

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 2024 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS AWARD



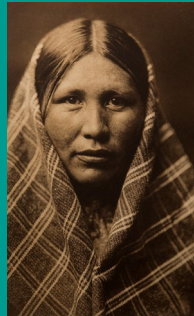
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From the Editor’s Desk

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

Items for the December newsletter are due by Friday, November 8, 2024.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES 2024 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS AWARD

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) School of Nursing and Health Professions has been presented with the 2024 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Health Professions Award from *Insight Into Diversity* magazine. The award is a national honor recognizing United States colleges and universities offering health programs that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. HCCC is the sole community college in the United States to receive this award.

“Hudson County Community College is proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the 70 institutions receiving this award that offer baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “We are keenly aware of the important role our School of Nursing and Health Professions plays in addressing the healthcare workforce shortage by offering courses in a broad range of fields and providing students with the resources and support they need to succeed.”

“The HEED Health Professions Award process includes a comprehensive and rigorous application with questions relating to the

recruitment and retention of students and employees — and best practices for both; continued leadership and support for diversity; and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *Insight Into Diversity* magazine. “We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a Health Professions HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for schools where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus.”

Insight Into Diversity magazine selected the HCCC School of Nursing and Health Professions in recognition of the College’s focus on recruiting and retaining traditionally underrepresented and first-generation college students. The College was recognized specifically for the following initiatives and outcomes:

- Partnering with organizations that work with underserved, underrepresented, disadvantaged, and minority populations.

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ON THE COVER: *The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) School of Nursing and Health Professions has been recognized with the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Health Professions Award. Pictured clockwise: scenes from Nursing, Paramedic Science (EMT) and Radiography programs.*

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE EOF DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR HACU ENLACE MID-LEVEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Jose Lowe, Director of Hudson County Community College’s (HCCC) Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), has been selected to participate in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Enlace Mid-level Leadership Program. Dr. Lowe is one of 54 representatives from higher-education institutions throughout the nation who will participate in the program.

The six-month leadership development program is designed to increase Latino/Latina talent for leadership positions at Hispanic-Serving Institutions and in higher education overall. Fellows participate in sessions for academic and student affairs management; regional institutional accreditation; diversity, equity and inclusion; and higher education advocacy.



Dr. Jose Lowe, Hudson County Community College Educational Opportunity Fund Program Director.

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORED WITH 2024 NATIONAL AWARD AS A 'DIVERSITY CHAMPION'

One might expect that promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) would come as second nature to a community college serving one of the most vibrant and ethnically diverse communities in the United States. But according to *Insight Into Diversity* magazine, to “champion” DEI, an educational institution must continually lead, support, and foster an environment where everyone – students, faculty, staff, stakeholders and the surrounding community – is valued, recognized, and made to feel they belong.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *Insight Into Diversity* magazine. The national honor recognizes United States colleges and universities that demonstrate an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

While this is HCCC’s fourth year in a row receiving the accolade, it is the first time the College has been designated as a “Diversity Champion,” defined as a higher education



Pictured here from left to right at Hudson County Community College’s (HCCC) DEI Summer Retreat: HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Darryl Jones; Hudson County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Michelle Richardson; Assistant Vice President, Continuing Education and Workforce Development Anita Belle; HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Yeurys Pujols; HCCC Trustee Vice Chair Pamela Gardner; HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber; Columbia University School of Journalism Dean and Henry R. Luce Professor Dr. Jelani Cobb; and HCCC Chemistry Instructor Raffi Manjikian.

institution that exemplifies an unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion through their campus community, across academic programs, and at the highest administrative levels. Only a small number of colleges and universities across the country are selected for this honor, and HCCC is the first and only community college to earn this recognition.

“This great honor is shared by all in the Hudson County Community College family,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “We ‘champion’ the values of diversity, equity, and

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OPEN HOUSE – HUDSON ES TU CASA



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber with Congressman Rob Menendez.



Leaders from the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Hudson County Community College held a combined Open House and Hudson Es Tu Casa community event on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the North Hudson Campus.

REP. MENENDEZ TOURS HCCC CAI



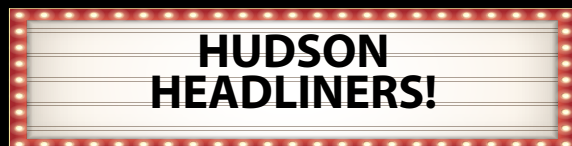
On Thursday, Oct. 10, Congressman Rob Menendez (8th District of New Jersey) took a tour of the acclaimed Culinary Arts Institute and prepared several delicacies with Chef Puk and his students.

