

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# GOLF OUTING

*In Memory of Philip Johnston*



## ***Golfers Beat The Heat To Raise Money For HCCC Students***

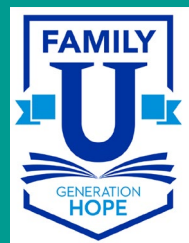
**In this issue**

Hudson County  
Community College  
President  
Nominated to  
USDA - HACU  
Leadership Group



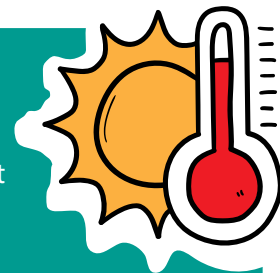
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**From the Editor’s Desk**

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

Items for the September newsletter are due by Friday, August 9, 2024.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

**Communications Department**  
162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Phone: 201.360.4060  
Fax: 201.653.0607  
[communications@hccc.edu](mailto:communications@hccc.edu)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Digital photos must be high resolution JPG. This means 300 dpi at actual print size.

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**GOLFERS BEAT THE HEAT TO RAISE MONEY FOR HCCC STUDENTS**

The hot temperatures and humid weather didn’t stop golfers from having a great time, posting some impressive scores, and, most importantly, raising money for a worthy cause at the Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation’s 22nd Annual Golf Outing.

This year’s outing held on July 15, 2024, at the Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, NJ, was dedicated to the memory of Philip Johnston, a longtime member of the HCCC Foundation Board of Directors who served as Chair from 2010 to 2012 and passed away in December 2023. As a member of the Forest Hill Field Club, Mr. Johnston initially secured the use of the club for the Foundation’s golf outings. His company, Johnston Communications (now JC Solutions), created the College’s fiber optics network during the 1990s. Mr. Johnston also served on the board of directors of the local Pioneer Boys and Girls of America, the West Hudson/South Bergen Optimist Club, and the HCCC Foundation’s West Hudson Fundraising Committee.

Former Foundation Chair Monica McCormack-Casey, who worked alongside Phil for many years on the Foundation Board, characterized Phil as “both a doer and a donor.” McCormack-Casey recalls her friend fondly, stating that “No matter where he went in life, Phil never forgot his Hudson County roots. He strongly believed that ‘as you walk through life, it’s good to look back and give somebody a helping hand.’ I don’t think anything made him happier than providing a helping hand to someone in need.”



*Philip Johnston*

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber pointed out that, “Philip Johnston’s 23 years of support, generosity, and commitment to the College, our Foundation, faculty, and students is a vital part of his legacy. Proceeds from the Annual Foundation Golf Outing that he created furnish scholarships for deserving students.”

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**ON THE COVER:** (Top) Longtime HCCC Foundation Director and Past Chair Philip Johnston, in whose memory the 2024 Golf Outing was observed. (Bottom) Participants at the Golf Outing, held on Monday, July 15.

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT NOMINATED TO USDA - HACU LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber is passionate about strengthening higher education. He leads and supports initiatives to close achievement gaps, prioritize student success, expand online programs, and create diverse pathways for students to complete certificate and degree programs that lead to long-term employment with family sustaining wages. Nationally recognized for his advocacy of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Dr. Reber is called upon frequently to provide insight and expertise on issues facing community colleges.

presidents and chancellors from colleges and universities across the nation as well as USDA senior representatives to improve and expand opportunities for Hispanic students in agriculture-related fields.



“I am confident that President Reber’s vast experience and dedication to higher education will make a significant contribution to the Leadership

*Dr. Christopher Reber to serve as a member of the United States Department of Agriculture-HACU Leadership Group.*

*Continued on page 11*

## HCCC CELEBRATES THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM DUAL-DEGREE GRADUATES

For the fifth straight year, Hudson County high school seniors earned Associate degrees while also attaining their high school diplomas as part of the HCCC Early College program. This year, 21 Early College students celebrated their college commencement prior to their high school graduation ceremonies. The graduates included the first-ever cohort from Bayonne High School and the fifth graduating cohort from Hudson County Schools of Technology.

HCCC Early College provides high school students with the opportunity to take up to 18 college-level credits per academic year, credits that give them a head start towards an associate degree or to transfer to other colleges. The program lessens the time and cost it takes to reach academic goals. All eligible high school students who participate in the Early College program pay only 50% of the in-county tuition rate.



2024 Early College Graduates from Bayonne High School.

HCCC has a number of partnerships with local high schools that allow qualifying students to earn academic credits, a certificate or even a full Associate degree upon high school graduation. The list of participating high schools and programs is available at <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/academic-pathways/early-college/hs-partnership.html>. Students who attend these high schools and are

interested in participating in the program may contact their school counselor or the HCCC Early College program for more information.

