

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 11-STORY CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



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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 August newsletter are due by Friday, July 12, 2024.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 11-STORY CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) pioneered the urban campus concept by integrating learning environments, cultural spaces, public areas, and workplaces within Jersey City’s Journal Square, the heart of Hudson County, New Jersey. In establishing the Journal Square Campus, the College became an essential part of the neighborhood that engages and serves the County’s residents and businesses where they live, and was the catalyst for the area’s development.

On Tuesday, June 18, the College hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the HCCC Center for Student Success at 2 Enos Place in Jersey City, New Jersey. HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber and Trustee Pamela Gardner welcomed Hudson County Executive Craig Guy and other elected officials as well as representatives of the Hudson County Building and Construction Trades Council and labor leaders, and HCCC students, cabinet members, faculty and staff.

Dr. Reber said that growing a campus embedded in one of the nation’s most densely populated areas poses unique challenges and that the College was keenly aware of its overarching need to serve as a good steward of the neighborhood.

“The Center for Student Success was designed to centralize and consolidate all of our student services in one convenient location and

complement the architecture of the surrounding area. It is the final segment of the Hudson County Community College Facilities Master Plan,” Dr. Reber stated. “The County of Hudson has partnered with us through every step of our development so that we may provide our neighbors with the very best academic experiences possible. We are thankful for the ongoing support of County Executive Craig Guy, former County Executive Thomas DeGise, and the Hudson County Board of Commissioners.”

“This project will serve thousands of Hudson County Community College students. The HCCC Center for Student Success will be the epicenter of study, creativity, activity, and collaboration between students and the surrounding communities,” said Hudson County Executive Craig Guy. “Through this new Center for Student Success, HCCC and the County continue to work together to ensure everyone has equal opportunities to excel in their chosen field and drive economic development in the area.”

The 11-story Center for Student Success, a 153,186 square-foot, mixed-use tower, is being constructed one block from the Journal Square PATH station on an existing HCCC-owned parking lot. It will replace several of the College’s small, segregated, and aging buildings. The tower plans include 24 classrooms; expanded student services areas; student common spaces; full-size National

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ON THE COVER: *Clockwise from left - architectural renderings of aerial and street views of Hudson County Community College Center for Student Success now under construction; College leaders, elected leaders, and event guests at the groundbreaking; students joining HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber at the work site; Congressman Rob Menendez delivers greetings.*

CONFERENCE COVERAGE



On June 11, 2024, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees Chair William J. Netchert, Esq. (center) was presented with the 2024 New Jersey Council of County Colleges Ronald D. Winthers Trustee Leadership Award. Pictured with Mr. Netchert are HCCC Board of Trustees Vice Chair, and 2023 Ronald D. Winthers Trustee Leadership Award recipient, Bakari G. Lee, Esq. (left), and HCCC President Dr. Christopher M. Reber (right).



Katherine Morales, Director of Hudson Helps Resource Center, receives the Spirit Award at the New Jersey Community College Opportunity Summit in Atlantic City, NJ.

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO TWO LONG-SERVING TRUSTEES

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) announced that two long-serving members of the Board of Trustees – William J. Netchert, Esq. and Bakari G. Lee, Esq. – are stepping back as their appointments on the Board have expired.

“Chairman Netchert and Vice Chair Lee devoted their adult lives to serving the people of Hudson County and the College. Hudson County Community College is a model for community colleges throughout the United States thanks to their leadership,” HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated. “They advanced the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, advocated accessible, high-quality higher education for all, helped grow the College physically and academically, promoted HCCC and community colleges as engines of upward economic mobility, and assisted in acquiring resources that enable record numbers of our neighbors to attain their higher education dreams.”

William J. Netchert is a lifelong Jersey City resident who graduated Saint Peter’s Preparatory High School and earned his bachelor’s degree from Saint Peter’s College (now Saint Peter’s University) and his law degree from Fordham University. An attorney in private and public sectors and on numerous



Outgoing Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees Chair William J. Netchert, Esq., and Vice Chair Bakari G. Lee, Esq.

boards, he received *The Wall Street Journal* Award for Excellence in Economics; 2015 Hudson County Chamber of Commerce Legends Award; 2018 HCCC Foundation Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Barbara; 2019 ACCT Regional Trustee Chair Leadership Award; and 2024 New Jersey Council of County Colleges Ronald D. Winthers Trustee Leadership Award, among others.

Mr. Netchert was appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2003, and elected

chairman in 2005. Under his leadership, and in partnership with the College’s administration, he promoted the development of the “urban college campus” concept and, chaired the Board’s Capital Projects Advisory Committee for many years, securing the funding for the College’s \$346.3 million expansion including from-the-ground-up construction of the award-winning HCCC Culinary Arts Institute/Conference Center and adjacent Culinary Plaza Park, North Hudson Campus, Gabert Library Building, STEM Building, Student Center, and the upcoming HCCC Center for Student Success, as well as the revitalization and repurposing of four other buildings.

