

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES MALCOLM X'S DAUGHTER, DR. ILYASAH SHABAZZ



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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 March newsletter are due by Friday, February 8, 2025.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES MALCOLM X’S DAUGHTER, DR. ILYASAH SHABAZZ



MLK Annual Memorial guest speaker Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz (center) with members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., North Jersey Alumnae Chapter.

Malcolm X fought racial injustice by any means necessary, advocating armed resistance and separatism; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. espoused peaceful protests and community organizing to end segregation and fight discrimination. Although the Muslim revolutionary leader and the Baptist minister differed in their advocacy and philosophical approaches, their legacies are intertwined. Before they were both assassinated at age 39, they built the foundation for future generations of activists.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and in celebration of Black History Month, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) welcomed Malcolm X’s daughter, Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz at the College’s 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. The event was held Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, at the HCCC Culinary Conference Center. Following Dr. Shabazz’s speech, attendees enjoyed lunch and the Opening Reception of the Civil Rights Art Exhibition in the Benjamin J. Dineen and Dennis C. Hull Gallery in the Gabert Library.

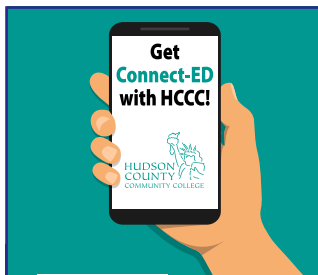
Dr. Shabazz is an author, public speaker,

and activist who promotes interfaith dialogue to build bridges between cultures for the world’s young leaders. She was the inaugural Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fellow at Worcester State University for the 2023-2024 academic year, and assisted with diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout the campus. Dr. Shabazz is an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she has taught a variety of courses including American Cultural Pluralism and the Law.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated, “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X sacrificed their lives in the fight for equality. They shared a common goal: improving Black lives and all lives. We are honored to welcome Dr. Shabazz as our guest speaker.”

Although Dr. King and Malcolm X met and were photographed together only once during a Senate debate on the Civil Rights Act in 1964, their widows bonded. Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” and Malcolm X’s “The Ballot or the Bullet” speeches helped define their visions for civil and human rights. Their parallel paths are detailed in *The Sword and The Shield* dual biography.

ON THE COVER: *Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, guest speaker (third from left), pictured with, from left, Dr. Darryl Jones, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Anthony L. Romano, Jr., Chair, Hudson County Board of Commissioners; Pamela Gardner, Vice Chair HCCC Board of Trustees; Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President; Bakari G. Lee, Esq. HCCC Trustee Emeritus; and Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.*



Hudson County Community College has implemented Connect-ED, a text- and voice-messaging emergency-alert system in the event of a crisis or emergency that poses an immediate and life-threatening danger to the College community.

Free and Confidential
 HCCC will provide this emergency service free of charge to students and employees – there is no charge to sign up. However, mobile service providers may charge a fee for incoming messages depending on an individual’s plan.

Personal information entered into the Connect-ED system will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

Stay informed and get Connect-ED today!
<https://www.hccc.edu/administration/communications/emergency-notification.html>



SCAN QR FOR DETAILS

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S WINTER GRADUATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS STUDENTS' GRIT AND DETERMINATION

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) celebrated 481 graduates on track to earn their degrees this December at the College's December Graduate Reception on December 12 and December 13, 2024.

The celebratory event was held in the Scott Ring Room of HCCC's Culinary Arts Center, where graduates and their families celebrated this significant milestone. The event was also live-streamed so that those not able to attend in person were able to watch their loved ones graduate.

Graduates heard from HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones, Assistant Dean of Student Life and Leadership Veronica Gerosimo, and Hudson Scholars Academic Counselor Josh Mariscal, who applauded them on the hard work it took to arrive at this milestone and on their success so far. Graduates were reminded that no matter how long it took them to complete their degrees or what challenges they overcame along the way, their degrees represent the culmination of years of dedication and are credentials that will stay with them forever.

Attendees also heard remarks from graduates Sheila Christine Soriano Perez, who earned an A.S. in Medical Sciences, and Ebony Batts, who earned an A.A. in Liberal Arts.



HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones celebrates with student speaker and new graduate Ebony Batts at the College's December Graduate Reception.

Perez juggled being a full-time nursing student and working full-time at a coffee shop to support herself during her studies at HCCC. She emigrated to the United States from the Philippines at the age of 13 and spoke of struggle, perseverance, and hope. She thanked her family for their love and support and thanked HCCC "for shaping me into a better student and a stronger person... I could not have done it without all the resources you provided. Hudson is indeed home!"

Batts, a Jersey City resident and mother of two, started college in 2010 but had to pause

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HUDSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS DR. NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLI

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce held its 17th annual Legends Ball, honoring several members of the community for their exceptional contributions to Hudson County and beyond. HCCC's own Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti was the recipient of the Daryl Harrison Rand Leadership Award. Dr. Chiaravalloti is a dedicated leader and educator who has made a lasting impact in Hudson County through his unwavering commitment to higher education and public service.

As the Vice President for External Affairs, Special Projects and Senior Counsel to the President at HCCC, Dr. Chiaravalloti has spearheaded programs and initiatives that open doors for students and strengthen the community. His influence extends far beyond the classroom, advocating for accessible education and community development.



Pictured from left: Catherine Tantillo, Chair of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti, HCCC Vice President for External Affairs, Special Projects and Senior Counsel to the President; and Emory A. Edwards, President and CEO, Hudson County Chambers of Commerce.

Congratulations to HCCC Foundation Board Directors Ruddys Andrade (Public Service Award) and Natalie Braithwaite (Iconic Leadership Award) on their respective honors as well!

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 'LIBRARY EXCELLENCE IN ACCESS AND DIVERSITY' AWARD



College libraries are hubs where students and community members access resources for learning, to enhance literacy, to utilize educational materials, have a quiet place to study, and connect with the community. Developing collections, initiatives and programs that represent a wide range of experiences and perspectives promotes exploration and dialogue, making these libraries more inclusive.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Libraries earned the 2025 *Insight Into Diversity* Magazine "Library Excellence in Access and Diversity" (LEAD) Award for advancing programs and initiatives that encourage and support inclusive excellence and belonging in research, accessibility, community outreach, technology, exhibitions, and collections. The award acknowledges the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) leadership role models and honors exemplary academic libraries.

"We are proud that *Insight Into Diversity* Magazine has recognized our campus libraries and their vital role in the community," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "HCCC Libraries combat censorship, promote partnerships, and serve people of all abilities and backgrounds through diverse experiences."

HCCC Libraries uphold the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion to support teaching, research, and learning. Periodic campus surveys inform strategic planning, ensure diverse speakers and topics, promote curating, and offer exhibitions and lectures on local history, culture, and social issues. Rotating thematic displays highlight Hispanic, Black, Asian and other diverse heritages, women's achievements, autism awareness, and more. HCCC Libraries offer assistive technology

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MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Eva Racine

Five Years
Timothy Moore

15 Years
Nydia James
Elana Twersky-Winslow

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Nelson Tungala
Ghania Ahmed Zaid
Radia Kassa
Louisa Krupp
Anthony Molinero
Debora Mumma
Nil Patel
Katie Rodammer
Maria Soliman
Esmeralda Tamayo
Aubrey Zich

Five Years
William Bird
Sweta Sanghavi
Ciara Kaye Umali

10 Years
Ernesto Grassi
Kimberly Muller

EMPLOYEE PERKS

Employee Assistance Program
<https://eap.ndbh.com/>
(company code: HCCC)

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development
<https://www.nisod.org/>

LinkedIn Learning
<https://library.hccc.edu/linkedinlearning>

SPRING 2025 COLLEGE SERVICE DAY

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, Hudson County Community College held its semiannual College Service Day, with the theme of “Community Engagement and Civic Responsibility.”



Hazel Applewhite, Chief Executive Officer of Ironbound Community Corporation, delivered the keynote address, “Empowering Voices: The Importance of Inclusivity in Community Decision-Making.”