For more information about the Early College program, contact [earlycollege@hccc.edu](mailto:earlycollege@hccc.edu).

## GOLFERS BEAT THE HEAT TO RAISE MONEY FOR HCCC STUDENTS

Continued from page 2



Scenes from the 22nd Annual Foundation Golf Outing

Over 75 golfers participated in this year's outing and the always-anticipated event generated over \$80,000 in revenue that will provide scholarships for deserving HCCC students and contribute to the growth and development of the College. Attendees included members of the HCCC community along with business leaders from Hudson County and throughout the state. Among the golfers were a group of HCCC students, who learned and practiced the sport through a multi-week golf clinic to prepare for the event. Their participation was made possible through the generosity of donors.

HCCC Vice President for Advancement and Communications Nicole Johnson explained: "The golf course has long been where networking is done, professional connections are made, and deals are struck. Not only are our students learning how to play golf, but they are gaining

the social capital and the ability to tap into the networking opportunities that the game offers. Many of them would not have been able to take advantage of these opportunities if not for the generosity of our donors."

Established in 1997, the HCCC Foundation is a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) corporation that provides tax-exempt status to contributions. The Foundation supports and promotes the College and its students by building awareness and developing financial resources. In keeping with its vision that all Hudson County residents should be afforded the opportunity to acquire a college education and enjoy the lifelong benefits of that education, the Foundation provides scholarships for students, seed money for new and innovative programs, stipends for faculty development, capital to assist the College in its physical expansion, and resources to address basic needs of HCCC community members

and students beyond the classroom. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded close to \$4 million in scholarships to deserving students.

If you weren't able to make it to this year's golf outing, keep an eye out for the 23rd iteration of this annual event next summer. There are plenty of additional upcoming HCCC Foundation events that you can be a part of in the months ahead, such as the Subscription Dining Series this fall and the annual Foundation Gala this December. Stay tuned for more details!

To learn more about the HCCC Foundation, stay informed about future events and developments, or to make a donation, please visit [www.hccc.edu/community/foundation](http://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation).

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Mark Amaker  
Malcolm Kornegay  
Manuel Lendorf  
Sebastian Peciak  
Soviesky Pujols  
Dorante Richards  
Sonja Rodiger-Radovic  
Keeley Thornton  
Sargeant Williams  
Benedetto Youssef

#### Five Years

Jeanne Baptiste  
Heather Connors  
Omar Hamza  
Charles Juiliano III  
Alexis Muniz  
Doreen Pontius-Molos  
Maritza Reyes  
Laura Samuelsen  
Sarah Teichman  
Rong Xiao

#### 15 Years

Sean Egan

#### 25 Years

Jennifer Christopher  
Catherine Sirangelo

#### 40 Years

Aura Matias

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

#### One Year

Mohamed Abdelkader  
Maryam Arkkou  
Erick Gamero  
Jedediah Palmer  
Shyam Patel  
Adrienne Payne  
Youstina Semaan  
Elvis Valcarcel  
Anna Zielinski

#### Five Years

Erika Andal  
Omnia Daoud  
Cherise Dawson  
Elliot Erhunmwuosere  
Susan Lipyanka  
Manesha Singh

## GOAL SETTING FOR 2024-2025 BEGINS!

If you have completed your review, we encourage you to start the Employee Development and Performance Review process for 2024-2025 which begins with Goal Setting. Workshops to assist with Goal Setting will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 11 am. Important links are attached below.

**Goal Setting Workshop Link:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/Goals24-25>

**For more information about the EDPR process, please click the following link:**  
<https://www.hccc.edu/administration/hr/faculty-staff-development.html>

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

**Presentation Skills Toolkit** (All Employees, Live, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.) – Many folks are terrified of speaking in front of others, especially in high-impact situations, but by learning a few simple techniques it can become a pleasant, confidence-building endeavor. Join us to learn simple strategies for great presentations.

**Behavioral Interviewing Skill-Builder** (Leaders and Managers, Live, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.) – Managers may not interview candidates for positions on a regular basis. Thus, interviewing can seem like an awkward exercise. In this session, we will explore great "icebreakers" for interviewers, and we will work extensively with the technique of behavioral interviewing to enable a manager to elicit characteristics in applicants

that would make them a good match for the position, as well as the culture.

