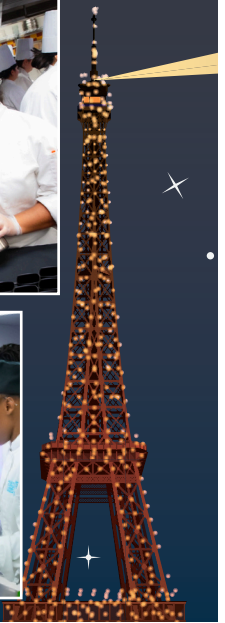
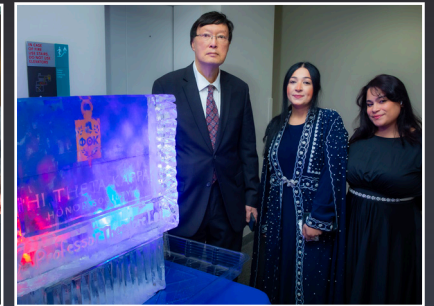


HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



Hudson County Community College Foundation Hosts "Midnight in Paris" 27th Annual Gala



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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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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 February newsletter are due by Friday, January 10, 2025.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

Communications Department
162-168 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
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communications@hccc.edu

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOSTS “MIDNIGHT IN PARIS” 27TH ANNUAL GALA

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation invited business leaders, friends, and residents to an enchanting evening of French cuisine and culture, and a celebration of distinguished guests at its 27th Annual Gala.

The “Midnight in Paris” themed event took place Thursday, December 5, 2024, in the HCCC Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ. Guests enjoyed cabaret music, French-themed rooms, and Parisian food and drink prepared by talented HCCC chef-instructors and culinary students presented by servers in berets and scarves. Highlights include French 75 cocktails; Moulin Rouge seafood bar; Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Le Chartier, Le Café, Rue de Rivoli, and Louvre Museum kitchens; an Eiffel Tower photo station; and an Andy Warhol “Perrier” screen print and collection of French artists’ works from the Foundation Art Collection.

The Foundation’s largest fundraising event of the year assists students in attaining their college degrees and enjoying the lifelong benefits and transformative power of higher education. The College serves more at-risk students than any other community college in New Jersey. More than two-thirds of HCCC students, many of whom are underrepresented or first-generation college students, report food and housing insecurity, and even homelessness. The Foundation helps remove barriers to their success through fundraising for scholarships, books, and transportation.

The 2024 Distinguished Community Service Awards were presented to Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society; accepted by Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, PTK President and CEO, and the College’s Beta Alpha Phi Chapter Advisor, HCCC Professor Theodore Lai.

“PTK leadership inspires and transforms the lives of thousands of students, their families and beyond throughout the United States and abroad,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “We are so proud of our HCCC Beta Alpha Phi Chapter of PTK. Under Professor Lai’s dedicated and caring mentorship of students for nearly three decades, our Chapter has served over 7,000 students who committed to academic success, service and leadership, and who are successful



The College’s Beta Alpha Phi Chapter Advisor, HCCC Professor Theodore Lai and Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, PTK President and CEO.

and making a profound impact in their lives, careers, and communities.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the official honor society for two-year colleges, recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) since 1929. Founded in 1918, PTK celebrates academic achievement and fosters personal growth, leadership, and service among community and technical college students. With nearly 1,250 chapters in 11 nations and over 4.3 million students inducted, PTK provides a transformative experience, connecting its 230,000 active members to opportunities for scholarships, leadership development, and success beyond the classroom. By offering access to exclusive resources and a supportive community, PTK empowers students to excel academically and reach their full potential.

Professor Lai has led the College’s Beta Alpha Phi Chapter of PTK since 1996 and is revered for his tireless work mentoring honor society students, leading the local chapter to earn the Honors in Action and three Top 100 PTK Chapter awards. Professor Lai has received 10 PTK awards: five Continued Excellence Awards for Advisors, four Distinguished Advisor Awards, and the Paragon Award for New Advisors. He also organizes student volunteer projects and events with Friends of Liberty State Park, Bike MS, MuckFest MS, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, MS, Garden State Episcopal Community

Continued on page 7

ON THE COVER: *The Hudson County Community College Foundation held its 27th Annual Gala fundraiser on Thursday evening, December 5, 2024. The 2024 Distinguished Community Service Awards were presented to Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society at the event.*

SWEARING IN OF NEW ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

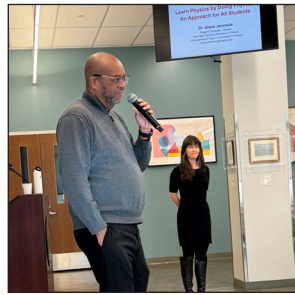


Student Alumni Representative Lisa Camacho (center) with HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (left) and HCCC Board of Trustees Chair Jeanette Peña (right).