The College also presented Philip Johnston Awards for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Jerry Lamb, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice (second from left) and Karen Hosick, Assistant Professor, Personal Fitness/Exercise Science (second from right). They are pictured with, from left, Dr. Darryl Jones, HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. WeiDong Zhu, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Saint Peter’s University; and Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President.

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday, February 6 (tentative)
New Hire Orientation
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (By Invitation)

Friday, March 7
International Women’s Day
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. (Open to All)

Wednesday, April 23
Administrative Professional’s Day
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. (By Invitation)

Thursday, April 24
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (TODAS) (All Day) (Open to All)

Tuesday, April 29 (Tentative)
Virtual Professional Development Day
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Online) (Open to All)

Wednesday, April 30
STARS Luncheon
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. (By Invitation)

EAP WORKSHOPS

Are You an Overthinker? - Morning Session
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Are You an Overthinker? - Afternoon Session
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Employee Assistance Program is here for you at 833-848-1764 or visiting eap.ndbh.com (log in using your existing company code. Username: hccc Password: guest)

**SAVE
the
DATE**

**Details
Coming
Soon!**



2025 COMMENCEMENT
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Sports Illustrated Stadium (formerly Red Bull Arena)
600 Cape May Street, Harrison, NJ 07029

FALL 2024 PLAYWRIGHTS' FESTIVAL



The 2024 HCCC Playwrights' Festival could not have happened without the producing and acting contributions of (pictured from left) Dr. Alison Wakefield, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, faculty members Sovi Pujols and David Nash, and head of the Theatre Arts program Joseph Gallo.

HCCC AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY JUDGES P.S. 5 MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR



Members of Hudson County Community College's chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) served as judges for PS #5 Middle School Science Fair in December.

On December 4, 2024, the HCCC Chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) served as judges at the PS 5 Middle School Science Fair. The students of the ACS, as well as their advisor, Raffi Manjikian, judged science fair projects from grades 5-8 for PS 5 Middle School. The school was very welcoming and friendly and the young students were excited to show off their scientific projects.

Some of the judges went to PS 5 Middle School when they were younger, and they were very excited to return and help with this initiative. This is the third year that HCCC has helped PS 5 Middle School with their science fair by providing judges. The seventh and eighth grade students of PS 5 Middle School visited HCCC and the School of STEM in January 2025.

Join us at a Spring 2025 OPEN HOUSE



SATURDAY, MARCH 22
10 a.m - 1 p.m.
Journal Square Campus
Culinary Conference Center,
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ



SATURDAY, APRIL 26
10 a.m - 1 p.m.
North Hudson Campus
4800 Kennedy Blvd.,
Union City, NJ



Join us to:

- Receive a tour of our campus
- Complete an Admissions application
- Engage with different academic programs
- Speak with students, faculty, and staff
- Meet with Financial Aid and find out if you are eligible for free tuition

Registration is required!

Scan the QR code or go to www.hccc.edu/openhouse to register!



2025 New Jersey Creative Communities Conference The Art of Community Well-Being THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

Hudson County Community College
Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street Jersey City, NJ 07306

Contact: Leonardo Vazquez at leo@nnjcf.org | 201-568-5608 x2

New Jersey Creative Communities Conference, produced by The Northern New Jersey Community Foundation (NNJCF) and Hudson County Community College (HCCC), will bring together leaders, doers and thinkers throughout New Jersey. Together, they will explore innovative ways to make places better for everyone through art and creative placemaking. This event promises to generate new partnerships, projects and more. Your sponsorship will connect you with key decisionmakers and influencers. It will also support programs to enhance quality of life in North Jersey communities and provide scholarships for HCCC students.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Art and Community Health
How art and artful environments benefit mental/physical health and well-being.

Community Economic Development
How arts and placemaking boost local economies, create jobs, and cultural entrepreneurship.

Empowering and Supporting Public Artists and Social Practice Art
Training and supporting practicing artists and emerging artists wanting to enter the field.

