

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS 2026 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTION AWARD FROM INSIGHT INTO ACADEMIA



In this issue

News from
Hudson County
Executive Craig Guy



Page 3

Hudson County
Community College
to Offer Transatlantic
Study Abroad
Program for Culinary
Arts Studies



Page 5

Hudson County
Community College
Supports Faculty
Innovation Through
AI Spark Grants

Page 7



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HR News 4

PTK News 11

Continuing Education
Programs..... 13

Alumni Corner 15

From the Editor's Desk

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

Items for the November newsletter are
due by Friday, October 9, 2026

Please send your news items, comments
and suggestions to:

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Jersey City, NJ 07306
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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS 2026 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AND DISTINCTION AWARD FROM *INSIGHT INTO ACADEMIA*

For the sixth consecutive year, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) received the Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award from *Insight Into Academia* magazine. The award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate academic excellence, belonging, and community-building across campus life.

The award recognizes the College's continued commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and its standing among institutions recognized nationally for this work.

HCCC advances student success through innovative programs and initiatives, including the expanded Hudson Scholars program, which provides personalized academic counseling, support, and financial stipends; the Educational Opportunity Fund and CONNECT partnerships that strengthen pathways to baccalaureate programs; and the Hudson Hub One Stop Center, First Year Experience course, Summer Refresher Academy, free tutoring, and supplemental instruction. The College's Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center provides free, confidential counseling and other

resources, while the return of Athletics and partnerships with local high schools expand opportunities for students.

The College also promotes belonging among employees through equitable hiring practices, screening committee training, candidate campus tours, employee recognition programs, professional development, flexible work schedules, tuition assistance, paid family leave, mental health resources, and leadership support.

"We thank *Insight Into Academia* for recognizing the hard work and results-driven initiatives we develop and employ for our students' academic and career success," said HCCC Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty. "Our accomplishments are directly attributed to the entire HCCC family – our dedicated trustees, administration, faculty, and staff."

"We look for institutions where academic excellence and belonging are woven into the work being done every day across their campus," said Lenore Pearlstein, Co-Publisher of *Insight Into Academia*.

ON THE COVER: *Hudson County Community College has been honored with the Insight Into Academia 2026 Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award and designation. Pictured here, 2026 graduates of the College's Early College program.*

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

is December 1, 2026
For giving options visit:
hccc.edu/foundation



For more information, contact:
foundation@hccc.edu



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.

HCCC AND DOORDASH JOIN FORCES TO FIGHT STUDENT HUNGER

Editor's Note: This op-ed was originally published in The Star-Ledger on Sept. 28, 2026. It was co-authored by Dr. Lisa Dougherty, Interim President of Hudson County Community College and Daniel Riff, head of global food access programs for DoorDash.

During Hunger Action Month, communities across America come together to confront a basic need that too often goes unmet: reliable access to food. For students, that need is inseparable from the opportunity to learn.

Any student sitting in a lecture hall or preparing for an exam should be able to focus on the work in front of them without worrying about their next meal. Yet roughly one in five college students are dealing with hunger, a rate that is even higher for students at community colleges.

In New Jersey, these numbers hit closer to home. An internal study prior to the COVID-19 pandemic found that more than 68 percent of responding students reported food insecurity in the preceding 30 days. Behind those figures are students who clock out of a shift, sit down to study, and cannot focus because they skipped dinner to make rent.

We believe food access and education go hand in hand, and students need support that recognizes the demands of their lives beyond the classroom. A degree changes the trajectory of a life, but only for students who can stay in the classroom long enough to earn it. For many students,

the stigma of asking for help can stand in the way of getting the meals that they need.

The partnership between HCCC and DoorDash puts that belief into practice by supporting students' access to essential nutrition at HCCC's campus food pantries. HCCC runs Hudson Helps food pantries on its Journal Square and North Hudson campuses, several days a week so students can grab what they need between classes. Stocked with everything from canned pantry staples and nonperishable goods to healthy frozen meals made by students in the Culinary Arts program, these pantries help students get what they need, no questions asked. During the 2025-2026 academic year, there were 5,442 food pantry visits, the largest number on record. In addition, social workers and social work interns conducted 1,685 basic needs appointments, during which they make students aware of on campus and community resources, assist with applications for SNAP and other benefits, and refer students to other supports.

There are still moments when the need can exceed what we serve, and that's when partnership becomes even more

important. Last winter, when disruptions to federal SNAP benefits left students unsure where their next meal would come from, DoorDash donated \$2,000 through its Community Credits program so students could immediately get groceries and essentials.

Partnerships like these in the fight against hunger are needed beyond just moments of crisis. Through Project DASH, DoorDash works with food banks, pantries and health systems to offer last-mile delivery operations that help them reach neighbors in need. Since 2018, Project DASH has powered deliveries of an estimated 150 million meals across the U.S. and Canada with more than 300 partner organizations nationwide.

That is the spirit of Hunger Action Month. When we come together, the actions of individuals, institutions and companies can all connect into something larger.