HCCC | NJCU CONNECT DELEGATION MEETS



Members of the Hudson County Community College and New Jersey City University administration and faculty met and engaged in discussion about their respective programs.

Hudson County Community College invites you to the premiere of our new video series ...



Don't miss our first, four-minute production about the nationally award-winning Hudson Scholars Program featuring our President, Dr. Christopher Reber, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Dr. Lisa Dougherty, and Associate Dean of Advisement Dr. Gretchen Schulthes.

They are joined by Hudson Scholars: Michael Cardona, Nina Resurreccion, Sonny Tungala and Shemia Superville

Take a look –

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

Watch for news about the next Hudson Headliners!

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Alexandra Bonano
Aaron Patel
Saudia Reid
Albert Velazquez

Five Years

Darryl Jones
Stephanie Sanchez

15 Years

Guerly Jean-Baptiste

30 Years

Pamela Bandyopadhyay

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Luis Reyes Alberto
Sebastian Suazo
Dylan Valencia

Five Years

Melissa Molinero

MODIFICATION TO STAFFING TABLE

New Title/ Classification
Director of Athletics
New Salary Grade: 119
Effective Date: October 9, 2024

HCCC VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

**Tuesday,
November 26, 2024
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Come join one of our dynamic teams under our School of Business, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Nursing and Health Professions, School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Student Affairs, Advisement, Office of Mental Health Counseling and Wellness, and more.

For a list of open job opportunities and specific qualifications, please visit our Careers page:

<https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/hccc>

OPEN POSITIONS INCLUDE:

Adjunct Faculty and Instructor Positions
Full-time Positions with Benefits
Part-time Positions

TO REGISTER: <https://tinyurl.com/JOBFAIRHCCC2024>

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES FALL 2024 OFFERINGS

Thursday, November 7

Research Hub at HCCC with AIML (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Language)
Mohammad Imam, Assistant Professor of STEM

Thursday, November 14

Breaking Down Communication Barriers with Microsoft Teams
Matthew Kolbusz, Associate Director, ESL and Academic Foundations

Thursday, November 21

Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Classroom
Elana Twersky-Winslow, Associate Professor and Coordinator for Business Programs

Workshops will take place on Thursdays at 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Join us via Webex at:
<https://bit.ly/3NDxNgQ>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hudson is Home Employee Recognition Program

Thursday, November 14, 2024
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Virtual Job Fair Scheduled

Tuesday, November 26 | 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
To Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/JOBFAIRHCCC2024>

WELLNESS FAIR

This year's Wellness Fair was a great success, with nearly 80 attendees and 14 vendors offering a variety of services and valuable information about different plan options available to all employees. Participants enjoyed chair massages, sampled healthy snacks, took part in mobility screenings, and spoke directly with vendors about their services.



TUNNEL TO TOWERS 5K RUN



On Sunday, September 29, 2024, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) participated in the Tunnel to Towers 5K Run. The run is an annual tribute to the 343 FDNY firefighters, law enforcement officers, and thousands of civilians who died on September 11, 2001, those who continue to lose their lives to 9/11-related illnesses, and the more than 7,000 service members who lost their lives in the Global War on Terror. There were over 40,000 total runners/walkers. The

HCCC team was comprised of students, faculty, and staff giving their best effort to complete the run. This was the first time HCCC was represented at this event and the team was sponsored by the Office of Veteran Affairs and International Students. The highlight for most participants was running in the Battery Tunnel and the sense of camaraderie that the shared experience helped build among the team in memory of these events.

ACHIEVING THE DREAM COACHES VISIT HCCC



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

HCCC HONORS DEAN'S LIST ACHIEVERS



Congratulations to the 625 HCCC students named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement. The students were recognized in a special ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 10.

HCCC PRESENTS AT DATA & ANALYTICS SUMMIT



Trisha Clay (left) and Matthew LaBrake presented "Building AI Literacy Across the College Community" on Sept. 26 at Achieving the Dream's 2024 Data & Analytics Summit in Maryland.

HISPANIC STATE PARADE OF NEW JERSEY HONORS HCCC LEADERS



Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey presented Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, with the 2024 Excellence in Education Award and Dr. Jose Lowe, Director of Educational Opportunity Fund, with the 2024 Leader in Education Award at its annual gala on Friday, Oct. 4.