In addition to helping create the College’s 21st century learning environment, Mr. Netchert supported the College’s creation of robust Cultural Affairs, Foundation Art Collection, DEI exhibits, seminars, lectures, performing arts presentations, and myriad other events that are available free-of-charge to students and the community-at-large. Under his leadership, the College forged partnerships with and garnered the support of local, state, and national elected officials for grants and scholarships that directly benefit HCCC students and faculty. His affiliations also made it possible for the College to partner with

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES AT JUNE 18 MEETING

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees welcomed two new members on Tuesday evening, June 18. Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo were named by the Hudson County Board of Commissioners to fill the expired terms of longtime members William J. Netchert, Esq. and Bakari G. Lee, Esq.

“Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Chairman Netchert and Vice Chair Lee for their exemplary leadership and caring service to our students, the College, and all the people of Hudson County over many years,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “The entire HCCC family welcomes Stacy Gemma and Vincent Lombardo to the HCCC Board of Trustees.”

Stacy Gemma is a successful retail store owner, fashion consultant, and, since 2016, commercial realtor with Donovan Realty Group in Jersey City. She served as an active member of numerous boards and charitable and social organizations including Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, Jersey City Jewish Association, Jersey City Youth Foundation, Hudson Pride, Jersey City Theater Company, the Cancer Support Community of Monmouth County, and Monmouth Medical Center Women’s Council. Ms. Gemma holds an

Associate degree in Business Administration and Management from Brookdale Community College.

Vincent Lombardo is the Executive Director, Office of Corporate Engagement for New Jersey Institute of Technology’s Newark College of Engineering. An accomplished fundraising and networking professional with more than 37 years of experience in the nonprofit and not-for-profit sectors, Mr. Lombardo previously served as Director of Development and Public Relations at United Cerebral Palsy of Hudson County and as Vice President of Development and Foundation at Bayonne Medical Center. He serves as chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Bayonne Housing Authority. Mr. Lombardo holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State University, and Master of Public Administration degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The ten-person Board of Trustees is the College’s governing body. As stewards of the College, Trustees are responsible for establishing overarching policies and direction for the College; appointment, evaluation and support of the President; and financial and compliance oversight.



Pictured here, Vincent Lombardo and Stacy Gemma, newly appointed members of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees.

Eight Trustees are chosen by the appointing body of Hudson County with the advice and consent of the County Board of Commissioners, and two Trustees are appointed by the Governor. Trustees serve until they are reappointed or replaced by the appointing authority. The College’s President serves as an ex-officio member of the Board without a vote. The College’s student body elects a representative from the graduating class to serve for one year as a non-voting member.

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Quintessence Jones
Karishma Ramcharitar

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Angelyca Bonilla
Christopher Capri
Natassja Freeman
Diego Penachi
Tyhia Peters
David Velez Sisalim

Five Years

Maria Figueroa

10 Years

Heba Salem

15 Years

Dauri Abad Ramirez

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT NISOD CONFERENCE



Hudson County Community College's recipients of the NISOD Excellence Awards walked across the stage to receive their medallions at a Dinner and Celebration during the Annual Spring Conference in Austin, Texas.

A delegation of Hudson County Community College faculty, staff and administrators traveled to Austin, Texas in late May to participate in the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence hosted by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

Congratulations to HCCC's NISOD Excellence Award recipients. For a listing of HCCC's 2024 awardees, please visit <https://www.nisod.org/excellence-awards/current-recipients>.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

To sign up for upcoming webinars, visit 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 call 800-624-5544.

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

Marselly Almanzar, Senior Assistant Director, Advising, Training and Development

Alexa Andrade, Academic Counselor,

Sarah Andrews, Academic Counselor

Ariana Calle, Associate Director, Hudson Helps Resource Center (North Hudson Campus)

George Hill, Academic Counselor

Kadira Johnson, Basic Needs Social Worker

Mackenzie Johnson, Academic Counselor

Nicholas Mangal, Senior Assistant Director, Program Operations and Development

Keischa Taylor, Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership

Alexa Yacker, Mental Health Counselor

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

(Non-tenure track), effective Aug. 16, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2024

Elizabeth Hallacy, Instructor, ESL

Shree Vishal Persaud, Instructor, ESL

Sohrab Sajadi, Instructor, ESL

Amanda Velez, Instructor, ESL

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

Jose Acosta, Custodial Supervisor

Andy Adler, Senior Assistant Director

Guerly Jean-Baptiste, Assistant Director, Testing to Associate Director, Testing

Brianna Casagrande, Senior Assistant Director

Zuany Chicas, to Payroll Officer to Director of Payroll

Josh Mariscal, Academic Counselor

Mark Murray, Maintenance Manager

Denzel Smith, Custodial Supervisor

Richard Walker, College Lecturer, Criminal Justice to Associate Director, DEI Training

