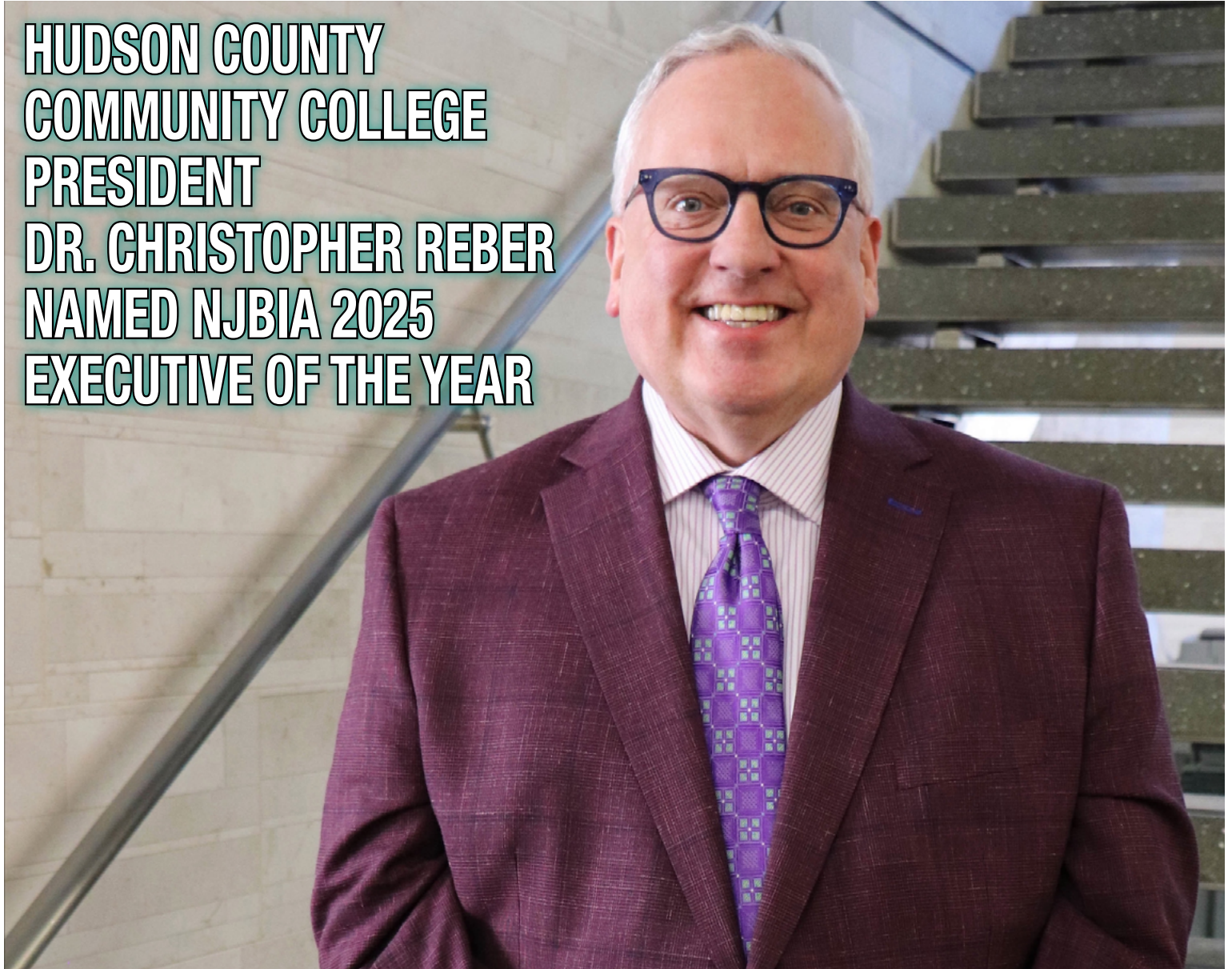


HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER NAMED NJBIA 2025 EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



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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 14, 2025

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER NAMED NJBIA 2025 EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber has been named the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) 2025 Executive of the Year, recognizing his outstanding leadership, vision, and positive impact on education, business, and the community.

Since becoming HCCC President in 2018, Dr. Reber has made student success, accessibility, inclusion, and advocacy the hallmarks of his leadership. His collaborative approach has strengthened HCCC's standing as one of the most innovative and student-centered community colleges in the nation.

"The 2025 Awards for Excellence recognize executives and companies that have improved New Jersey's quality of life in outstanding ways," said New Jersey Business Magazine Editor-in-Chief Anthony Birritteri. "The honorees exemplify vision, passion, and impact."

