

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



REVEREND AL SHARPTON DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2023 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUMMER RETREAT



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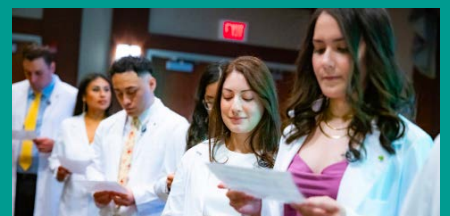
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From the Editor's Desk

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

Items for the October newsletter are due by Friday, September 8, 2023.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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REVEREND AL SHARPTON DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2023 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUMMER RETREAT



Reverend Al Sharpton with members of the Hudson County Community College family following his keynote address at the DEI Summer Retreat on July 26.

Reverend Al Sharpton, one of America's preeminent civil rights leaders, delivered the keynote address at Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) 2023 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat. The event took place on Wednesday, July 26. Students, educators, and the general public were invited to attend.

Reverend Sharpton is the founder and president of the National Action Network (NAN), a nonprofit organization that boasts more than 100 chapters across the United States and promotes a modern civil rights agenda that includes the fight for one standard of justice, decency, and equal opportunity for all. In addition, he anchors *Politics Nation* on MSNBC, hosts the nationally syndicated radio shows *Keepin' It Real* and *The Hour of Power*, holds weekly action rallies, and speaks out on behalf of those who have been silenced and marginalized. Reverend Sharpton has long advocated police reform and accountability, voting rights, and educational equality.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber said, "It is with great pride that we welcome Reverend Sharpton to HCCC. He has devoted his entire life to championing diversity, equity, and inclusion, promoting nonviolent activism, and providing a voice for those who are powerless. We know he will engage our attendees by providing historic context, thoughtful insight, and extraordinary inspiration on the issues we will explore during our retreat."

The 2023 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat was presented by the HCCC President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI). Dr. Jelani Cobb, Dean and Henry Luce Professor of Journalism – Columbia Journalism School, and an award-winning writer and social justice advocate, delivered a powerful

session titled "The Future of Equity in Higher Education." The remainder of the daylong convening included engaging sessions centered around social justice, accessibility, gender identity, equity, team building, and taking stock of the College's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion journey.

That this is the second year the College has held the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat. HCCC's 2022 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat was the first of its kind to be offered in New Jersey. HCCC leaders discussed accomplishments and best practice outcomes so that everyone may have the opportunity to learn, work and grow. "In building a culture of care, Hudson County Community College advocates an educational environment where every voice matters, all contributions are acknowledged and celebrated, and diversity is the foundation for achievement and well-being," Dr. Reber stated. Going forward, the DEI Summer Retreat will be held annually at the College.

Congratulations to these winners of the PACDEI Impact Awards, presented during the DEI Summer Retreat:

- PACDEI Impact Faculty Leadership Award, presented to Professor Karen Hosick
- PACDEI Impact Administrative Leadership Award, presented to Dr. Burl Yearwood
- PACDEI Impact Community Leadership Award, presented to Michelle Richardson
- PACDEI Impact Student Equity Leadership Award, presented to Madeline Dyer

Special awards were presented to Dr. Jose Lowe and Tiana Malcolm for their roles and contributions to DEI and PACDEI.

ON THE COVER:

Reverend Al Sharpton was the keynote speaker at Hudson County Community College's 2023 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat on Wednesday, July 26.

Dr. Jelani Cobb discussed "The Future of Equity in Higher Education."

HCCC PRESIDENT ENJOYS LUNCH WITH EOF SCHOLARS



On Wednesday, Aug. 2, Hudson County Community College President, Dr. Christopher Reber met EOF Summer Academy scholars from the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program. Prior to connecting with the scholars during lunch, Dr. Reber provided them with details about his career and his service at the College. He concluded his presentation by answering questions from the students.

PRE-COLLEGE END OF THE EOF SUMMER ACADEMY CEREMONY



On Thursday, Aug. 10, Hudson County Community College's Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program recognized 16 incoming HCCC students who were accepted into the EOF Program and began their journey in the EOF Summer Academy.

During the ceremony, the EOF team congratulated the scholars for staying the course and reflected on the weeks-long process; the scholars also shared their thoughts about the program.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT NEWS



Prof. Khurshed Khan (left) and Dr. Azhar Mahmood.

In July, Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Associate Professor of Chemistry, presented on Hudson County Community College's Construction Management program at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC 2023) in Atlanta. Prof. Khurshed Khan, Adjunct Instructor – STEM and a Co-Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation's grant to the College in Construction Management, co-presented.

The NSF team reviewed the progress of the projects at the conference. Representatives from different institutions and colleges visited the HCCC booth. Everyone found the poster session to be very informative.

The team received important feedback, including modifying the names of "Stackable Credit Certificates" to "Stackable Industry Recognized Credentials." In addition, the NSF team also gave important tips regarding future work and potential opportunities to explore.

CULINARY ARTS INSTITUTE WELCOMES RECENTLY ACCEPTED STUDENTS



On Wednesday, August 16, Hudson County Community College's Culinary Arts Institute held an Accepted Students Night for incoming students at the Culinary Conference Center.

More than 25 students became acclimated to their surroundings and were measured for their uniforms. They toured the facility, met faculty members, and had their concerns resolved.



HCCC HOLDS ESL OPEN HOUSE AT NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS



On Tuesday, Aug. 15, Hudson County Community College held an ESL Open House at the College's North Hudson Campus (4800 John F. Kennedy Blvd. in Union City).

