



# PATHWAY PRESS

*Office of Career & Transfer Pathways Monthly Newsletter*

## FALL 2025: PAVE YOUR WAY WITH CAREER & TRANSFER PATHWAYS

**WELCOME BACK HCCC STUDENTS!**

**WE'RE EXCITED TO KICK OFF THE SEMESTER WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP YOU GROW AND SUCCEED. JOIN US FOR A FOUR-PART WORKSHOP SERIES BASED ON THE NACE CAREER COMPETENCIES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CAREER READINESS SKILLS AND PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE.**

**① Wednesday, 9/17 – Handshake Workshop  
1:00–2:00 PM | Library L406**

✓ Learn to find jobs, internships, events, and market yourself with Handshake's "Social Media Feed."

**② Wednesday, 10/8 – Career & Transfer Fair Prep  
1:00–2:00 PM | Webex**

✓ Get tips and learn how to craft an elevator pitch to stand out at any fair.

**③ Transferpalooza – Tuesday, 10/21 • NHC Multipurpose Room • 12–3 PM**

✓ Honors Transfer Fair – Thursday, 10/30 • JSQ 6th Floor Atrium • 2–4 PM

**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS**



### IN THIS ISSUE

Career & Transfer Team

Career & Transfer Plan

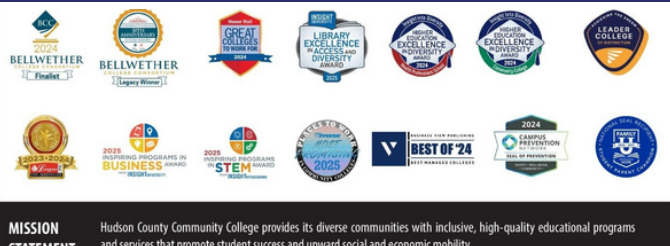
Career & Transfer Champion

CTE

Handshake Checklist

Career Coach

Events



**MISSION STATEMENT:** Hudson County Community College provides its diverse communities with inclusive, high-quality educational programs and services that promote student success and upward social and economic mobility.



# Meet the Team!



Kick off Fall 2025 with the Career & Transfer Pathways Team! We're here to support your career development and transfer planning through one-on-one meetings, classroom presentations, and campus resources. Join us for job fairs, workshops, and events with employers and four-year college/university partners. Students can book one-on-one appointments on EAB Navigate 360, and faculty can request classroom presentations through our Calendly link.



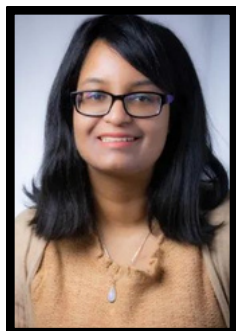
**Jennifer Valcarcel**  
*Associate Dean*



**Brianna Casagrande**  
*Associate Director*



**Victoria Vasquez**  
*CTE Senior Assistant Director*



**Diana Sanchez**  
*Career & Transfer Coach*



**Crystal Newton**  
*Career & Transfer Coach*



**Kim Hosmer**  
*Career & Transfer Specialist*



**Luz Tellez**  
*Career & Transfer Specialist*



**Imane Zehaf**  
*Career & Transfer Specialist*



**Abby Yisrael**  
*Career & Transfer Specialist*



**Naomi Betancourt**  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Meet the New Career & Transfer Assistant Director Victoria Vasquez



What inspired you to pursue a career in Career and Transfer Pathways, and what excites you most about this role at HCCC?

Coming from the non-profit and EdTech sector, I have always had a passion for working with adult learners. I believe in being a life-long learner, and I also acknowledge that as we get older there are less opportunities and more barriers to education. That's why I was so inspired by HCCC's commitment to accessible and equitable education for students. I am also a Jersey City resident and am excited to play a bigger part in my community by joining Hudson County Community College.

What are your top priorities for supporting students in their career and transfer journeys, and how do you envision collaborating with our team to achieve them?