Under Dr. Reber's leadership, HCCC has launched nationally recognized initiatives that advance academic achievement and economic mobility. Among them:

- Hudson Helps Resource Center, offering wraparound services that address students' basic needs to promote retention and success.
- Hudson Scholars Program, providing proactive advising, financial support, and academic interventions for students facing personal or financial challenges.

- Membership in Achieving the Dream, a national network of high-performing colleges committed to student success.
- Establishment of PACE (President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence) to drive inclusive excellence across the College.
- Creation of the JUSTice Program, the only U.S. virtual county jail-based college degree program, developed with the Hudson County Department of Family Services.
- Partnership with the New Jersey Reentry Corporation to support formerly incarcerated individuals in earning workforce credentials.

Dr. Reber champions workforce development through collaborations with regional employers and labor organizations, including:

- The Holz Technik Dual Education Apprenticeship with Eastern Millwork, Inc., offering debt-free engineering degrees;
- The Gateway to Innovation program funded by JPMorgan Chase; and
- Apprenticeships with IBEW Local 164 and IUOE Local 825.

A respected higher education advocate, Dr. Reber actively represents community college priorities at the local, state, and national levels. His leadership has been recognized with numerous awards, including the AACC 2024 Community College CEO of the Year, Phi Theta Kappa 2024 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, and inclusion in the NJBIZ Education Power 50 for five consecutive years.

ON THE COVER: Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber is honored with the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) 2025 Executive of the Year Award for outstanding leadership, vision, and positive impact on businesses and communities in New Jersey.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORED WITH CPN SEAL OF PREVENTION™ FOR DIGITAL STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY

For the third consecutive year, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) earned the Campus Prevention Network (CPN) Seal of Prevention™ for its strong commitment to student wellness and safety.

Presented by Vector Solutions, the seal recognizes institutions that foster safer campuses through comprehensive, evidence-based education on alcohol and drug misuse, assault, and mental health. It highlights prevention as central to student success, campus climate, and retention.

"Maintaining a safe campus environment extends beyond bricks and mortar," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "The CPN Seal affirms our ongoing commitment to a nurturing, inclusive environment where students thrive academically and personally."

The CPN Seal criteria are based on the "Principles of Effective Prevention Programs" (Nation et al., 2003). Over 1,400 campuses were evaluated for the 2025 Seal. Recipients average an 8.3% higher first-year retention rate

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR SELECTED FOR HACU ENLACE MID-LEVEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Diana Galvez, Associate Director of Hudson County Community College's (HCCC) North Hudson Campus and Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence (PACE), has been selected for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program.

The six-month Enlace program develops emerging higher education leaders at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Thirty-nine participants nationwide will engage in online and in-person sessions focused on academic and student affairs management, accreditation, and advocacy. Meetings will be held at HACU's Annual Conference in Aurora, Colorado, in November and at the National Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C., in April 2026. Capital One and the Mellon Foundation provided grant support for select participants.

"Throughout her career, Diana Galvez has created a supportive environment, leading by example, collaborating, and fostering a team culture that benefits the entire HCCC family," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "We are proud of Diana's contributions and look forward to her continued growth through the Enlace program."

Ms. Galvez joined HCCC seven years ago as a Student Development Associate and advanced through several leadership roles. She oversees campus operations, student support initiatives, and staff supervision, and contributes to recruitment, retention, and professional development. A native of the Dominican Republic, she co-founded La Hermanidad women's affinity group and the Student Passport Program, advises the Latin Society Club, and organizes the Empowerment Festival and other engagement events.



She earned an Associate of Arts in Sociology from HCCC, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from New Jersey City University, and is pursuing a Master of Administrative Science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her professional affiliations include Phi Theta Kappa, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and *Who's Who Among Students in American Community Colleges*.

SARAH'S DAUGHTERS PRESENTS 'DARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE' AWARD



Dr. Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence, received the "Dare to Make a Difference" Award at the Sarah's Daughters Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation's 14th Annual Fundraising Gala on Friday, Oct 10.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES *INSIGHT INTO ACADEMIA* 2025 HEALTH PROFESSIONS HEED AWARD

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has once again been named a recipient of the Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *Insight Into Academia* magazine. This marks the second consecutive year HCCC has received the national honor recognizing colleges and universities for outstanding commitment to academic excellence, belonging, and community-building in health professions education. The College was featured in the magazine's October issue.

"HCCC is honored to receive this recognition for our Nursing and Health Professions programs," said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. "Our School of Nursing and Health Professions plays a vital role in addressing healthcare workforce needs by providing high-quality instruction, resources, and support to help students succeed."