Attendees learned about the College's ESL Programs (particularly the new ESL Proficiency Certificate) and Resource Centers; met ESL faculty and staff; and connected with Admissions, Financial Aid, Advisement, and Testing and Assessment.



Scenes from HCCC's English as a Second Language Open House at the North Hudson Campus.

For information about the College's ESL Programs, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/academic-pathways/esl.html>

SAVE THE DATE:**WELLNESS FAIR 2023**
for Faculty and Staff

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Main Event will be held at the Culinary Arts Center, Jersey City Campus.

Free Flu Shots and Wellness Educational Workshops

SAVE THE DATE:**Benefits Open Enrollment**

October 1, 2023 –
October 31, 2023

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES**One Year**

Machli Joseph
Mary Ellen Piel
Nicole Sanchez
Melanie Suarez
Meghry Tutunjian

10 Years

Kenny Fabara

40 Years

Kevin O'Malley

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**One Year**

Marwa Abdelgowad
Daniel Chasse
Hardik Darji
Ronnie Feliz
Amareese Forty
Priyansh Gandhi
Mariam Ibrahim
Rebekah Isaac
Mike Luna Mendez
Montaha Osman
Ravi Panagar
Dev Patel
Kevin Patel
Bryan Sierra Nunez

5 Years

Gustavo Maia de Amorim
Abiodun Oladeji
James Ryan
Natalia Salazar Mejia

15 Years

Martha Gawchik

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Mark Amaker, Support Analyst, NHC Campus
Malcolm Kornegay, Support Analyst, JSQ Campus
Manuel Lendorf, Support Analyst, JSQ Campus
Willie Shirer, Senior Audio-Visual Analyst
Sargeant Williams, Safety and Security Associate

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Karina Arango, Student Success Coach, Academic and Workforce Pathways Program (Grant-funded)
Michelle (Miki) DeLaFleur, Interim Director of Patron Services
Machli Joseph, Student Success Coach, NJ PLACE 2.0 (Grant-funded)
Fabiola Ocean, Student Success Coach, Academic and Workforce Pathways Program (Grant-funded)

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

Sharon Daughtry, Instructor, Business (Tenure-Track)
Sebastian Peciak, Instructor, Speech (Tenure-Track)
Soviesky Pujols, Instructor, English (Tenure-Track)
Sonja Radiger-Radovic, Instructor, ESL (Tenure-Track)
Keeley Thornton, Instructor, ESL (Tenure-Track)
Benedetto J. Youssef, Instructor, English (Tenure-Track)

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Sean Hughes, Instructor, ESL (Non-tenured)
Michael A. Lee, Instructor, Studio Arts (Non-tenured)
Tazio Ruffilo, Instructor, Speech (Non-tenured)

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Christopher Ciely, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Finance to Senior Executive Assistant
Heather DeVries, Dean, Academic Affairs and Assessment to Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs and Assessment

Carmen McGuire, N/A Assistant Director (HRIS) to Associate Director, Human Resources Information Systems N/A Executive Assistant, Advancement to Advancement Operations Manager

Paula Roberson, Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Classification Change from Director I to Director II

Stephanie Sergeant, Coordinator, Human Resources to Assistant Director, Human Resources (Recruitment)

N/A, Assistant Director, Human Resources (HRIS) to Associate Director, Human Resources Information Systems

N/A, Director of Faculty and Staff Development Classification Change from Director II to Director I

N/A, Executive Assistant, Advancement Advancement Operations Manager

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

Supporting Others Through Mental Health Struggles (All Employees, Live, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)
Watching someone you know struggle with their mental health can leave you feeling helpless. In this session learn how to approach and support someone who is struggling, while also still taking care of yourself.

Supporting Employees with Personal Challenges (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Everyone faces personal challenges at some point, and those challenges can follow people to work. In this session, we will review strategies to support employees dealing with mental health issues, substance use, grief and loss, etc.

Involvement and Engagement (Prerecorded; available 24/7 through Sept. 30)
Learn how small acts of kindness and a state of flow can change your life. Do you ever ask yourself, "What can I do today to change my life for the better?" Thankfully, research supports that there is something we can do about it, and it's actually quite easy. In this webinar, we will explore two actionable concepts, acts of kindness and flow, that you will enjoy adding to your daily/weekly routine and that will help you live a happier, positive, purposeful life

To sign up for these webinars, visit eap.ndbh.com, enter company code HCCC, and scroll down to the "Check Out Our Webinars" box. Questions? Connect with your EAP account manager, HR department or 800-624-5544.

Hudson County Community College**OUT of the BOX****PODCAST**

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

To listen, visit www.hccc.edu/outofthebox.

STEM DIVISION CONDUCTS SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

This summer, the STEM Division at Hudson County Community College provided local high school students with the opportunity to conduct seven weeks of hands-on research. Guided by experienced faculty and staff, students used sophisticated laboratories to solve industrial or fundamental research problems. Yamanni Tay from Jose Marti STEM Academy worked on “The Effect of Lemongrass Essential Oil on Antimicrobial Efficacy with Dough”. Montserrat Ramon, also from Jose Marti STEM Academy, worked on “The Effect of Thyme Oil on the Antimicrobial Properties of Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Copolymer (EVA) Plastic”.