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Lydia Kai Adjetet, Advancement Alumni Relations Intern

Marian Betancourt, Student Success Coach, NJRC (Grant-funded)

Denisse Carrasco, Healthcare Coordinator, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded)

Jessica Cortez, Academic Counselor

Laurice Dukes, Associate Director, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded)

Candice Fernandez, Academic Counselor

Evani Greene, Student Success Coach, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded)

Sean Kerwick, Associate Director, Supply Chain and Logistics, CWI (Grant-funded)

Rossella Lopez, Admissions Advisor

Tania Martin Career Advisor, Center for Adult Transition (Grant-funded)

Maritza Reyes, Associate Director, Center for Adult Transition (Grant-funded)

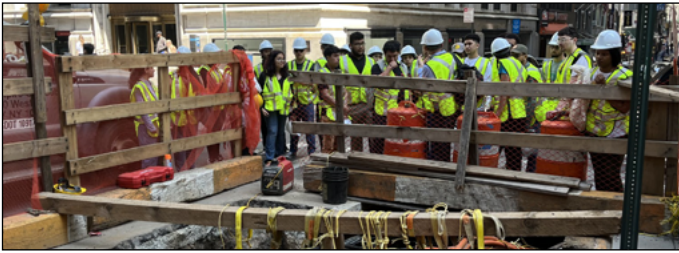
Whitney Mora Rivera, Customer Service Associate (Grant-funded)

Maria Lita Sarmiento, Alumni Manager, Gateway to Innovation (Grant-funded)

Luz Tellez, Academic Advisor

Mylz Wilson, Student Success Coach, Workforce Development (Grant-funded)

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FIELD TRIP: HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE



HCCC Construction Management students and faculty embarked on a field trip during which the students gained firsthand knowledge of the intricacies of installing utilities.

A delegation of 31 Hudson County Community College students, Instructor Khursheed A. Khan, and Dr. Azhar Mahmood (Associate Professor, Chemistry and Construction Management Program Coordinator) recently undertook a field visit to a construction site on Nassau Street between Liberty Street and Pine Street in downtown Manhattan.

At the site, students observed ongoing utility replacement work and the many steps required to complete the work.

The field trip successfully bridged classroom discussions and real-world applications, enhancing students' critical thinking and observational skills. It also fostered teamwork and collaboration, encouraging innovative and creative problem-solving.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Congratulations to HCCC and PTK alumni Nadia Serine Dob, D.Pharm., on her recent graduation from Earnest Mario School of Pharmacy, and to Carlos Gutierrez, Ph.D., on his recent graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology.

SPRING 2024 THEATRE FESTIVAL



On Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10, Hudson County Community College's Theatre Arts students presented two performances of its Spring Festival.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS RN NURSING PROGRAM GRADUATES AT PINNING CEREMONY



Hudson County Community College's Nursing Program celebrated its 2024 RN graduates during an awards ceremony on Tuesday, June 11.



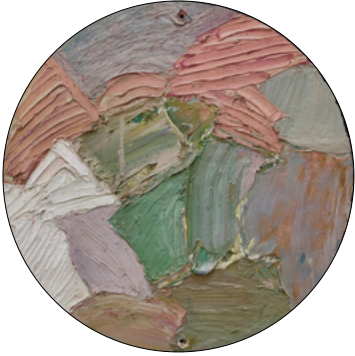
The graduates undertook the International Council of Nurses Pledge and received their pins on Thursday, June 13.



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.



Louise Fishman (1939-2021), Untitled, Oil on Board (1974) 11 3/8" diameter. Thanks to Jenny Snider and Joel Mason for the generous donation of this work.

Donor Acknowledgment

Thank you to Jenny Snider and Joel Mason for the generous donation of the **Louise Fishman** painting. Fishman was a noted abstract painter. Why might an artist choose to paint abstractly? For many reasons. Here's one. As the artist wrote in 2016: "I felt that Abstract Expressionist work was an appropriate language for me as a queer.... It was a hidden language, on the radical fringe, a language appropriate to being separate."

Artist News

Sometimes STEM becomes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics). If you love physics and art, check out the new Foundation Art Collection walking-tour guide to Physics and Art on campus. Thank you to Prof. Gunes Senturk for her hard work to create this

wonderful tour: [foundation-art-physics-flyer-spring-2024.pdf](https://www.hccc.edu/foundation-art-physics-flyer-spring-2024.pdf) (hccc.edu). If you'd like to work as a walking-tour guide for a group of art works in relationship to your area of teaching or research, please contact Andrea Siegel at ASiegel@hccc.edu. Thank you.