Inclusive and Accessible Communities
Examining communities through the lens of increasing accessibility, addressing DEI for those with disabilities.

To sponsor the conference: foundation@hccc.edu

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,000+ 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 **Joan Snyder** for the generous donation of art books for student study. Thanks as well to an anonymous donor of art books.

Artist News

You can see **Jo Baer's** work in the Culinary Conference Center on the fourth floor, and in the Gabert Library Makerspace. She made her fame as a founder of minimalist art in the 1970s, and then she left it all behind and moved to a castle in Ireland, where she created representational paintings. Speaking to an interviewer in 1987, she said, "I wanted more subject matter and more meaning. ... There was an awful lot going on in the world, and I didn't just want to sit there and draw straight lines." She recently died at the age of 95. Rest in Peace and Art, Jo Baer, and thank you for your work.

A trip to the Hudson River Museum at 511 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers this month will show you work by many artists whose art is also in the Foundation Art Collection:

For example, you can see work by **Alvin Hollingsworth** on the third floor of the Gabert Library. You can also see his work in an exhibit at Hudson River Museum called "And All That Jazz," which includes paintings, prints, and illustrations recently donated to the Hudson River Museum. Themes that run through Hollingsworth's long and influential career include his fascination with jazz, his celebration of Black women, and his origins in illustration." Before becoming a fine artist, Hollingsworth worked as a comic book artist during the 1940s and 1950s. As a member of the influential Spiral artist collective during the 1960s civil rights era, Hollingsworth and other members of the



Jo Baer, Amphora Frieze (2004), Silkscreen, 7 images, each 16" x 22.5"

collective "questioned African American artists' obligation to engage artistically in political activism as opposed to pure aesthetics." This question of artists' responsibility remains a serious topic for debate to this day.

Also at the Hudson River Museum are works by **Jacob Lawrence** and **Richard Haas** in an exhibit called "Collection Spotlight: Cityscapes." These artists' work at our College are in the Gabert Library. The Jacob Lawrence is on the third floor of the Gabert Library, and Richard Haas's work can be seen on the lower level. The exhibit at the Hudson River Museum invites "discussion about the paradox of cities as places of opportunity and community while simultaneously grappling with inequality, alienation, and struggle."

At Hudson County Community College, work by **Felix Gonzalez-Torres** can also be found on the third floor of Gabert Library. **Joan Snyder's** works are featured on the sixth floor and can also be seen in 870 Bergen on the lower level, in the nursing program's lounge. Both of these artists have work in an exhibition at the Hudson River Museum called "It Takes

2: Unexpected Pairings. The exhibit explores the resonances and dissonances that arise when unrelated objects are set side by side." There are eight pairings in the exhibit. For example, "One poignant pairing reveals two striking explorations of love. Felix Gonzalez-Torres's 'Untitled' (L.A.), 1991, is installed near an ornate wedding platter from the 1870s. Gonzalez-Torres's candy-spill work dates from the same year he lost his beloved partner to an AIDS-related illness and is a testament to their relationship. The ceramic dish, produced by W. T. Copeland & Sons, features wedding vows as part of its decoration, including 'in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.' The platter was made to hold food for wedding guests, just as Gonzalez-Torres meant for visitors to consume the commemorative candy."

The Hudson River Museum is free the first Friday of each month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection is free every day. Just walk through campus. Every building has many works of art on exhibit.

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

JOIN US FOR THE DINING SERIES



The HCCC Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management program was ranked number six in the U.S. by Best Choice Schools.

Your taste buds will thank you!

Culinary Arts Center

161 Newkirk Street,

Jersey City, NJ

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Eight Fridays (February 21,

28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April

11, and 25)

Subscriptions for the full series are \$1,395 for all eight weeks*, or \$697.50 for a half series subscription. Please note that half series subscriptions can only be the first four dates (February/March) or the last four dates (March/April). *Single weeks are not available.

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.*

Email us at foundation@hccc.edu for more information or call 201-360-4778.