New Student Alumni Representative, Lisa Camacho, was sworn in at the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26. She will serve a one-year term, until the next Reorganization Meeting in November 2025.

Camacho earned an Associate in Science in Business Administration and is immediate past president of the Student Government Association. She succeeds 2023 valedictorian Sally Elwir on the Board.

SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS HOSTS RUTGERS FACULTY LECTURER



Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of the School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics introduces the guest speaker, Dr. Diane Jammula.



Dr. Diane Jammula of Rutgers University-Newark shares information with attendees at "Learn Physics by Doing Physics."

On Monday, Nov. 25, HCCC's Society of Physics Students welcomed Dr. Diane Jammula, Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Physics at Rutgers University-Newark, who presented "Learn Physics by Doing Physics: An Approach for All Students." Participants learned about physics education research and engaged in an Investigative Science Learning Environment (ISLE) cycle.

3RD ANNUAL ASPIRING STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND STEM SCIENCE FAIR



Contributors to the Aspiring Student Leadership Conference and STEM Science Fair.



Presenters answer questions from the student audience.

On November 18, 2024, the North Hudson Campus held its 3rd Annual Aspiring Student Leadership Conference. This year, along with the conference, the North Hudson Campus held its first STEM Science Fair. 340 students attended, which included Hudson County Community College students and students from the local high schools in the vicinity of the North Hudson Campus.

The keynote speaker, Dayna Altman, presented a wonderful presentation focusing on Mental Health and Wellness. Dayna Altman is an energetic and dynamic entrepreneur, author, and creator. She is the sole operator of "Bake It Till You Make It". As part of her presentation, she harvested her passion for mental health advocacy by using food and baking to create an authentic recipe for vulnerable storytelling. Students were actively involved and engaged in her presentation.

The day continued with informative workshops from Hudson County Community College faculty and staff. A special recognition to Cristhian Altamirano, Associate Director of Early College Programs; Jocelyn Wong-Castellano, Academic Counselor, Early College Programs; Lisa Ciekiewicz, Coordinator of Admissions and Recruitment, Nursing Program; Cheryl Cashell, Director of Radiography Programs; Alexa Yacker, MSW LSW, Mental Health Counseling and Wellness; Ariana Calle, Associate Director for Hudson Helps; Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry; Jenny Henriquez, Associate Director of the Honors Program; and Student Peer Leaders for their outstanding and informative presentations.

Furthermore, thanks to all of the STEM faculty and students for their outstanding projects which included over 70 poster board presentations. Special thanks to the

planning committee who actively helped Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus, and Angela Tuzzo, Associate Director of Student Life and Leadership with planning the event. The Planning Committee included Joseph Caniglia, Angela Tuzzo, Cristhian Altamirano, and Sebastian Pieciak. In addition, special thanks to Jason Figueroa, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus; Diana Galvez, Associate Director of the North Hudson Campus; Yadeline Tineo, Part-Time Office Assistant, Luis Reyes Alberto, Part-Time Office Assistant; Roberto Gomez, Part-Time Office Assistant; and Aura Matias, Administrative Support Specialist for all their hard work making sure that the event ran smoothly. We look forward to next year's conference.

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Ryan Brady
Serina Gonzalez
Shaheedah Johnson
Michelle Paradies
Josianne Payoute

Five Years

Diana Galvez
Karen Hosick
Callie Martin

10 Years

Antonio Acevedo
Robin Anderson
Salvador Cuellar
Marissa Lontoc
Veronica Zeichner D'Alessandro

20 Years

Ana Cabrera

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Wagida Abdelhalim
Khulud Adem
Samantha Alvarez
Luis De la Cruz
Awa Gueye
Michael Lago
Juliana Paula Lucila
Gabriel Manaos
Johanna Mejia
Nisrine Mraihy
Jessica Paredes
Jainika Patel
Mili Patel
Haley Puyko
Darshaine Ramdat
Angel Ramos
Eduardo Rivera Sr.
Dhrumi Shah
Mariam Zoair

Five Years

Tahar Dob
Lilian Martinez
Natalie Mejia
Priyanka Mistry

15 Years

Apolinar Velez

30 Years

Marystella Ahmed

HCCC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



A great time was had by all attendees at the HCCC Annual Holiday Party on December 9, 2024.