Pacita Abad's work is installed in the area devoted to Filipino and Filipino-American artists on the 3rd floor of the Gabert Library. Until September 2, you can see over 50 Abad pieces in the first major survey of her work at the Museum of Modern Art's Queens PS1 campus (the art museum is housed in a former public school). Julie Schneider, at the online art magazine *Hyperallergic*, notes, "Big, bold, and bright, Pacita Abad's mixed-media artworks pulse with a zest for the world, in full color. Throughout her three-decade career, from the 1970s until her untimely passing in 2004, the Filipina-American artist traveled to 62 countries and lived in 11. Along the way, she learned local art-making techniques, collected fabrics, and sponged up visual inspiration that appears throughout her distinctive and experimental body of work."

If you look at **Emma Amos'** work, *Identity*, installed on the 6th floor of the Gabert Library, you might notice all sorts of interesting things in the figure's hair. Another print from that edition is now on exhibit at the Hudson River Museum, in a show called, "Faces and Figures: Recent Acquisitions," where they note that in "Emma Amos's print *Identity* [...] she adorns her hair with symbols reflecting her African, Cherokee, Norwegian, and Irish roots."



Emma Amos (1937-2020), Identity (2006), Digital Print with Hand Lithography, 12 x 12 in. This work comes from the Femfolio, produced at the Brodsky Center. This portfolio is an historic publication bringing together twenty of the women artists who created the feminist revolution in art during the 1970s. Collaborator: John C. Erickson. Thank you to Deseree McFarlane, whose generous donation through the Hudson County Community College Foundation Acquisition Program made possible the purchase of this work.

Congratulations to octogenarian artist **Mary Francis Judge**, whose work is on exhibit on the 3rd floor of 70 Sip Avenue in the Hudson Helps area. Judge's solo exhibition of 27 paintings at the Museum of Friends, A Contemporary Art Museum in Colorado starts July 4. For more information: <https://www.museumoffriends.org/exhibits>

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 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.

22nd Annual

GOLF OUTING

JULY 15
2024

10:00 a.m.
SHOTGUN START

Forest Hill Field Club
9 Belleville Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

In Memory of Philip Johnston

27th ANNUAL GALA

SAVE THE DATE

12.05.24
6 P.M.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS JUNETEENTH EVENT



Pictured from left: Dr. Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Rev. Thurselle Chisolm-Williams, Pastor-Elect, New Hope Baptist Church of East Orange and event keynote speaker; Dr. Christopher M. Reber, College President; and Pamela Gardner, Vice Chair, HCCC Board of Trustees.

African Americans have long demonstrated resilience and heroism in their fight for hard-won liberties to end oppression. Although the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln ended slavery in the Confederate states, it was not implemented until Union soldiers marched into Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 to announce that more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state were free by executive decree. Celebrations following this monumental event included prayers, feasts, songs, music, and dance. Thus, “Juneteenth” was born.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) invited community members, students, faculty, and staff to join the HCCC 2024 “Juneteenth Celebration: The Power of Faith and Hope” on Wednesday, June 19 in the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery at the HCCC Gabert Library. The event included song, words of inspiration, dance, musical performances, and a special keynote address. The HCCC Office of Diversity, Equity

and Inclusion and the HCCC African American Outreach Committee hosted the event.

Ratified on December 6, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution made emancipation a national policy, prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude. The exception was punishment for crime — ushering in post-Civil War incarceration and labor practices. The “separate but equal” Jim Crow-era of segregation sparked America’s Civil Rights movement, and, today, the Black Lives Matter movement continues the evolution of Black and African American history.

President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act in 2021 to recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday in response to the efforts of Lula Briggs Galloway, Opal Lee, and others. Juneteenth has become a symbol of hope and transformation, inspiring and empowering African Americans to run for political office, advocate causes, and fight for representation.

HCCC BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO TWO LONG-SERVING TRUSTEES

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Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan Chase, Eastern Millwork and other area corporations for mentoring, networking and internships.

Bakari G. Lee received his law degree from Rutgers University School of Law and bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Florida A&M University. He is a Member of the McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC Law Firm. He previously served as law clerk for the Honorable Darryl Dean Donahue of the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands, and as Senior Financial Analyst at Pfizer, Inc. Mr. Lee is active in numerous social and civic organizations, including the Morristown Neighborhood House Rites of Passage Program, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., where he created a mentorship program for middle school African American boys in northern New Jersey. He served in various local, state, and national community college leadership roles including national Chairman of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Board of Directors, where he is also a Life Member. Mr. Lee chaired the New Jersey Council of County Colleges (NJCCC), led the NJCCC Legislative Committee, and served as Trustee Ambassador with state and congressional delegations. He was recognized with the 2023 ACCT M. Dale Ensign National Trustee Leadership Award, the NJCCC 2023 Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award, and the 2015 Boy Scouts of America Whitney M. Young Service Award. Mr. Lee was also the commencement

speaker for Atlantic Cape Community College in 2013, Bergen Community College in 2016, and Warren County Community College in 2017. He was awarded an Honorary Associate of Arts degree by Atlantic Cape Community College.