**Did You Hear Me? Active Listening as a Key to Success** (All Employees, Prerecorded; available 24/7 through Aug. 31) – Miscommunication can lead to all sorts of problems and is one of the biggest challenges in relationships. Learn some tweaks and tips for active listening that will help you to thrive at work and in your personal life.

To sign up for these webinars, visit [eap.ndbh.com](http://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.



**3rd Annual  
Aspiring Student Leadership  
CONFERENCE**

North Hudson Campus  
Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATES

### COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

### ALL COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ORIENTATION

Thursday, August 22, 2024

### CONVOCATION

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

## REMINDER:

HCCC will return to a regular five-day schedule of Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 19.

## HCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES UNDERGOES TRANSITION IN LEADERSHIP



On Tuesday, June 18, the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees held a reorganizational meeting to elect a new executive board. Pictured are Edward DeFazio, Esq., Secretary/Treasurer, Bakari G. Lee, Esq., Trustee Emeritus; Jeanette Peña, Chair; William J. Netchert, Esq.; Trustee Emeritus Pamela Gardner, Vice Chair; and Dr. Christopher Reber, College President.

## HCCC STUDENT JOINS 2023 FAMILYU COHORT OF STUDENT PARENT FELLOWS



Generation Hope has selected Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) own Shanice Acevedo among its third group of FamilyU Student Parent Fellows, to join the 2023-2025 FamilyU Cohort. Each of the five Fellows brings a unique experience to the FamilyU Cohort as well as a passion for supporting and uplifting the student parents at their institutions.

Shanice Acevedo is a first-generation student parent majoring in psychology at Hudson County Community College. Currently, she is the office manager at a prominent dental practice where she expertly manages office operations, coordinates patient care, verifies insurance, and oversees financial matters. Shanice brings a wealth of experience from her previous roles in customer service and training new employees within both the dental and medical fields.

Her dedication to continuous learning is evident through her recent achievement of a certificate in mental health aid that also underscores her commitment to holistic patient care and passion for understanding and improving mental health.

As the mother of two children, ages 12 and 7, she strives to set a powerful example for them, demonstrating that with determination and hard work, they can achieve anything they set their minds to doing. Shanice embodies the belief that it's never too late to make dreams come true, balancing her career aspirations with her dedication to her family's success, and she is excited to bring this perspective to HCCC as their Student Parent Fellow.

For the full announcement, please visit <https://www.generationhope.org/our-stories/welcome-new-generation-hope-team-members-1-l5n5j>

## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Chapter members and officers attended the MSR (Middle State Region) Leads Summer Leadership & Honors Institute from June 27 to June 30 at Millersville University in Millersville, PA.



From left: Beta Alpha Phi members Shemia Superville and Ashley Medrano with Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry, at the June 25 blood drive with New Jersey Blood Services.



Vice President of Service Kenia Sandoval volunteered at the New York Road Runners Open Run at Lincoln Park on June 23.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Blood Drive with**

**New Jersey Blood Services**

**Wednesday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**STEM Building - 263 Academy Street**

To make an appointment, visit <https://nybc.org/njdrive> and enter sponsor code 10588

**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](http://www.hccc.edu/outofthebox).**

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,900+ 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

Thank you to Elena Paul, Esq. for the donation of the wonderful **Anne Sperry** sculpture. Thank you to Mary Francis Judge for a generous donation of 10 gorgeous paintings. Thank you to Nancy Stein and Edward McDermott for your ongoing generosity. In this case, sincere thanks for six works of unique beauty: three paintings by New Jersey artist **Seymour Franks**, the large painting by **Richard Karwoski**, the weaving by **Barbara Krystyna Borowska Sierowszewska**, and the abstract painting by **Karen Nelson**. Thank you to the anonymous donor of seven art books for student study.

## Artist News

The Curator was looking at exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art recently and noticed a terrific new show, "The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism." Here's a guide to the show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5vZ-x5G0Zs&t=1660s>. Work by **Jacob Lawrence** can be seen in that exhibit, as well as on the 3rd floor of the Gabert Library. In the Metropolitan's "Art of Native America" exhibit, there are fascinating masks and even tiny beaded baby shoes. Native American art, also including masks and baby shoes, can be seen on the 6th floor of the Gabert Library, right outside the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Finally, the Curator noticed the new



*Richard Buchanan, Adjunct Instructor of Art & Art History, provided images of his art students using the rooftop terrace on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library for their Plein Air art class. "Plein Air" means "in the open air" in French and it is art-speak for painting outdoors. Top Left: Jolarys Torres and Bryan Rosas. Top Right: Keyla Sanchez and Jolarys Torres. Bottom: Bryan Rosas, Andrew Feng, and Joshua Beltran.*

Metropolitan Museum exhibit called "Don't Forget to Call Your Mother." Aside from noting this is often good advice, the Curator saw there was work by artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres in the exhibit. Here the Metropolitan is ahead of us. We are just installing work by Gonzalez-Torres on the 3rd floor of the Gabert Library, as this newsletter goes to press. Please go take a look!