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

On November 26, the Human Resources Department hosted a successful Virtual Job Fair, open to both students and the wider community. This event, which was expanded to include all open positions across the College, had previously focused solely on

adjunct opportunities. This year, it highlighted a variety of internal career opportunities across multiple departments at HCCC. Coordinators from various areas participated, engaging with attendees to answer questions about open positions, job responsibilities, and the benefits of working at the College. The virtual platform provided a convenient and accessible space for individuals to explore diverse career options and connect directly with College representatives. The event was a great success, offering valuable opportunities for both community members and job seekers to advance their careers within the HCCC network.

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Katy-Ann Blacker, Assistant Director for Institutional Research December 1, 2024

Brianna Casagrande, Associate Director, Career and Transfer Pathways January 1, 2025

Ana Hernandez, Support Analyst December 2, 2024

Paula JnoVile Roney, Counselor, Educational Opportunity Fund December 1, 2024

Rossella Lopez, Admissions Advisor November 27, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Mariam Amer, Academic Counselor November 27, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Faizan Aslam, Administrative Assistant, Registrar December 3, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Luisa Carranza, Administrative Support Specialist November 27, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Kandi Ceballos, Human Resources Coordinator November 11, 2024 - January 3, 2025

Perla De Aza Paniagua, Academic Advisor November 27, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Andres Estrella, Accounting Manager December 2, 2024 - January 31, 2025

Rebekah Isaac, Human Resources Administrator November 11, 2024 - December 6, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Machli Joseph, Assistant Director (Partially Grant-funded) January 1, 2025 - September 30, 2027

Jasmine Pascua, Equipment Manager (Grant-Funded) November 27, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Manuel Preciado, Financial Aid Advisor November 27, 2024 - May 26, 2025

Samantha Ramirez, Academic Advisor November 27, 2024 - March 31, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Robert Maurer, Instructor, Culinary (Non-tenure Track) January 24, 2025 - May 31, 2025

Khursheed Khan, Instructor, Construction Management (Non-tenure Track) January 24, 2025 - May 31, 2025

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Julio Maldonado, Maintenance Manager; Effective: December 1, 2024

Hamza Saleem, From Admissions Advisor to Assistant Director, Enrollment Services (One Stop Student Services Center); Effective: December 1, 2024

SAVE THE DATES!



COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

ALL COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ORIENTATION
Thursday, January 23, 2025

ACHIEVING THE DREAM COACHES MAKE SECOND VISIT TO HCCC



A delegation of the College community met with Dr. Mary Fifield, Leadership Coach, and Dr. Rene Garcia, Data Coach (center) during their second on-site visit to the College during the 2024-25 academic year.

HCCC'S ADDICTIONS COUNSELING PROGRAMS RATED MOST AFFORDABLE IN NORTHEASTERN U.S.



FALL LEARNING COMMUNITY DAY PRESENTATIONS

On Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, Hudson County Community College students enrolled in Fall 2024 Learning Community courses prepared posters and oral presentations at the semiannual Learning Community Day at the Student Center. A learning community is a cluster of two or more courses, often with the same theme. The faculty of each respective course coordinate class work, assignments, and field trips to assist the linked group of students to discover and explore connections between distinct and seemingly unrelated fields of study.



Hudson County Community College's AS in Human Services Pre-Social Work Addictions Counseling and Proficiency Certificate in Addictions Counseling have been rated among the "Most Affordable Substance Abuse Counseling Certificate and Associate Degree Programs in the Northeast" by SubstanceAbuseCounselor.org. HCCC's focus on credit transferability was also highlighted. Congratulations!

<https://substanceabusecounselor.org/editors-choice-affordable-top-picks-substance-abuse-counseling-programs/northeast/>

CULINARY PLAZA PARK LIGHTING



Members of the School of Nursing and Health Professions.



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber delivers greetings.



The Hudson County Community College Chorus (H4C) performs a musical selection.