HCCC FOUNDATION HOLDS 17TH DONOR SCHOLAR RECEPTION



The Hudson County Community College Foundation hosted its 17th Annual Donor Scholar Recognition Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the College's Culinary Conference Center. This is one of the Foundation's most important annual events because it provides the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of its donors in a public manner and to showcase the academic achievements of HCCC scholars.

Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,000+ works is installed in the public areas of campus buildings. The entire College is an educational art museum. This Collection reveals aspects of America's and New Jersey's rich artistic and cultural history from the Hudson River School period to today. In recent years, the College's acquisition efforts have focused on strengthening its American and New Jersey modern and contemporary collections.

Each month, this page in *HCCC Happenings* provides updates on artists whose works are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

Donor Acknowledgment

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we recently received several oil portraits from the 1800s! These pictures are among the oldest paintings at the College, and are part of a larger donation which will be arriving over time. The donation came about because the Art Department Chair, Professor Laurie Riccadonna, mentioned that students would benefit from studying this kind of work. The Foundation Art Collection coordinator heard of a donor who was interested in donating those kinds of paintings. The pictures will be installed on the Art Department instruction floor so art students can study them. If there is a public area at the College near you that would benefit from installed art, please do not hesitate to contact the Foundation Art Collection at (201) 360-4007. We are always happy to help add to the educational value and the beauty of our wonderful campus. Thank you.

Many people see the artwork on our campus walls every day, but few see the invisible and essential hands-on labor done by the team here at Hudson County Community College to get art installed and to keep it safe. Thanks to Julio Maldonado and his Maintenance crew for their stellar work. They carefully move the art where it needs to go, help us keep our art storage functional, and always make the hallways look wonderful. Under the supervision of Mark Murray in Facilities, his crew has—remarkably!—installed over 1,000 works of art here on campus. Thanks to the Art Department, and especially Prof. Mike Lee, who led many excellent installations. Thank you to all of the good folks under the supervision of Greg Burns, Safety and Security Associate Director. Burns's team helps keep the art safe and makes it possible for thousands of students to enjoy the art every day. Last but not least, thanks to the Foundation Art Collection Committee. Your behind-the-scenes guidance and support makes all the difference.



Henrietta Mantooh, Caged America, Mixed Media: Acrylic Paint on Cardboard or Brown Paper, 74.25" x 39.75" (a section of the Jailbirds installation on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library.)

Artist News

The Jail Birds exhibit by **Henrietta Mantooh**, on the sixth floor of Gabert Library, brings attention to issues faced by incarcerated people. If you appreciate those works, you might enjoy this new documentary short film about how the work was installed at Hudson County Community College. It's the first time we curated an exhibit with a camera crew looking over our shoulders and recording our every move. Please take a look as Brazilian

filmmaker Kelly Koide catches the heart and soul of what the artist, and the work, are about: (<https://tinyurl.com/km7mf7z8>) (Vimeo password: mantooth2023*) Koide is working on her PhD, and the film was selected to be part of the ANPOCS' annual meeting (National Association of Graduation Studies in Social Sciences). Congratulations to Kelly Koide!

The Foundation Art Collection was honored and invited to participate in *Art for All: Connecting Campus and Community* at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut on October 9 and 10. This was the nation's first-ever summit bringing together community college arts leaders from across the country to explore the profound impact of community college art museums and galleries on students, the creative sector, and their regions. It is our hope to continue working on and building this grand project, and to support and share knowledge about the excellence of community college art collections and programming.

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.



HUDSON
COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

27TH ANNUAL GALA

12.05.24

6 P.M.

Culinary Conference Center - 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ 07306

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

presents



Office of Cultural Affairs Joins Art Tours, Debuts Two Exhibitions

The Office of Cultural Affairs proudly participated in the Jersey City Artist Studio Tour and Jersey City Art Crawl in September and October. Art students showcased their work in the Atrium at the Gabert Library, drawing attendance of families and members of the community who came to support and engage with the exhibitions.

Shifting Horizons, Curated by Laurie Riccadonna

Shifting Horizons (open through Nov. 4) delves into the deep connection between humanity and nature through landscape art. These works surpass mere depictions, reflecting how we interpret and experience the natural world. The pieces evoke awe and wonder, urging viewers to appreciate and protect the environment.