In addition to these wonderful objects, there are over 1,900 works of art installed in our nine campus buildings. Please check out our website for more information <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html> or email the office for a free tour: [Asiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:Asiegel@hccc.edu).

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

To donate artwork, find detailed information here: [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html](http://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](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html).



HUDSON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

27TH ANNUAL GALA

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

12.05.24  
6 P.M.

Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07306

## JOIN US FOR THE DINING SERIES

**The fall edition of HCCC's always-anticipated Subscription Dining Series is fast approaching, and subscriptions for this in-demand fall fixture are expected to sell out quickly.**

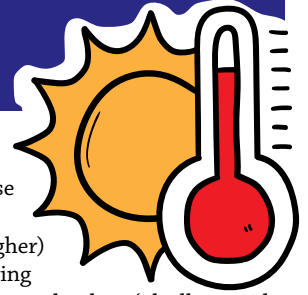
Culinary Arts Center- 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ  
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. | Eight Fridays (September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15)

Your subscription of \$1295 for eight weeks\*, or \$647.50 for four weeks can occur during the first four dates (September/October) or the last four dates (October/November). Our menu consists of unique meals and service prepared entirely by our students: Appetizer, entree, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, and other surprises! Seating is limited to four diners per table, per week. Gratuity not included. \*Single weeks are not available.

[www.hccc.edu/foundation](http://www.hccc.edu/foundation)



## 5 WAYS TO STAY HEALTHY WHILE ENJOYING AUGUST FROM INSTRUCTOR OF RADIOGRAPHY INEZ CRUZ



Summer is a season overflowing with opportunities for fun and wellness, making it an ideal time of year to embrace both leisure and healthy living. The long, sunny days lend themselves to outdoor activities, ranging from swimming to hiking, while the slower, relaxed pace of life (not to mention time off from classes!) makes it a great time of year to recharge your batteries and expand your horizons with a well-deserved vacation.

However, as we all know, it has been an incredibly hot summer here in New Jersey, and with August upon us, it is important to remember to stay healthy and safe by engaging in best practices, whether you're hitting the beach, lounging poolside, or just soaking up some sun and enjoying the outdoors.

Luckily, we have some great tips on getting the best out of all that August has to offer while staying healthy, safe, and cool from Inez Cruz, MPH, RT (R)(M), ARRT, the clinical coordinator and instructor for HCCC's Radiography Program.

Inez also teaches health services of science courses at the College, where HCCC students learn more about health and wellness. She has a degree in health education and public health. She has a strong passion for helping others live a healthier lifestyle.

**Here are five of Cruz's recommendations for enjoying the rest of the summer while staying healthy.**

### Stay Hydrated ... with Healthy Foods

Most of us know the importance of hydration and the important role that drinking plenty of water plays in this process, but did you know that the foods we eat can also help us stay hydrated?

Hydrating foods help with summer skin health by keeping skin healthy, soft, and supple. You can keep your skin looking its

best by prioritizing electrolyte-rich foods like lemons, pickles, bananas, and more.

Other delicious options that help with hydration include cucumbers, celery, iceberg lettuce, spinach, cantaloupe, strawberries, bell pepper, salmon, tomatoes, and of course, the popular go-to summer treat, watermelon.

To learn more about hydrating healthy foods and even more options, check out <https://utswmed.org/medblog/hydrating-healthy-foods/>.

### Prioritize Vitamin C

In addition to eating hydrating foods, eating foods with high vitamin C content helps support your skin and immune system. The good news is that these high vitamin C foods aren't just healthy; they also taste great. Go for oranges, cherries, kiwis, broccoli, yellow peppers, brussel sprouts, lemons, grapefruit, and kale.

### Limit Hot Showers

Everyone loves hot showers, but these should be enjoyed on a limited basis in the summer. This is because hot showers can eliminate essential oils from your skin, and summer is already a tough time of year for your skin. Be gentle to your skin by using mild soaps and daily moisturizers.

### Travel Smart

In the summer, many people take some much-needed time off to seek relaxation, get away, and soak in the energy of new surroundings and experiences that travel provides.

There are plenty of things you can do to stay healthy while traveling this summer.