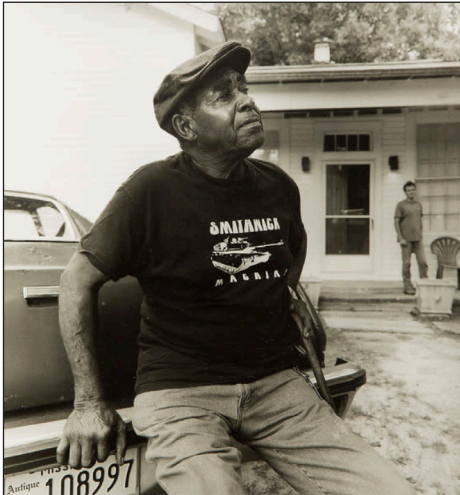
Aycha Edwards (left) and Priyanka Mistry enjoy the festivities.

On Monday, Dec. 2, Hudson County Community College held a holiday lighting ceremony at the Culinary Plaza Park. This event, signified the start of the holiday season, featuring delicious treats and collected donations of canned food groceries for the College's Food Pantries.

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.



Untitled by Larry Fink (ca. 2002) Photograph

Donor Acknowledgment

Thanks to Wendy and Herman Klarsfeld, and their son Dr. Jonathan Klarsfeld, for the generous donation of many ancient and antique ethnographic art works. Thank you to Dr. Joseph Levy for the 1963 after Georges Braque lithograph, *Papier Colle's*. ("After" means the print was made from the artist's lithography materials after his death. This is a strange but legitimate arts practice.) Thank you to an anonymous donor for art books for student study.

Artist News

In a recent December interview on National Public Radio's show *Fresh Air*, multimedia artist **Mickalene Thomas** talked about her New Jersey roots and the importance of the local art museum to her childhood development: "I think that art has saved my life, for sure. Growing up, going to after school programs at the Newark Museum, it was, for me, this safe haven, this comfort, this refuge. I loved going there after school. I loved doing all the

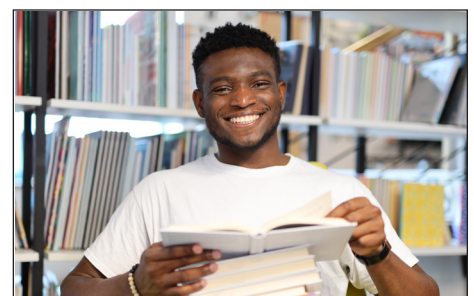
craft projects, the papier-mâché, exploring different ways of making self-portraits or building houses with popsicle sticks and all those things. ... It was just an outlet, a way of expressing myself, but also a place to go after school until my mother got off work." On campus you can see two works by the artist in the Gabert Library on the first floor. Her new exhibit "Mickalene Thomas: All about Love" at the Barnes Museum in Philadelphia will be on view until January 12. I will then travel to the Hayward Gallery in London (February 11–May 5, 2025) and to France where it will be seen at Les Abattoirs, Musée-Frac Occitanie Toulouse (June 13–November 9, 2025).

Artists often find partners who are also artists, but rarely do they exhibit together. Work by **Martha Posner** and **Larry Fink**, partners for over 30 years, will be on view at a show called "Larry Fink / Martha Posner: Flesh and Bone" at the Sarasota Art Museum at Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida until April 13, 2025. Our photographic work by Larry Fink is on view on the Fourth floor of the Gabert Library. Several mixed-media art works by Martha Posner, which are in the Sarasota show, have been promised to Hudson County Community College after the exhibit. These works are what *ArtDaily* calls, "haunting garments with hand-lettered ink." We look forward to their arrival at the college later this year.

Ricardo Barros, whose work is displayed on the 4th floor of Gabert Library, had a show last month: *An Entanglement of Space and Time*, an exhibition by the 2024 Marlene and David Persky Present Tense Prize winner, will be on view at ArtsWorcester in Worcester, Massachusetts. For more information on his explorations of physics through photograph, you might enjoy this eponymous video: <https://tinyurl.com/4jwdrses>.

Newark-born artist **Barbara Kruger**, whose work can be seen on the second floor of 2 Eno Place, is exhibiting in Scandinavia in a show called, "No Comment" through April 2025 at one of Denmark's largest art collections: AARHUS.- ARoS. The exhibit uses entire areas of the museum—even the restrooms have sound exhibitions by the artist. According to the museum, "For over 40 years, Kruger's astute observations of society have reflected and critically examined our current condition.... to question social and power relations."