Hunger is solvable when we choose to work together instead of alone, and in recognition of Hunger Action Month, we hope others will join us in taking up the fight against hunger in New Jersey. Every student deserves to focus on their education, not their next meal.

NEWS FROM HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE CRAIG GUY

An Update From Hudson County Executive Craig Guy On A Busy Summer

As the 2026-2027 school year begins, Hudson County Executive Craig Guy is extremely excited about the opportunities our students have available to them at Hudson County Community College. County Executive Guy's Administration is dedicated to helping our students access education with practical skills and real-world readiness that go beyond the classroom. The most powerful way to create opportunities for our students is through a quality education; it's the key to lifelong success and making you – and your families – proud.

Just as HCCC provides students with an affordable, quality education, County Executive Guy is working to make Hudson County an affordable community with a high quality of life. County Executive Guy's Affordable Housing Initiative continues to

gain momentum. Over the summer, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation invested more than half a million dollars to support the initiative's early planning phase.

This commitment to affordability extends to food security. In July, County Executive Guy broke ground on the first county-run consumer-choice food pantry in Hudson County, expanding access to nutritious food through a dignified, choice-based model. Located in Bayonne, the food pantry will feature commercial-grade refrigeration and freezer units, dry storage shelving, point-of-service stations for inventory management, a dedicated loading dock for efficient food deliveries and a welcoming waiting area designed to promote comfort, privacy and accessibility. Additionally, the pantry will operate by appointment to create a more organized and personalized experience and

will include evening and weekend hours to better accommodate working individuals and families.

Finally, in June County Executive Guy announced the 2026 Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund award recommendations, proposing more than \$12.4 million in funding for projects that will create and improve parks, recreational facilities, and historic sites throughout Hudson County; this funding was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in September.

County Executive Guy will continue to expand educational opportunities and put students front and center.





PINK FOR A PURPOSE: STANDING TOGETHER FOR EARLY DETECTION AND LIFELONG WELLNESS

This October, we come together to raise breast cancer awareness and promote lifelong wellness. Beyond wearing pink, awareness means prioritizing preventive care, scheduling recommended screenings, understanding personal risk factors, and supporting loved ones throughout their health journeys. By taking proactive steps today, we can help build a healthier tomorrow.

RESOURCES

American Cancer Society

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer.html>

Susan G. Komen Foundation

<https://www.komen.org/breast-cancer>

National Breast Cancer Foundation

<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org>

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

*Kamelyn Santos
Brianna Foster
Yesenia Lopez*

Five Years

Mariana Fuentes

10 Years

Jenny Henriquez

15 Years

Shameka Jennings

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

*Esther Gil Ferreras
Frederick Taffy
Rifaya Dubash Khajamohideen
Ashook Persaud
Andrei Dimaculangan*

Five Years

*Natalie Betancourt
Richard Charles*

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Nairman Ahmed, Academic Counselor,
Hudson Scholars

Woosly Calixte, Associate Director,
Career and Transfer Pathways

Luisa Carranza, Assistant Director,
English as Second Language

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HIRE ADJUNCT FACULTY

School of Business, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management

Emma Dooley
William Jakubowski
Seama Singh

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Ramon Aponte
Mariia Dimitriieva
Atota Kalkiyo
Gabriel Henneman
Grace LeAmber Lee
Yijoo Lee
Joseph Loli
Jeffrey Moore
Sue Min Park
Svetlana Saratchilova
Amy Shi
Victor Uszerowicz
Bia Xinyu Lin

School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Melissa Celik
Patricia Clark Jeter
Mohammad Matari

FUN FACT

The color pink became the internationally recognized symbol of breast cancer awareness through the Pink Ribbon movement, which has helped educate millions of people worldwide about the importance of early detection, screening, and support for those impacted by breast cancer.

DID YOU KNOW....

Did you know your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers resources to support your overall health?

EAP Discounts

<https://eap.lucethhealth.com/topic/family-lifestyle/physical-health/>

HCCC has partnered with Working Advantage to provide employees with exclusive discounts on everyday purchases and experiences, including amusement parks, movie tickets, car rentals, hotels, retail shopping, sporting events, and more.

<https://hccc.savings.workingadvantage.com/home>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Wellness Fair at the Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

October Is Open Enrollment!

This is your opportunity to make changes to your benefit plan(s) more details to come.

For Recruitment and Job Opportunities visit:

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



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OFFER TRANSATLANTIC STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM FOR CULINARY ARTS STUDIES



HCCC Professor of Culinary Arts Sami Khouzam and Associate Director of Veterans Affairs and International Student Services Zachary Forrest are pictured at center with administrators and faculty from Capital City College (CCC) in the United Kingdom. HCCC has been selected to participate in an ACCT and Association of Colleges study abroad exchange focused on culinary arts and sustainability.

Hudson County Community College's Culinary Arts Institute (CAI) is taking students' culinary education across the pond, with an immersive study abroad experience in London, England, that will bring global flavors, sustainable food practices, and international culinary traditions to life. The experience will provide participants with a deep dive into regional ingredients, menu planning, food and beverage pairings, sustainable agriculture, and the cultural impact of cuisine, while providing knowledge and skills to succeed on an international level.