Geometric Giggles: Meet the Artist

On Saturday, Oct. 12, in collaboration with the North Hudson Open House/Hudson Es Tu Casa, artist Ray Arcadio met visitors at the Art Concourse to celebrate his solo exhibition, *Geometric Giggles*.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION HONORS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation Art Collection is proud to honor Native American artists and celebrate their work during National Native American Heritage Month, which takes place in November.

The HCCC Foundation Art Collection features over 100 works of art by Native American and Indigenous artists, in addition to dozens of prominent works depicting Native Americans and the Native American experience. The pieces of Native American art are included in the more than 2,000 original works in the Collection permanently installed in all HCCC campus buildings.

While some people think of Native American art as a relic from a long-distant past, the Native American art in the Foundation Art Collection spans many centuries, from tools and artifacts of the pre-Columbian era to modern works by some of today's prominent Native American artists.

The Exhibit features a large collection of hand-carved stone tools from the Lenni Lenape people. The tools were found in a farmer's field, so their exact date of origin and purpose cannot be known for certain because the Lenni Lenape have lived in this area for over 10,000 years. The objects include what are believed to be stone arrowheads, hand axes, fire starters, and more. Seeing and even touching these tools while on a guided tour is a unique opportunity for students and others to connect with the past and imagine what life was like in this region thousands of years ago.

The Collection is also home to many photographs by renowned photographer Edward S. Curtis depicting Native Americans after the turn of the 19th century. Curtis was awarded a \$75,000 grant (worth about \$2.5 million today) by legendary American financier J.P. Morgan to travel the country for 20 years, taking over 40,000 photographs of Native Americans at a time when their traditional way of life was under threat. Curtis also documented and recorded languages, history, folklore, and music of the tribes with which he interacted. While some aspects of this work may be considered controversial by modern standards, it's important to note that if not for his painstaking work, the history, languages, and memories of many of these people and cultures would be lost. Kiowa and Cherokee novelist, poet and National Medal of Arts recipient N. Scott Momaday stated, "Taken as a whole, the work of Edward S. Curtis is a singular achievement. Never before have we seen the Indians of North America so close to the origins of their humanity. . . . Curtis' photographs comprehend indispensable images of every human being at every time in every place."

Dr. Andrea Siegel, Curator of the HCCC Foundation Art Collection, recalls how an HCCC student of Native American and Hispanic heritage told her that he felt a strong connection with one portrait in particular because he felt like it could be one of his ancestors. To Siegel, it was a reminder that art connects us across culture and time, and that the HCCC Foundation Art Collection is a living art museum that resonates with students in powerful ways every day.

While the stone tools of the Lenni Lenape and the photos by Curtis remind us of our nation's past, more recent works by prominent Native American artists like Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Fritz Scholder, and Terran Last Gun speak to the modern experience. Like many of the pieces discussed above, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's *What is an American*, Fritz Scholder's *Self Portrait with Dark Glasses*, and an untitled serigraph by Terran Last Gun can be viewed at the Gabert Library on 71 Sip Avenue.



Edward S. Curtis' works can be viewed on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library. This portrait features a woman of the Nespelem people in Eastern Washington.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated, "We are proud to honor Native American artists. Their works invite us to reflect on our shared history and remind us of the importance of preserving and honoring these Indigenous voices today."

To arrange a free tour to see these remarkable works by Native American artists, along with any of the other 2,000+ works at Hudson County Community College, please email Dr. Siegel at asiegel@hccc.edu. If you're interested in checking out the collection online, visit www.hccc.edu/FoundationArt/Collections.

HCCC'S WEB SERVICES TEAM HIRES ITS FIRST-EVER WORK STUDY STUDENTS



HCCC's Web Services team is excited to announce the addition of its first-ever cohort of work-study students to its growing team.

Under the leadership of Associate Director of Web and Portal Services, Kristofer Fontanez, and Web Developer, Jay Singh, the group includes three HCCC students who are already rolling up their sleeves and hard at work making contributions to the HCCC website – Cybersecurity majors Berlin Rivas and Sonam Dorji, and Computer Science major Alexis Cintron. All three students have ambitions of working in web development, cybersecurity, and the broader tech sector.

The move is a win-win for all involved as it will not only enable these enterprising

HCCC students to gain valuable real-world web development experience in a hands-on environment, but it will also increase the Web Services team's capacity to create and launch even more updates and additions to the HCCC website. Fontanez explains "The students are really hitting the ground running and making important contributions to the website, allowing us to better serve the HCCC community and giving them a valuable stepping stone to an exciting career path."