An education advocate who works diligently to ensure access to high quality higher education for all Americans, especially those in the African American, Latino and immigrant communities, Mr. Lee was appointed to the HCCC Board of Trustees in 2006. He served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2009 until he was elected Vice Chair in 2012. Mr. Lee was Chair of the HCCC Finance and Ethics Committees, and served on the Capital Projects Advisory, Presidential Search, Middle States, and Technology committees. He was an active and participating member of the HCCC President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), Trustee Liaison to the HCCC Foundation, and presenter at the 2022 HCCC Teaching and Learning Symposium on Social Justice in Higher Education. Mr. Lee interacted with HCCC students and faculty on numerous occasions, including delivering the keynote address at the College’s 2020 Kente Graduation and 2023 Juneteenth celebrations.

During Mr. Lee’s tenure as NJCCC Chair, the Council established the New Jersey Center for Student Success that is dedicated to college completion for the State’s community college students by strengthening student services and serving as a resource for best practices and

innovation. Other accomplishments achieved during his tenure as NJCCC Board Chair include the implementation of the Big Idea Project, enhanced capital funding through the passage of the Building Our Future Bond Act, passage of legislation that preserves the Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS), and passage of legislation that provides in-county tuition for undocumented students.

“We are honored to have benefited from the extraordinary leadership, guidance, and support of William Netchert and Bakari Lee and are grateful for their dedication and all they accomplished for our students and community over many years,” Dr. Reber said. “The entire HCCC family joins me in thanking them and wishing them good health, happiness and success in their futures. Hudson County Community College will forever be their home.”

SAVE THE DATES

COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Wednesday, August 21, 2024

ALL COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ORIENTATION
Thursday, August 22, 2024

CONVOCATION
Tuesday, August 27, 2024

A BEEKEEPING CLASS IN JERSEY CITY? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN HCCC



An urban community college setting like Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) Journal Square campus might not be where you'd expect to come across apiaries full of honeybees and students getting a hands-on introduction to beekeeping, but that's exactly what Antonio Quinlan, Adjunct Instructor, STEM brings to HCCC with his new Introduction to Beekeeping class, the first of its kind at the College, making HCCC one of the few community colleges in New Jersey to offer beekeeping science courses.

HCCC students are learning about the lifecycles and different species of honeybees, getting a first-hand look at fundamental beekeeping techniques and safely handling bees, assembling their own beehives, and learning about disease prevention and ethical practices from Quinlan, the founder and Executive Director of the Hudson River Apiary Society, a group dedicated to educating the public about bees and empowering the community to preserve the honey bee population and the environment.



HCCC Adjunct Instructor Antonio Quinlan shows HCCC students live honeybees in an apiary outside of the Gabert Library.

Urban beekeeping in a setting like Hudson County comes with its own challenges and safety considerations because of the higher population density and other factors, but Quinlan knows this environment like the back of his hand – he learned the craft from his father and grandfather and started his first apiary right in his backyard in North Bergen. His urban beekeeping practice started to generate a “buzz” in the neighborhood, which inspired him to embark on his lifelong journey of teaching the community about bees.

Beyond the excitement of a beekeeping science class in the middle of Jersey City, this is an important topic that affects all of us – bees play a crucial role in the planet's ecosystem and our food chain. Bees are also crucial to our country's agricultural economy – each year, bees increase crop values by an estimated \$15 billion and pollinate 80% of all cultivated crops. Honey also has considerable health benefits, and Quinlan points out that honey was ‘nature's first medicinal product,’ used for healing purposes since ancient times, and

that bees and honey are mentioned in religious texts including the Bible and the Quran.

Beyond the benefits to the environment, beekeeping also brings many benefits to those engaged in the practice. Quinlan, a veteran, explains that beekeeping can be therapeutic and help veterans who are dealing with PTSD – it played a major role in his own journey of overcoming it. Other benefits include lowered stress levels, improved mental focus, confidence, and fear management. According to Quinlan these therapeutic and psychological qualities also make beekeeping a vocation that can help rehabilitate prisoners and reduce recidivism.

Unfortunately, bees often face a hostile environment in today's world. They are in more danger than ever before, from pesticides, the destruction of vegetation in urban areas, climate change, and a myriad of other threats. Quinlan explains that there is a widespread lack of understanding of bees and the important role they play in our world, which motivates him to continue to educate the broader public and to spread awareness.

Quinlan has undertaken beekeeping for years, and has traveled the world because of it. He finds that most beekeepers he meets are in their 70s and 80s, so passing on the tools of the trade to the next generation is vital and something he finds particularly rewarding, given his unmistakable passion for the craft. He looks forward to introducing more HCCC students to the world of beekeeping and proudly points out that if we can successfully cultivate thriving honeybee colonies in the middle of Hudson County, we can do it anywhere.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 2024 ‘MOST PROMISING PLACES TO WORK IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES’ AWARD

During the recent Spring Conference hosted by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), Hudson County Community College received the national 2024 “Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges” Award. “Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges” recipients are recognized for exceptional commitment to diversity in all forms – including race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, class, and veterans – through best in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

At the conference, HCCC employees facilitated seven presentations, and 28 members of the College community received the NISOD Excellence Award (*Editor's Note: see photo on page 4*).