The College was selected by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the Association of Colleges (AoC) to participate in this United States - United Kingdom Community College and Technical Exchange Program. Two U.S. community colleges and two U.K. counterparts will develop the exchange program. HCCC and Capital City College Group were partnered in the cohort.

At the heart of the U.S.-U.K. Community College and Technical Exchange Program is collaboration between students and faculty on both sides of the pond," said

HCCC Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty. "We thank the ACCT and AoC for facilitating this opportunity to share our culinary curriculum and to learn from our partner college. This exchange is just a hint of the scope of our many workforce pathways and how they benefit our students."

Spearheaded by the ACCT Global Workforce Coalition, the program receives funding from the Cyril Taylor Charitable Foundation, which describes it as a model for international collaboration that promotes innovation, sustainability, and opportunity.

"Four students from Capital City College in London will be coming to HCCC in November, and four HCCC students will be going to Capital City College in March," said Zachary Forrest, HCCC Associate Director of Veterans Affairs and International Student Services.

The HCCC students will enroll in CAI 206—Introduction to Sustainability in Spring 2027 and explore foodservice operations at Capital City College and in surrounding communities.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Cheer on
HCCC
Basketball
History!**



Join us as Hudson County Community College tips off its inaugural men's and women's basketball season—and cheer on our new mascot!

**HCCC vs. Essex County College
Tuesday, November 3**

Women's game at 6 p.m.
Men's game at 8 p.m.

**High Tech High School
One High Tech Way,
Secaucus, NJ 07094**

Parking Available

Scan QR for more
information about
HCCC Athletics.



**Bring your HCCC spirit and
help us make history at our
first home basketball games!**

Go, HCCC!

HUDSON
COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
presents

**29th Annual
GALA**

**Thursday, December 3, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

**Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306**

**For information, please contact:
foundation@hccc.edu**

**Scan QR for
more details**



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: AI CURRICULAR INNOVATION 'SPARK' GRANTS

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs invites HCCC faculty to apply for the second cohort of AI Curricular Innovation "Spark" Grants for the 2026–2027 academic year. The program supports faculty-led projects that use artificial intelligence in innovative, responsible, and impactful ways to enhance teaching and learning, student success, AI literacy, and workforce readiness.

Selected faculty will receive \$1,500 to develop and implement a course-level project. Successful recipients will become AI Spark Grant Fellows and share their work and instructional resources with the HCCC community.

Projects may develop students' AI literacy and responsible AI practices, integrate AI into discipline-specific learning, enhance instruction, redesign assessments, create AI-supported tutoring or feedback, explore AI's ethical or societal implications, or evaluate AI-enhanced instructional strategies. Projects must meaningfully affect student learning; proposals focused primarily on faculty productivity, administrative efficiency, or operational workflows are not eligible.

Eligibility:

All HCCC faculty—including full-time, adjunct, and CEWD faculty—may apply individually or as interdisciplinary teams. Each proposal must designate a faculty lead.

Grant recipients must participate in cohort activities, implement their projects during Spring 2027, submit a brief reflection on outcomes and lessons learned, and present their projects at the Fall 2027 AI Spark Grant Showcase.

Key Dates:

- Call for Proposals: (Sept. 14)
- Oct. 23, 2026: Proposal deadline
- Nov. 13, 2026: Award notification
- Early December: Orientation
- Spring 2027: Project implementation

Applicants must notify their program coordinator, program director, or School Dean of their intent to apply and submit the completed application by Oct. 23, 2026. Proposals will be evaluated on student learning and AI integration, feasibility, student impact, assessment, and sustainability. Questions may be directed to mlabrake@hccc.edu.

To view the full proposal, please visit

<https://www.hccc.edu/docs/call-for-proposals-ai-spark-grants-2026.pdf>

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



Are you experiencing
stress, depression,
or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting
to the College
Environment?

Dealing with mental
health and wellness?



Please complete the General Concern Form

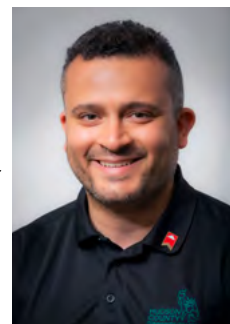
Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>
or scan the QR code. The form is NOT
monitored 24/7.

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

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Raffi Manjikian,

Assistant Professor of Chemistry, is a co-author of the research article *Potential Roles of Gamma-Delta T Cells in a Bacterial Immunization Model*, published in the journal *Vaccines*. The article examines the role of gamma-delta T cells in immune responses following intranasal immunization against *Francisella tularensis*. Manjikian is listed as a co-author and contributed to the research through resources and manuscript review and editing.
<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-393X/14/7/590>



Coming Out with Care: *Understanding, Support, and Mental Health*

Explore the coming out process through a Mental Health lens. This training provides insight into the emotional and psychological experiences of coming out while offering practical, affirming counseling strategies to support LGBTQ+ individuals with compassion, cultural humility, and confidence.