The Effect of Lemongrass Essential Oil on Antimicrobial Efficacy with Dough

Abstract

Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon* spp.) is widely cultivated due to the medicinal and industrial benefits of its

essential oil. In addition to other bioactive chemicals, lemongrass essential oil (LEO) contains a sizable amount of a variety of bioactive compounds, including citral, citronellal, citronellol, germacrene-D. These elements give LEO numerous pharmacological effects, including antioxidant, antifungal, antibacterial, antiviral, and anticancer activities. In this experiment, we investigated the antimicrobial activity of lemongrass essential oil against food borne disease by its ability to lower the microbial population of dough. From this, two separate trials were conducted: One with Control Dough that contained no oil and one with lemongrass dough that had been infused with the oil. Both were tested on agar plates and placed in the incubator for 24-hour increments. The goal was to determine if bacteria would grow and to compare the duration and efficacy of prevention of bacteria in both samples of dough. As a result, just with a comparison without bacteria spread on the agar plate, it highlighted the prevention of bacterial growth on/around the dough with oil compared to the



Pictured from left: Dr. Clive Li (mentor), Montserrat Ramon, Yamanni Tay, and Dr. Burl Yearwood (Dean of the STEM Division and co-mentor).

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MEMORIES OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF 9/11

Submitted by Bob Richard, PT Library Technology Associate

I began my career in lower Manhattan in June 1974, at Dover Employment Agency, located at 12 John Street. My commute from Journal Square to the World Trade Center was 50 cents each way. While the World Trade Center was open, it was not fully operational and sometimes, there were various detours as more entry and exits were completed. While I may not remember everything, there are specific highlights I do recall.

The mall at the World Trade Center eventually became one of the most profitable malls in the entire country, catering to workers, tourists, and local residents moving into Battery Park City during the late 1970s. Retail stores included Alexander's Department Store, Sam Goody's, The Gap, The Store of Knowledge, Tourneau Corner, Hudson News, Coach, Florsheim Shoes, and Borders Books. The World Trade Center also had fine restaurants including Windows on the World and The Market Bar and Dining Room to the left of the huge escalators above the PATH train. Other food options included Sbarro, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and a Chinese/Japanese restaurant whose name I cannot remember. Two bars above the PATH trains were The Commuter's Bar and The Trade Wind bar. There also was the Sky Lobby Bar on the 44th floor of 1 World Trade Center.

While 1 and 2 World Trade Center housed the mall, 3 World Trade Center became the address of The Vista hotel, (later the Marriott Hotel). The Tall Ships Bar was a very nice place to go, and they eventually joined in with the other establishments, offering cigars with a huge humidor at the bar's entrance. The Vista Hotel also hosted the CMJ music festival every year. Booths would be set up all along the second floor of the lobby at 1 World Trade Center where demo CDs would be handed out. Other notable buildings: 4 WTC that housed the commodities exchange, 6 WTC that housed U. S. Customs, and 7 WTC, home to various other companies.

Connecting 7 WTC to the outside plaza was a pedestrian overhead bridge above Vesey Street. Battery Park City was created by landfill created from the construction of the World Trade Center and this pedestrian bridge played a vital role connecting the World Trade Center to the World Financial Center. Annual events such as the orchid show in the WFC provided orchid growers opportunities to sell their orchids to people crossing the bridge from one building to the other. Also, vendors set up booths during Christmas time, offering all sorts of gifts.

The years prior to 9/11 at the World Trade Center were great. There were lots of great free events such as the lunchtime concerts every July through August. The concerts varied from country to oldies, opera, contemporary, and more. I remember the Bloomberg Blues series, where small transistor radios were given to the audience. These radios had only one radio station on them, it was Bloomberg News. However, there were also signs of terrorism before 9/11.

On February 26, 1993, I was working at 170 Broadway and heard an explosion from the underground parking garage at 1 World Trade Center, the first attack. Six people were killed and many others injured. Surprisingly, the PATH train had service into the World Trade Center the following Monday. Before this attack, access to any office within the World Trade Center was granted without any questions asked. Once the Trade Center reopened, food delivery people were no longer allowed to enter any of the elevators. Anyone working within the towers would be notified by lobby security and had to go down to the lobby to pick up their order.

Friday August 31, 2001, Savoy Brown performed the final lunchtime concert for the season. Little did I know that twelve days later the World Trade Center would be gone. To this day, I cannot fathom

people at their desks on that cloudless morning and seeing that plane heading for that building. Personally, I knew two people who were killed that day. In the morning, I had breakfast, put the radio on and heard a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. I put the news on and saw the second plane crash into 2 World Trade Center. I was on Summit Avenue when the North tower fell. For several days after there were several street closings along Journal Square due to bomb threats. But it did not end on this day.

The following Friday, I went to lower Manhattan. Only the east side of Broadway was accessible to pedestrians. There were signs all over telling people no photos were allowed since this was considered a crime scene and the plane's black boxes had not been found yet. All the buildings along Broadway were covered with soot and ash from the towers and the air smelled awful. Battery Park was closed to everyone but the National Guard. Several apartment windows at Gateway Plaza in Battery Park City were blown out and steel beams from the towers were embedded into the façade of the World Financial Center.

The following Sunday all football games were cancelled. I went to New York. I have never been on the PATH train where nobody talked at all. You could hear a pin drop. The New York Stock Exchange stayed closed that entire week after the attack. I did go to New York during the next few weeks and months, observing the removal of the ruins. Residents of Battery Park City were eventually allowed temporary access to their apartments for a short time.

In May 2002, I watched on television as the final steel beam of the World Trade Center was removed from the site. It was a very moving ceremony as all the workers at the site stood and cheered as the beam was carted away. It is amazing to me how quickly the pile was cleaned up.

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Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,850+ 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.