When it comes to snacks, aim for fresh, whole foods and blood sugar-friendly options.

Don't forget to drink plenty of water. One easy way to do this is by carrying a reusable water bottle to support hydration and digestion. Nowadays, they come in a variety of colors and styles that are a fun way to burnish your unique look, and even better, they help the environment.

Be careful in the sun. Always use sun care lotion (at least SPF 30 or higher) and consider wearing protective clothing and a hat (ideally a wide-brimmed one), as well as sunglasses with both UVA and UVB protection. When packing, opt for light, loose clothing that can be dressed up or down. Opt for comfortable shoes – stay active and supported all day with shoes that can go the distance.

If you can, try to avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the hottest part of the day where the sun's rays are the strongest.

### Go for Walks

Did you know you can get started on the road to a healthier lifestyle simply by walking? Walking comes with many health benefits, including improving cardiovascular fitness, reduced risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes, helping to lose weight and body fat by burning calories, and even mental health benefits. It's a low-impact exercise with little risk of injury, making it a nice, unintimidating, and approachable way to exercise.

Can you do three 20-minute walks a day – one in the morning (before work or school), one at noon (perhaps during a lunch break), and one at night (maybe after dinner)? Breaking an hour of walking up into three manageable chunks is a great way to rack up steps and jumpstart a healthier lifestyle. Find a park, a hiking trail, or a favorite walking area in your neighborhood. Consider inviting a friend so that you can catch up and socialize while walking.

In addition to walking, other enjoyable forms of summer exercise include cycling, swimming, rollerblading, hiking, and more.

For more tips on having a safe and healthy summer, check out the Mayo Clinic's page on the topic at <https://www.mayoclinic.org/search/search-results?q=healthy%20summer%20tips%20>

## SECOND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY OF INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS - CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



*Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Associate Professor, Chemistry, greets attendees at the graduation celebration for Construction Management students on May 6.*

The second Commencement Ceremony for stackable industry-recognized credentials in Construction Management held May 6, 2024 celebrated a significant milestone in empowering students and professionals alike. These certificates are designed to enable students to begin applying for jobs before graduation, providing a head start on their careers. Additionally, they offer targeted expertise for applicants seeking to specialize in specific fields within the construction industry. Reflecting the program's growth, 96 students were awarded a total of 254 industry-recognized credentials this year, marking a substantial increase in the number of skilled professionals entering the workforce. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together students, parents, faculty members, administration, and our external partners, fostering strong working relationships and mutual understanding.

## VISIT TO THE NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY (NJ YOUTH CORPS)

On April 5, Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Coordinator for the Construction Management program, and Larry Anderson from Enrollment Services at HCCC, visited New Jersey City University and gave a presentation to the cohort of NJ Youth Corps about careers in the construction industry.

New Jersey Youth Corps-Jersey City, located at New Jersey City University since 1988, aims to restore young adults' dignity through academic instruction and community service. As one of the largest youth service and conservation corps in the U.S., it offers year-round voluntary programs for young adults aged 16-25. Guided by mentors, youth crews undertake diverse community projects and receive a stipend during their tenure.

It was a successful event the students enjoyed. Of the fifteen students in attendance at the event, nine enrolled in the HCCC Construction Management program after the presentation.



*Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Associate Professor (second from left) and Larry Anderson, Recruiter (center) with New Jersey Youth Corps members who enrolled as HCCC Construction Management students.*

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAREER DAY 2024

The Construction Industry Career Day 2024 took place on May 28 and 29 and featured Hudson County Community College's Construction Management program highlights. This two-day event catered to veterans, the underemployed, unemployed, students, parents, and career changers, providing hands-on activities across various trades. Attendees received detailed information on construction career paths, educational requirements, stackable credentials, wage progressions, and opportunities for earning college credits. The event also included demonstrations from New Jersey's construction trades; informative booths from colleges, trade associations, and government agencies; and offered a comprehensive experience to navigate and enter the construction industry effectively.



*HCCC at the Construction Industry Career Day 2024 in Edison, Dr. Azhar Mahmood, Coordinator of HCCC's Construction Management Program, represented the College.*



*Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?*

*Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?*

*Dealing with mental health and wellness?*

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



Please complete the General Concern Form  
click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care> or scan the QR code.

The form is NOT monitored 24/7. A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.

If you need immediate help call  
or text 988 or visit <https://988lifeline.org>





## CONFERENCE COVERAGE



HCCC Director of Mental Health Counseling and Wellness, Doreen Pontius Molos, alongside Deliana Acosta, and Joycelyn Wong-Castellano attend the Second Annual New Jersey Integrated Mental Health Conference at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ.