Since the Career and Transfer Pathways office is relatively new, it is my priority to inform students on how seeing one of our specialists can help them make the most of their time here at HCCC! Our Career and Transfer Specialists provide students with guidance on how to make their application stand out, how to craft the perfect introductory email, and on different transfer opportunities they may not have considered before. The specialists also provide support on career readiness like resume writing, interview prep, and on major & career exploration. I still have a lot to learn from my amazing team, so I plan to spend a lot of time learning about our students from those who know them best, strengthening relationships with our partner institutions, and pursuing new relationships that benefit our students.

What is one piece of advice or a motto that guides you in your professional journey?

I had a swim coach in high school who used to tell me, ***"You swim through the finish line, not to the finish line."*** I think of that motto whenever I have a goal in mind. When the journey to that goal is long and challenging, I am tempted to pull back when the end looks near. This saying reminds me to keep going, and to not let up on my efforts until I have achieved my goal.

## Meet the New Career & Transfer Coach Crystal Newton

**What inspired you to pursue a career in Career and Transfer Pathways, and what excites you most about this role at HCCC?**

My inspiration comes from my experience as a first-generation, non-traditional college student and a proud graduate of Hudson County Community College. When I started at HCCC, I wanted more than just a degree; I sought guidance, confidence, and the skills to create a successful future. The support from advisors and teachers helped me succeed and believe in myself. This experience sparked my passion for this work. What excites me most about this role is being able to give back to the school that was so important in my life. I believe in HCCC's mission to serve a diverse range of students through equity, access, and opportunity. I want to help students who, like me, might be balancing many responsibilities or starting their own paths for the first time, and help them succeed with clear guidance and confidence.

**What are your top priorities for supporting students in their career and transfer journeys, and how do you envision collaborating with our team to achieve them?**

My priorities are access, empowerment, and connection. I want students to feel seen, supported, and equipped, no matter where they are in their journey. As a returning student, I understand how overwhelming it can be to navigate transfer options or explore careers. My goal is to break down barriers and provide clear, actionable steps that boost confidence and direction. I aim to collaborate with the Career and Transfer team and campus stakeholders to create a seamless support network. I believe a holistic approach is vital, where every interaction—whether a workshop, advising, or transfer fair—serves as a moment of guidance and encouragement.

**What is one piece of advice or a motto that guides you in your professional journey?**

My motto (***"Meet people where they are, and help them move forward"***) resonates deeply with me because I have lived it. As a first-generation, non-traditional student, I understand that everyone's path is unique. In my professional journey, I lead with empathy, respect, and purpose, always striving to comprehend the complete picture of a student's life so I can provide meaningful support. Whether someone is just starting or returning to complete their studies, I believe in honoring their journey and walking alongside them as they take their next step.





## Meet the New Career & Transfer Administrative Assistant Naomi Betancourt

**What inspired you to pursue a career in Career and Transfer Pathways, and what excites you most about this role at HCCC?**

I was inspired to pursue a career in Career and Transfer Pathways because I believe it's more important than ever to prepare students for the evolving world of work—especially as AI continues to reshape career possibilities. As a proud HCCC graduate, I see tremendous potential to give back to the very community that helped shape me. My previous experience as a Senior Manager in Talent Acquisition showed me the importance of meeting people where they are and guiding them through different career pathways. What excites me most about this role is the chance to be that resource for students and to help reimagine how we think about our futures.

**What are your top priorities for supporting students in their career and transfer journeys, and how do you envision collaborating with our team to achieve them?**

My top priority is to be a strong support system for students—helping them discover new job opportunities, explore career pathways, and gain confidence through workshops, info sessions, and hands-on experiences. I also hope to strengthen connections between HCCC and employers by building warm leads with corporations that are actively seeking our talented students. Collaboration with our team will be key in ensuring that students don't just pursue opportunities, but also feel prepared and supported every step of the way.

**What is one piece of advice or a motto that guides you in your professional journey?**

I truly believe that failing forward is a necessary part of growth. Success rarely comes without setbacks, and every failure is an opportunity to learn, adapt, and try again.





# Career and Transfer Plan

The Career and Transfer Plan outlines the key steps you should take during your time at HCCC to successfully launch your career, transfer to a four-year institution, or pursue both pathways.