Fontanez continued, "I am happy to give these students the opportunity to grow not only for experience in their future career, but for the Web Services team and the College to grow as a whole."

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Jules Rose volunteering in the gardening program at Liberty State Park on Saturday, Oct. 5.



Eman Mahmoud and Desiree Page at the Honor Society Showcase on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

2024 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS AWARD

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- Striving to incorporate culturally responsive concepts throughout the curricula and developing new programs to align with current trends and labor market needs.
- "Hudson Helps Resource Center" that provides essential services focusing on basic needs beyond the classroom including a Care Team, food pantries, nutritional counseling, assistance with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications, Career Closet, emergency financial assistance, Chromebook loaners, social services and mental health counseling, and "Single Stop" benefits screening.
- "Hudson Scholars," winner of the national 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award and 2021-22 League for Innovation in the Community College's Innovation of the Year Award, that provides proactive advisement, financial stipends, and early academic

intervention to ensure a greater number of students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities complete their college education, achieve their goals, and realize their dreams. Since its inception, the number of students served has increased from 800 to more than 3,000.

- Focusing on climate, culture, and community; addressing morale, salaries, and mutually respectful relationships among all employees.

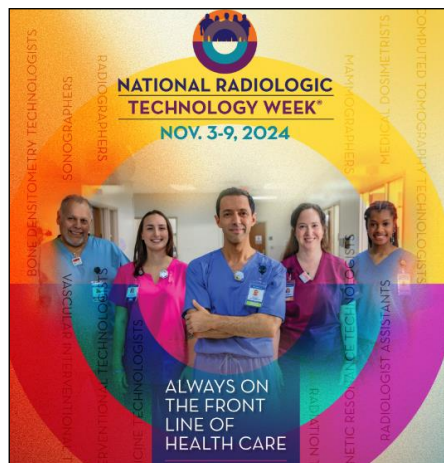
- Maintaining the College's diversity, equity and inclusion infrastructure with guidelines for best practices in recruitment, hiring, succession planning, safety, and professional development. Diversity, recruitment and retention are priorities in strategic planning, institutional frameworks, and budget development – from the President and Board of Trustees to employee and student engagement at all levels and in all areas.

- Offering HCCC's faculty and staff a tuition-reimbursement program that provides access to a wide range of professional development opportunities including workshops, academic and certificate programs, and activities that promote inclusion and belonging. This past year, employees received a collective \$500,000 of College funding to support their professional development.

Hudson County Community College's School of Nursing and Health Professions offers courses in Registered and Practical Nursing, Radiography, Community Healthcare Navigator, Exercise Science, Health Science, Health Services, Medical Assisting, Medical Billing and Coding, Medical Science - Pre-Professional, Paramedic Science, and Personal Fitness Trainer.

For more information about the 2024 HEED Health Professions Award, visit insightintodiversity.com.

NATIONAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK NOVEMBER 3 – 9, 2024



The Hudson County Community College-Radiography Program will be celebrating the vital work of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals in patient care and health care safety.

The week-long celebration takes place during the week of Nov. 8 to commemorate the discovery of the x-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen on Nov. 8, 1895.

This year's theme is "It's Time for Us to Be Seen."



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>

RONNIE SEVILLA TO LEAD HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

There's a new Chair at the Hudson County Community College Foundation, but he's not new to serving others or to the value of education.

Ronnie Sevilla steps into the leading role of Foundation Chair after serving as Treasurer and as a dedicated member of the Foundation Board for nearly a decade.

Sevilla brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role. He is currently the Vice President and a Cash Management and Sales Officer at Spencer Savings Bank. Sevilla previously worked at Investors Bank (now part of Citizens Financial) where he helped lead the bank's expansion into Jersey City and Hudson County.

Sevilla holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics degree from Rutgers University and earned an Executive MBA from Rutgers Business School. His experience in business school played a large part in forming his views about the importance of education. Sevilla states, "Look at me. I went back to grad school as an adult learner to pursue my MBA. I loved the experience, and I'm a better person for it. I want everyone to have the opportunity to experience the life-changing effect of a college education."

The new Foundation Chair also believes that education creates social and economic mobility in the community, pointing out that "Education is the gift that keeps on giving; it's intergenerational. A college education helps people break the cycle and empowers them to have more control over their future."