SHRM24 National Conference in Chicago! HCCC joined 26,000 HR colleagues from all corners of the world driving technology innovation, AI, employee well-being and civility. Pictured from left: Anna Krupitskiy, Josianne Payoute, and Amaalah Ogburn.



HCCC's Advisement team members Crystal Newton, Brianna Casagrande, and Jenny Henriquez at the 2024 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Conference for Students Success - First Generation Students Success in Anaheim, CA.

## CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR STUDENTS AT THE TECHCONNECT CONFERENCE AND WHITE HOUSE VISIT

On June 18, exceptional HCCC students, Amareese Rivera and Cassady Fitton-Gille, presented their research findings at the prestigious Techconnect conference held at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington, D.C.

Their innovative project has garnered considerable attention and recognition, and showcases their dedication, hard work, and the high quality of research conducted at our institution. The Techconnect Conference, known for bringing together the brightest minds in technology and innovation, provided Amareese and Cassady with a platform to share their insights and connect with industry leaders, researchers, and fellow innovators.

Moreover, as a testament to their impressive work, Amareese and Cassady received an invitation to visit the White House. This rare opportunity allowed them to gain a



Dr. Clive Li, Assistant Professor, Engineering Science (center) with HCCC student presenters Amareese Rivera (right) and Cassady Fitton-Gille (left).

unique perspective on how pivotal decisions in the field of technology are made at the highest levels of government. It was an inspiring experience that underscored the importance of their contributions and the potential impact of their research on future technological advancements.

## MESSAGE FROM OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

HCCC employees enrolled in our DEI Employee Training Program completed the 12-week training in the CANVAS platform for the spring semester. Staff and faculty participants who completed the professional development received digital badges in addition to the Certificate of Completion.

## REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2024 CLASSES



**FREE TUITION** for Eligible Students through the Community College Opportunity Grant (for those who qualify.) For more information, go to: [www.hccc.edu/freetuition](http://www.hccc.edu/freetuition)

### HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

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

15-Week Fall Term

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

12-Week Quick Term and Classes at Secaucus Center

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7-Week Online Classes

Fall Online A and Fall 7-Week 1: Wednesday, August 28, 2024  
Fall Online B and Fall 7-Week 2: Thursday, October 24, 2024

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

**APPLY NOW for Fall classes at [www.hccc.edu/apply](http://www.hccc.edu/apply)!**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### HCCC and IUOE Local 825 Hold Graduation for the Inaugural Class of the Learn & Earn Apprenticeship Program

While high schools and colleges celebrated graduations nationwide, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 825 in partnership with HCCC held its first-ever commencement celebration.

This is the first cohort of the innovative, 18-month-long program that began in Spring 2021 and is offered in partnership between HCCC and IUOE Local 825. The program prepares apprentices for careers as Operating Engineers through hands-on apprenticeship experience at Local 825's training center in Dayton, New Jersey. "With rapid technological advancements driving our changing world, we recognize the necessity of having a better-educated workforce to close that divide," explained Gregory Lalevee, Business Manager of IUOE Local 825.

"Students in this program hit the ground running having completed their degree and apprenticeship obligations while working long hours at difficult jobs across the state," explained Jenn Thomas, Chief Academic Officer at the Training Center. "Their dedication to seeing the program through inspires us, and we are excited about the future of workforce education in New Jersey."

Thanks to the program, 22 students earned Associate of Applied Science degrees in Technical Studies through virtual classes at



*Hudson County Community College and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 823 graduates its first cohort of apprentices.*

HCCC. The inaugural graduating class includes Monique Young, an inspiring journeywoman and skilled trade worker. "Being accepted into IUOE Local 825's first Learn and Earn apprenticeship was an honor and a challenge that allowed me and my fellow brothers and sisters to work together in the workforce, and in courses and programs at HCCC. I know I speak on behalf of my brothers and sisters in saying we could not have done this without the support and motivation we provided each other. I think this workforce is a great building block for strengthening our union. As Greg mentioned, the workforce's technology is rapidly changing, and the courses during the 18 months at HCCC better prepared us for that!"

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825's mission is to equip its members with the educational resources for

developing the skills of their apprentices and journeypersons.

"Celebrating the first-ever graduating class of apprentices is a special moment for the graduates and the entire HCCC and IUOE Local 825 family," said Dr. Machli Joseph, Student Success Coach for the program. "It's been so rewarding to see students come into the program with a desire to learn their respective trades, and to watch them grow over these last two years. We believe their HCCC associate degrees will equip them with the practical skills that are in high demand in their job market, and provide a strong educational foundation for them to advance their career prospects."