Sylvia Plimack Mangold, whose work can be seen at the North Hudson Library, will be exhibiting at the Craig Starr Gallery in an exhibit called, *Sylvia Plimack Mangold: Tapes, Fields, and Trees, 1975-84*, through January 25, 2025. The artist noted at that time about her work, "Tired of truthful considerations—I am thinking of making selections for pleasure—that is the pleasure of a sensuous surface over a logical one."



REGISTER NOW

FOR SPRING 2025 CLASSES AT HCCC!

Spring Classes begin on Friday, January 24, 2025

**HCCC OFFERS CLASSES IN
MULTIPLE MODALITIES**

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

APPLY NOW www.hccc.edu/apply

For more information contact:

admissions@hccc.edu

text (732) 509-4222

or call (201) 714-7200

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.

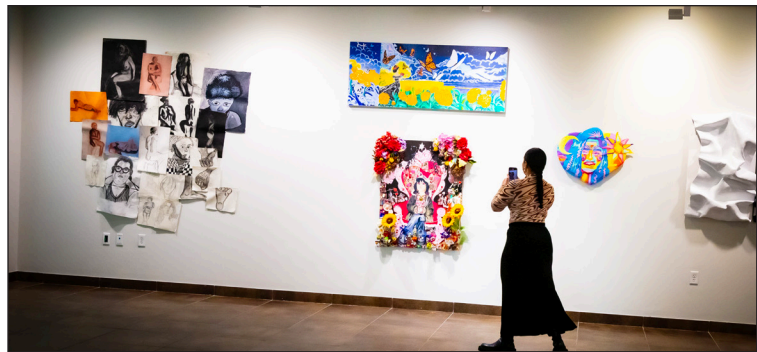
To make a monetary gift in support of the Foundation Art Collection, please contact Nicole Bouknight Johnson at (201) 360-4069 or nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu.

To donate artwork, find detailed information here: 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.



HCCC STUDENT ART EXHIBITION TALK AND RECEPTION



On Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, Hudson County Community College hosted an artist talk and reception as part of its semiannual Student Art Exhibition at the Gabert Library’s Dineen-Hull Gallery. Students shared insights into their works and creative processes, celebrating a successful term of artistic achievement.



Presents

2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial



SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday,
January 28, 2025
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
 161 Newkirk Street
 Jersey City, NJ 07306

GUEST SPEAKER
Ilyasah Shabazz

Author | Activist | Professor

Worcester State University’s inaugural DEI Fellow
 for the 2023-2024 academic year

Daughter of Malcolm X

For more information, Contact:
 Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 Gabert Library, Sixth Floor, Room L606, Jersey City, NJ 07306
msanchez@hccc.edu | (201) 360-4618



FOUNDATION HOSTS “MIDNIGHT IN PARIS” 27TH ANNUAL GALA

Continued from page 2

Development food pantry and homeless memorial, New York City Triathlon, City Challenge, Sharkfest, and more.

Founded in 1997, the HCCC Foundation has awarded more than 2,000 scholarships totaling nearly \$4 million to deserving students. The Foundation continues to make a profound impact, awarding over \$176,000 in scholarships in 2024. Currently, the Foundation Endowment stands at \$1,925,021 and has grown more than 18% since it was initiated in 2022, positioning the Foundation to generously and continuously support scholarships.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Congratulations to Ashley Medrano for completing PTK Edge. She did it in less than a day.



Congratulations to Joshua Greenbaum for completing PTK Edge. He did it in less than three days.



Desiree Page, Alicemarie Ospina, Glennis Ehimwenmann, and Prof. Ted Lai packed more holiday meals for seniors and the needy on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Service

In two drives held over the Thanksgiving break, Beta Alpha Phi Chapter volunteered at the Fountain of Salvation Church: on Nov. 27, Kiiwii Bacon, Alketa Muja, Desiree Page, Amina Shahzad, Dina Thompson, Marolla Youaman, Tuba Zaman, Instructor Raffi Manjikian and Prof. Ted Lai; and on Nov. 28, with Glennis Ehimwenman, Amina Ospina, Desiree Page, and Prof. Lai. Since 2015, the chapter has volunteered to pack holiday meals for seniors and the needy.

Save These Dates!