	Career Pathway	Transfer Pathway
Early Stages (0-14 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Self-Assessment:</b> Take <u>career assessments</u> or <u>interest inventories</u> to identify potential career paths that align with your interests and strengths.</li> <li>• <b>Download Handshake App:</b> Download the <u>Handshake app</u>, create your profile, and begin exploring internships, part-time jobs, and other career opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Explore Career Options:</b> Research career opportunities using resources such as <u>Career Coach</u>, <u>O*NET OnLine</u>, and the <u>Occupational Outlook Handbook</u> to learn about various industries related to your major.</li> <li>• <b>Begin Networking:</b> Join <u>campus clubs</u> or <u>organizations</u> connected to your field of interest and start building your network through volunteering or participating in events.</li> <li>• <b>Jobs/Internships:</b> Use Handshake to search for jobs and internship opportunities to gain experience in different industries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Research:</b> <u>Explore transfer schools by visiting their websites</u>, attending <u>info sessions</u> or <u>college fairs</u>, and consult with the <u>Career and Transfer Pathways Office</u> for guidance on aligning your academic choices with your career goals.</li> <li>• <b>Academic Advisement OR EOF Advisement:</b> Meet with an academic/EOF advisor at the college to discuss your transfer goals. They can guide you on the appropriate courses to take and ensure you are on track to meet transfer requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>NOTE:</b> <i>Only students admitted to the EOF program can utilize EOF advisement.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>General Education Courses:</b> Focus on completing your general education requirements, as these are typically transferable to most universities. Consult with your advisor to determine which courses fulfill these requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>IMPORTANT!</b> <i>Keep all of the syllabi from your courses. Some universities/colleges determine the level of class to place you in depending on the learning objectives of the course.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Mid-Stages (15-29 credits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resume Building:</b> Create or update your resume by attending workshops and using <u>CareerOneStop's Resume Guide</u>.</li> <li>• <b>Career Advising:</b> Schedule a meeting with a career and transfer coach or specialist to discuss your career goals, pathways, and strategies for gaining relevant experience.</li> <li>• <b>Workshops/Job Fairs:</b> Register for and attend career skills workshops (e.g., resume writing, interview techniques) and job fairs to expand your knowledge and connections.</li> <li>• <b>Complete Your Handshake Profile:</b> Create or refine your Handshake profile and add any relevant experiences and start connecting with potential employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Target Schools:</b> Narrow down your list of potential transfer universities based on your research and personal preferences. Visit their websites and attend transfer information sessions or campus tours to gather more information.</li> <li>• <b>NJTransfer:</b> Explore how your HCCC credits will transfer to four-year institutions. If you have an intended major, use NJTransfer to identify the prerequisite courses required by your target universities.</li> <li>• <b>Maintain a Strong GPA:</b> Maintain a strong GPA by keeping both your cumulative GPA (all courses) and major GPA (major-related courses) above the minimum required by transfer schools, as both are often considered in applications.</li> </ul>