Hudson County Community College Director of Faculty and Staff Development Amaalah Ogburn (left) accepts the “2024 Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges” award from Dr. Edward J. Leach, Executive Director of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).



HCCC STUDENTS PRESENTED INNOVATIVE STEM PROJECT AT DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students Camila Pazmino and Amareese Rivera, under the mentorship of Dr. Clive Li, showcased their innovative STEM engineering project titled "Sound Enable Emplacement" on June 11, 2024, at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington DC. The presentation drew an audience that included state senators, prominent scientists, and key figures in STEM education.

The "Sound Enable Emplacement" project, a culmination of months of rigorous research and development, demonstrates cutting-edge applications of sound and robotic technologies in engineering. The project highlights the ingenuity and technical skills of both Camila and Amareese, reflecting the high standards of STEM education at HCCC.

A highlight of the event was when Amareese Rivera was chosen to be interviewed by Dr. James

Moore, the National Science Foundation Assistant Director for the Directorate for STEM Education. This interview provided a platform for Amareese to delve deeper into the project's innovations, potential applications, and the collaborative effort behind it. Dr. Moore's recognition underscores the project's significance and the promising futures of these young engineers.

While New Jersey Congressman Robert Menendez was initially scheduled to attend, unforeseen commitments required his absence. In his place, his office sent Legislative Correspondent Samhita Subramanian to represent him. Ms. Subramanian conveyed Congressman Menendez's support and enthusiasm for the project, emphasizing his ongoing commitment to enhancing community college education and supporting student achievements in STEM fields.



Pictured from left: Amareese Rivera, Dr. Clive Li, and Camila Pazmino at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE

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At the 36th Annual National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE), in Honolulu, Hawaii clockwise from left: Joseph Caniglia, Deliana Acosta, Diana Galvez, and Dr. Pamela Bandyopadhyay.



Members of HCCC's Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at 2024 NASPA Region II Annual Conference (NASPA II) in Philadelphia.



Generation Hope FamilyU Convening in Providence, Rhode Island with our new Student Parent Fellow Shanice Acevedo. Also pictured Christine Peterson, Aycha Edwards, Dr. Alison Wakefield, and Dr. David Clark.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW 11-STORY CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Continued from page 2

College Athletics Association (NCAA) gymnasium; fitness center; black-box theater; health sciences laboratories; 85 offices; eight conference rooms; a "University Center" for sister colleges and partners to offer baccalaureate instruction; and much more.

The HCCC Center for Student Success construction utilizes the newest and environmentally sustainable materials and systems. A Project Labor Agreement assures that organized labor will be well represented on site during construction. The grand opening is scheduled for Fall 2026.

Funding for the \$96.3 million tower is supplied by proceeds from the sale of HCCC properties and the College's reserve funds; the County of Hudson; and New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), among others.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2024 CLASSES

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.

Fall Course Schedule available for viewing NOW at www.hccc.edu/schedule/

APPLY NOW for Summer/Fall classes at www.hccc.edu/apply/

For more information on how to register, go to www.hccc.edu/admissions/register-for-classes

For more information contact: admissions@hccc.edu | text (732) 509-4222 | call (201) 714-7200



FREE TUITION

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Savoring the Flavors of the Caribbean! Chef Claude Lewis brings a taste of his heritage to life at our Caribbean Culinary Delights class.

Caribbean Culinary Delights with Chef Claude Lewis

On June 8, Continuing Education joined forces with local celebrity Chef Claude Lewis to create an unforgettable culinary experience. The Caribbean Culinary Delights class showcased Chef Claude's rich Caribbean heritage, as he shared his culinary secrets with an enthusiastic group of participants, teaching them the essential foundations of Caribbean cuisine. Under Chef Claude's expert guidance, students crafted classic homemade Caribbean-style beef and veggie patties and witnessed firsthand how he prepares his famous Curry Chicken.

If you are interested in registering for continuing education culinary classes, please visit our website at hccc.edu/continuingeducation or email us at ce@hccc.edu.



Empanada Magic with Chef Hiram Miranda! Our kitchen came alive with authentic Puerto Rican flavors and the vibrant sounds of bachata. Ready to cook and dance with us?

Empanada Escapade with Chef Hiram Miranda

On June 22, Continuing Education hosted a culinary class for the Center of Adult Transition Access Program featuring the talented Chef Hiram Miranda. The Empanada Escapade class immersed students in authentic Puerto Rican cuisine, guiding them from making empanada dough from scratch to creating both savory and sweet fillings, including a delightful guava option for those with a sweet tooth. Chef Hiram Miranda created a warm, inviting atmosphere in the kitchen, making everyone feel at home as bachata music played throughout the space, keeping the energy lively and fun.

