enough. Learn how to prioritize, use technology, and communicate. Learn how to analyze information and make decisions, and how to build relationships.

Don't be afraid to start small. My career wasn't built in one step. It was built through a series of opportunities, lessons, mistakes, relationships, and decisions. Every experience gave me something I could use for the next one.

Any favorite memories of HCCC you'd like to share?
One of my favorite things about HCCC is that it was a place where people were working toward something bigger. Looking back, I now appreciate the foundation it gave me even more. You don't always realize the importance of certain experiences until years later.

I now see how many of the lessons I learned early on continued to show up throughout my career. HCCC was part of the beginning of that journey.

If I could go back and talk to myself as a student, I'd say: Keep learning, keep building relationships, and don't worry if you don't have everything figured out yet. Keep moving forward. Sometimes the first step doesn't look like the destination—but you have to take that first step to get there.

Jobs at HCCC:
We would like to alert you to full-time, part-time, and adjunct opportunities at HCCC. Please find details here: http://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hccc?sort=PostingDate&7CDescending

Alumni Benefits:
Take advantage of exclusive benefits and stay connected to HCCC with an alumni card: www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html

Alumni Giving:
Sponsor events, students, or classes, or make a contribution at a level that works for you. Every gift makes a difference, no matter the size. Giving is easy – visit: https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html#ways-to-give

Follow the Alumni Association on Instagram at @hccc_alumni

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

HCCC'S SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING



Over a dozen alumni gathered at JJ's Sports Bar in Jersey City on October 10 to celebrate HCCC's second annual Alumni Homecoming, featuring keynote speaker Jose Bustillo, Vice President of Delivery Implementation & Procurement Excellence at SpendHQ. Jose shared his inspiring journey from joining HCCC as an ESL student after his cousin encouraged him to enroll, to achieving success in his current leadership role. In a heartfelt tribute, he brought his cousin to the event to honor and thank her for the pivotal role she played in his journey. Jose also emphasized the importance of networking and developing strong interpersonal skills in advancing one's career and preparing for the future of work.

The 2026-2027 Alumni Calendar is now up at https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/events/index.html There, you may register for events below. Several events are free, and others have a fee. Email alumni@hccc.edu for more information.

Alumni Association Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2026 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, 6th Floor, Atrium, Jersey City
Register here: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c9c3381ed9864492866ac6a97a93bc70