# Career and Transfer Plan Continued

	Career Pathway	Transfer Pathway
<p><b>Preparing for Career</b> (30-44 credits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Internships/Work-Based Learning:</b> Apply for internships and experiential learning opportunities via Handshake to gain practical, firsthand experience in your field.</li> <li>• <b>Mock Interviews:</b> Participate in mock interview sessions and use Handshake's resources to practice your interview skills.</li> <li>• <b>Research Job Markets:</b> Use Handshake to research different job markets, industries, and employers that align with your career goals.</li> <li>• <b>Networking Events:</b> Attend Handshake-hosted employer info sessions, career fairs, and other networking opportunities to build valuable connections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transfer Agreements:</b> Visit the <a href="#">transfer agreement webpage</a> to determine if your major pathway has an existing articulation agreement with the listed college/universities. These agreements outline the courses that will transfer and fulfill major requirements at the receiving institution.</li> <li>• <b>Connect with Target Schools:</b> Attend a campus tour or onsite visit of a university or college you are interested in transferring to receive information on application deadlines, application fee waivers, housing and scholarship opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Check-in with Academic Advisement OR EOF Advisement:</b> Check in with your academic advisor during this stage to discuss your progress, ensure you're meeting the necessary academic requirements, and get their input on your transfer plans.</li> <li>• <b>Extracurricular Activities:</b> Engage in extracurricular activities, such as clubs or volunteer work, to enhance your transfer application. These activities demonstrate your involvement and commitment outside of academics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Application and Final Stages</b> (45-60 credits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update Your Resume:</b> Update your resume so that it reflects your current experience and aligns with jobs in your field of interest. For assistance with updating your resume, visit the <a href="#">Career OneStop website</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Identify Relevant Jobs:</b> Identify positions that align with your work experience. <a href="#">Set up job alerts on Handshake</a> for positions that match your skills and interests.</li> <li>• <b>Apply for Jobs/Internships:</b> Use Handshake to apply for full-time jobs and internships.</li> <li>• <b>Interview Preparation:</b> Prepare for interviews by <a href="#">meeting with a member of the Career and Transfer Pathways team</a> to ensure that you are exemplifying <a href="#">NACE's Career Readiness Competencies</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Finalize Your Career Plans:</b> Review job offers carefully, considering responsibilities, company culture, salary, benefits, and career goals. Use the <a href="#">BLS earnings guide</a> to research salary expectations in your field.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Check with Registrar Office regarding Graduation:</b> Confirm you're on track to graduate by consulting the Registrar's Office. For details and to complete the process, visit: <a href="#">HCCC Graduation Requirements and Application</a></li> <li>• <b>Financial Aid:</b> Research and apply for transfer-specific financial aid and scholarships. Contact the financial aid office at your selected transfer schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>NOTE:</b> Log into your <a href="#">FAFSA application</a> and update your school to the selected transfer school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Complete Your Transfer Process:</b> Complete your transfer process by getting recommendation letters, writing a strong personal statement, submitting applications, and sending transcripts via the <a href="#">National Student Clearinghouse</a> or the transfer school's preferred method.</li> <li>• <b>Finalize Your Transfer Plans:</b> Review admission offers carefully, considering academics, campus life, financial aid, and career goals, then choose the best option.</li> </ul>



**Hillary Kouevi**

**Class of 2020**



**BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION, A.S.**



**INTERNATIONAL  
MARKETING, B.S.**

## Career & Transfer Champion

### How did transferring affect your career goals or opportunities?

Transferring had a great impact on my opportunities because it opened up more possibilities for me. At Rutgers, I was able to participate in multiple club organizations as a committee and board member to expand on my leadership skills. I also attended multiple job fairs to learn more about different companies and job roles, & participated in campus events designed to keep students actively involved. As a student, it made me feel my university supported me beyond academia, but also for my personal growth.

### Can you describe any challenges you faced when transferring and how you overcame them?

My biggest challenge during the transfer process was the onset of COVID-19. The shift to a fully online first year highlighted the resilience I needed in order to succeed. I took the initiative to research the school thoroughly, identifying the key contacts for financial aid and counseling to ensure I stayed on track for graduation. This experience demonstrated my ability to adapt and thrive in any circumstances.

### What motivated you to pursue your chosen career path?

My career path has been something I truly would not have imagined for myself. I had always considered various industries that aligned with my strengths and values, but it was my time at Hudson that truly illuminated my passion for helping others and solving problems. I discovered a deep satisfaction in providing support and finding solutions, which inspired me to pursue a major in Business Administration. This field allowed me to explore diverse areas within business while continuing to do what I enjoy.

### What resources or support systems were most helpful during your transfer process?

The support systems I found most beneficial were the counseling and career services departments. They guided me through essential transfer requirements, including prerequisite courses, minimum GPA standards, and timely submission of transcripts. Their assistance not only clarified the transfer process but also helped me enhance my time management and organizational skills, ensuring that all necessary documents were prepared and submitted promptly.

### How did the career services at HCCC and your new college/university help you in your job search?

Career services at HCCC and Rutgers assisted with my job search with resume building. Both institutions made sure I had a solid foundation that I can continue to build on as I gain more experience. Additionally, I was introduced to student-focused job boards and had the opportunity to connect with various professionals, which deepened my understanding of my desired industries.