Monday, October 19, 2026
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Remote

Hosted by: The Mental Health Counseling & Wellness Department.

Featuring: David Rosen, DBH, LCSW (he/him), Director of Training and Education at Hudson Pride Center

To register, contact: Jose Rivera: jrivera3@hccc.edu



HUDSON PRIDE CENTER
A HOME / A VOICE

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUPPORTS FACULTY INNOVATION THROUGH AI SPARK GRANTS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is accepting proposals for the second cohort of its AI Curricular Innovation Spark Grants, which support faculty in exploring responsible, discipline-specific uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning.

As part of its 2024-29 Strategic Plan, HCCC is strengthening AI literacy and preparing students to understand how AI is shaping their disciplines and future careers. The Spark Grants program advances that work by giving faculty space to experiment with AI and develop practical approaches for their courses.

During the program's inaugural year, 10 faculty-led projects reached 183 students in English and ESL, mathematics, history, business, accounting, and computer science. Projects included custom AI learning assistants, simulated historical interviews, AI-assisted writing and programming, and workplace applications. Students developed skills in evaluating AI-generated information, using AI responsibly, and maintaining ownership of their work.

For the second cohort, selected faculty will receive \$1,500 to develop and implement a course-level project during the Spring 2027 semester. Projects may focus on AI literacy, AI-supported teaching strategies, discipline-specific applications, assessment redesign, student feedback



Hudson County Community College (HCCC) faculty utilize the College's AI Curricular Innovation Spark Grants to strengthen students' AI literacy and prepare them for their future careers.

and support, or preparing students to engage with AI effectively and responsibly.

"The first cohort showed us the value of giving faculty space to experiment with AI within the context of their own disciplines and courses," said Matthew LaBrake, HCCC Associate Vice President, Digital Learning, AI, and Emerging Technologies.

Supported by HCCC's AI Strategy and Governance Council, the program promotes responsible AI adoption, innovation, and workforce preparation.

Learn more about the AI Curricular Innovation Spark Grants and the 2025-26 recipients' projects at <https://www.hccc.edu/administration/academic-affairs/ai-spark-grants/index.html>.

HCCC Foundation Annual Pop-Up Dinner

Saturday, November 14, 2026

5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center

161 Newkirk Street

Jersey City, NJ 07306

The evening will feature a cocktail hour, family-style dinner, Viennese table, and our talented Culinary Arts staff and students, along with Chef Anuchit Pukdeedamrongrit "Chef Puk," Chef Cassandra Beltran-Frani, and Chef Manunya Sittisuntorn.

**All proceeds benefit
the Paul Dillon Scholarship Fund.**

Tickets:

\$100 per person

\$30 for children 12 and under

Wine and cocktails included

To purchase tickets online:

<https://tinyurl.com/FoundationPopUp>

If you would like to pay by cash or check, we accept day-of payments.

Please email cvazquez@hccc.edu to make your reservation.



REGISTER NOW for Fall 2026 classes!

HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

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

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

SESSIONS BEGIN:

Fall 2026 - Online B

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Fall 2026 - 7-Week Session 2

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

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

View course schedules at www.hccc.edu/schedule!

For important dates and information, view our **Enrollment Guide** at

www.hccc.edu/enrollmentguide.

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

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. In recent years, the College's acquisition efforts have focused on strengthening its American and New Jersey modern and contemporary collections.

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

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Artist Ed Giobbi

The HCCC Foundation is honored to remember the life and legacy of the late artist Ed Giobbi, whose family and estate recently made a generous gift of 12 works of art to the Foundation Art Collection. Giobbi, who passed away last May just before his 100th birthday, was an accomplished artist whose work is held in the collections of major museums and institutions, and was the recipient of a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and Ford Foundation Grant. Not only was the multitalented resident of Katonah, New York a respected artist, he was a James Beard Award-winning chef who authored several popular cookbooks including *Pleasures of the Good Earth*, *Italian Family Cooking*, and *Italian Family Dining*.

Those who knew Ed personally remember more than his artistic and culinary accomplishments. They remember a generous, warm, gregarious person who loved to tell stories, who was passionate about art, and deeply interested in and engaged with the world around him.

Following his death, members of Giobbi's family generously offered a selection of his artwork for consideration by the HCCC Foundation. As always, HCCC turned this process into an educational opportunity for our students.

Working with Professor Laurie Riccadonna, HCCC senior art students carefully reviewed the works and considered which pieces would be the best fit for the Collection. Through this process, students gained firsthand experience with an important aspect of museum and nonprofit art collections: determining which works best serve an institution's educational mission, artistic vision, and available resources. After careful review, 12 works were selected for the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

The Foundation Art Collection is

deeply grateful to Ed's family, including Eugenia Bone, Kevin Bone, Marshall Bone, the Edward Giobbi Trust, Paul Guilfoyle, and Eileen Valentino, along with the other family members who participated in this generous gift, and entrusting these works to HCCC. Importantly, the generosity of the Giobbi family extends beyond the artwork itself. Each of Ed's three children, Elizabeth Giobbi, Eugenia Bone, and Chambliss Giobbi, also made a meaningful monetary contribution to the HCCC Foundation, specifically helping to support the framing, preservation, and conservation of the donated works.