For more information about the IUOE Local 825 apprenticeship program, visit [iuoe825.org](http://iuoe825.org).

### Empowering Futures: Water Workforce Utility Program's Second Cohort Offers Grant-Funded Training

The HCCC School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD), in partnership with New Jersey Future and Jersey Water Works, have collaborated to launch the second cohort of the Water Workforce Utility Program (WWUP). Program partners include Lori Margolin, Associate Vice President of CEWD; Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of STEM; Paula Figueroa-Vega, Director of Jersey Water Works; and Matthew Maffei, Apprenticeship Coordinator of New Jersey Water Association. The CEWD program team consists of Anita Belle, Director of Workforce Pathways; Catherina Mirasol, Director of CEWD Operations; Joyce Alvarez, Center for Business and Industry Coordinator; and Mylz Wilson, Student Success Coach.

The second WWUP Cohort began on June 15, 2024 with 19 new students. This cohort follows the successful outcome of the pilot initiative launched in September of 2023. The program is funded by the Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) Grant awarded to Hudson County Community College by the New Jersey Department of Labor and by Bank of America. The intention is to provide students



*HCCC and its partners have launched a second cohort of apprentices who are being trained for water industry work.*

from all backgrounds with the opportunity to join the program. To complete the program successfully, participants will receive up to \$1,300 to assist with transportation, childcare, or any other needs.

The WWUP is determined to provide students with an introduction to the water industry and to provide career pathways in the water utility sector. Throughout the program, students will receive training and mentorship that will help prepare them for positions in apprenticeships, internships, entry-level jobs, or higher education related to the water industry. The 75-hour program will include a utility-centered activity and a water lab.

Students will also attend OSHA 10, Basic Math Skills, Excel Level 1, Career Readiness, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Customer Service Skills (Utility Sector), and CPR classes over the course of 10 weeks. The Student Success Coach helps students work towards their goals and prepare for interviews.

We look forward to seeing our students complete the program and embark on the exciting career journeys that lie ahead. Thanks to our partners, the CEWD team, and students for making this program possible. For more information, please contact [jsalvarez@hccc.edu](mailto:jsalvarez@hccc.edu) or (201) 360-5482.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION **Upcoming Programs**

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, August 15, 2024  
9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77  
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-BLS>

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Friday, August 16, 2024  
9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77  
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-BLS>

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, August 21, 2024  
9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77  
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-BLS>

### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON & IN SPANISH ONLY)

Thursday, August 22, 2024  
9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77 | Union City Campus  
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-BLS>

### NICET LEVEL 1 CONCRETE TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | August 3-25, 2024  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350  
<https://tinyurl.com/NICET1>

### NICET LEVEL 2 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Thursdays and Saturdays | August 8-31, 2024  
Thursday 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m./  
Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Price: \$350  
<https://tinyurl.com/mpuy8fe8>

### NICET LEVEL 3 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | August 17-September 8, 2024  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350  
<https://tinyurl.com/mpuy8fe8>

### CERTIFICATES IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING STRUCTURES

Fridays | August 30-December 13, 2024  
6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. | Price: \$572  
<https://tinyurl.com/3dd5pr9>

### CONSTRUCTION SURVEYING AND SITE PLANNING

Tuesdays | September 3 -December 17, 2024  
5:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. | Price: \$700  
<https://tinyurl.com/3dd5pr9>

### CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Mondays and Wednesdays | August 28-December 16, 2024  
Mondays 6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. (Remote)/  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. (In-Person Lab)  
Price: \$1144  
<https://tinyurl.com/3dd5pr9>

### CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATION (QUANTITY SURVEYING)

Thursdays (Remote)  
August 29-December 12 2024 | 6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m.  
Price: \$572  
<https://tinyurl.com/3dd5pr9>

### CANNABIS COMPLIANCE COURSE (REMOTE/ONLINE OPTIONS)

REMOTE  
Wednesdays | August 28-December 11, 2024  
6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. | Price: \$500

### ONLINE

August 28-October 16, 2024 | Price: \$500  
<https://tinyurl.com/vw8e4hx3>

### CANNABIS HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSE (REMOTE)

Thursdays | August 29-December 12, 2024  
6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m. | Price: \$500  
<https://tinyurl.com/mrx83w4>

### UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:

[www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation](http://www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development  
161 Newkirk Street, Room E504  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
(201) 360-4224  
[CE@hccc.edu](mailto:CE@hccc.edu)

## HCCC PRESIDENT NOMINATED TO USDA - HACU LEADERSHIP GROUP

*Continued from page 2*

Group, helping us achieve our shared objectives even more effectively," wrote HACU President Dr. Antonio Flores in his nomination letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The ten-member USDA-HACU Leadership Group provides guidance and strategic direction to ensure the Hispanic community equitably participates in and benefits from USDA education and employment programs, resources, and services. The group recommends policies and programs to strengthen USDA partnerships with Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and HACU. The USDA-HACU Leadership Group was created through a Memorandum of Understanding, which was renewed in 2022. The 34-year partnership is the longest HACU has had with a federal agency. Past initiatives generated internships, cooperative agreements, and fellowships.