- Jan. 9, 2025: Deadline for applying to Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship
- Feb. 28, 2025: Deadline to apply for Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship
- March 7-9, 2025: Middle States Regional Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Somerset Hotel and Conference Center, Somerset, NJ
- April 3-5, 2025: PTK Catalyst 2025, Kansas City Convention Center Kansas City, MO



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>

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT STUDENTS AND FACULTY ATTEND OFFSHORE WINDPOWER CONFERENCE



Construction Management students with Dr. Azhar Mahmood, (second from right), at the Offshore Windpower Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

On October 30, 2024, a national Offshore Windpower Convention was attended by both national and multinational companies involved in offshore energy projects.

Professor Azhar Mahmood, Coordinator of the Construction Management program, led an educational trip to the convention for his students. The students had the opportunity to explore and learn about the latest technologies in wind farming and offshore energy.

PARAMEDIC SCIENCE PROGRAM RECEIVES STATE AWARD



Pictured from left: Avishai Steinhart, educator; Joanna Brown, assistant clinical coordinator; Evan Schwarz, director; Brant Maslowski, lead educator; and Kristen Ciano, clinical coordinator.

On Friday, Nov. 22, the Paramedic Science Program at Hudson County Community College received an award of recognition from the New Jersey Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services. The award recognized the College's "outstanding achievement, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the profession of educating emergency medical services providers."

The program is offered as collaboration between the College and the Jersey City Medical Center.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE



HCCC was represented at the Online Learning Consortium #Accelerate24 conference in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme, "Envisioning a New Era of Digital Learning," was highlighted with a timely keynote on "Preparing Students for Life Beyond College: Embracing AI as Essential Learning." From left to right: Matt LaBrake, Zakia Hmamou, Cecily McKeown, Callie Martin, and Dr. Robert Kahn.

ESL STUDENTS TRAVEL TO EDUCATIONAL THEATER OF NEW YORK



In collaboration with Student Life and Leadership, the ESL Resource Centers organized two experiential learning opportunities during the Fall 2024 semester. On Friday, October 25, 15 ESL students and five faculty and staff members attended the Educational Theater of New York to see two plays: *The Landlady* and *Lamb to the Slaughter*, adapted from short stories by Roald Dahl. The plays are designed specifically for English language learners and provide an interactive experience where audience members can ask for scenes to be repeated, respond to questions posed by the presenters, and in post-performance discussions can ask questions of and speak directly to the characters from both plays.

HCCC STUDENTS SOAK IN CULTURE WITH VISIT TO THE MET



On Saturday, November 9, 21 students and four HCCC staff members visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Students surveyed artwork and artifacts spanning centuries, cultivating an appreciation for various cultures and histories through the rich and diverse artistic works and artifacts that have illuminated human and artistic ingenuity. The visit to the Met was an enriching and inspiring experience, immersing students into the world of art history and fostering an opportunity for personal reflection on the stories these artifacts and works tell about humanity's shared past.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

FORGING FUTURES & BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THE METALLICA SCHOLARS INITIATIVE IN ACTION

Texas came alive with purpose and passion as leaders, educators, and Metallica fans united for the annual Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) In-Person Meeting on November 6-7, 2024. Hosted by Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation (AWMH), this electrifying event was more than a gathering—it was a celebration of lives transformed and futures forged through the power of education and skilled trades.

The Metallica Scholars Initiative, launched in 2018, has become a lifeline for thousands. What started with ten schools now spans 60 community colleges across 50 states and Guam, addressing critical workforce gaps and redefining what's possible for students pursuing careers in traditional trades and applied learning.

This isn't just about education; it's about second chances, resilience, and unlocking



The annual Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) In-Person Meeting, hosted by Metallica's All Within My Hands Foundation (AWMH).