This support is especially impactful because caring for an art collection of this scale and stature is an ongoing responsibility. A work of fine art does not simply enter a collection and remain there without care. Proper framing, conservation, storage, documentation, and maintenance are essential to ensuring that these works can be enjoyed and studied by HCCC students, faculty, and the broader community for many years to come.

Notably, Chambliss Giobbi previously supported HCCC with the donation of an untitled Ed Giobbi 2023 mixed-media work (pictured here), making this recent gift a continuation of their family's connection to the College and its commitment to the arts. We are grateful that this connection endures today.

Help Preserve the Collection

The HCCC Foundation Art Collection belongs to the College community, but maintaining it requires the support of that community. Gifts help make possible the framing, conservation, preservation, documentation, and care that allow these works to remain accessible for future generations of HCCC students and visitors.

We invite our HCCC community and friends of the arts to support



Untitled 2004 work of mixed media by Ed Giobbi donated to the Foundation Art Collection by Chambliss Giobbi in 2023. The piece is located on the 2nd Floor 223 Student Lounge/Café at HCCC's North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Boulevard, Union City.

the Foundation Art Collection. Your contribution helps ensure that important works of art—like those generously donated by the Giobbi family—can be preserved, cared for, and shared for years to come.

To learn more about Ed, read his obituary here: <https://www.therecorder.org/post/edward-giobbi-99-renowned-katonah-artist-and-chef>

Learn more about the HCCC Foundation Art Collection here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html>

Support the preservation of the Foundation Art Collection by making a gift here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html>

HCCC OBSERVES FALL 2026 COLLEGE SERVICE DAY



HCCC Interim President Dr. Lisa Dougherty (left) receives a standing ovation following delivery of her State of the College address during College Service Day on Tuesday, Aug. 25.



Dr. Aaron Fichtner, President of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC), delivers the keynote address during the Fall 2026 College Service Day.

HACR CEO HIGHLIGHTS NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION



Cid Wilson, President and CEO of the HACR (Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility) (third from right), delivered the keynote address at the College's New Student Convocation on Thursday, Aug. 27.



Dr. Christopher Cody, Assistant Professor, History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, hosted a student panel titled, "What First-Year Students Need to Know."

HCCC CONNECTS WITH THE COMMUNITY AT BERGEN SQUARE DAY

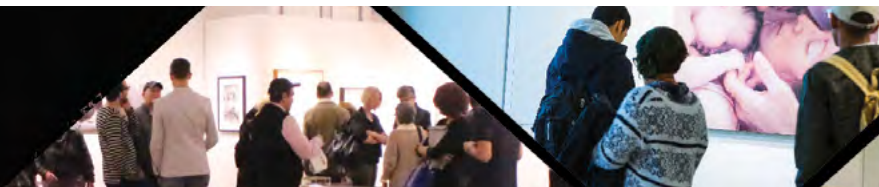


Jacqueline Jetter (left) of CEWD and Royal Ross, Assistant Director, Recruitment at Bergen Square Day.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) participated in Bergen Square Day on Saturday, Sept. 12, joining community organizations, vendors, performers and residents for the annual celebration in Jersey City's historic Bergen Square. HCCC's Jacqueline Jetter, representing Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD), participated in the event's open mic, sharing helpful information with attendees while embracing the festivities.

Held at the intersection of Bergen Avenue and Academy Street, Bergen Square Day celebrates the neighborhood's history, culture and community. Bergen Square was established in 1660 and is recognized as the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in New Jersey.

Office of
**Institutional Engagement
and Excellence**
presents



Hudson County Community College Holds Special Community 9/11 Remembrance Event



On Friday, Sept. 11, Hudson County Community College gathered to commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Pictured from left at the event are Dr. Christopher Cody, Assistant Professor of History; Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Richard Walker, Associate Director of Institutional Engagement and Excellence Training; Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence; James Sharrock, Vice Chairman, New Jersey State Police Training Commission; Keith Miano, Lieutenant, Training Supervisor, Counter-Terrorism Training Facility, New Jersey Transit Police; Robert DiGenova, Deputy Chief of Police, Stevens Institute of Technology; Zachary Forrest, Veterans Affairs and International Students Associate Director; and Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs.

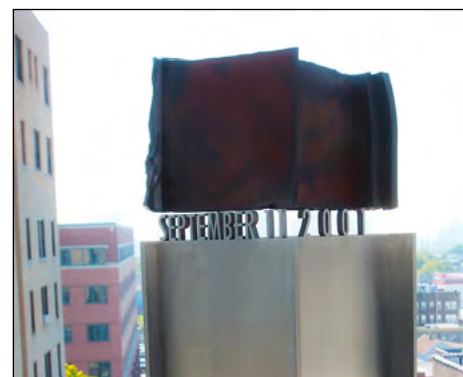
Hudson County Community College (HCCC) commemorated the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, with a 9/11 Memorial Program on Friday, Sept. 11, in the Gabert Library Atrium. The program honored the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives in the attacks, including 900 New Jersey residents and 155 Hudson County residents.