# Career & Technical Education

## What is Career and Technical Education (CTE)?

Career and Technical Education combines academic knowledge with practical, hands-on training in high-demand careers that range from healthcare and technology to skilled trades and hospitality. Hudson County Community College's CTE programs are designed to prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce or to further their education in specialty areas.

### HCCC CTE PROGRAMS

HCCC has a wide array of CTE programs to meet the needs of the local economy and job market. Whether you want to pursue an associate degree, complete a professional certificate, or explore a short-term program, we have options that will suit your career aspirations:

- **Health Sciences:** Nursing, Radiography, Medical Assisting, Health Services, Health Science.
- **Business and Technology:** Business, Accounting, Computer Science, Cybersecurity.
- **Culinary and Hospitality Management:** Culinary Arts, Baking and Pastry, Hospitality Management.
- **Skilled Trades:** Construction Management, Advanced Manufacturing.
- **Human Services:** Early Childhood Education, Human Services Pre-Social Work.





# Completing your Profile in *Handshake*

80% of students with a complete Handshake profile get messaged by employers!

To fully complete your profile in Handshake, you'll want to add the following information:



## Looking for

This section on your profile is designed to help specify what types of opportunities you are seeking. Keeping it current ensures you receive job, internship, and event recommendations that match your career goals.



## Profile Picture

Add a picture to connect with your school's career service center and other students – or add a picture to make your profile standout among employers!



## Summary

This section offers you the opportunity to add a personal bio to your profile.



## Skills

Add technical skills (like SQL) along with soft skills (like communication). The more skills you list, the better your chances are of showing up in an employer search!



## Work experience

Have you held a part-time job, internship, work-study position, research position, or volunteered? If so, employers like to know that you've taken on the responsibility, and value these experiences as they've helped you develop skills!



## Education

The Education section is intended to reflect the school you're currently affiliated with, along with other schools you may have attended in the past.



## Courses

Add courses you've taken to your profile to express the skills developed throughout your learnings.



## Organization

These signal your specific interests, affinity groups, and participation and involvement on campus.



## Projects

Adding projects to your profile may include a wide variety of work, such as publications, photos, presentations, pitch decks, websites, and more!



## Languages

Let employers know the language/s you are fluent in!

GET  
READY TO GET  
HIRED

Log in to update your Handshake profile today!