OFFICE OF
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 presents



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WITH MALCOLM X'S DAUGHTER AND ARTISTS' EXHIBITIONS

Throughout history, activists have fought to attain and preserve equal accessibility, opportunity, recognition, and protection. These fundamental rights include the right to vote, marry, own property, attain an education, enjoy privacy, assemble peacefully, and more. Whether one is Black, Hispanic, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or a member of any other group, effecting change often begins through creative expression, namely the visual and performing arts and spoken and written word.

The parallel legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X reflect the civil rights movement that evolved through the decades. In celebration of Black history and human rights, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) welcomed Malcolm X's daughter, Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz, at the 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on Tuesday, January 28. Afterwards, the HCCC Office of Cultural Affairs presented the opening reception of the College's Civil Rights Exhibition in the Benjamin J. Dineen and Dennis C. Hull Gallery.

(Editor's Note: For more information about the Memorial, please see page 2.)

"We are honored to welcome Dr. Shabazz as our guest speaker and look forward to unveiling art that underscores human rights as the foundation for a free and just society," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "These three new exhibitions empower artists, trace history, and remind us to be vigilant in protecting our rights and freedoms."

The exhibitions include:

"Pathways to Freedom: We Get to Tell the Story" features historical objects and documents from the Linwood Pledger, Jr. Archive of Black History, curated by archivist, historian and HCCC Assistant Professor Dorothy Anderson, and HCCC African American History students. The archive includes slave contracts, 19th Century slave owners' wills, and first-edition books from renowned Black writers. Artwork by Jerome China, Antoinette Ellis-Williams, Heather Williams and Bernard Jackson illuminate pathways to freedom themes. Meet the artists on February 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Artworks by Jerome China (left) and Heather William are featured in "Pathways to Freedom: We Get to Tell the Story," one of three Civil Rights Exhibitions which opened on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Hudson County Community College.

"Curious Matter: A Legacy of Art & Inquiry" highlights the vision and contributions of married collaborators Raymond E. Mingst and Arthur Brusco. Founders of Curious Matter art gallery in Jersey City, the artist-curators have partnered with the Jersey City Free Public Library, Hudson County Community College, and several other organizations over the past two decades. This exhibition highlights their "cabinet of curiosities" approach, presenting a selection of catalogues and archival materials. A special feature of the exhibition is Le Bouquiniste, their mobile book kiosk inspired by booksellers along the Seine in Paris and New York's vanished Book Row. Le Bouquiniste brought an intimate and unexpected encounter with contemporary art and literature to public spaces. Visitors may preview Arthur Brusco's forthcoming book, *A Slant of Shadow*, a collection of essays that explore art objects that transcend beauty, becoming vessels of supernatural intent. Meet the artists on February 27, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

"Poetry as Illumination" celebrates LGBTQIA life in Hudson County with poets from Jersey City Public Schools and throughout Hudson County. Anyone may add their own poem to the Gallery community wall Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., through March 28, 2025. Hudson County is home to one of the largest LGBTQIA communities in New Jersey, with more than 400 same-sex couple households, many of whom find expression in

the visual and performing arts at open-mics, cultural festivals, and networking opportunities through Hudson Pride.

The exhibitions will be on display through March 28 at the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery, open Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

You're invited to the opening of the
HCCC Spring 2025 exhibitions!

Pathways to Freedom
 WE GET TO TELL THE STORY

Poetry as Illumination

CURIOS MATTER
 A LEGACY OF ART & INQUIRY

Benjamin J. Dineen III
 & Dennis C. Hull Gallery
 71 Sip Ave, 6th Floor
 Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hudson County
 Community College
 Cultural Affairs

January 28 - March 28
 Tues. - Fri. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM HOLDS PINNING CEREMONY



Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program with members of the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, Hudson County Community College's School of Nursing and Health Professions held a pinning ceremony for the graduates of its Practical Nursing Program.

During the ceremony, the graduates received their pins – marking the important transition from student to nurse - and recited the International Council of Nurses Pledge during a candlelight ceremony.



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>



Earn credits and your degree online from home!