The program featured:

- Welcoming remarks from HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones
- Remarks from Hudson County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Anthony Romano, Jr.
- Introduction of keynote speaker by Richard Walker, Associate Director of Institutional Engagement and Excellence Training, who also served as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon
- A keynote address by Stevens Institute of Technology Deputy Chief of Police Robert DiGenova, a retired Hudson County Prosecutor's Office captain with 39 years of public service
- A presentation by HCCC Assistant Professor of History, Political Science, and American Studies Dr. Christopher Cody
- A moderated discussion featuring New Jersey State Police Training Commission Vice Chairman James Sharrock and New Jersey Transit Counter-Terrorism Training Supervisor Lt. Keith Miano, moderated by HCCC Veterans Affairs and International Students Associate Director Zachary Forrest
- A screening of the documentary 9/11: *Reclaiming Ground Zero*
- Closing remarks from HCCC Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence Dr. Yeurys Pujols

The Gabert Library Atrium, located at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City, offers panoramic views of the New York City and Jersey City skylines. The space also houses a steel fragment from the East Façade of the World Trade Center's North Tower, which HCCC obtained in 2013.

The documentary examined the debate surrounding the rebuilding and remembrance of Lower Manhattan following 9/11, including the 2002 "Listening to the City" town hall that brought nearly 5,000 people together to discuss the site's future.



PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Build Skills for Your Future with PTK Edge

Phi Theta Kappa's PTK Edge offers free, self-paced online professional development courses designed to help students build skills for college, careers and beyond.

Students can choose from courses focused on:

- **Competitive Edge:** Develop workplace skills, including critical thinking, communication, teamwork and self-advocacy.
- **Employment Edge:** Prepare to enter the workforce and take steps toward employment success.
- **Transfer Edge:** Learn how to successfully transfer from a two-year college to a four-year institution.
- **Research Edge:** Build foundational academic research skills and prepare for Honors in Action projects.
- **Healthcare Edge:** Prepare for the transition from an academic health care program to a career in the health care field.
- **Advocacy Edge:** Learn how to support a cause or policy through informed communication, collaboration and effective advocacy.

Learn more and access PTK Edge courses: <https://www.ptk.org/benefits/professional-development-courses/>

Peter Kongtcheu, Michelle Palacios, Juliana Sorto, Camila Sanchez, Yamileth Flores with her sister, Stephanie, and Prof. Ted Lai volunteering at the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Walk at Liberty State Park on Sunday, Aug. 30.



SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program

The SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program provides STEM students with financial support and professional development opportunities while preparing them for careers with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Benefits include:

- Full tuition and eligible education-related expenses
- Annual stipend of \$25,000–\$38,000, depending on degree level
- 8- to 12-week summer research internships
- Health insurance and miscellaneous allowances
- A mentor at a sponsoring DoD facility
- Employment placement with the DoD upon degree completion

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements, including U.S. citizenship, enrollment in an eligible STEM degree program and having a minimum 3.0 GPA. The application period runs August 1 through December 1. Students may apply for undergraduate and graduate studies concurrently.

Additional information and the application are available at <https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart>.

Upcoming Service Projects

- Sunday, Oct. 18, Bike MS, Pier 76, New York City
- Saturday, Nov. 21: Zero Prostate Cancer Walk/Run, Liberty State Park



The Office of Institutional Engagement and Excellence is scheduling the following online and virtual trainings:

OCTOBER

Virtual Nondiscrimination Training for Employees - Oct. 8, 11 a.m. -12 p.m.

In-person Collaborative Leadership: Advancing External Engagement
Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. -

For more information, please contact Richard Walker at ext. 5398 or send an email to rwalker@hccc.edu.

Please join the All College Council (ACC) for our general meetings

New members are welcome!

FALL 2026 DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings are held from 3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Join us at:

October 28

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/wbxmjs/join-service/sites/hudsonccc/meeting/download/1bb4655097ae422f953539071f5dbab1?MTID=m9c2f77891d133ca3da0796aaa2ae04>

Meeting number (access code): 2338 425 3617

Meeting password: 5TMuYQUpq65

December 2

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m38316ffffe62bedb62449717202d52a2>

Meeting number (access code): 2330 521 9567

Meeting password: 4mbYxJJ2hY6

**Journal Square Campus - Culinary Conference Center,
161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Jersey City, NJ**

Inquiries? Email ACC@hccc.edu

PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH EVENT



Hudson County Community College Practical Nursing students participated in a community resource event hosted by Hudson County in collaboration with Barack Obama School (Public School No. 34) in Jersey City. The students provided blood pressure screenings for community members and shared information about medication compliance, cardiovascular health, healthy eating, physical activity, and other healthy-living practices.

Practical Nursing students provided blood pressure screenings to community members during the County resource event.

NATIONAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK NOVEMBER 8-14



The Hudson County Community College Radiography Program will celebrate the vital work of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals in patient care and health care safety.

