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Heart of Hudson



HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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FOUNDATION

Paul Silverman: Shaping the Skyline, and the Community



Building Success, Giving Back: Jose Garcia's Commitment to HCCC



From Graduation to Golf

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Spring is in the air, and Hudson County Community College is abuzz with excitement as we prepare to celebrate one of the most meaningful milestones of the year—Commencement! This special occasion marks the culmination of our students' hard work, perseverance, and growth, and we look forward to honoring the Class of 2025 as they take the next steps in their academic and professional journeys. It's a time of pride and inspiration for our entire community.

As we celebrate their achievements, we're also excited to shift our focus to another signature event—the Philip Johnston 23rd Annual HCCC Foundation Golf Outing on June 23rd at Brooklake Country Club. This highly anticipated tradition brings together our supporters for a day of camaraderie on the greens, all while raising vital funds for scholarships. Whether you are an avid golfer or simply want to enjoy a great day for a great cause, we invite you to join us for this wonderful event. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your continued dedication to HCCC and our students. Your support makes a profound difference in their lives, and we look forward to another successful season of celebration, giving, and growth.

Nicole B. Johnson, Vice President for Advancement and Communications and Executive Director for the HCCC Foundation



Founded in 1997, the Hudson County Community College Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that exists solely to support the priorities of Hudson County Community College.

Paul Silverman: Shaping the Skyline, and the Community

The skyline of Jersey City is in a constant state of evolution, but one enduring presence in its growth is Paul Silverman. As the co-founder with his brother, Eric, of the prominent, award-winning real estate development firm SILVERMAN, Paul has not only played a pivotal role in revitalizing Jersey City's downtown and waterfront districts—he has also been a steadfast supporter of the community, notably through his long-standing relationship with Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and additional charitable initiatives supporting public education and other worthy causes.

Under Paul and Eric's leadership, SILVERMAN has developed over 1,000 new residences and hundreds of thousands of square feet of commercial and industrial space. These efforts have breathed new life into the city and its economy, creating thousands of jobs and new residences, and contributing to the vibrant atmosphere that defines modern Jersey City.

Paul's commitment to community development extends far beyond bricks and mortar. As a longtime and devoted advocate

for education, he has been a consistent supporter of the HCCC Foundation, helping countless students pursue their academic and career goals. His passion for giving back is rooted in values instilled by his parents, who emphasized the importance of compassion and supporting others.

A strong believer in the transformative power of public education, Paul refers to it as "the most important thing for our society" and "the key to everything." He explains, "I was fortunate to receive a good education and to be in a position to contribute to society. I want others to have that same opportunity."

Why is Paul a strong supporter of HCCC specifically? He describes it as "a school with people who truly value education and the opportunity to pursue their goals."

While Paul believes that helping others and giving back is reward enough in and of itself, throughout the years, Paul has been moved by the gratitude of those he has supported and seeing the impact of his support. One particularly profound example involves a student from Kearny, a community he

feels a strong connection to as the site of his late father's warehouse. After funding a scholarship awarded to a culinary student from Kearny High School, Paul met the recipient and her mother, who told him that the student's father had recently passed away and, without the scholarship money, she wouldn't have been able to continue her education. Years later, Paul was at Liberty National Golf Club when he was approached by the same student, who was now a chef at the prestigious club; she warmly thanked him for changing the course of her life.

Another memorable encounter took place during an HCCC Commencement ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, when a woman from the crowd unexpectedly embraced him and said, "Mr. Silverman, without you, my son never would have graduated!" Moments like these underscore the meaningful and lasting effects of Paul's dedication.

Taking his commitment even further, Paul recently established the Silverman Family Scholarship Fund with a \$25,000 endowment to the HCCC Foundation.

Continued on page 4

Interested in learning more about endowed funds? Contact us at foundation@hccc.edu to start the conversation.

Building Success, Giving Back: Jose Garcia's Commitment to HCCC

Jose "Pepe" Garcia is the founder and CEO of Maverick Building Services, one of the largest minority-owned building services firms in New Jersey, with operations spanning across New Jersey, New York City, and beyond, making it one of the most successful on the East Coast. Jose has enjoyed significant success in business, but he can still relate to today's college students who are just starting out and trying to make ends meet as they pursue their education. In fact, Jose has firsthand experience overcoming the hurdles that many of these students are navigating. Jose is a graduate of Seton Hall University, where he earned a degree in marketing. While attending Seton Hall by day, he worked full-time as a janitor cleaning an office building in Newark at night to support himself and put himself through college, so he knows a thing or two about juggling work with classes, overcoming financial challenges, and other challenges many of today's students must navigate.