Sevilla knows this firsthand. He was born in the United States to parents from Ecuador. At age eight, he and his family moved back to Ecuador, and he returned to the U.S. as a teenager, so he can relate to the immigrant experience that is especially relevant in Hudson County, one of the most culturally diverse counties in the United States. He stated, "I truly believe with all my heart that the United States is the greatest country in the world because it offers the most social and economic opportunity. Education is the great equalizer and the key to unlocking that opportunity."



Ronnie Sevilla takes over as the new Chair of the HCCC Foundation after nearly a decade of service to the Foundation Board.

As HCCC Foundation Chair, Sevilla seeks to create new synergies and bring the Foundation into closer alignment with the College than ever before, explaining that "President Reber has done an incredible job of putting HCCC on the map, winning national and statewide awards. The Hudson Scholars Program is a groundbreaking program for students. The Foundation must facilitate this growth and support transformational programs like Hudson Scholars."

Founded in 1997, the Hudson County Community College Foundation supports and promotes the College and its students by building awareness and developing financial resources. In keeping with its vision that all Hudson County residents should be afforded the opportunity to acquire a college education and enjoy the lifelong benefits of that education, the HCCC Foundation works diligently to find and generate funding that provides scholarships for students, seed money for new and innovative programs, stipends for faculty development, capital to assist the College in its physical expansion, and resources to address basic needs and insecurities of our HCCC community members and students beyond the classroom.

The HCCC Foundation has raised over \$4 million for student scholarships and helped thousands of deserving HCCC students.

According to HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, "The HCCC Foundation is in good hands with Ronnie Sevilla, who will build on its strong legacy and add to its proud history as this exciting new chapter at the College begins. We are honored to have Ronnie Sevilla as Foundation Chair."

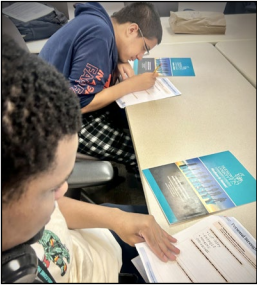
3rd Annual Aspiring Student Leadership Conference for High School and HCCC Students

Monday, November 18, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Multipurpose Room (N203), Union City, NJ

Breakfast and Lunch will be served
Keynote speaker, workshops, and other events to take place.

For more information, contact: Joe Caniglia at jcaniglia@hccc.edu or Angela Tuzzo at atuzzo@hccc.edu

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Bridging the Gap: The ACCESS program offers individualized support and a unique blend of academic and workplace skills and support.

Welcoming the New ACCESS Cohort: Transformative Pathways to Independence

On September 9, the Center for Adult Transition, partially funded by County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition Grant, proudly welcomed an eighth cohort of students into the ACCESS program, embarking on a journey that promises to be both immersive and transformative. The ACCESS program is designed to bridge the gap between high school and adulthood, offering a unique blend of fundamental academic and workplace skills through a pre-college preparation and workforce transition program that also provides the needed support for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Since its inception at the School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, the Center for Adult Transition has served 29 ACCESS alumni, with 55% enrolling at HCCC or other two- or four-year colleges and 35% in internship opportunities. What makes this program stand out is its differential teaching structure, which tailors learning to the individual strengths and needs of each student. Through hands-on experiences, personalized mentorship, and real-world practice, students

are empowered to take charge of their futures in both educational and vocational settings.

This Fall 2024 cohort will engage in a variety of dynamic learning environments, including classroom instruction, virtual reality and simulations, all while developing essential life skills. These students will be equipped with the tools they need to thrive in higher education or the workforce, gaining confidence, independence, and a sense of purpose.

We are excited to witness the growth and achievements of this new cohort as they navigate this transformative program, knowing that they are the leaders of tomorrow. Keep an eye out for updates and success stories throughout the semester!

Spring 2025 recruitment is on the way!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/access-program-information-session-tickets-546427127247?aff=oddtcreator>



Basic Life Support (BLS) Training with Certification BLS COURSE AND RENEWAL COURSE

Sign up for the Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification at HCCC

This 4-hour Basic Life Support Certification (BLS) class uses a scenario-based approach to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that drive better outcomes for adult, children, and infant patients.

Fall 2024 Schedule

(space is limited to 12 students per class)

Culinary Conference Center (Building E)
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ 07306

All sessions take place from
9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday, November 8
Monday, November 18
Friday, December 6
Thursday, December 19



Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCCFALLBLS24>

Price: \$77 per person
(Certification card and student manual included)



For more information, please contact
Qua'Fayshia Ransom at qransom@hccc.edu
or (201) 360-5326.

