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# Heart of Hudson



HUDSON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

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## Golfers Beat the Heat for a Great Cause at the HCCC Foundation Golf Outing





## Letter From The Vice President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are pleased to share that the HCCC Foundation has recently earned an 88% rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator of charities. This recognition affirms our commitment to financial health, accountability, and transparency as we continue to support our mission of empowering students and strengthening our community through education and opportunity.

This rating would not be possible without the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and partners who believe in the power of education to change lives. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership, and we are dedicated to ensuring that every gift we receive is used wisely and effectively to advance student success and community impact. This rating indicates that donors can give with confidence, knowing that their contributions are making a meaningful impact and are stewarded with the highest standards of integrity.

This as an important milestone, and we remain committed to strengthening our practices to enhancing our rating in the years ahead.

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.



### 50 and Forward: Celebrate HCCC's Milestone Anniversary with Us!

The Hudson Foundation is excited to celebrate HCCC's 50th Anniversary, entitled *Fifty and Forward*, starting this August with a series of fun and memorable events open to the entire community. Please join us for the following events and keep an eye out for more – after all, a celebration like this comes around once every 50 years!

- October 18: Homecoming Block Party & Open House
- November 13: Alumni Networking Night
- December 4: HCCC Annual Gala

SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS



<https://www.hccc.edu/page/50th/index.html>

## Golfers Beat the Heat to Raise Scholarships for Students at the HCCC Foundation Golf Outing



The HCCC Foundation held its 23rd annual golf outing on June 23 at the beautiful Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park. The event was a success as Foundation Board members and leadership, local business leaders from a variety of companies, and community members came together to brave the heat and raise money for a great cause – scholarships for HCCC students.



The temperature, which reached over 100 degrees, didn't stop over 70 golfers from hitting the fairways and enjoying a great day of fun and networking. Altogether, the event grossed revenue of over \$80,000 for student scholarships, ensuring that the impact of the outing will last far beyond a day of golf – it will be felt for years to come as these students get the chance to pursue their educational and career goals without the burden of worrying how they will pay for it.



Thank you to all friends of the HCCC Foundation who attended and supported the event, and a special thanks to faculty ambassador Sharon Daughtry as well as Golf Committee members including Golf Committee Chair Steve Mullen, Mark Rodrick, and Monica McCormack-Casey, Frances Kenny, Joe Napolitano Sr., and Jim Egan who were all instrumental in organizing the event and ensuring its success.

## HCCC Student Golfers Learn Lifelong Skills; Make Lifelong Memories



In addition to generating significant funding for scholarships, the Foundation's golf outing created another benefit for students. Thanks to a generous donation from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, who sponsored the student golf clinic, 10 enthusiastic HCCC students received the opportunity to learn how to play the great game of golf for the first time.

The golf clinic consisted of five visits to Jersey City's Skyway Golf Course, where students learned the game and got pointers from the club's pro, Steve Mills.

The vibrant students, who did not know each other beforehand, enthusiastically embraced the chance to make new friends and valuable contacts for the future as they bonded over the challenge of learning a new skill together for the first time. Several of the students even met up at Skyway to build camaraderie and further hone their skills together.

In addition to learning how to drive, chip, and putt, the student golfers also gained valuable social capital for the future by getting comfortable on a golf course, a place where lots of networking and dealmaking takes place in the business world, and one that would have been out of reach for many of these students if not for the clinic. Golf Committee Chair and Foundation Board Member Steve Mullen stated

that "the participation of the student golfers made the outing more special. It gave the event added meaning and purpose." After the outing, the student golfers also wrote thank you notes to the sponsors who made this experience possible.

Reflecting on the clinic, Skyway's Steve Mills remarked, "What an amazing experience watching people who never picked up a club accelerate through the class like they did. With open minds, anything can happen, and it did. Within an hour, we watched (student golfer) Vivian go from not being able to make contact to hitting a high soft pitch shot onto the green from 50 yards, and they were on target. Ana, another student who really developed a knack for the game, and already progressed to the point where she is golf course ready. She hits the ball with power and in the correct direction."