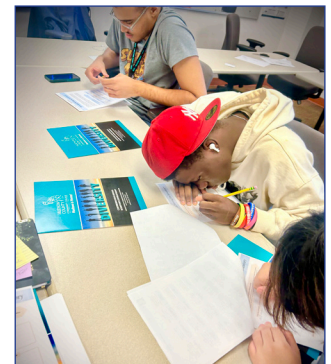
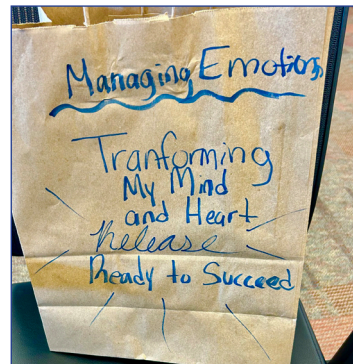
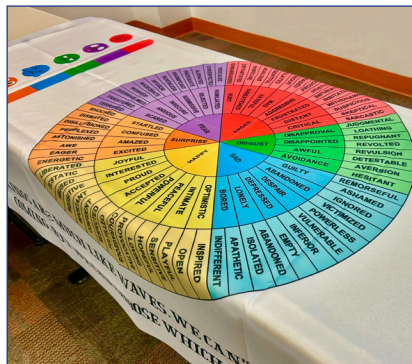
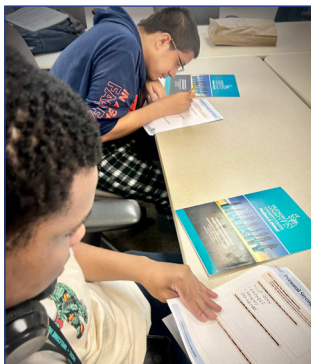
human potential. It's a movement changing lives one student at a time.

Texas: A Celebration of Transformation

This year's MSI meeting wasn't just a conference—it was a powerful statement. Educators, alumni, and community leaders came together to exchange ideas, share successes, and reimagine what workforce development can achieve.

Attendees were inspired by stories from students who turned challenges into triumphs. These weren't just tales of academic success but vivid testaments to resilience and determination. Each narrative reinforced the urgent need for investment in career and technical education. True to Metallica's ethos, the event was infused with energy, passion, and an unwavering commitment to community.

HCCC CENTER FOR ADULT TRANSITION CELEBRATES ANOTHER COHORT OF ACCESS PROGRAM SUCCESS



Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Center for Adult Transition (CAT) is proud to announce the successful completion of the current cohort of six students in the ACCESS Program. This remarkable achievement will be celebrated with a completion ceremony scheduled for June 2025.

The ACCESS Program, which concludes on December 20, 2024, has been instrumental in providing students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary for academic and professional success at a transitional level. We are thrilled to share that 100% of the ACCESS Program student completers are enrolling at HCCC for the Spring 2025. This outstanding enrollment rate increases our success rate of post-secondary educational pathway to 60% and

is a testament to the program's effectiveness and the dedication of both the students and staff.

The ACCESS Program received continuous feedback from alumni stating, "The ACCESS Program has been a transformative journey for me."

"The support and resources provided have not only prepared me for my future studies at HCCC and other educational opportunities, but have also given me the confidence to pursue my career goals and persevere despite the challenges."

As we celebrate this milestone, we are excited to announce that CAT is currently recruiting for the ACCESS Program Spring/

Summer 2025 that starts in late February 2025. We encourage all interested students to apply and take advantage of this incredible opportunity to advance their educational pathways, career prospects and independent living opportunities.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.hccc.edu/programs-courses/workforce-development/access-program.html> or contact at CAT@hccc.edu. Let's continue to support and celebrate our students' achievements together!

Join us for an upcoming Info Session: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/access-program-information-session-tickets-546427127247?aff=oddtcreator>

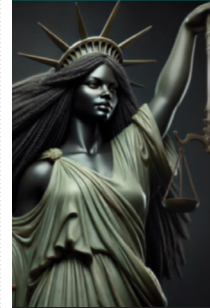
HCCC GROUP ENJOYS 'NON-STOP' THRILLS AT HAMILTON PERFORMANCE



More than 40 members of the Hudson County Community College family attended a performance of the acclaimed Broadway play *Hamilton* at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York City.

Providing historical context and local color, Dr. Christopher Cody, Instructor-History, gave a lecture at the Weehawken Dueling Grounds, where the famous duel took place between American Founding Fathers Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr (then the Vice President of the United States) in 1804.

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

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

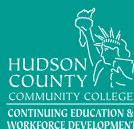
Learn how to attend, volunteer, or sponsor at:
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCCGIT2025>

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

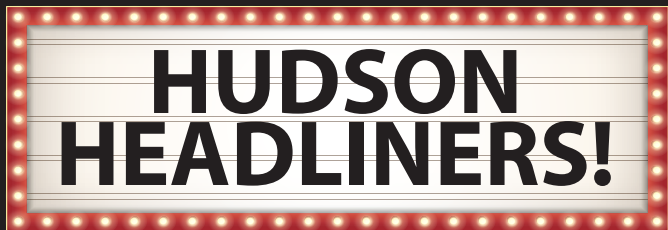
ACTIVITIES | PANEL DISCUSSION | STUDENT DISPLAYS | PRESENTATIONS | CONTESTS | GIVEAWAYS & MORE!