If you are interested in registering for continuing education culinary classes, please visit our website at hccc.edu/continuingeducation or email us at ce@hccc.edu.

The ACCESS Alumni Club Launches with a Day of Service at Community Food Bank of New Jersey

On May 24, 2024, The Center for Adult Transition's ACCESS Program proudly launched the ACCESS Alumni Club, designed to foster continuous career exploration opportunities, volunteer engagements, educational workshops, social skills development, networking, and a robust support system for our program completers. This initiative aims to strengthen the ties within our alumni community, offering resources and support to help our former students thrive personally and professionally.

To mark the beginning of this exciting new chapter, students and staff participated in a volunteer day at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ). The CFBNJ, a vital member of Feeding America®, plays a crucial role in combating hunger by distributing food to over 800 community partners, including food pantries, soup kitchens, and child and senior feeding programs. Their mission extends beyond food distribution, providing supportive solutions to families in need.

During the event, ACCESS participants engaged in packaging, labeling, and boxing food items, assisting CFBNJ staff in meeting the high demands of food distribution. Over a 2.5-hour session, they successfully packaged 1,033 boxes, which will feed more than 2,000 families in need.



ACCESS students and staff at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ).

This rewarding volunteer experience allowed students to develop additional skill sets, explore career opportunities within the food distribution and non-profit sectors, and build social skills by interacting with CFBNJ staff and building relationships with fellow ACCESS peers. The ACCESS Alumni Club is off to a promising start, already representing its core values of service, education, and community building with many more exciting events and activities.

To learn more about joining the ACCESS program, please call 201-360-5477 or CAT@hccc.edu for more information.

HCCC Department of Continuing Education

SUMMER YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

July 8 – August 23 Ages 9 - 15

Both middle school and high school students experience a variety of engaging and enriching programs at Continuing Education's Summer Youth & Teen Programs. Our unique one- and two-week, hands-on programs are offered in partnership with the College's Culinary Arts Institute. Programs emphasize self-discovery, cognitive reasoning, and cooperative thinking using a hands-on approach.

All Summer Youth Programs take place on our main campus at Journal Square.

TO REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCCSUM2024>
 QUESTIONS? Contact (201) 360-4224 or cguerra@hccc.edu

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

CPR & FIRST AID FOR TEENS

SAT PREP
Math Prep/Language Arts Prep

CULINARY PROGRAM

CHESS

5 BOOKS TO CHECK OUT BEACHSIDE THIS SUMMER WITH DR. BENNY YOUSSEF

School is out for the summer, but that doesn't mean you have to stop reading. In fact, the slower, more relaxed pace that often accompanies summertime makes it a great time to catch up on that book you've been meaning to read, and HCCC English Instructor Dr. Benny Youssef reminds us that flipping through the pages of a classic novel on the beach is a beloved American tradition.

And Dr. Youssef would know; his lifelong love of literature stems back to his childhood, where he spent days running around the Catskill mountains, his imagination running wild with possibility, and nights with his nose tucked into books about dragons, sorcery, and adventures.

These formative experiences propelled him into a career sharing his passion for the written word. Dr. Youssef spent over a decade in academia, teaching high school and college students, and now teaches English here at Hudson. Dr. Youssef has a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University, a Master of Arts in English and Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Doctor of Arts in English Pedagogy from Murray State University.

Whether you're heading down the shore to enjoy the sun and sand at some of New Jersey's most iconic beaches or staying local and dipping your toes in the pool, bringing a great book along can be a great way to enrich the experience by combining relaxation with intellectual stimulation, without the typical distractions that normally accompany daily life.

If that sounds appealing to you and you're looking for recommendations check out Dr. Youssef's five picks...

As Silicon Valley continues to tighten its digital grasp around our daily lives, books are a steadfast reminder of freedom, possibility, and cutting ourselves loose from technological and work-related stresses.

1. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

I would be hard-pressed to start this list off with anything other than Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. First published in 1988, the allegorical novel tells the story of a shepherd boy, Santiago, coming of age and carving his path through life. Originally written in Coelho's native language, Portuguese, the award-winning book has since been translated into 88 languages, selling more than 320 million copies in over 170 countries. The easy read—at well under 200 pages—is inspirational and allows for great introspection. One of the central

tenets of the author, and thus the story, is the concept of "personal legend," or the pursuit and realization of our greatest dreams and goals in life.

2. *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden

It wouldn't be a list by yours truly without at least one speculative fiction novel, and I can think of none more appropriate than book 1 of Katherine Arden's *Winternight Trilogy*. First published in 2017, the novel follows a young Vasya Petrovna as she confronts more than just the cold dark of a rural midwinter. Arden masterfully interweaves Russian folklore, western fairytales, and myths to create a captivating page-turner. Many fantasy series are five books or more, and while *The Bear and the Nightingale* is the first of three books, tackling these three books over the summer is actually very doable.