app.joinhandshake.com

SCAN  
HERE



# CAREER COACH

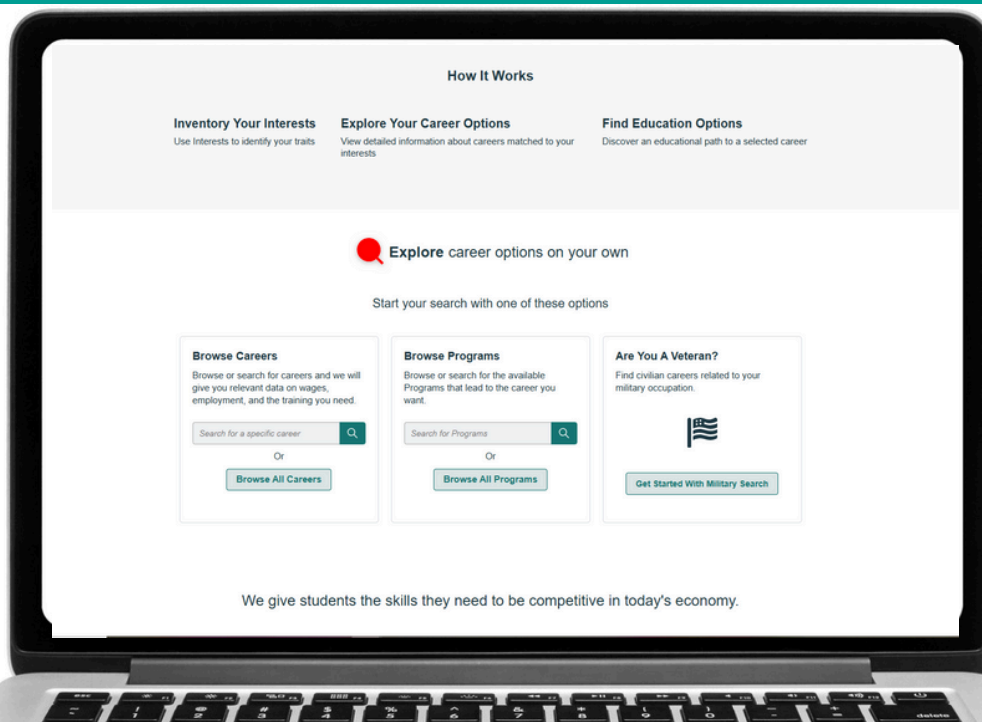


## Lightcast



**Meet the Career Coach platform—it can help students explore majors and career paths that align with their interests and goals! Career Coach is here to provide students with insight!**

**It's simple, just take the comprehensive 60-question Career Assessment and you will be well on your way to finding the path that is right for you!**





# FEATURED CAMPUS TOUR



**MONTCLAIR STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**3**

**OCTOBER**

## Montclair State University Campus Tour

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

### HOW TO RSVP

Scan the QR code to secure your seat through Involved. First-come, first-served basis!

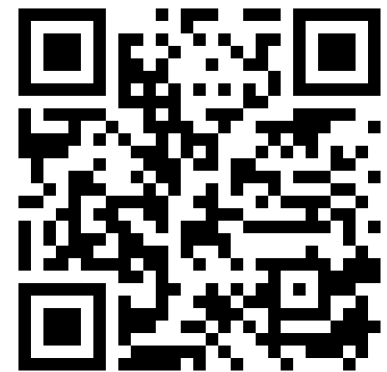
### Touring the following Montclair Major schools:

- College of the Arts
- Feliciano School of Business
- College for Education and Engaged Learning
- The School of Nursing

**Free Lunch and Transportation  
Provided!**



**SCAN QR CODE**





## Onsite Visits

Date	Time	Campus	Location
9/9/2025	10AM-12PM	New Jersey City University - NJCU	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
9/10/2025	10AM-12PM	Berkeley College	NHC, Lobby, 1 <sup>st</sup> Fl.
9/11/2025	10AM-12PM	Rutgers University - Newark	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
10/1/2025	2PM-4PM	Stevens Institute of Technology	JSQ, Library Lobby, 1st Fl.
10/29/2025	2PM-4PM	Montclair State University	NHC 2nd Fl. Multipurpose Room

**VISIT OUR TRANSFER SUPPORT  
WEBSITE FOR THE FALL 2025  
ONSITE VISITS!**

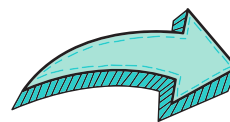


## Instant Decision Days (IDD)

Date	Time	Campus	Location
9/30/2025	10AM-1PM	New Jersey City University - NJCU	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
10/16/2025	2PM-5PM	Rutgers University - Newark	Remote
10/28/2025	10AM-1PM	New Jersey City University - NJCU	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
11/25/2025	10AM-1PM	Ramapo College of NJ	Remote

**ALL STUDENTS must print an unofficial transcript for each visit.**

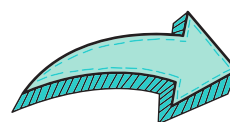
**VISIT OUR TRANSFER SUPPORT  
WEBSITE TO RSVP FOR ANY FALL 2025  
INSTANT DECISION DAY.**



## Career and Transfer Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/3/2025	11AM-1PM	Welcome Back Humanities Students	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
9/10/2025	12PM-2PM	Meet and Greet: CTE Specialists	NHC, 2nd Fl. Multipurpose Room
9/16/2025	11AM-1PM	Meet and Greet: CTE Specialists	JSQ, G Bldg, Student Center, 1st Fl.
9/30/2025	12PM-1PM	NJ Transit Internship Info session	Remote

**VISIT OUR CAREER & TRANSFER  
INVOLVED PAGE TO RSVP FOR EVENTS,  
TOURS, WORKSHOPS, & INFO SESSIONS**



# PATHWAY PRESS

*Office of Career & Transfer Pathways Monthly Newsletter*

## Contact Us!



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**Schedule  
appointments easily  
with our Team**