It's this life experience and empathy that inspires Jose to give back to the community as a longtime supporter of the HCCC Foundation, which supports HCCC students, many of whom face significant financial challenges as they pursue their education. He is motivated to help students who have the will to succeed but lack the resources.

Jose's support of HCCC and its students is longstanding and meaningful, as is his connection to the College. Jose's mother, Hortencia Garcia, immigrated to the United States from Cuba and had to restart her education here, eventually earning her doctorate degree from Paterson State College (now William Paterson University). She worked as a teacher in the Union City School District and taught Spanish classes at HCCC as she worked three jobs to support he and his two brothers. Her resolve and determination, as well as the value she



placed on education, left a profound and lasting impression on Jose, as did the students she taught, whom he remembers as being hardworking and eager to learn but faced with many hardships. While many years have gone by since then, he finds that the same can still be said for HCCC students today, and he now feels blessed to be able to help them overcome these hurdles.

Today, Garcia is a dedicated, long-term supporter of the HCCC Foundation, honoring his mother's legacy by helping students who, like him, are striving for a better future.

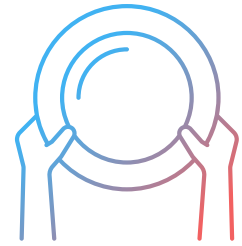
What would he view as the ideal outcome of his generous support? Garcia says that "I'd love to see students achieve the American Dream and pay it forward by supporting future students. That would be my ultimate dream," he says.

For Garcia, giving isn't just about money, it's about making a real difference. Whether it's scholarships that provide students with access to education or simply knowing that he's alleviating the burden for those working their way through school, he finds fulfillment in seeing young people succeed. "It feels good when you see other people doing good," he explains.

Ultimately, Jose believes that "Through education, hard work, and being resilient and perseverant, there's nothing that cannot be obtained in one's future. There's no magic formula to success, but that's the closest thing, and I live by that."

HCCC students are working hard to achieve incredible things and overcome formidable challenges.

A recent survey finds that...



68.5% of HCCC students experienced food insecurity in the prior 30 days



43% of HCCC students experienced housing insecurity in the previous year



12% of HCCC students experienced homelessness in the previous year

Data is from The Hudson Helps Resource Center

Silverman *(continued from page 2)*

The fund's investment returns will provide ongoing scholarships for deserving students in perpetuity, ensuring that his support continues to open doors for years to come.

Paul Silverman's story is one of vision, leadership, and unwavering generosity. Through his work as a developer and philanthropist, he has not only helped shape the physical landscape of Jersey City but has also profoundly contributed to the social mosaic of the community.



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Making an Impact

"This Hudson Scholars scholarship has provided me with more than just financial assistance; it has allowed me to focus on my studies without the constant worry of tuition fees. It has lightened my burden and allowed me to engage more deeply in my academic work, extracurricular activities, and personal growth. I am a non-traditional student who graduated from university 30 years ago, and now, I am back for a new chapter in my life. I believe that education is valuable and that learning is a continuous process despite doubts and challenges. This scholarship has also reaffirmed my belief that hard work, dedication, and support from the community can open doors of opportunities I never imagined possible."



– Nelson "Sonny" Tungala
HCCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Experience the return on your investment through the smiles of our graduating students this commencement season.

Please be our guest at commencement events like the Lavender Graduation (May 1), the Kente Graduation (May 13) and the ESL to Graduation Celebration (May 15).

For more information contact us at foundation@hccc.edu or visit hccc.edu/calendar/index.html



Make a powerful impact on the lives of HCCC students by donating today.

There is no better investment than the one you make in a student's education.

Online: Give online quickly and conveniently via debit card, credit card, or PayPal at <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html>

Check: Send a check to the HCCC Foundation, 26 Journal Square, 14th Floor, Jersey City NJ 07306.

Endowment/Planned Giving: Start the conversation about making a legacy gift that will generate an impact for years to come.

Sponsorship: Sponsor Dynamic Events at HCCC to support great causes while connecting with over 50,000 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community leaders.

To find out more about any of these options, please contact us at foundation@hccc.edu.