CONTINUING EDUCATION Upcoming Programs

THE ART OF COFFEE (IN-PERSON)

Saturday, November 2 | 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Price: \$45
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-coffee-tickets-1020597032197?aff=oddtcreator>

MEDIA INDUSTRY TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES - IN SPANISH & ENGLISH (IN-PERSON)

Register for all 3 or 1 at a time.
All classes are Bilingual and offered in both Spanish & English.

Technical Diploma in Film / TV / Theater Acting

November 6, 2024, through November 22, 2024

Technical Diploma in Film / TV / Theater Production

December 4, 2024, through December 20, 2024

Technical Diploma in Communication Skills and Digital Strategy IMPACTO METHOD®

January 8, 2025, through January 24, 2025

All Class Information: Wednesdays and Fridays
(3 Week Programs)

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Price: \$399 each | Union City Campus
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/media-industry-technical-certificates-in-spanish-english-registration-1037919634567?aff=oddtcreator>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (ONLINE)

Tuesdays and Wednesdays | November 5, 2024, through December 17, 2024 (no class 11/27)
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | Price: \$1,200 (Payment plans are available for students and may be covered by your employer)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-online-project-management-certificate-program-fall-2024-registration-1041232854497?aff=oddtcreator>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Friday, November 8, 2024 | 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2024-dates-tickets-923052353437?aff=oddtcreator>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Monday, November 18, 2024 | 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Price: \$77
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-life-support-bls-certification-fall-2024-dates-tickets-923052353437?aff=oddtcreator>

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:

www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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

2024 NATIONAL AWARD AS A 'DIVERSITY CHAMPION'

Continued from page 3

inclusion each and every day, and incorporate those shared values in all we do.”

According to Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *Insight Into Diversity* magazine, “The HEED Award selection process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and retention of students and employees – and best practices for both; leadership support for diversity, campus culture and climate; supplier diversity, and many other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion. We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a HEED Award recipient. Our standards are high, and we look for institutions where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across their campus.”

HCCC’s 2024 HEED Award recognizes practices and programs making Hudson County Community College a visionary leader that sets DEI standards for other campus communities while ensuring that HCCC students successfully achieve their academic goals. These include, but are not limited to:

- HCCC President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI), established by Dr. Reber in 2019, that includes students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and external community members who develop partnerships and collaborations, playing an essential role in establishing and implementing DEI goals for an inclusive institutional community.
- HCCC Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that oversees Accessibility Services, Cultural Affairs, Veterans Affairs, International Student Services, and the College’s Title IX processes. The Office of DEI also leads and supports annual programs that engage HCCC students, faculty, staff, and community members, including a 9/11 Memorial, MLK Memorial, Juneteenth Celebration, and the College’s annual DEI Summer Retreat.
- “Hudson Helps Resource Center” that provides essential services and resources focusing on basic needs beyond the classroom and including a Care Team, food pantries, nutritional counseling, assistance with SNAP applications, Career Closet, emergency financial assistance, Chromebook loaners, social services and mental health counseling, and “Single Stop” benefits screening.
- “Hudson Scholars,” winner of the national 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award and 2021-22 League for Innovation in the Community College’s Innovation of the Year Award, that provides proactive advisement,

financial stipends, and early academic intervention to ensure a greater number of students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities complete their college education, achieve their goals, and realize their dreams. Since its inception, the number of students served has increased from 800 to more than 3,000.

- HCCC English as a Second Language Program that offers various pathways for students to master English while learning, quickly advancing through their developmental education requirements, and accumulating credits that enable them to complete their associate degree studies and graduate sooner. More than 1,000 students are served every fall and spring at the College.
- HCCC First Year Experience program that helps students transition into college smoothly, providing opportunities to become acquainted with fellow students, faculty, and staff; receive financial assistance; orient to HCCC class schedules, programs and services; engage in the College Student Success course and acquire skills to achieve academically; and take advantage of assistance provided by HCCC Peer Leaders and Mentors.
- HCCC Summer Refresher Academy, the College’s summer bridge program, that is offered free of charge to students who wish to improve basic skills, build confidence, and obtain higher course grades and finish their degrees more quickly.
- HCCC’s focus on climate, culture, and community, addressing morale, salaries, and mutually respectful relationships among all employees. Dr. Reber conducts monthly Town Hall Meetings for faculty, staff, and students to stay informed and to communicate openly with one another.
- The College’s DEI infrastructure with guidelines for best practices in recruitment, hiring, succession planning, safety, and professional development. Diversity, recruitment and retention are priorities in strategic planning, institutional frameworks, and budget development – from the President and Board of Trustees to employee and student engagement at all levels and in all areas.
- HCCC’s faculty and staff tuition-reimbursement program, providing access to a wide range of professional development opportunities including workshops, academic and certificate programs, and programs of inclusion and belonging. This past year, employees received a collective \$500,000 of College funding in support of their professional development.