The award highlights the School's efforts to recruit and retain underrepresented and first-generation students; strengthen employee relationships and professional development;

and build partnerships with organizations serving diverse communities. HCCC was also recognized for embedding culturally responsive teaching, improving recruitment and succession planning, and developing innovative supports addressing students' academic, financial, and basic-needs challenges.

HCCC offers certificate and degree programs in Nursing, Radiography, Community Healthcare Navigation, Exercise Science, Health Science, Medical Assisting, Paramedic Science, and more—with day, evening, and weekend options. The College provides affordable tuition, generous financial aid, scholarships, and no-interest Pay It Forward loans for eligible Nursing and Radiography students.

Student success is supported through initiatives like the Hudson Helps Resource Center, offering comprehensive wraparound services, and the Hudson Scholars program,



Hudson County Community College received the "Insight Into Academia Magazine" 2025 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award. Pictured here, the 2025 graduates of the College's Nursing Program.

which provides proactive advising, stipends, and academic interventions.

"We set high standards and seek institutions where excellence and belonging are integral to campus life," said Lenore Pearlstein, Co-publisher of *Insight Into Academia*.

Learn more about HCCC's Nursing and Health Professions programs at hccc.edu/nursing-health.

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Rossella Lopez

10 Years
Christopher Cieli
Shaniqua Matos
Fernelis Ramirez

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year
Amanda Chiralde Quintero
Mohamed Elagib
Yesenia Lopez
Brian Sloan

Ten Years
Laura Brinkley
Libutsi Johnstone



*This is an exciting time to work at HCCC.
Come join an award- winning institution!*

For Recruitment and Job Opportunities visit:

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

EMPLOYEE PERKS

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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

SPRING 2025 DEAN'S LIST CELEBRATION



Hudson County Community College recognized the hard work and achievement of qualifying students at a Dean's List Celebration on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025 at the Culinary Conference Center. These students qualified for the Spring 2025 Dean's List by completing 12 or more college-level credits and achieving a 3.5 or higher grade-point average for the semester.

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME STAFF

*Cristhian Altamirano, Associate Director,
Early College Program, Effective Oct. 20, 2025*

*Brianna Foster, Academic Counselor,
Hudson Scholars, Effective Oct. 27, 2025*

*Arlene Ganess, Senior Assistant Director,
Student Engagement and Experience,
Effective Oct. 20, 2025*

*Yessenia Lopez, Academic Counselor, Hudson
Scholars, Effective Oct. 27, 2025*

*Kamelyn Santos, Administrative Support Special-
ist, Advisement, Effective Oct. 16, 2025*

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

*Maryam Arkkou, Financial Aid Assistant
Effective Nov. 16, 2025 to May 15, 2026*

*Michelle Paradies, Grant Project Director,
Golden Door/La Puerta Dorada (Grant-funded)
Effective Oct. 1, 2025 to Sept. 30, 2026*

*Megha Sanghavi, Human Resources Administra-
tor Effective Nov. 3, 2025 to Jan. 15, 2026*

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

*Sonia Anastasi, Instructor, Radiography (Tenure-
track) Effective October 20, 2025*

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

*Sarah Lee Chichester, Instructor, English
(Non-Tenure-track) Effective August 28, 2025
to December 31, 2025*

*Donnell Griffith, Instructor, English
(Non-Tenure-track) Effective August 28, 2025
to December 31, 2025*

MODIFICATIONS TO STAFFING TABLE

FROM: Coordinator, Human Resources
(Temporary Full-time)

TO: Benefits and Leave Specialist
Kandi Ceballos, Effective November 1, 2025

FROM: Customer Service Manager, CEWD
TO: Assistant Director, CEWD, Hudson Hub One
Stop Student Services Center
Brianna Heim, Effective October 16, 2025

FROM: Director, Faculty and Staff Development
TO: Director, Employee and Labor Relations
Amaalah Ogburn, Effective November 1, 2025

FROM: Recruiter, Enrollment Services
TO: Assistant Director, Recruitment
Royal Ross, Effective October 16, 2025

FROM: Assistant Director, Human Resources
(Recruitment)
TO: Associate Director, Talent Acquisition
and Onboarding
Stephanie Sergeant, Effective November 1, 2025

FROM: Associate Director, Enrollment Services
TO: Director, Enrollment Services
Wajia Zahur, Effective October 16, 2025

FROM: Part-time Office Assistant (2 Positions)
TO: Executive Administrative Assistant,
Human Resources, Effective October 15, 2025

FROM: N/A
TO: Director, Talent Management
Effective October 15, 2025

CAT ACCESS PROGRAM WELCOMES 11 NEW STUDENTS FOR FALL 2025 SEMESTER



The CAT ACCESS Program celebrates continued growth and impact with its Fall 2025 cohort—11 new students joining a community dedicated to empowerment, skill-building, and success.