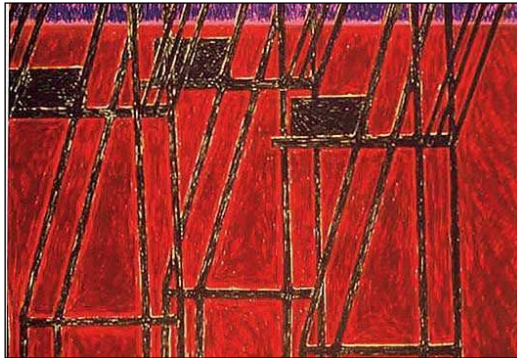
Each month, this page in *HCCC Happenings* provides updates on artists whose works are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

Donor Acknowledgment

We recently accepted a donation of a work of art called *Nowhere Better Than This Place, Somewhere Better Than This Place*, by **Felix Gonzalez-Torres** (1957-1996), a Cuban-American artist who died of AIDS-related illness. We hope to install this work in the coming year.

In a very short creative life, Gonzalez-Torres became legendary. His most famous work is a huge pile of candy in the corner of a room, that is designed for visitors to take away, piece by piece. The candy pile (the work of art) can be continually replenished, as needed, by the "owner" of the piece. Many people question if this is art at all, and find the whole concept puzzling. His ideas about art were radically different than the artists you hear about in the news whose works are auctioned for millions of dollars. He thought art was to be shared, for free. His work was featured at the 1991 Whitney Biennial and the 1993 Venice Biennale. He exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago before his untimely death.

People often ask about where our donations come from. Every piece has a different story. Where did this specific work come from? Last month, the Foundation Art Collection Coordinator, Andrea Siegel, was in Northern Spain, on grant-funded research to study how people conserve and protect natural and cultural spaces for the public good. Having hiked for several days with her companion along the Camino de Santiago, and recorded observations about how that famous pilgrimage trail is protected and preserved by people who live there and by pilgrims who walk there, she arrived at the city of Santiago de Compostela. There, they checked out the local Contemporary Art Museum (Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea). A Gonzalez-Torres' posthumous piece was on exhibit. (Even though he is dead, the 1990 work can be easily and legitimately recreated.) In the language of the art world, the art work is called an "offset lithograph unlimited edition." What that means is it's a poster that can be infinitely reproduced. Each piece of the diptych (that's a single work of art made of two separate pieces) is 23" x 29". At the museum were two huge piles of posters with sayings on them. One pile of posters said: *Nowhere Better Than This Place*. The other pile's posters said, *Somewhere Better Than This Place*.



Judith Brodsky, Iron Horses (From the Meadowlands Strike Back Series), 1988, Lithograph, 39 x 29 in (framed), Edition: of 30, at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) building, 263 Academy Street - Fourth Floor.

Having just spent many days in one of the most beautiful places in the world, our Coordinator, Andrea, liked the first poster, but she could relate to the second poster. She read the placard on the museum wall, which said these were free for the taking, and she was somewhat surprised. So, she double-checked this with the gentleman in charge at the museum front desk. After obtaining consent from him (he nodded and slid a box of rubber bands across his desk), she took posters and left the museum with a diptych for the College collection. They then scrounged part of a poster tube from a local stationery store outside the museum, and used a shirt cardboard to extend it to protect the work for travel. Andrea's hiking socks provided additional protection at the ends of the tubes so the work wouldn't get crushed in her luggage. That's one example of how we get donations.

At the end of this sentence is a link to a video from the National Gallery in Washington, DC, where this artwork was on exhibit last year: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJfb_2My8GQ. According to curators at our National Gallery, here are some ways to consider this work: "How do you feel wherever you are? Is it 'Nowhere better than this place' or 'Somewhere better than this place'?" Felix Gonzalez-Torres invites viewers to make a choice in this interactive work. ... Visitors decide which option they will take from two endlessly replenished stacks of paper in the National Gallery of Art. Gonzalez-Torres not only confronts viewers with a dilemma, he allows them to take a piece of his art wherever they go."

Artist News

Opening September 15 at the Montclair Museum is the exhibit, "Taking Space: Contemporary Women Artists and the Politics of Scale." The show "invites viewers to consider how space, size, scale, and repetition can be interpreted as political gestures in the practices of many women artists." The exhibit includes art by artists whose works also happen to be in the Foundation Art Collection. For example, you can see **Jennifer Bartlett's** painting on the fourth floor of 70 Sip Avenue in the Academic Affairs receptions area. You can see two works by **Mickalene Thomas** on the first floor of the Gabert Library. **Barbara Kruger's** work can be seen on the second floor of 2 Enos Place.

Also on exhibit at Zimmerli from September 13-December 22 is art by **Judy Brodsky**, whose lithograph print, *Iron Horses*, can be seen on the 4th floor of the STEM Building at 263 Academy Street. The exhibit is called: *Judith K. Brodsky: Inside and Outside*. The artist says, "Although these are drawings, my drawing methods derive from my printmaking. For me, the layering in printmaking—layers of colors from separate plates, layers of mark-making—is a physical metaphor for the layering of meaning. I used photographs I took of my assistant, Ilana Cloud, who had closets full of flea market-purchased clothing and accessories, which she combined in fascinating ways, as well as photographs of my open mouth at different stages of teeth-straightening, to show how we decorate the body's exterior to hide the body's interior functions, thus denying evidence of mortality. With my open mouth that resembles a scream, they are also about how the pandemic reminded us of mortality's inevitability and blocked us from denying the body's abject nature."