The week-long celebration takes place during the week of Nov. 8 to commemorate the discovery of the x-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on Nov. 8, 1895.

This year's theme is "Radiating Love," which links the multitude of medical imaging and radiation therapy practice areas and medical procedures into a single vision and celebration.

Join us at a

FALL 2026 OPEN HOUSE



NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, NJ
Thursday, October 15 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

Culinary Conference Center - 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ
Saturday, October 24 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

ACADEMIC SCHOOL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

(Engage with English/ESL, STEM, Nursing & Health Professions, and Business, Culinary, and Hospitality)



Explore our campus



Complete an Admissions application



Speak with students, faculty, and staff



Meet with Financial Aid and find out if you are eligible for free tuition

Register by scanning the QR codes or visit
www.hccc.edu/openhouse

For the best experience it is best to arrive when the event begins!

HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Hudson is Home!

Join us for our

Fall Festival Event about Scholarships!

Learn about scholarships, sites to visit and how to write an essay!

PRESENTERS INCLUDE

Christine Petersen
Associate Director of Financial Aid

Kathryn Buckley
Assistant Professor, English Department

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
12:30 p.m.

Student Center
81 Sip Avenue, First Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306

REGISTER HERE

Take an additional step to funding your education!

Like us on FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/hcccfnaid/

Follow us on TWITTER
twitter.com/hcccfnaid

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

ADVANCING WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE: HCCC'S EXPERIENCE AT THE METALLICA SCHOLARS ANNUAL GATHERING



METALLICA SCHOLARS ANNUAL GATHERING

Building stronger connections between education and industry was at the heart of a national gathering in Wichita, Kansas, where Marian Betancourt represented Hudson County Community College (HCCC) at the Metallica Scholars Initiative Annual Gathering. Hosted by the All Within My Hands Foundation (AWMH) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the event brought together representatives from 93 colleges and workforce institutions nationwide to share strategies for advancing technical education and preparing learners for in-demand careers.

Known as the “Air Capital of the World,” Wichita provided a fitting backdrop for discussions about aligning education with industry needs. Participants visited WSU Tech, touring facilities that support aviation, advanced manufacturing,

healthcare, information technology, and cybersecurity. The visit demonstrated how partnerships between educational institutions and employers can help prepare learners with in-demand skills and connect them to career opportunities.

The gathering also welcomed Capital City College Group in London, United Kingdom, as its first international institutional participant, expanding opportunities to exchange workforce development strategies across borders.

For Betancourt, the experience highlighted the value of bringing education, government, and private industry together to advance economic opportunity.

“What stood out most was the power of partnership. When education,

government, and the private sector align around a shared vision, they can create meaningful pathways to opportunity and drive lasting change. Wichita demonstrated that strong leadership and collaboration can turn a shared vision into real impact for students, workers, and the broader community.”

The lessons from Wichita offer HCCC an opportunity to consider how successful workforce development models can inform its own programs and partnerships. As the College continues preparing students and workers for an evolving economy, collaboration across industries and communities remains essential to connecting education with career pathways and expanding economic mobility.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

CEWD-GATEWAY TO INNOVATION EVENT: RWJBARNABAS HEALTH CAREER READINESS WORKSHOP INSPIRES STUDENT SUCCESS

On August 13, 2026, Hudson County Community College was proud to welcome special guest, Mary Cataudella, Vice President of Human Resources, from RWJBarnabas Health for an engaging Career Readiness Workshop that was designed to prepare students for today's competitive workforce. Participants gained valuable insights into professional expectations, career pathways in healthcare, résumé development,

interviewing strategies, and workplace success skills. The session provided students with practical tools, industry knowledge, and encouragement for continuing their journeys toward meaningful careers. We extend our sincere thanks to Mary and to RWJBarnabas Health for investing in our students' professional growth and helping build pathways to future employment opportunities.



Mary Cataudella, Vice President of Human Resources, RWJBarnabas Health

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ATI TEAS TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP FALL 2026 (ONLINE)

All Test Prep Portions

Saturdays | October 3, 2026, through December 12, 2026
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$304

Science/Math Prep Only

Saturdays
November 7, 2026, through December 12, 2026
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$152
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-SATprep>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Price: \$81
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-BLS-inpersonr>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Monday, October 26, 2026 | 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Price: \$81
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-BLS-Online>

WELCOME TO COMPUTER BASICS (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays (7 Sessions)
October 3, 2026, through November 14, 2026
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$170
Instructor: Navin Shievdal
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-BASIC-COMP>

MICROSOFT EXCEL BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE COURSE (IN-PERSON)

Tuesdays (9 Sessions) | October 6, 2026, through December 1, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | Price: \$285
Instructor: Navin Shievdal
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-EXCEL>

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

Mondays and Wednesdays
October 12, 2026, through November 16, 2026
6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | Price: \$375
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-NICET2>

GRANTS MANAGEMENT 101 (REMOTE)

Tuesdays (8 Sessions)
October 13, 2026, through December 1, 2026
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Price: \$225
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-GRANTSgmt>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FALL 2026 (ONLINE)

Mondays and Thursdays
October 19, 2026, through November 30, 2026
6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | Price: \$1280
Instructor: Susan Serradilla-Smarth
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-PROJMGMT>

AI TOOLS FOR MODERN PROJECT MANAGERS (ONLINE)

Saturdays | October 24, 2026, through November 21, 2026
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
Instructor: Susan Serradilla-Smarth
<https://tinyurl.com/CEWD-AItools-Mgmtr>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development 161 Newkirk Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 360-4224/5358 | CE@hccc.edu

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.