The Center for Adult Transition (CAT) ACCESS Program proudly launched its Fall 2025 semester with 11 new students, bringing the total number of individuals served to 47 since the program's inception. This milestone highlights the program's ongoing growth and impact in helping diverse learners transition into adulthood.

Designed for young adults aged 17–24 with intellectual or developmental disabilities, the CAT ACCESS Program provides structured support and simplified instruction to build independence, life skills, job readiness, and digital literacy, including Microsoft Office training. Through the newly launched VR Hub, students explore industries such as healthcare, culinary arts, robotics, and engineering in an immersive, simulated environment.

Since its founding in 2023, the Center for Adult Transition has served 36 students, with 32 completing the ACCESS Program and 21 enrolling in postsecondary education—a

220% increase in college enrollments from the program in 2025.

Under the leadership of Director II Maritza Reyes, with the support of Vice President Lori Margolin and College President Dr. Christopher Reber, the program fosters a nurturing, inclusive environment where students thrive academically, socially, and personally.

"Each semester brings new energy and new opportunities," said Reyes. "We're thrilled to welcome our newest cohort and continue building on the success of our previous students. The growth in enrollment reflects the trust families and the community place in our mission."

Participants benefit from personalized plans and ongoing support services, including social work internships and peer mentorship.

Alumni consistently report increased confidence and motivation to pursue new

opportunities, underscoring the program's lasting impact. With continued innovations such as simulated driver's education and financial literacy training, the CAT ACCESS Program and VR Hub are shaping a future of independence and success for students.

The Fall 2025 cohort will participate in life skills workshops, career exploration, and community-based learning experiences. With individualized support, each student gains the tools and confidence needed to succeed beyond the classroom. As the semester unfolds, the CAT ACCESS Program remains steadfast in empowering students and celebrating their unique journeys toward independence and self-advocacy.

HCCC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GRADUATES EARN BACHELOR'S DEGREES FROM ROWAN UNIVERSITY



Congratulations to Starlyn Arias and Diego Mardonado, graduates of Hudson County Community College's A.A.S. in Construction Management program, who recently completed their bachelor's degrees in Construction Management from Rowan University in Summer 2025.

We celebrate their continued academic success and professional growth! Stay tuned for a future edition of *HCCC Happenings*, where Starlyn and Diego will share insights from their inspiring educational journeys.

HCCC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT STUDENT AWARDED 2025 ANSELMI SCHOLARSHIP

Hudson County Community College proudly congratulates Jaydan Hernandez, a Construction Management student, on earning the 2025 Anselmi Scholarship.

The scholarship was presented by the Construction Industry Advancement Program of New Jersey (CIAP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting education, research, and advancement in the state's construction industry.

Each year, the Anselmi Scholarship recognizes outstanding New Jersey community college students pursuing degrees in Engineering, Civil Engineering Technology, or Construction

Technology who have successfully completed their first year of study and are continuing in the fall semester.

Please join us in celebrating Jaydan's well-deserved achievement!



Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 2,100+ 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 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Last year, art collectors Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. found out about the Foundation Art Collection through artist/donor Vincent Baldassano. When Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Torchia toured the College campus, inspired by what they saw and the people with whom they spoke, they decided to give HCCC 50 works in honor of the College's 50th anniversary. They got carried away and donated 44 contemporary limited-edition prints, paintings, sculptural works, and photographs, and 171 antique portrait photographs in a wide variety of formats. Thank you to these gentlemen for their wonderful donation.

Thank you to Douglas Maxwell for donating over 35 works of fine art by women including many large-scale photographs and paintings. We look forward to installing this terrific group and the other new donations in the forthcoming 11-story Center for Student Success next year. We will show images from this donation after the donation is photographed.

ARTIST NEWS

Claes Oldenburg is famous for making huge soft sculptures of tools and food. People take these artworks very seriously. Here is a short film where people discuss his ice-cream-cone sculptures, "Claes Oldenburg's This & That: Animating the Ice Cream Cone" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD12UwR0loc&t=115s>). While their theories are quite good, it is also possible that he made these objects because he just liked ice cream. The Foundation Art Collection has a small print work by Oldenburg, "Unattended Lunches" (<https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/udson-county-community-college-foundation-art-collection/artwork/unattended-lunches>). His work is now also on view at the Whitney Museum of Art: "Claes Oldenburg: Drawn from Life" (<https://whitney.org/exhibitions/claes-oldenburg>). The Whitney just changed its admissions policy: admission is free to anyone under 25 years old! Go, and don't forget to bring ID! Plan your visit at <https://whitney.org/visit>. You can take PATH to Christopher Street and then walk (about 17 minutes) to the museum.