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

To make a monetary gift in support of the Foundation Art Collection, please contact Nicole Bouknight Johnson at (201) 360-4069 or nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu

To donate artwork, find detailed information here: www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html

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

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents



Benjamin J. Dineen III & Dennis C. Hull Gallery Fall 2023 Exhibit Calendar



HCCC Creative Artist Network featured at Art Fair 14C

October 12 to October 15
Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

Art Fair 14C is an internationally celebrated art fair based in New Jersey. Now in its fifth year, HCCC alumni will curate and exhibit work.

Co-curated by Salma Abdelwahed and Elaf Hussein featuring other alumni and current student work.

Machines I Wish Existed by BARC The Dog

August 16 to November 3
Dineen Hull Gallery

Arrive to be teleported into the laboratory of the mad dog scientist, Dr. BARC. There you will find a sci-fi cartoon world filled with scenes of fantastic experiments and machines that could fix, or make worse, common troubles we all face, or ignore.



Mapping Displacement by Wes Sherman

August 16 to December 21
North Hudson Campus, Art Concourse

Wes Sherman has been an artist for over 30 years. In that time, he's had 45 solo exhibitions and has been included in hundreds of group exhibitions in the US and Europe. He has also published a few books, among them *This Is True* and *Penumbra*.

Cryptographics by Michael Lee

August 16 to November 3
Dineen Hull Gallery

Michael Lee (born 1972 in Cincinnati, OH) is an artist based in New York City. He holds a BFA from the University of Texas, Austin and an MFA from Hunter College (CUNY), New York City. Lee has shown his work nationally and internationally.



DOCA NEWS



Artwork created by Michelle Vitale by incorporating local textiles with photography.

Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (center), pictured with Domenico (Mimmo) Trezza, Michelle Vitale (aka Wool-punk), Caterina Di Bianco, Antonio Fortunati, Melinda Borysevich

Michelle Vitale, Director of Cultural Affairs for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, recently participated in the Art Center Padula Summer Artist Residency Program.

Art Center Padula is in the villa of the Italian Ambassador to Vietnam. He donates his home to the organization. Artists from all over the world apply, and if accepted travel to Italy to create artistic research projects. Vitale's research project included recycling local textiles to hand stitch onto a photograph of Padula by local photographer Mimmo Trezza. Padula is a southern village in the Salerno region known for archaeological sites dating back to A.D. 500. The town happily accepted the work and created an official proclamation as thanks for the donation.

Follow Us

For more information, email: mvitale@hccc.edu or visit www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dineenhullartgalleryhccc

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery

MEMORIES OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

Continued from page 5

Shortly after, the Port Authority began building the then open-air WTC PATH station, which opened November 23, 2003. When the train came out of the tunnel, it was amazing to see this vast, huge hole where you could see the World Financial Center, looking west. This hole had to be seven or eight stories underground.

I have witnessed plenty of progress during the rebuilding of the World Trade Center after various delays. 7 World Trade Center was the first tower rebuilt, followed by 1 WTC, 4 WTC and 3 WTC. Eventually 5 WTC and 2 WTC will be built.

The new PATH station and shopping mall have reopened with many new stores, such as Apple, along with Eataly, and the Fulton Street transportation hub connecting MTA and PATH trains as well as Brookfield Place (formally the World Financial Center).

In conclusion, personally, as we approach the 22nd anniversary of 9/11, I feel plenty of people do not know the horrific events that occurred that day. The main news outlets will show the reading of the names of close to 3,000 people who died that day, but you will not see the full destruction of the towers, the planes flying into the North and South towers or the people who chose to jump out of the upper floors that day. I cannot, to this day, imagine having to choose whether to burn to death or jump to death that morning.

The documentary, *102 Minutes That Changed America*, is well worth watching for anyone who has not seen it. It speaks volumes about that morning on September 11, 2001

Save the Date!

HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

26TH ANNUAL GALA
will be held on
Thursday, December 7, 2023
6 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

foundation@hccc.edu



Please join HCCC President
Dr. Chris Reber for a
TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 13
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

Virtual at:
<https://tinyurl.com/TownHall-Sept2023>
Meeting number: 2633 875 1018
Password: SeptTH2023

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

ALICE Active Shooter Response Training



This training is designed to teach participants the skills and strategies to increase survivability during the gap between the time a violent event occurs and law enforcement arrives.

Training participants should register for one of the two options, and be available to stay for the duration of the program.

Thursday, September 21
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/Session-9-21>

OR

Friday, September 22
10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/Session-9-22>

STEM Building - 263 Academy Street,
Multipurpose Room, Jersey City, NJ
Lunch will be served.

This training is open to all
HCCC students, faculty and Staff.



HCCC WHITE COAT CEREMONY CELEBRATES RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM GRADUATES



Graduates of the Hudson County Community College's Radiography Program with HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber at their Aug. 10 White Coat Ceremony.



White coats are conferred to 2023 graduates of the HCCC Radiography Program.

On Thursday, Aug. 10, 2022, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) honored graduates of the College's Radiography Program with a White Coat Ceremony in the HCCC Culinary Conference Center. In all, 16 members of the HCCC Radiography Class of 2023 were awarded Associate in Science in Radiography degrees and white coats: Arthur Albrizio, Constanza Araya, Andrew Bello, Mariangel Castillo, Lissette Chiriboga, Mariangel Contreras, Erick Del Rio, Michael Foley, David Garcia, Luis Matamoros, Cindy Mejia, Katrina Ortiz, Veronica Paulino, Jacqueline Quinn, Noah Rodriguez, and Michael Rosario.