SPRING 2025

HUDSON ONLINE

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

7-Week Classes
ONB begins on March 22, 2025

For information on enrolling at HCCC:

Text or Call: 201.509.4222
Email: admissions@hccc.edu

HCCC'S CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTORS UNDERGO BPI TRAINING



Instructors in the Construction Management program receive training in building performance. Once the instructors are certified, the College's program will be certified as a training and testing center.

Building Performance Institute (BPI) is a leading organization that develops technical standards and certifications for energy efficiency and weatherization professionals in the building performance industry. Center for Construction Management is working to be a recognized Training and Testing Center for the BPI certification exams and is

training instructors to be recognized training instructors for BPI certification exams.

Once successful, our Construction Management program at HCCC will be the first community college program in the nation to be a certified Training and Testing center for BPI Certification.

VISUALIZE YOUR SUCCESS: TRINIDAD DELA ROSA'S 4TH ANNUAL VISION BOARD PARTY INSPIRES DREAMS



Photo Above: Attendees of the Jan. 12 Vision Board Party with presenter Trinidad Dela Rosa (center).

Photo to the Right: The North Hudson Campus hosted the fourth annual Vision Board Party goal-setting event.



At Hudson County Community College's North Hudson campus on Sunday, Jan. 12, Trinidad Dela Rosa's Vision Board Party brought adults together – for the fourth year – to kick off the year with intention and purpose. This goal-setting event was about more than crafting; it provided a powerful space to explore topics like the Power of Spoken Words, Positive Thinking, Goal Setting, Self Belief, and Budgeting. Attendees were encouraged to start the year with a vision, and watch dreams come to life!

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER: DR. NANCY BOOTH DONATES STUFFED ANIMALS TO TOYS FOR TOTS



Dr. Nancy Booth, Professor, shown here with some of the 20 stuffed animals she donated to the Toys for Tots at the North Hudson Campus. She said that whenever she is in Kohls, she buys one or two. She then donates them at Christmas for the children.

Spring 2025 12-WEEK QUICK TERM



**Classes begin on
Friday, February 14, 2025**

Each class meets for 12 weeks. This a great option for students who cannot commit to a 15-week term or motivated learners who prefer a fast-paced format.

VIEW COURSES OFFERINGS AT:

<https://www.hccc.edu/catalog/current/courses/index.html>



REGISTER NOW!

<https://www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes.html>

For more information contact:

admissions@hccc.edu

text (201) 509-4222 or call (201) 714-7200

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 'LIBRARY EXCELLENCE IN ACCESS AND DIVERSITY' AWARD

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such as closed captioning for online events; sign language interpreters at in-person events; audio transcriptions; a Talking Book service; the "Ticket to Culture" program with free annual guest passes to local cultural institutions; panel discussions, symposiums, and roundtables; and many additional services.

In 2016, HCCC's Gabert Library was recognized with the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Excellence in Academic Libraries Award; the only New Jersey institution ever to be so honored.

"We know that many academic libraries

are not always recognized for their dedication to diversity, inclusion, and access" says Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of *Insight Into Diversity Magazine*. We are proud to honor these college and university libraries as role models for other institutions of higher education."

Insight Into Diversity Magazine is the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education today. *Insight* is the leader in recognizing inclusive excellence in higher education through its many prestigious awards. They are also known for advancing best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion through their website and print magazine.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Scenes from the CAT ACCESS Program's Virtual Reality and Simulation Lab soft launch



Courtesy of Brookdale Community College and the Brookdale Newsroom

HCCC CAT ACCESS Program Ends 2024 with a Soft Launch of its Virtual Reality & Simulation Lab on Alumni Night!

On December 18, 2024, Hudson County Community College, Center for Adult Transition, (CAT) marked a significant milestone with a soft launch of its Virtual Reality Simulation Lab, as part of the ACCESS Program and beyond. Held just before the Christmas break, this invite-only event provided CAT ACCESS alumni with an exclusive sneak peek into the transformative opportunities that await future participants.