If you go to the Whitney, there are other things to see: If you like **Mary Heilmann's** limited-edition ceramic work in the Gabert Library (first floor), you might also enjoy her show at the Whitney. It includes an enormous enlargement of her painting, "Long Line" and

colorful sculptural chairs you can sit in as you look at the art and out the great glass windows at the Hudson River. (<https://whitney.org/exhibitions/mary-heilmann-long-line>) At the same time, she is having a show at Hauser & Worth galleries. You may recall they have a gallery near the Whitney, but alas, this show is in Zurich, Switzerland. You can check it out online: <https://whitney.org/exhibitions/mary-heilmann-long-line>

Also at the Whitney in the "Shifting Landscapes" show, you can see more work by other artists in the Foundation Art Collection including **Teresita Fernandez** and **Maya Lin** (at HCCC, the works can be seen near Mary Heilmann's work in the Gabert Library, first floor) and **Amalia Mesa-Bains** (on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library).

In the Whitney's "Sixties Surreal" exhibit, you can see work by **Nancy Spero**, **Faith Ringgold** and **Carolee Schneemann** (you can see their work on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library), **Joan Semmel** (in the Gabert Library 517 studio arts classroom), **Fritz Scholder** and **Benny Andrews** (on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library). **Ed Bernal's** work can be seen on the first floor of 2 Enos Place, and also in "Sixties Surreal" at the Whitney. Also in the Whitney exhibit are works by **H.C. Westermann**, **Ed Ruscha** and **Bruce Nauman**. Go to the HCCC Foundation Art Collection website to find images of their work in the Collection: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html>

There is a new exhibit installed on the sixth floor of the Gabert Library outside of the office of Institutional Engagement and Excellence (room 606). Three cabinets contain small sculpture from all over the world, from ancient Egyptian to contemporary American (I'm not sure how you categorize the 2-million-year-old fossilized shark tooth—does that count



Included in the Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. donation is this amazing 14.5" x 19.5" Civil Rights silver gelatin print photograph from March 29, 1968. If you have any information about the photographer, please contact the Foundation Art Collection at 201-360-4007.



Also included in the Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. donation is this wonderful 1950 print called "The Football Player" by New Jersey artist Leonard Baskin. It's a woodcut on rice paper, and it's about 21" x 16".

as sculpture? Hard to know, but definitely cool and worth seeing). Two cabinets are filled with antiquities and one cabinet contains contemporary work. Come and see!

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.

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS presents



50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Black-and-white photographs of HCCC's early days, courtesy of The Jersey Journal. Copyright NJ Advance Media. Used with permission.

The exhibit is located at the Museum of Jersey City History, 298 Academy Street, and open through March 7, 2026.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC), in partnership with the Museum of Jersey City History, proudly presented "Fifty Years of Excellence," which opened to the public on Friday, Nov. 7. The exhibition celebrates the College's half-century anniversary by offering a historical look back, with many 'then and now' moments.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber delivered welcome remarks. Dr. Nicholas Chiaravalloti, former Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President, presented "Hudson's History."

Over the years, HCCC's mission and reputation strengthened as an affordable public institution providing quality educational services to community members. Once nicknamed the "College Without Walls," HCCC helped transform Journal Square into a viable learning neighborhood with the support of local officials and residents alike. This success enabled the expansion of the College's county-wide presence with the opening of additional locations in Secaucus and Union City. Today, the College's motto, "Hudson is Home," echoes loudly throughout the county.

Special highlights include student honors, faculty achievements, and award-winning programs. For those who attended Hudson for a semester or an associate degree, one can rekindle fond memories through student newsletters, yearbooks, and HCCC ephemera. For those interested in local history, the exhibit showcases the city's intricate past through media features, architectural plans, and timeless photographs of Journal Square.

The artifacts on display serve as a heartfelt thank you to all who believed in, supported, and attended this dynamic institution in an area of constant change over the past five decades.

The Hudson County Community College Office of Cultural Affairs expressed its gratitude to all who assisted in gathering information and objects for this exhibition. Special thanks to the HCCC President's Office, the HCCC Library Archive, community members, HCCC staff and faculty, dedicated students and alumni, the Jersey City Free Public Library New Jersey Room, and the Museum of Jersey City History for making this possible.