The White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic rite of passage for students of the healing arts. For radiologic sciences graduates, the ceremony signifies a professional relationship with colleagues in health care services, and reaffirms the medical community's support of the educational process that prepares future health providers for practice. At the ceremony, the graduates pledge their commitment to the profession and the health of the patients they serve.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Submitted by Justin Mosquera, President
of the Environmental Club

Discover the vibrant oasis at Hudson County Community College — the STEM Courtyard Garden Project, a flourishing testament to environmental innovation and sustainability. Spearheaded by the dedicated members of the Environmental Club, Sofia Ruseva, Natasha Luccia, Ashley Quintero, Justin Mosquera, and Dr. Clive Li, this initiative is a demonstration of the power of student-driven change. The Environmental Club stands as a beacon of eco-consciousness within the college community. Fueled by their fervor for a greener future, the club has built a bountiful raised garden bed and harnessed rain through a rain barrel collection system, amplifying the garden's vitality while reducing the institution's carbon footprint. Nurtured by the hands of passionate faculty and students, the garden boasts a thriving harvest that includes microgreens and vegetables recently donated to the culinary department. Dr. Karakashian, proudly pictured with the greens, embodies the commitment to bridging education



Environmental Club students presenting greens grown on campus to Dr. Karakashian, Dean of the School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management (left).

and environmental consciousness. Beyond the garden gates, the club extends its impact to Jersey City, orchestrating inspiring community clean-ups that unite residents in the pursuit of a cleaner, greener urban landscape. Join the Environmental Club today and be part of a movement that cultivates sustainable habits and ideals. Together, we sow the seeds of change, fostering a more harmonious relationship between humanity and the environment for generations to come.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Conference, August 19

On Saturday, Aug. 19, Beta Alpha Phi chapter attended the Phi Theta Kappa Middle States meeting, themed “College Project Cuisine,” at Passaic County Community College’s Wanaque Academic Center. HCCC’s very own Veronica Gerosimo, Assistant Dean of Student Life and Leadership, facilitated a workshop on how chapters can work with their campus administrators.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program is accepting applications through Dec. 1, 2023. SMART is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity for STEM students. SMART scholars receive full tuition, annual stipends, internships, and guaranteed civilian employment after graduation. SMART offers students the chance to pursue their passion in STEM while supporting the mission of the Department of Defense. Apply at <https://www.smartscholarship.org>.

In 2023, SMART expanded program eligibility by introducing the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial SMART Scholarship (Dellums SMART Scholarship). To learn more about the Dellums SMART Scholarship, visit the “About Dellums” page on the SMART website.

Phi Theta Kappa’s Oberndorf Lifeline to Completion Scholarship will help Phi Theta Kappa members overcome unanticipated financial barriers preventing the completion of a student’s first college credential, an associate degree or certificate, while enrolled in college. One Oberndorf scholar is selected each month. Apply at scholarships.ptk.org

The application for the Black American Engineering Scholarship Award will open in October. Students who will be attending a four-year college in 2024-25, or will be graduating during academic year 2023-4 and transferring in Fall 2024 may be eligible. The scholarship is up to \$10,000 per year. Apply at <https://thehelpingproject.org/scholarship/>



Above: Veronica Gerosimo, Assistant Dean, Student Life and Leadership, with Phi Theta Kappa members, officers, and advisors.

Below: photo, Prof. Theodore Lai, Beta Alpha Phi advisor, is at far right.



Hudson County Community College 9/11 Memorial

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Victoria Regina Lockhart

An accomplished author, Victoria Lockhart has penned six remarkable books. Her latest work, *The Day I Lived*, recounts her harrowing experiences on 9/11, providing a poignant exploration of the day’s events, from morning to night. The emotional resonance of her story, especially her family’s relief upon hearing her voice, is incredibly powerful.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Doors open at 9:30 a.m.)

Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue
and Atrium, Jersey City, NJ

Food and refreshments will be served at noon.

PLEASE REGISTER AT: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-9-11memorial>

This Commemoration is open to all HCCC students, faculty, staff, and community members.

REGISTER NOW

**FALL 2023
CLASSES AT HCCC!**

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

**HCCC Offers Classes
in Multiple Modalities**

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

For more information:

<https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/col/current-course-types.html>

**Fall Online B/7-Week 2
(2nd 7 weeks Online, In-Person, Remote):**

Thursday, October 26, 2023

APPLY NOW for Fall classes!

www.hccc.edu/apply

For more information on how to register, go to:

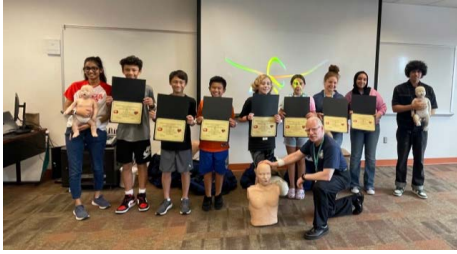
www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes

For more information contact:

admissions@hccc.edu

text (732) 509-4222 | call (201) 714-7200.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Summer Youth & Teens Program 2023

Both middle school and high school students experienced a variety of engaging and enriching programs at Continuing Education's Summer Youth & Teen Programs. The unique one- and two-week programs emphasize self-discovery, cognitive reasoning, and cooperative thinking using a hands-on approach.

Summer 2023 programs included:
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

This course offers a creative opportunity for anyone with or without experience who is interested in improving their skills in digital photography. Students examined the concept of exposure, color balance, and composition and lighting techniques. Projects explored included macro (close-up) photography, landscape, portraiture and post-production editing in the computer lab. The week included a field trip to an "on-location photo shoot" and a student photo exhibit, which parents and friends attended.