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



Hudson County Community College invites you to view our new video series ...



The Hudson Headliners page at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) website features a video series that highlights key programs, initiatives, and individuals at the College.

Take a look –

<https://www.hccc.edu/news-media/headliners/index.html>

Watch for news about the next Hudson Headliners!



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.



For information about the College's Alumni Association and membership benefits, please email alumni@hccc.edu.

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



ALUMNI CORNER

Rebecca Richardson
A.A. English, HCCC Class of 2019



Rebecca is a cartoonist and educator. She works as the Museum Educator at Ohio State University’s Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum and organizer of Zine Club Columbus.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

I didn’t have many plans for college after high school. I took a semester off and then made the impulsive decision to go to Journal Square and register for college. It was a very casual approach to such a big decision, but it worked out!

I was looking for a sense of community. I loved HCCC because of how diverse it was both culturally and economically. You’re in class with people with completely different experiences, and I was looking for that. I liked how real it was – it was in the middle of Journal Square; I’d hop off the bus and rush to campus. It built grit, and I appreciate that now.

Tell us about your connection to the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

I spent a lot of time between classes looking at the artwork on the walls. The Collection is gorgeous; I think I’ve looked at every piece on every floor. This inspired my teaching practice of asking people to look at artwork and then talk about it. I’m from North Bergen, and I attended the North Hudson Campus. My favorite piece was a beautiful work of folk art depicting a bodega storefront, titled *Bodega Union City*, by Tony Mendoza. I recently came back to see the Art Collection again, and it was a reminder of how everything comes full circle.

What was your next step after HCCC?

I went to NJCU. It kept me in Jersey City, and I’m glad it did because I love Jersey City and Hudson County; it’s a special place. I studied English secondary education. I always liked teaching. I figured out what I liked to teach and then started teaching however I could. I got an internship, and after earning 60 credits, I started teaching in classrooms. I taught at the Learning Community Charter School, one of the most diverse schools in Jersey City. It was great working with students with different backgrounds and experiences. I also student-taught at Union City High School, which was a cool experience since I grew around there.

How did you begin working at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum?

My partner and I moved to Detroit, and that’s where I started teaching art with an English Education Degree, thanks to teacher shortages. My thought process was, “I love art; I’ll find a way to teach it.” It was a challenge because in teaching school, the goal is to have a portfolio of things you

can teach within a subject area, and I had none of that, so I had to start from scratch. This brought me to comics because I knew I could teach creative writing so I just started drawing stories with my students. I moved to Ohio when my partner got matched into Ohio State. I went there with no job, but I had the belief that something would happen. I worked part-time at a bookstore and at the Wexner Center for the Arts, which is across the plaza from the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum.

Tell us about being a Museum Educator.

My day includes anything from museum tours and planning workshops for weekend workshops. I teach in the galleries when groups request to tour the exhibitions and make interpretation materials like a drawing guide for one of the current exhibitions, “See Anyone You Know? The New Yorker Cartoons and Covers of Edward Koren.” My job is to make sure we’re always thinking about learning experiences and opportunities for our audiences.

Tell us about running Zine Club Columbus.

We meet up at different locations all over town to make zines. Anywhere from cafes, Billy Ireland, or local libraries. I or other local artists lead workshops to share different ways to make zines.

What advice would you give to HCCC students today?

Your only responsibility in this life is to follow your curiosities. I never expected to get into cartooning in my early twenties or that a place like the Billy Ireland existed. But I trusted my curiosities and so far it’s taken me here. Cartooning as an adult is brave because it can be deemed as silly or not a productive way to spend your time. I make comics because it’s the medium I use to process my experiences and find an “emotional truth.” The same can be said for a poet or a musician. But comics are special because so much can be said with little to no words. I remember being stressed out about whether my degree would get me a job but that eventually felt so limiting. You have to start doing what you are interested in and take it seriously and that bravery will make doors open. The Billy Ireland was the first place I visited in Columbus and now I get to work here. I love being here, in Columbus and in the comics community. I’m glad I took the risk and moved to Ohio.