The ACCESS program, aptly named to emphasize its accessibility and comprehensive approach, is designed to equip students with essential skills for both professional and personal development. During the soft launch, attendees engaged in a variety of activities tailored to offer a glimpse of the program's full potential:

Career Awareness and Exploration

Alumni were introduced to a series of career awareness virtual reality scenarios, each aimed at broadening their understanding of various functions, roles and responsibilities of certain in demand industries and job markets.

Drivers Education

One of the highlights of the event designed to promote self-sufficiency and safety, the CAT

Access Program includes drivers' education as a key component of its 15-week curriculum. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the curriculum, which covers everything from the NJ DMV Study guide and basic driving skills to handling complex traffic situations.

Educational Simulation Games

The collection of interactive activities educational simulation games offered a hands-on learning experience, allowing participants to develop problem-solving skills and strategic thinking in a fun, engaging environment.

Whitney Mora Rivera, ACCESS Program completer and now Program Assistant of the CAT ACCESS Program, expressed her enthusiasm: "Our goal is to make learning accessible and engaging for all populations, but specifically the neurodiverse community. This soft launch is just the beginning. We're excited to see the impact this program will have on our students and community."

The HCCC CAT ACCESS Program, currently recruiting for Spring 2025 which starts on March 10, 2025, is set to fully launch its virtual reality and simulation lab that fosters continuous learning and career readiness for those transitioning from high school and thereafter up to the age 24. With its blend of transformative pre-college or workforce curriculum, career workshops, practical training, and innovative educational tools, it is poised to become a cornerstone of the HCCC Center for Adult Transition ACCESS Program's commitment to student success.

NJ Film Academy

On Wednesday, December 4, Hudson County Community College was invited by Brookdale Community College to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the NJ Film Academy. This event marked the beginning of an exciting opportunity for New Jersey residents interested in pursuing careers in film and television.

In addition, Hudson County Community College is set to launch its own Film and TV program in the near future. This new initiative will serve both local and non-local residents, with the goal of preparing students to become influential figures within the dynamic film and television industry.

HCCC'S 12TH ANNUAL GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Inspiring & Supporting Young Women in STEM

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk St., Jersey City, NJ 07306

Learn how to attend, volunteer, or sponsor at:
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCCGIT2025>

High Schools & Middle Schools are invited to attend at NO COST.

Meals are included.

To register or for volunteer & sponsorship opportunities contact Chastity Farrell
cfarrell@hccc.edu



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

ALUMNI CORNER

Frank Gilmore

AA, Business, HCCC Class of 2014

Frank Gilmore is a Jersey City Councilman representing Ward F. While incarcerated in state prison, Gilmore decided to make changes in his life by pursuing education. After graduating from HCCC, he earned a bachelor's degree in Communications and Entrepreneurship from Rutgers University. He was inaugurated as Ward F Councilman on January 1, 2022.



How did you decide to attend HCCC?

HCCC prepared me for Rutgers and my work as a council person by offering a balanced pace of academics.

I needed that opportunity to adjust to the collegiate environment. It allowed me to operate at my own pace. It gave me a sense of independence, along with a sense of urgency to get things done, so it balanced that sense of independence with being able to go at my own pace.

What made HCCC the right choice for you? How did it prepare you for Rutgers and your work as a Council Person?

The convenience of the location allowed me to stay local while meeting my educational goals.

HCCC also allowed me to practice honing my ability to pay great attention to detail, which comes in handy as a Councilperson when reviewing the resolutions and ordinances that we vote on every other week.

What inspired you to run for City Council?

My knack for and willingness to help others. I also saw a great need for better representation on the City Council. I saw that need increase around 2018-2019 due to a lack of adequate attention given to recreation, affordable housing, and public safety.

How did the loss of your parents at a young age and the issues you faced in your younger years enable you to continue to strive for more?

My parents' death at a young age forced me to be independent, and to do a lot of things by myself. I've been working and doing whatever I need to do to take care of myself since I was about 14 years old. This early independence led me to focus on education as a means of rehabilitation and adaptability.

What is your vision for the future of education in Jersey City?