CPR & FIRST AID FOR TEENS:

This Basic Life Support Certification (BLS) class uses a scenario-based approach to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that drive better outcomes for adult, child, and infant patients. Some of the topics included CPR/AED for Adults, Children, and Infants; Rapid Assessment and Visual Survey; Obstructed Airways in Adults, Children, and Infants; Choking, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Communication and Teamwork. Special Considerations; and Precautions.

SAT LANGUAGE & MATH PREP:

High-school students got a jump-start on the SAT to impress college recruiters with this 2-week test preparation program. Students learned how to use basic problem-solving techniques to strength-



en their abilities while avoiding careless mistakes. Test-taking techniques were provided, along with test samples from an actual SAT exam.

CULINARY ACADEMY: BAKING & COOKING

Starting with basic knife skills and kitchen safety, students developed techniques that build confidence in the kitchen. Students learned to bake kid-friendly desserts from around the world. Some projects included European classics such as cream puffs and apple tarts, as well as modern bakeshop techniques with chocolate twists and bread pudding. Students also learned to cook kid-friendly dishes with global flavors such as homemade pasta from scratch, marinara sauce, and pizza. Steak tacos and chicken paella rounded out their culinary journey.

Continuing Education has an array of youth courses throughout the school year as well. Look forward to PSAT & SAT Prep courses, as well as Kids & Family culinary programs. For more information, please contact Carmen Guerra, Youth Coordinator, at cguerra@hccc.edu.

In August Continuing Education launched a new class in Alaska called, "Exploring Digital Photography and Alaska: The Last Frontier."

During this five-day hands-on, photography + destination class students had the opportunity to experience many aspects of Alaskan life, including the culture, history, wildlife, and of course, its glorious landscape.

While in Anchorage students visited the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where they took a tour of life-sized village sites, saw Alaska Native dance performances and games, listened to Alaska Native stories, watched films, and viewed exhibits. They also biked to the famous Tony Knowles Coastal



Trail where they viewed local wildlife at Kincaid Park and Earthquake Park. During a visit to the Anchorage Museum, students learned the real story of the North – a story that weaves together social, political, cultural, scientific, historical and artistic threads. They were able to appreciate the rich diversity of Alaska Native cultures, including masterworks of Alaska Native art and design. Students also spent a day exploring and experiencing the wilderness at Denali National Park.

Class concluded in the city of Fairbanks. Gold and oil played significant roles in the history of Fairbanks, which is why students visited Gold Dredge 8, a ladder dredge operated by the Fairbanks Exploration Company from 1928 to 1959. It is now a National Historic Site. After learning how the mining machine extracted gold from sand, gravel, and dirt, students had the chance to pan for gold themselves. At the Chena Hot Springs students took Chena Kennel Tour and learned about the sport of dog mushing. They were introduced to some Alaskan Huskies, learned about the breed, and toured a working mushing kennel of over 50 dogs. There was also some time to relax and enjoy the geothermal hot springs water. During the course of the class, students also had the opportunity to see flashes of Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights, an atmospheric phenomenon that can be described as dancing waves of light.

Courses under the Continuing Education Au Pair program are open to everyone. Programs are offered at the Journal Square campus, Online and Remote, and several destination classes are offered throughout the United States. For more information, please contact the Director of Continuing Education, Chastity Farrell, at cfarrell@hccc.edu.

Upcoming Programs

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

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Thursdays (Single Session Courses)
September 7, 2023, through December 14, 2023
9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. | Price: \$77 <https://tinyurl.com/bdh3wwfc>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (ONLINE)

Mondays & Thursdays (36 Hours) (no Class on 10/9)
September 18, 2023, through October 26, 2023
6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. | Instructor: Susan Serradilla-Smith
Price: \$1,200 (Payment plans are available for students & may be covered by your employer.) <https://tinyurl.com/4xusmtfe>

WELCOME TO COMPUTER BASICS (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays (7 Sessions)
September 23, 2023, through November 4, 2023
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Instructor: Corazon Lacsamana | Price: \$150
<https://tinyurl.com/2d57yvwz>

MICROSOFT OFFICE EXCEL ADVANCED LEVEL (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays (6 Sessions)
September 23, 2023, through October 28, 2023
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi | Price: \$175
<https://tinyurl.com/mryrhrzz>

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS (ONLINE)

Wednesdays (Live Sessions Only), (no class 11/22)
September 27, 2023, through December 6, 2023
7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. | Instructor: Jessica Wohlstetter | Price: \$150
<https://tinyurl.com/4hsrnfxa>

STEM DIVISION CONDUCTS SUMMER RESEARCH

Continued from page 5

dough without it. These findings validate lemongrass's use of being an effective antibacterial agent.

The Effect of Thyme Oil on the Antimicrobial Properties of Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Copolymer (EVA) Plastic

Abstract

Plastics are widely used in various industries due to their versatility and low cost. However, there are concerns about its inability to prevent bacterial growth for longer periods of time. To address this issue, this research has focused on incorporating antimicrobial agents into plastic materials to inhibit the growth of harmful microorganisms. Thyme oil, known for its potent antimicrobial properties, emerges as a promising candidate

for enhancing the antimicrobial performance of plastics. This paper investigates the effects of thyme oil with such properties on plastic materials and explores potential applications in various industries. The study behind testing essential oils was due to their strong potential to kill both *E. coli* bacteria and *Staphylococcus Aureus* bacteria in a test amongst eight different essential oils. Due to thyme oil proving to exceed expectations of its success, it was permitted to be implemented into Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Copolymer (EVA) plastic beads and tested to see if it would also inherit the same properties as the essential oil. The results verified that the antimicrobial properties of thyme oil were prosperous and showed good promise to be applied into the making of plastic materials.

