

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education

February 26–March 1, 2024

*Come together!
Speak out!
Take action!*

Join and collaborate with over
150 colleges and social agencies to
transform and drive positive change!




HUDSON
COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Hudson is Home!

Monday, February 26

10:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Paula Roberson
Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, HCCC

Welcome Address

Dr. Brian K. Bridges
New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education

Introduction of

Dr. Darryl Jones
Vice President for Academic Affairs, HCCC



10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Keynote Address

Presenter

Dr. Rochelle Ford
*8th President
Dillard University
New Orleans, LA*

Session Host

Dr. Paula Roberson
*Director, Center for Teaching,
Learning, and Innovation,
HCCC*

President Ford is a hands-on, transformative leader bolstering Dillard's commitment to cultivating leaders, legacy of excellence, and being a communiversity.

A native of Ohio, she holds degrees from Howard University, University of Maryland, and Southern Illinois University. With Harvard University's higher education administration certificate, she is the first Clark Atlanta University HBCU Executive Leadership Institute graduate to become a college president.

She is a board member of UNCF, GCAC, GNO Higher Education Consortium, United Way of SE Louisiana, the Business Council, and a member of the Page Society, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church.



11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

**Higher Education in a
Moment of Danger**

Dr. Michael Gavin
*5th President, Delta College
University Center, MI*

Dr. Christopher Cody
*Chair of the All College Counsel
Instructor, History*

The current attacks on higher education, and specifically Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work have increased and accelerated since the 2016 Executive Order by then-President Trump ordering the elimination of 'Divisive Concepts.' Although this order was the first of its kind from a president, it should be framed as a point on a decades-long movement of what I have labeled The New White Nationalism. The New White Nationalism benefits from a less educated public, and seeks to ensure those who have been marginalized in the past will continue to be marginalized in the future. This session will offer a historical look at how the leaders of The New White Nationalism have honed their tactics. It will also explain that higher education practitioners should consider current moment as rife with danger, despite the state or county they live in.

12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK



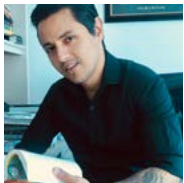
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

**Countering the Attacks
on DEI Work: A Conversation
about the Ongoing Struggle for
Justice and Change**

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D.
*Executive Director,
The Karson Institute for Race,
Peace and Social Justice*

Dr. Paula Roberson
*Director, Center for Teaching,
Learning, and Innovation,
HCCC*

Using the long lens of history—from *The Mis-Education of the Negro* to the Attack Against CRT—this session will analyze and discuss the long-term societal impacts of the conservative right-wing efforts to dismantle Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice initiatives in our campuses and in our classrooms.



2:20 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

**The Brain in the
Age of Disinformation**

Kenny Fabara
Director, Academic Affairs, HCCC

Yavuz Guner
*Instructor, Computer Science,
HCCC*

In a time when fact is fiction and fantasy reality, where can we turn to find the truth? How do we arrive at making rational decisions based on the abundance of dis/misinformation circulating across all spheres of media? And what happens when the truth is so unsettling that we find ourselves in a state of cognitive dissonance? This presentation will explore the neural underpinnings associated with emotion, memory, and fear and how the incessant flow of media input can impact the brain.



3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

**Neuroculture and Teaching
Practices in Higher Education:
Not More to Do, Just Doing It Better**

Dr. Courtney Plotts
Founder of Neuroculture

Callie Martin
*Instructional Designer,
HCCC*

This engaging workshop is designed to deconstruct teaching practices with the goal of bolstering academic outcomes for minority students. We will delve into the intricate relationship between learning, ethnic cultural, and cognition. Participants will gain a profound understanding of how cultural influences shapes perceptions of teaching practices, impacting students' learning styles and classroom experiences and new ways of thinking about how we are teaching in the classroom. Don't you think we need more than a Bloom's Taxonomy if we are to honor ethnic culture and its influence on the learning process?

Tuesday, February 27

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



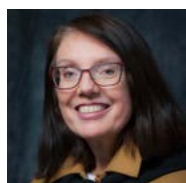
Banned Books Panel Discussion
Historical Trends in Book Banning

Jennie Pu
*Director, Hoboken Public Library,
Book Sanctuary City*

John Hernandez
*Dean of College Libraries
HCCC*

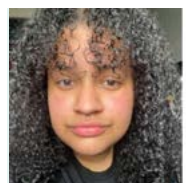
Sophia Sotilleo
*Dean of Libraries
Bowie State University
Freedom to Read Foundation*

Lisa Bogart
*Director of North Hudson Library,
HCCC*



Sophia Sotilleo, Dean of the Thurgood Marshall Library at Bowie State University in Maryland, is a trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation, an organization that defends the First Amendment right of everyone to express their ideas and to read and listen to the ideas of others. Jennie Pu is the Director of Hoboken Public Library in New Jersey, who has led the wave of libraries, starting with her own, to become designated as book sanctuaries in support of the freedom to read for all. Join our speakers as they discuss the history of attempts to ban books in libraries, efforts on the part of librarians and the public to resist censorship, and how the movement to restrict access to reading threatens not only public and school libraries, but academia as well. Lisa Bogart, Director of the HCCC North Hudson Library, will highlight how librarians from public, school, and academic libraries can unite against book bans.