Seeing a comprehensive, responsible budget from a financial standpoint. There's also a lot that can be done to diversify the curriculum, as well as the teachers; I would like to see more male teachers in schools, and I would like to see more African American teachers in schools. I'd like to see more younger teachers. Therefore, from a financial standpoint, we have to be very competitive in bringing those people in.

Your website, Everything Ward F, is a comprehensive information system for the community. Why is that important to you and your constituents?

I've always emphasized the importance of community engagement and advocacy for marginalized groups. It does us no good to have effective programs and effective representation if people are not aware of what is available. More than advocating for people, you have to teach people to advocate for themselves. Having a one-stop hub where people can go and get information is essential to enabling that self-advocacy. The purpose of EverythingWardF.com is to be informative as an office, and getting the information out there to as many people as possible, so they can consume that information and apply the knowledge that's available.

What advice would you give to the next generation of community college students?

Take advantage of what you currently have access to. A lot of people weren't afforded the opportunity to go to college. A lot of people were essentially unable to access this privilege because of their limitations early in their academic careers. A lot of us weren't taught the proper way. There are a lot of people stuck at a fifth- or sixth-grade reading level.

So I would tell this next generation, take advantage of the opportunities that are before you, and also bring it back. Pour back into your communities; pour back into the people. Give people opportunities that you didn't have, or at the very least the same opportunity you had.

I credit education for everything I am currently. I credit education with my rehabilitation. I credit education with my ability to adapt to any environment. I credit education with allowing me to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations. Your education, no matter what you've been through, is the one thing no one can take away from you.

Is there anything else that you want to put on record, as an alumnus, or as a college educated council person?

I just want to say that I'm extremely proud of how diverse Hudson County Community College is. I love what they're doing with the new buildings and offering more opportunities for more individuals.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Events are held at
Journal Square Campus,
81 Sip Avenue, Student Center, 2nd Floor
Multipurpose Room, Jersey City, NJ 07306
HCCC Alumni's Personal Room
<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/meet/alumni28707199608>

Alumni Association Meetings:

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

Tuesday, May 6, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (In person and virtual)

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

Wednesday, November 12, 2025
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (In person and virtual)

The Rise and Voices of Alumni Meetings:

Thursday, March 20, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

Thursday, May 8, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (In person and virtual)

Thursday, September 25, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

Thursday, November 20, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (In person and virtual)



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.

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JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Phone (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Boulevard
 Union City, NJ 07087
 Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of the Hudson County Schools of Technology
 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094
 Phone (201) 360-4388

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S WINTER GRADUATION CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS STUDENTS’ GRIT AND DETERMINATION

Continued from page 2

her educational journey to prioritize caring for her children as a single mother. She spoke about not letting the forces of the outside world defeat her and her drive to complete her education. When her daughter started college and her son started high school, they told her, “Mom, now it’s your turn, we can do this together,” inspiring her to return to school to finish her degree.

HCCC President Dr. Reber stated, “Both student speakers exemplified the perseverance and determination that define our students, overcoming challenges and balancing responsibilities to achieve their goals and

graduate. We are very proud of them and all our December graduates.”

These December graduates won’t miss out on any of the pomp and circumstance of a traditional college graduation ceremony as they are also invited to attend HCCC’s May 2025 Commencement at Red Bull Arena, where the College expects another record graduation class following May 2024’s College record of 1,532 graduates.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber reminded graduates that, “While you are moving on to the next steps on your educational or career journeys, you will always be a part of the HCCC family.”

Engage, Empower, Educate: Every Action Counts!

Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education 2025

SAVE THE DATES
 February 24 - February 28, 2025

Ready to make an impact in higher education? Join us at the virtual Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Paula Roberson, Ed.D., Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation
 (201) 360-4775 | proberson@hccc.edu

Hudson County Community College invites you to enjoy the newest segment of our video series, **Hudson Headliners!**

HUDSON HEADLINERS!
 Featuring **HUDSON HELPS**

Take a look –
<https://www.hccc.edu/news-media/headliners/index.html>
Watch for news about the next Hudson Headliners!

Hudson is Home!

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.