3. *Seven Empty Houses* by Samanta Schweblin

Winner of the 2022 National Book Award for Translated Literature, Samanta Schweblin, an Argentine writer, offers a collection of seven stories within the text, connected by themes of emptiness, absence, and the psychological complexities of human relationships. Each story involves a house that is in some way "empty," whether literally or metaphorically. The houses serve as settings where the characters confront their inner voids, familial tensions, and societal pressures. I was gifted this book by Schweblin's agent, with whom I was working at the time, and I remember feeling a surreal sense of unease and wonder after each story. It's a quick read, it's a good read, and it's my number 3 pick!

4. *Tigana* by Guy Gavriel Kay

I've spent the entirety of my life, and career, reading, writing, and appreciating literature for what it is: an escape into endless possibility and a reminder of the purpose of any art—to feed the soul. *Tigana* is a glorious page-turner by Guy Gavriel Kay, arguably one of the best living prose writers. His words flow like music and poetry, unfolding like a complex flower that first makes you smile and then makes you weep. The story is about two warring nations, loosely inspired by Renaissance Italy. One of the conquering warlords, bereft by the death of his son, places a curse on the people of Tigana. None other than those born in Tigana can hear or speak its name, or recall its memory, and so an entire people are left forgotten by the rest of the world. If you enjoy historical fiction, powerful prose, and three-dimensional characters, *Tigana* is an unforgettable read!

5. *Remnant*

by Katie Sweeting

I'm eagerly working my way through Professor Katie Sweeting's latest novel.

I can't think of an HCCC summer reading list that didn't include a title by one of our own, and *Remnant* deserves to be on this list, not only because it tackles important history and storytelling but because it is a great read. *Remnant* is a coming-of-age novel about two young women of color striving to carve out meaningful lives despite monumental obstacles. Will a family separated by slavery ever be reunited?



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>



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.

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



ALUMNI CORNER

Hannah Allen, HCCC Class of 2024 Human Services/Pre-Social Work A.S.



How did you decide to attend HCCC?

I decided to attend Hudson County Community College because it was in my hometown, and as a mother to three small children, traveling out of state was not an option. There were other schools I could have attended, but Hudson felt safe and affordable.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

HCCC was the right choice for me because it was like a second home. All four of my older siblings attended Hudson County Community College and graduated. I remember when building B was operating -- I would sometimes visit my sister (and fellow HCCC alumni), Dorcas Allen there. She was a student Ambassador.

What got you interested in your field of study?

I am a born and raised Jersey girl. The community where I grew up as a child was not so great. Gang violence, drug abuse, and mental illness claimed the lives of many of my childhood friends and family members. Someone very close to me was suffering silently from mental illness, and we were unaware of this until it was too late.

The Black community has unfortunately endured significant challenges and tragedies as the result of mental health issues, often resulting in profound suffering and loss of life. My primary reason for choosing to study social work was so that I can help prevent mental illness, drug abuse and gang violence from claiming the lives of young brown boys and girls in minority communities.

Tell us about being a peer leader!

Serving as a peer leader has been one of the most enriching experiences of my academic journey. The role has allowed me to develop essential leadership skills, foster a sense of community, and make a tangible impact on my peers.

This role also required me to develop strong organizational skills, as I have been responsible for planning events, coordinating schedules, and managing administrative tasks.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a Peer Leader for two years has been seeing students bond. The ability to create a sense of community for new students was my goal at every orientation. I aimed to establish a welcoming environment where students felt supported and connected, by

advocating the many services and social events HCCC has to offer.

The impact of my role as a Peer Leader extends beyond just academic support. I have mentored students through personal challenges, offer advice on balancing coursework, and provide guidance on career planning. Seeing the positive outcomes of my support is incredibly fulfilling.

How did you juggle the many responsibilities of being a student parent?

Balancing the responsibilities of being a student and a parent was challenging. I struggled most with time management and studying. When I first started at Hudson, my children were all under the age of 4, so most of my time and attention was dedicated to them.

I appreciated HCCC offering priority registration for student parents and flexible class scheduling. This made it easier for me to work around other commitments and to opt for online or remote classes. Also, at the time, I did not have childcare, so learning from home allowed me to be with my children.

What advice do you have for other student parents starting out on their educational journeys?

Some advice that I have for other student parents is to stay positive and remember why you signed up in the first place. Additionally, plan ahead, prioritize self-care, utilize campus resources, communicate with professors, and make the most of study time. Remember that the road will get bumpy at times, but stay persistent!

What’s next on the horizon for you?

Next up for me is NJCU. I have officially transferred to NJCU to pursue a BA in Social Work while minoring in Sociology. After that, I will get my master’s degree in social work and become an LCSW, hopefully, to join the Mental Health department at Hudson County Community College.

My future goal is to open and run my own youth program that provides a supportive and enriching environment for young people. We will help them develop skills, build confidence, and engage with their community.

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



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.