HCCC FOUNDATION HELD 18TH DONOR SCHOLAR RECEPTION

The Hudson County Community College Foundation hosted its 18th Annual Donor Scholar Recognition Celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 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 and showcase the academic achievements of HCCC scholars.

*2025 HCCC Foundation
Donor Scholar Recognition*



PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Nube Cabrera and Anuvhuti Bisht at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Community Walk at Stevens Institute of Technology on Sunday, Oct. 19. Beta Alpha Phi Chapter, Active Minds, and BC2M (Bring Change to Mind) joined forces as an HCCC team.



Prof. Ted Lai (left) and Stephane Zayas at the National MS Society's Bike MS at Pier 76 on New York City, on Sunday, Oct. 19.



Alero Teteve, Cristian Betancur Obando, Stephane Zayas, and Prof. Ted Lai volunteering at the ZERO Prostate Cancer Run/Walk at Liberty State Park on Saturday, Oct. 11.

NATIONAL RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY WEEK NOVEMBER 2 – 8, 2025



The Hudson County Community College Radiography Program celebrated the vital contributions of medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals to patient care and health care safety.

The week-long observance took place during the week of November 2 in commemoration of Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen's discovery of the X-ray on Nov. 8, 1895.

The 2025 theme, "The Kaleidoscope of Radiologic Technology," highlighted the diverse practice areas and medical procedures within medical imaging and radiation therapy, uniting them in a single vision and celebration.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Phi Theta Kappa Fall Induction

Monday, November 24, 2025 | 4 p.m.

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

Join virtually at: <https://tinyurl.com/PTKFall2025>

Meeting: 2336 407 5802 | Password: Fall2025

HCCC HONORED WITH CPN SEAL OF PREVENTION™ FOR DIGITAL STUDENT WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Continued from page 2

and 9.6% higher on-time graduation rate than non-Seal institutions.

"The CPN Seal of Prevention™ recipients represent top institutions nationwide, underscoring their dedication to academic excellence and student well-being," said Vector Solutions CEO Jonathan Cherins.

HCCC offers extensive wellness and support resources, including the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Engagement and Excellence, Hudson Scholars Program, Mental Health Counseling and Wellness Center, Hudson Helps Resource Center, CARE Team, and Offices of Tutoring, Academic Support, Career Pathways, and Student Life and Leadership.

CYBERSECURITY LAB WORKSHOP ENGAGES FUTURE STUDENTS



During the College's recent Open House, a Cybersecurity Lab Workshop conducted by Yavuz Birol Guner, Instructor of Computer Science/Cybersecurity, drew about 20 participants eager to explore hands-on technology. Attendees learned how to set up and use Raspberry Pi devices in a cybersecurity context, gaining insight into real-world applications in the field. In light of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the session was well received.

Participants praised the engaging and practical learning experience.

HUDSON HEADLINERS!

Now Featuring

School of Nursing and Health Professions



Tune into—

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

**Watch for news about
the next Hudson Headliners!**

HCCC STUDENTS SHINE AT CYBERSECURITY COMPETITION



Nine Hudson County Community College students represented the College at a Capture the Flag (CTF) cybersecurity competition hosted by Saint Peter's University. The event gathered about 100 participants from 22 universities, and HCCC students impressed with their strong technical skills, problem-solving, and teamwork throughout the challenge.

HCCC ATTENDS A GALA EVENT HOSTED BY THE HISPANIC STATE PARADE OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

On Friday evening, Oct. 3, a delegation from Hudson County Community College attended a gala event hosted by the Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey, Inc. The gala was a precursor to the 50th annual parade, held on Sunday, Oct. 5.



HCCC PARTICIPATES AT THE 50TH ANNUAL HISPANIC STATE PARADE OF NEW JERSEY!

On Sunday, Oct., 5, President Dr. Christopher Reber proudly represented Hudson County Community College at the 50th Annual Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey!

The parade filled Bergenline Avenue with vibrant colors, music, dance, and community pride — a beautiful celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and the rich cultures that make our community shine.



HCCC HOSTS HOMECOMING BLOCK PARTY AND OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, OCT. 18



Captions from left: Anthony L. Romano (left), Chair of the Hudson County Board of Commissioners, with Nicole B. Johnson, Vice President for Advancement & Communications and Executive Director, HCCC Foundation. | A troupe of salsa dancers from West New York perform during the festivities. | Marissa Lontoc (left), Instructor, Table Service and Stephanie Sergeant, Associate Director, Talent Acquisition and Onboarding.