11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.



**La Hermandad: Connecting
Mental Health Resources with
DEI Work Through Storytelling**

Diana Galvez
*Assistant Director,
North Hudson Campus, HCCC*

Dr. Jeanne Baptiste,
*Assistant Professor,
English, HCCC*

Deliana Acosta
Social Worker, HCCC



"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." - Dr. Maya Angelou

Birtherd out of a need for a safe space for students to share their untold stories, La Hermandad is where women and women aligned, are encouraged to share, reflect, educate, and start to heal through their experiences by telling and/or listening to each other's stories. Research shows that storytelling is part of the human interaction creating a present space and connection. In this session, attendees will learn how a discussion series has transformed the relationship between students, faculty, and staff within a college community.

This session will help attendees learn how to:

- create staff to student connections, establishing mentorship relationships.
- promote storytelling as a tool to help promote mental health services and break stigmas within our communities.
- create an environment of inclusivity, which will give voices to those who are underrepresented.

12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK



1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

**Building Resilience in
Misrepresented Communities**

Theresa Lewis, LPC
*Saint Elizabeth University
Morristown, NJ*

Anita Belle
*Director, Workforce Pathways,
Continuing Education and
Workforce Development, HCCC*

This presentation will teach participants how to understand the concept, advantages, and approaches to fostering resilience in patients' lives. We will discuss various components of resiliency and identify ways to incorporate a strength-based approach to helping patients overcome hardships and adversities. We will close out our talk by discussing the ten resilience skills and their implication to counseling.



2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

***The Cure for Hate:*
A Former White Supremacist's
Journey from Violent Extremism
to Radical Compassion Pt.1**

Tony McAleer
Author

Joseph Caniglia
*Executive Director
North Hudson Campus, HCCC*



3:15 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.

***The Cure for Hate:*
Strategies for Change and
Practical Application Pt. 2**

Peter Hutchison
*Filmmaker and Documentarian
(The Cure for Hate)*

Diana Galvez
*Assistant Director,
North Hudson Campus, HCCC*

Tony McAleer

According to Dr. Erroll Southern, professor of the practice in national and homeland security at USC, "The Cure for Hate invokes on every page a deeper understanding of the courage and compassion it takes to leave the intoxication of dehumanization, violence, and intolerance for a life of compassion." Tony McAleer will discuss his journey and experiences as written in his autobiography.

Wednesday, February 28



10:15 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.

"Words on Fire: The Power of Incendiary Language"

Helio Fred Garcia
President, Logos Consulting
Author

Natalia Vazquez-Bodkin,
Associate Director,
The Office of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion, HCCC

Join us for a transformative session with renowned guest speaker Professor Helio Fred Garcia, author of *Words on Fire: The Power of Incendiary Language and How to Confront It*. This thought-provoking dialogue will explore key themes from Garcia's groundbreaking book, delving into "Communication and Consequences" and "A Call to Action." Attendees will be immersed in discussions centered around language's power, its intersection with social justice in higher education, and practical tools for confronting incendiary language. Mark your calendars for an enriching dialogue that transcends boundaries and cultivates change.



11:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Integrating Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis Teams into the Emergency Response System

Caroline Pope
Portland Street Response

Dr. Kade Thurman
Instructor, Sociology,
Coordinator, Sociology
and Anthropology, HCCC

Learn how the City of Portland has embedded an unarmed mental health crisis team into the existing emergency response system and how its addressing issues spanning substance use, mental health and public disturbances to bring compassionate care to those who need it most.

12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK



1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

"5/14: The Day the Devil Came to Buffalo"

Mark L. Talley
*Founder, Agents for Advocacy
Author*

Sharon Daughtry
*Instructor, Business,
HCCC*

This session will reveal the unexposed aftermath of tragedy, exploring the evolving landscape in Buffalo, New York, grappling with grief long after the media spotlight fades. Talley will recount how local authorities and news outlets handled the massacre and the resilience of a community banding together amid heartbreak. His journey will serve as a testament to turning profound loss into purposeful action, as he shares memories of his mother—a victim of an unspeakable hate crime—and how her spirit inspired the formation of Agents for Advocacy, which tackles issues from food inequality to the overlooked crisis of maternal health in minority women. The wisdom he has gained, distilled from raw experience, underscores the urgency for education that transcends traditional learning and equips us for the ongoing fight against injustice.