These are just a couple of the highlights that stand out in my mind. But most importantly, the students getting together and forming a group practice is what it is all about. Coming to the course with your friends and entering into friendly competition and learning together. Golf is not an easy game to learn as an adult. But, with an open mind and perseverance, anything can be accomplished. The smiles and laughter of the students was infectious."

## HCCC's Valedictorian is a HCCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient!



The 2025 graduating class was the largest in the College's history, as over 1,550 HCCC students earned their degrees at HCCC's 48th annual Commencement ceremony, held at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, New Jersey.

Each graduate put in the hard work, overcame obstacles, and traversed their own unique road to get to this special day, including Class of 2025 valedictorian Lidia Khayrulina. Not only was Lydia the valedictorian, she was also the recipient of a scholarship from the HCCC Foundation.

Lidia is a first-generation Russian immigrant who learned about HCCC and its offerings while working for a local newspaper. As an immigrant and ESL student, Lidia overcame doubts about the language barrier and being a nontraditional college student to excel at HCCC, where she mastered English, immersed herself in College life, and excelled in her classes on her way to earning an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration.

Lidia was a 2025 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Semifinalist, and New Jersey Council of County Colleges "New Jersey Student of the Year" nominee. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, the PTK New Jersey All-State Academic Team,

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• **Over 1,5550 graduates in HCCC's class of 2025 (A college record!)**



• **Over 3,000 students enrolled in HCCC's first summer session**

• **45% increase in summer enrollment**



• **Fall enrollment is up 15% year-over-year so far**

## HCCC's Valedictorian

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National Society of Leadership and Success, and Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society.

This fall, Lidia will head to Rutgers Business School to pursue a degree in Management Information Systems. She "looks forward to combining my interests in technology and business to prepare for a career that bridges both fields."

Lidia's success at HCCC shows the profound impact that a scholarship can have on the lives of recipients. Lidia explains that, "Receiving the Foundation Scholarship was truly an honor, and I was humbled to be selected. That generous gesture played a significant role in my academic journey. It not only supported my education financially, but also gave me a sense of recognition and belief in myself. Knowing that others saw potential in me motivated me to keep pushing forward. HCCC has provided support beyond what I ever imagined from a college, and I'm incredibly grateful for the many opportunities it offers students. This scholarship helped me stay focused on my goals and reinforced my confidence in pursuing them."



### Foundation Executive Committee

#### Executive Committee

Ronnie Sevilla, Chair

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Mark S. Rodrick, Treasurer

Richard Mackiewicz, Jr., Officer at Large

Stacy Gemma, Trustee Liaison

Monica McCormack-Casey, Immediate Past Chair

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## HCCC Foundation's Thankathon Connects Students and Donors

On July 23, the HCCC Foundation hosted its first-ever "Thankathon," a heartwarming new tradition launched in honor of the College's 50th anniversary. Ten grateful student scholarship recipients picked up the phones—not to ask for support, but simply to express their heartfelt thanks.

Over the course of the afternoon, these students personally connected with 50 donors and left more than 100 voicemails and messages filled with gratitude. Each call was a

small celebration of generosity and a reminder that the gift of education transforms lives.

The Thankathon not only gave students a chance to share their personal stories, but also to let donors know just how much their contributions matter. As an extra touch of appreciation, students invited donors to join the College's 50th anniversary kickoff celebration on September 9th—another opportunity to come together as a community.

## Planning Today, Impacting Forever: HCCC's First Planned Giving Seminar

This past spring, the HCCC Foundation hosted its inaugural Planned Giving Seminar, opening the door for donors and friends of the College to explore meaningful ways to make a lasting impact. This is an area many donors have questions about, and attendees gained valuable insight into how thoughtful estate planning can help secure the future of Hudson County Community College while also providing personal financial benefits.

Led by knowledgeable presenters from PNC Bank, the seminar offered practical guidance and examples of how planned gifts—from bequests to charitable trusts—can transform opportunities for generations of students to come. Participants left both valuable knowledge and the satisfaction of knowing they can be part of HCCC's legacy of access, opportunity, and excellence.

**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](mailto:foundation@hccc.edu).**