ALUMNI CORNER

Interview with Abderahim Salhi

We recently spoke with Abderahim Salhi, a proud alumni of HCCC (Class of 2019). Abderahim is a computer scientist for the Army Corps of Engineers and also writes a popular newsletter about artificial intelligence (AI). We discussed Abderahim's experience at HCCC, his thoughts on what's next in AI, and his advice for HCCC students looking to break into fields like computer science and AI.



What led you to begin your educational journey at HCCC?

As a first-generation college student and an immigrant, I wanted to pursue higher education to create better opportunities for myself and my family. HCCC provided an accessible and supportive environment for me to start my educational journey in the United States. The college's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and the availability of resources made it an ideal place for me to begin my studies. Additionally, the college's proximity to various research institutions and internship opportunities in the New York metropolitan area played a significant role in my decision. HCCC offered a variety of programs and extracurricular activities, including Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and STEM Club, which allowed me to further explore my interests and develop leadership skills.

How did your experience at HCCC prepare you for your career as a computer scientist?

My experience at HCCC was transformative and played a crucial role in shaping my career as a computer scientist. Through my involvement in leadership roles and internships, I gained invaluable practical experience, which complemented the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom. The internship opportunities at prestigious institutions like Princeton University, Columbia University, and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center exposed me to real-world challenges in scientific research and software engineering. Moreover, America Needs You, an organization dedicated to mentorship and career development, was a key partner during my time at HCCC. Their guidance and support further

enhanced my professional growth, providing me with mentorship, networking opportunities, and workshops that honed my skills beyond the academic setting.

What does a day in the life of a computer scientist for the Army Corps of Engineers look like? What kind of projects do you work on?

As a computer scientist at the US Army Research and Development Center (ERDC), my typical day involves collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to develop and implement innovative solutions to military-related challenges. I work on projects related to artificial intelligence and data analysis in order to support various defense initiatives. Some projects may involve designing algorithms to analyze large datasets or developing machine learning models for prediction-based problems.

You have written extensively about AI and have developed a following in this field. How did you become interested in AI?

My interest in AI was sparked during my computer science studies at HCCC and further intensified during my time at Stevens Institute of Technology. I was fascinated by the potential of AI to revolutionize various industries and to solve complex problems. Engaging in AI-related coursework, projects, and research further solidified my passion for the field. Witnessing the rapid advancements and positive impacts of AI in various domains, I became committed to contributing to the AI community through my writing and research.

Continued on page 12

We are here for you!



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

Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty in a course?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

Please complete the General Concern Form at

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>.

A member of the CARE Team

will respond to you shortly.



SAVE the DATE



ASPIRING STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2023

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

HCCC North Hudson Campus,
4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, NJ 07087

Open to HCCC Students and high schools in the surrounding area of the North Hudson Campus.

For additional information please contact:

Joseph Caniglia,

Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus
jcaniglia@hccc.edu | 201 - 360 - 5346

Angela Tuzzo,

Associate Director of Student Life and Leadership
atuzzo@hccc.edu | 201 - 360 - 4197

More information and RSVP link will be coming shortly.

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 Secaucus, NJ 07094
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www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html

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ALUMNI CORNER

Continued from page 11

What developments and advances are you most excited about in AI right now?

AI is currently experiencing a remarkable golden age revolution, characterized by a myriad of exciting developments, particularly in the realm of language models such as LLMs and generative AI. Transformer-based models like GPT-3 and LLAMA2 have shown immense promise, propelling the boundaries of AI capabilities further than ever before. Beyond the realm of language, AI applications in critical sectors like healthcare, climate science, and sustainability are demonstrating significant potential to bring about positive societal impacts, addressing pressing global challenges with ingenuity and precision.

How do you think AI will change education? How about the workforce?

AI has the potential to revolutionize education by personalizing learning experiences for students, providing adaptive tutoring, and automating administrative tasks. AI-powered educational platforms can analyze individual learning patterns and adapt the curriculum to cater to students' strengths and weaknesses. However, while AI can augment the educational experience, it cannot replace the importance of human teachers and mentors.

In the workforce, AI is likely to automate routine and repetitive tasks, freeing up human workers to focus on more creative and strategic endeavors. This may lead to job displacement in certain industries, but it will also create new opportunities for individuals to upskill and transition into AI-related roles. Therefore, fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptability will be crucial for the workforce to thrive in an AI-driven world.

What advice would you give to current HCCC students/recent graduates, with AI in mind?

To maximize your AI journey, leverage online AI-related courses and apply to research internships opportunities offered during the summer around the country or your future transfer institution, involve yourself in personal projects addressing real-world issues using AI techniques to develop a robust portfolio, and remain current with AI advancements through research publications and industry updates. LinkedIn is a great place to connect to a plethora of such groups, participate in conferences and workshops, connect with AI experts for networking and mentorship to gain valuable career insights, and contemplate advanced education or AI certifications for specialized proficiency.

What advice would you give to students who want to get into computer science like you?

For students aspiring to get into computer science, I would advise them to develop a strong foundation in programming languages, data structures, and algorithms. Computer science is a vast field, so try to explore different subfields like AI, software development, and cybersecurity. It is always great to engage in personal coding projects to apply your knowledge practically and build a portfolio to showcase your skills. But the most important thing is to apply for internships at tech companies or research institutions to gain real-world experience and make industry connections. During my time at HCCC I found it extremely helpful to participate in computer science clubs and organizations to network with peers and professionals and to attend events and workshops.

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!



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

If so join, socialize, and network!

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