2:20 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Institutional DEI Initiatives

Hudson County Community College Faculty

Elana Winslow
*Associate Professor and
Coordinator, Business, HCCC*

Participants in this session will learn how Hudson County Community College faculty incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) principles into classroom activities to support a more holistic learning experience for students.



3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m

Doing the Right Thing: How Colleges and Universities Can Undo Systemic Racism in Faculty Hiring

Marybeth Gasman, Ph.D.
*Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ*

Anna Krupitskiy
*Vice President for
Human Resources, HCCC*

While colleges and universities have been lauded for increasing student diversity, these same institutions have failed to achieve any comparable diversity among their faculty. In 2017, of the nation's full-time, tenure-track and tenured faculty, only 3 percent each were Black men, Black women, Hispanic men, and Hispanic women. Only 6 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander men, 5 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander women, and 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native. Why are the numbers so abysmal?

Recognizing that individuals from all backgrounds are essential to the creation and teaching of knowledge, Gasman puts forth a concrete call for colleges and universities to take action and do better.

To order a copy, please visit <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691193076/doing-the-right-thing> and enter discount code PSDRT at checkout to receive a 30% discount.

Thursday, February 29



10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

President's Panel

Dr. Christopher Reber
*President, Hudson County
Community College*

Dr. Yeurys Pujols
*Vice President for Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion, HCCC*



Dr. Nancy Cantor
*Chancellor
Rutgers-Newark*

Dr. Lester Edgardo Sandres Rápalo
President, SUNY Rockland



Andres Acebo
*Interim President
New Jersey City University*

In this panel discussion, these institutional leaders will discuss contemporary social and racial justice issues that impact the college community and their role as governing agents.



11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

NJ Attorney General's Office

Derick Dailey Esq.
Senior Counsel to State AG

Jeff Roberson Jr.
*Director of Contracts
and Procurement, HCCC*

Derick D. Dailey is Senior Counsel to the New Jersey Attorney General. As a member of the Attorney General's executive leadership team, Derick provides oversight to the State's Division on Civil Rights and the Juvenile Justice Commission. He also manages the Department's Racial Justice Initiative and works on matters relating to civil rights, criminal justice reform, alternatives to policing, hate and bias, youth justice, school safety, and domestic terrorism.

Derick joined the Office of the Attorney General from a New York-based law firm where he worked in the litigation and dispute resolution practice groups. He previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Delaware.

Derick received his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, his B.A. from Westminster College, and his Master's Degree in Theology and Ethics from Yale University.

12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK



1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

The Role of the Faith Leader in Turbulent Times

Rev. British Hyrams
*Associate Chaplain
Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC*

Elder Royal Ross
Admissions Recruiter/ Business & Accounting Instructor, HCCC



Rev. Kelly U. Farrow, Ph.D.
Circle of SacredFire, The Kelly U. Farrow Institute for Black Preaching and Education Creator and Curator



Pastor Carl McCluster
*Managing Director, Freedom, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church*



Pastor Keith Davis
*Camden Dream Center
Senior Pastor, Evangelism Today Christian Church*



Rev. Dr. Timothy Adkins-Jones
Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church

Historically, Black churches have led strong and strategic efforts to advance and recognize the humanity of their congregations and other marginalized people. The Black church supported abolitionist efforts, the Underground Railroad, the Civil Rights Movement, and more localized endeavors. Listen and evaluate the thought leadership of five faith leaders to hear their perspectives regarding the current role and responsibility of faith leaders in today's social landscape.



2:20 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.

New Jersey Institute of Social Justice

Yannick Wood
Director, Criminal Justice Reform Program

Dr. Darryl Jones
Vice President for Academic Affairs, HCCC

The New Jersey Institute of Social Justice will examine the legal and historical perspectives of criminal justice reform, democracy and justice, and economic justice as well as the ongoing barriers in this informative and powerful presentation about New Jersey. This is an excellent presentation for historians, social justice majors, and those seeking a career in law.



3:15 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Orientation, and Gender and Race, Oh My!

Dr. Tyree Oredein
Left Turn Village

Dr. Kade Thurman
Instructor, Sociology, Coordinator, Sociology and Anthropology, HCCC

This session explores the intersections of multiple identities (e.g., race, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, and/or ability), along with the challenges of having multiple minority identities. Participants will also identify various privileges they may have and how that influences their lives, decisions, relationships and advocacy.

Friday, March 1



10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.