For information, please contact:

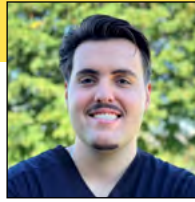
HCCC Foundation
26 Journal Square, 14th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
foundation@hccc.edu
(201) 360-4778

**HUDSON
COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION**

ALUMNI CORNER

Daniel Ross

A.S., Radiography, HCCC Class of 2024



Tell us a bit about yourself!

I started at Hudson County Community College in 2021 and graduated from the Radiography program in 2024. Today, I'm a full-time Radiology Technologist specializing in both X-ray and Computed Tomography (CT).

What initially brought you to HCCC?

What initially drew me to HCCC was its outstanding reputation. Many of my friends and family members attended before me and spoke about their experiences with the highest praise.

How did you become interested in pursuing a career in radiography?

I knew I wanted a career where I could help people in a healthcare setting, and because I've always had a passion for both photography and computers, radiology felt like the perfect fit.

How did your time in HCCC's radiography program prepare you for your career in the field?

HCCC's Radiography program truly prepared me to excel in the field. Starting out in my career as an X-ray tech, I frequently performed fluoroscopy procedures alongside radiologists, operated C-arms in the OR for orthopedic surgeries, and managed a wide range of diagnostic exams. Everything I encountered on the job was directly covered in HCCC's curriculum. Beyond the education, one of the best parts of my experience was the community—I made incredible friends throughout the program who I still talk to, to this day.

What advice would you give to current HCCC students?

My biggest piece of advice for future students is to jump in on every case you can—especially trauma, OR, and portables. Sitting back and watching will only slow down your confidence and muscle memory. Stepping up not only builds your skills, but it also demonstrates to your team that you have true passion for the work.

Was there a professor, clinical instructor, or class at HCCC that had a particularly big impact on you?

Looking back on my time in the program, every single instructor, professor, and staff member helped shape the technologist I've become. I owe a special thanks to Program Director Cheryl Cashell, Clinical Coordinator Inez Cruz, and Administrative Assistant Kathleen Rodriguez. Their constant support meant everything to me, and I genuinely couldn't have made it through without them.

What is the best part of your job?

For me, the best part of radiology is patient care. I take pride in easing patient anxiety during stressful moments while capturing the highest quality images to support accurate diagnoses.

Also, my interest in photography naturally feeds into my work as a technologist, as both rely on precision, composition, and visual detail.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of radiography?

Outside of radiology, I enjoy working on computers, hiking, hitting the gym, and spending quality time with my family.

JOBS at HCCC:



We would like to alert you to Jobs that HCCC is seeking for full-time, part-time, and adjunct positions. The School of CEWD is in need of an EKG and Phlebotomy Instructor. We need an Events Assistant for the Athletics Office, and two more Volleyball Coaches.

Please find details here:

<https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hccc?sort=PostingDate%7CDescending>

Alumni Benefits:



With an Alumni Card, you can take advantage of exclusive benefits and stay connected to the HCCC community! Details here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html>

Alumni Giving:



You can sponsor events, students, or classes, or make an annual contribution at a level that works for you. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Giving is easy — visit <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html#ways-to-give> to make your impact today!

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

Join, socialize, and network!

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



The Alumni Association has launched its new Instagram page!

Follow us at
[@hccc_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/hccc_alumni)

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

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4800 Kennedy Boulevard
Union City, NJ 07087
Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of the Hudson County Schools of Technology
One High Tech Way
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Phone (201) 360-4388

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www.hccc.edu

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



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.

HCCC Alumni Business Market

Thursday, November 12, 2026
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City
Register here: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/E5Q7NRUL32LW8>
Reach out to us at alumni@hccc.edu to be a vendor.

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>



Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306

HCCC Alumni Business Market connects alumni-owned businesses to students, faculty, staff, and the broader Hudson County community.

The event will feature 25-30 businesses and 10-12 organizations offering small-business resources. The theme for this year, *Build, Connect, Grow*, speaks to the power of alumni entrepreneurship, professional development, and community engagement. It celebrates the businesses, careers, and networks that HCCC alumni have built, the meaningful connections that strengthen our College community, and the opportunities for growth that emerge through collaboration, mentorship, and lifelong learning.



Hudson County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC) is an event partner.

REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE:

[Alumni Event Registration Form](#)



Interested in participating as an HCCC Alumni Business, HCCC Alumni Business Market Committee member, or Sponsor, please email alumni@hccc.edu.

Tabling Opportunities: After approval, you will be instructed to pay the tabling fee.