"I am honored to have been nominated to join this distinguished group of leaders and to engage in their important work of helping ensure there is equal accessibility to all USDA opportunities for the men and women of one of the fastest growing segments of our population," Dr. Reber stated. "I am proud to lead and support our long-standing Hispanic-Serving Institution and honored to be a member and partner of HACU."

Agriculture is the Garden State's third largest industry, earning \$1.5 billion in annual revenue. New Jersey produces more than 100 crops, according to the USDA Farm Service Agency-NJ State Office. HCCC offers a host of programs for students that address natural resources/agricultural challenges. These include building a hydroponic mushroom farm that supplies the HCCC Culinary Arts program; conducting soil assessment projects; offering degree programs in Environmental Studies; and much more.

## 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](mailto:alumni@hccc.edu).



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**ALUMNI CORNER**

**Omega Dickerson, HCCC Class of 2023  
A.A. in English Communication Studies**



**How did you decide to attend HCCC?**

I decided to attend Hudson fresh out of high school because it was affordable. Some things got in the way, and I had to drop out for a time. But I love the slogan "Hudson is Home," and when I came back, it felt like I was returning home.

**What made HCCC the right choice for you?**

HCCC was the right choice for me because of all the diversity.

The amount of help I received from my teachers was amazing. I grew up hating math, but Claudia Delgado went above and beyond in tutoring me outside of office hours. She could have easily sent me to the tutoring center, but she took time to help. That was when I knew I was in the right place.

**Any favorite memories or classes at HCCC?**

My favorite memory of being at Hudson was becoming a Peer Leader. I grew and learned so much while serving as a Peer Leader. Being a Peer Leader gave me the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the *Achieving the Dream* conference. To this day, I am still connected with people across the world from that conference, all because of Hudson.

**What got you interested in communications and broadcast journalism?**

I have always loved television and watching the news.

But I never thought I could achieve that dream. At one time, I was an education major at HCCC before I had to drop out. When I returned, I spoke with my amazing advisor, Jonathan Bowman, and he asked me what I wanted to do in life. I expressed that I wanted to be a communications major, but I didn't think Hudson offered it. The program had just been created right when I returned to Hudson. He told me he was a communications major and shared his experiences. From that moment on, I knew this was what I wanted to do. I'm proud to say that I am the first of many students to graduate from HCCC as a communications major!

**What advice do you have for HCCC students looking to get into this field?**

Hudson has all the resources that you need. It is a small community, but it is a strong community. Take advantage of what the College has to offer.

Additionally, please get involved. This is where you will meet and connect with different students and staff on campus. Being involved helped me gain lifelong friendships.

**How did you choose to attend William Paterson after HCCC?**

I chose William Paterson University by attending a transfer pathway event. I spoke with the William Paterson team at the event and found out about the many opportunities they had for communications majors.

**Tell us about working at the radio station at William Paterson!**

I am the evening news anchor for 88.7 Brave New Radio for William Paterson University. I started the Fall semester in September, and it has been amazing. This is where I found my "radio sound," and I found a love for radio.

I've grown so much as a communications major because of the station. Being around others who have a passion for radio and television and brainstorming together has been the highlight of my time here at the University.

**What's next on the horizon for you?**

I'm remaining optimistic in my college journey. In May 2025, I'll be a college graduate with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism.

I don't know what the future holds for me, but my goal is to work with a news company as a production assistant or news anchor. Maybe later on down the line I can be a director in the production room calling the shots for the camera angles that you see on television. Stay tuned! Great things are going to happen for me soon!

For information about the College's Alumni Association and membership benefits, please email [alumni@hccc.edu](mailto:alumni@hccc.edu).

**Invest in the education of an HCCC student by making your gift of any amount today.**

**COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR**  
For the most up-to-date information, please visit <https://www.hccc.edu/calendar>. Hudson County Community College reserves the right to modify the calendar as necessary.