HCCC EOF DIRECTOR SELECTED FOR HACU ENLACE MID-LEVEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Continued from page 2

“Dr. Lowe is an asset to the Hudson County Community College family,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “We are proud that HACU selected him for the Enlace program. Throughout his career in higher education, Dr. Lowe has championed student success, providing students transformative support and access to resources to achieve their academic and career goals.”

Enlace sessions will be delivered through a series of online meetings, in-person sessions at HACU’s Annual Conference in Aurora, Colorado, and at the April 2025 National Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C. The program will conclude with a graduation ceremony. Capital One and the Mellon Foundation provided grant funding for selected participants.

As a first-generation college student from Panama, Dr. Lowe learned to navigate higher education with the help of counselors and academic advisors who influenced his professional development. He has led and supported educational programs for 26 years, beginning his career at New Jersey City University (NJCU) as the first Student Support Services Academic Advisor.

Dr. Lowe received his Bachelor’s degree in English/Secondary Education from NJCU; and his Master of Arts degree in Counseling, and Ph.D. in Counseling and Supervision from Kean University. He holds certifications in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell University; and in Implicit Bias Training and Mental Health First Aid, among others.

Coinciding with National Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Lowe was honored with the Excellence in Higher Education award at the 49th Annual Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey. The event celebrated the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in a vibrant display of culture, unity, and pride.



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.

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One High Tech Way
Secaucus, NJ 07094
Phone (201) 360-4388

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



ALUMNI CORNER

Larry Anderson, HCCC Class of 2019
A.A., Liberal Arts



This month, HCCC *Happenings* spoke with Larry Anderson, an Admissions Recruiter at HCCC and a proud HCCC alumnus. If you're an HCCC student or alum, there's a good chance you've interacted with Larry or seen him around campus, and his enthusiasm for HCCC and the success of its students is infectious. Outside of work, Larry enjoys karaoke and spending time with family.

Before coming to HCCC, Larry worked for the largest textile workers union in the country and also worked at a non-profit advocating for the parents of children with behavioral issues. He earned a B.A. in Sociology from New Jersey City University (NJCU).

What inspired you to pursue a College education after already having a career in place?

I worked as a coordinator at a non-profit organization for 12 years, a role just below the executive director. Despite training seven different directors, I was never considered for the position because I lacked a degree. I decided it was time to earn one.

What led you to choose HCCC?

My wife, who works for a GED program, frequently interacted with HCCC by sending her students there. She suggested I explore what HCCC had to offer.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

When recruiting high school students, I often share how HCCC helped me realize that social work wasn't my true calling. Social work is outcome-based, and the field often faces high burnout and turnover rates. I was constantly hiring new employees, which made me reconsider my career path.

What advice would you give to other adult learners/nontraditional students looking to follow in your footsteps?

Returning to school was daunting because I feared failure and not being able to keep up with younger students. However, I put those fears aside and took the plunge. The staff and faculty at HCCC were incredibly welcoming and reassuring, which made all the difference.

After you went to HCCC, you earned a degree in Sociology from New Jersey City University (NJCU). What got you interested in that field?

When I started my Sociology program at NJCU, I was unsure if I wanted to continue toward becoming a social worker. During the pandemic, I worked part-time as a manager at the North Hudson Campus food pantry, distributing food and Chromebooks for online learning. Seeing students succeed and graduate made me realize that working in higher education generated much better outcomes.

How did it feel to graduate from NJCU alongside your son?

My son wasn't initially enthusiastic about college. He started at NJCU in Fall 2017 and took longer than expected to finish. My enrollment at NJCU motivated him, turning it into a friendly competition. As a result, we graduated together, which was a proud moment for both of us.

Tell us about being an admissions recruiter at HCCC.

Before becoming an admissions recruiter, I worked with the EOF Office as a retention specialist. During that time, I attended high school college fairs with admissions recruiters and realized that helping students enroll at HCCC was my passion. When a position opened up, my colleagues spoke highly of me, and I joined the HCCC family.

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