This year, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted its own edition of homecoming, a fall favorite, for the first time, creating a new tradition for its growing community. The College invited students, future

students, alumni, and community members to its first ever Homecoming Block Party on Saturday, Oct. 18 as part of the College's 50th Anniversary celebration, Fifty and Forward!, also featuring the Fall Open House.

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



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?



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>

Hudson County Community College Foundation presents

28th Annual Gala



Thursday, December 4, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Hudson For Business

On October 10, the Center for Business and Industry relaunched under its new title, Hudson for Business. This new name reflects the program's expanded mission to provide business client training for all types of organizations, including those in the private, non-profit, and government sectors. Hudson for Business, powered by HCCC, is led by Jaime Pardo, Director of CEWD Operations and Business Client Training, alongside Associate Director Dan Brookes and Coordinators Laura Riano and Joyce Alvarez.

The relaunch featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hudson for Business and the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, officially recognizing Hudson for Business as an official training provider for Chamber members. The signing was conducted by Dr. Christopher Reber, President of Hudson County Community College, and Emory Edwards, President and CEO of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce.



HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber and Hudson County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Emory Edwards (seated) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) solidifying the partnership agreement to share resources and expand their capacity to support entrepreneurs, small businesses, and the HCCC community.

Distinguished guests included representatives from the Consulate of Ecuador; La Mega 97.9, one of the most influential Latino radio networks in the NYC/NJ area; and a representative from Jersey City Medical Center, part of the Robert Wood Johnson Health Network, who shared an employer testimonial.

As part of the launch, Hudson for Business

introduced its new subscription model aimed at government and public sector organizations, offering subscription bundles ranging from Business Essentials to Business Pro.

These bundles provide two courses for the price of one, making the classes more accessible and cost-effective for organizations seeking to enhance employee skills and professional development opportunities.

Hudson for Business also introduced ESL for the Workplace Subscriptions, which feature specialized courses focused on conversational English and career-based language development. For businesses interested in professional development for their staff, Hudson for Business offers customized training tailored to each organization's specific needs. They also provide grant-funded training for businesses and non-profit organizations that meet eligibility criteria.

Interested business leaders and professionals may contact Hudson for Business at Hudsonforbusiness@hccc.edu or fill out their intake form for more information!

HCCC Partners to Host Event to Introduce Free Training Program for Trades Leaders

Hudson County Community College (HCCC), in partnership with the Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion, proudly launched the Turner School of Construction Management Program, one of the most prestigious education and community outreach initiatives in the commercial construction industry.

The eight-week program began Tuesday, Oct. 7 and is designed for small construction businesses operating for at least one year. More than 60 local companies applied and gained acceptance to the program.

An introductory event for the first cohort took place prior to the first class session, offering participants an opportunity to meet program leaders, network, and learn about upcoming sessions.



More than 60 businesses are part of the initial cohort of the Turner School of Construction Management Program, a partnership between Hudson County Community College and the Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NICET LEVEL II SOIL TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

2025 dates will be announced soon!

Join our waitlist to be the first notified when new classes are scheduled.

Saturdays and Sundays | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Price: \$350

<https://tinyurl.com/kcdwnjpv>

NICET LEVEL I ASPHALT TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

2025 dates will be announced soon!

Join our waitlist to be the first notified when new classes are scheduled.

Saturdays and Sundays | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Price: \$350

<https://tinyurl.com/mw46eyu6>

NICET LEVEL I HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Nov. 10 to Dec. 17 (no class 11/26)

Mondays and Wednesdays | 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Price: \$375

<https://tinyurl.com/hah6y2hh>

ATI TEAS TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP FALL 2025 (ONLINE)

Science/Math Prep ONLY

Saturdays | Nov. 15 to Dec. 20 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Price: \$152 | No class on Nov. 29

<https://tinyurl.com/ATIPrepFA25>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Saturday, Nov. 15 | 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Price: \$77

<https://tinyurl.com/FALLBLS25>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Price: \$77

<https://tinyurl.com/FALLBLS25>

ALUMNI CORNER

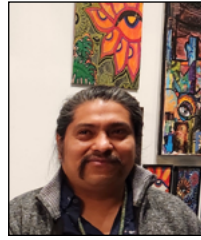
Daniel Guzman

A.A. Studio Arts, Class of 2011

Daniel is an HCCC grad, artist and gallery owner. His gallery, DGA Studio, was recently featured on the JCAST Studio Tour. Email: DGA.Studio1@gmail.com

Instagram: [Studio @DGA_STUDIO1](https://www.instagram.com/DGA_STUDIO1) DGA Studio

Tattoo @DANIELGUZMANTATTOOS [Tattoo art page](#)



What brought you to HCCC?