**VIRTUAL JUSTICE PANEL:
Mental Health and Policing**

Esther Suarez, Esq.
Hudson County Prosecutor

Dan O'Brien, Esq.
*Office of the Public Defender,
State of New Jersey*

Robert DiGenova
*Deputy Chief of Police
Stevens Institute of Technology,
Hoboken, NJ*

Samuel Ortiz, Sr.
*Patrol Bureau, Brooklyn North
Taskforce Auxiliary Police Officer
Community Affairs Unit (Ret.)*



In this session, presenters will focus on the State of New Jersey justice reform initiatives, changes in the law that impact convicted felons, contemporary issues in the New Jersey justice system, legal career paths for students, the changing higher education classroom, reentry initiatives, and more. Students are invited and encouraged to attend.



11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Virtual Model United Nations
Student Panel Discussion**

Model United Nations Students

Joseph Caniglia
*Executive Director of the
North Hudson Campus, HCCC*

The Model United Nations Club at Hudson County Community College allows students to cultivate skills and enrich their global affairs knowledge. The Model UN Club is dedicated to empowering students and giving them the tools and experiences that prepare them to be the next global leaders. This student panel will allow participants to reflect on what they learned from attending various sessions throughout the week. Students will discuss how the knowledge they obtained impacts their lives, future goals, and our global relationships as humans.

On-Campus Events



9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Women's Art and Social Justice

Gabert Library

Dr. Andrea Siegel
*Coordinator, HCCC Foundation
Art Collection*

Throughout the nine campus buildings of Hudson County Community College, where 1,940 works from the Foundation Art Collection are installed, there are many works by women artists devoted to issues of social justice. In honor of Women's History Month, this tour will take the participant on a stroll through many corridors of the Gabert Library, as we explore some of these wonderful works.

We will convene on the sixth floor in the lobby at 9:00 a.m.



9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Gabert Library Atrium

Civil and Voting Rights Exhibit

Sergio Nuñez
HCCC Student

Anthony Cavaliere
HCCC Student

Courtesy of
Professor Dorothy Anderson
*Assistant Professor,
Social Sciences*

The curation honoring 60 years of Civil and Voting Rights will dive into the historical, philosophical, political, and cultural aspects of American history relevant to everyone today. This is a social event where folks will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic at hand.



HCCC LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Culinary Conference Center, Scott Ring Room

Internal Development of Community College Leadership:

Pamela Gardner
Secretary/Treasurer, HCCC Board of Trustees

Dr. Yeurys Pujols
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

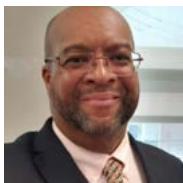


Expanding Diversity and Enhancing Academia through a Commitment to Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and Professional Development

Dr. Alison Wakefield
Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences



Dr. Burl Yearwood
Dean, School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)



Hudson County Community College leadership will highlight HCCC's commitment to employee advancement and professional development that align with its guiding principles of student success and DEI. The panelists include two tenured faculty, now serving as academic deans, the College's Chief Diversity Officer, and a trustee with extensive K-12 experience. They will share specific strategies for collaboration between the academic areas and various other offices while supporting DEI efforts that promote employee advancement and enhance diversity. They will discuss their unique journeys transitioning from faculty or staff to senior leadership while addressing obstacles and providing a roadmap for institutions seeking to cultivate diverse internal talent.

- The importance of aligning DEI and professional development opportunities with institutional priorities
- Examples of experiential learning opportunities for faculty/staff beyond their current roles
- Leverage teaching or work experience to understand institutional needs and support student success
- Understanding the importance of empowering faculty and staff to pursue new areas of interests



11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center, Scott Ring Room

Leadership Masterclass

Monica Livingston
*Adjunct Professor
American University, Washington, DC*

In a world where injustices permeate every facet of society, from systemic racism to gender discrimination and economic disparities, the call for social justice rings louder than ever. As students and professors gather for this Symposium, we stand at the crossroads of history, tasked with the responsibility to challenge the status quo and champion the cause of equality and equity. Speaker Monica D. Livingston aims to ignite the flames of activism within each one of us, urging us to leverage our positions of privilege and or knowledge to dismantle oppressive structures and uplift marginalized voices. Together, we will explore the power of collective action, empathy, and education in fostering meaningful change, emboldening us to be the architects of a more just and inclusive world. This will be an opportunity to level up! You don't want to miss this passionate talk that will leave you fueled for your social justice journey.



The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation is grateful to our sponsors, advisory board, and colleagues who have contributed their time and energy to make our Symposium a continued success in this very important national discourse. We appreciate our state officials and deans for joining us. I am especially grateful to all of my work-study students.

Together we are a light on the hill!

Paula Roberson, Ed.D.

Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation



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.