While attending Dickinson High School here in Jersey City, I was offered a scholarship to attend HCCC through the Opportunity Knocks Twice grant and I decided to take advantage of the opportunity.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

Initially, I made my choice based on receiving the scholarship, the campus being close to home, and having the flexibility to work and also attend classes. I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in the arts and the program at HCCC provided a lot of opportunities. I joined the Art Club and in 2010 became president, organizing student exhibitions and receptions.

What is DGA Studio? What inspired you to found it?

I started DGA Studio in 2022, at first just as a private tattoo studio where I could see my clients and also work on my own artistic projects, but I always had the aspiration to create a space where myself and other artists could showcase their work. In 2024 we had our first group show, "Cultural Connections" as part of JC Fridays quarterly city-wide arts festival.

Tell us about being featured on the JCAST Studio Tour.

Being featured as part of JCAST was a phenomenal reward for us because it helps further our mission of promoting the arts in Jersey City and providing a space for artists of all abilities to display and celebrate their work. We were also thrilled to host Professors Michael Lee and Jeremiah Teipen with their classes on a field trip for JC Fridays; it brought back great memories of my time at HCCC and it was awesome to see all of the students interacting.

How did you become interested in art in the first place?

I was interested in art as a kid and art classes were always my favorite. When I was in high school, I liked to watch tattoo reality shows and it sparked my interest in tattooing as an art form and potential career. Working as a tattoo artist afforded me the opportunity to finance my education and the time to make my own art.

How did you get into tattooing and tattoo art?

I always liked tattoos and was inspired by tattoo reality shows and magazines. I bought my first tattoo kit from an ad in a magazine and began practicing on myself and a few brave friends. I then did an apprenticeship at a tattoo shop in Queens where I learned the basics under the instruction of Roberto Castillo and Rodrigo Jimenez. I took the knowledge I gained and began to work at various shops in NYC and New Jersey, with the goal of eventually establishing my own art and tattoo studio.

Who are some of your favorite artists?

My favorite artists and inspirations range from Caravaggio and the works of the 'old masters' to Dali and the surrealist movement, prolific Mexican artists like Diego Rivera as well as many contemporary living artists such as Robert Piersanti, Erica Rose Levine and CixMugre_dmt, a Mexican muralist and tattoo artist, just to name a few.

How does your Mexican heritage play into and inspire your artwork?

As a Mexican-born artist living in Jersey City, my inspiration takes me back to my cultural roots and the importance of representing my Mexican heritage and traditions through my work. Doing this helps keep me connected to my own culture and family back in Mexico.

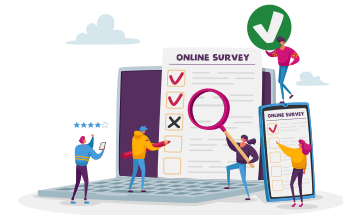
What part of Mexico are you from?

I was raised in Tlalquetzala, a very small town in the sierra of the state of Guerrero. I lived with my family on my grandmother's land where we farmed most of our own food, and we lived a very simple life but worked hard. When I was 10, I emigrated to the US and my family settled in Jersey City, and I have been here ever since, attended public schools, graduated from Dickinson High School, and got my Associate in Studio Arts at Hudson County Community College in 2011.

Any advice for students looking to follow in your footsteps and make their way in the art world?

My advice to students interested in pursuing a career in the arts is simple: Believe in yourself, always be creating, stay active in the local arts community, don't be discouraged by rejection

Continued on page 12



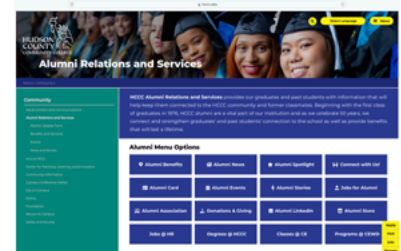
Alumni Survey:

As we kick off HCCC's 50th Anniversary celebration, we want to hear from you! Share your experiences and insights by completing our survey today:

https://hccc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77111qlENrf4heu

Your voice matters, and we appreciate your input!

What's New?



Updated Alumni Web Pages:

Explore the updates and stay connected—visit the pages here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html>

Alumni Benefits:



With an Alumni Card, you can take advantage of exclusive benefits and stay connected to the HCCC community! Details here: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/alumni-services/index.html>

Alumni Giving:



You can sponsor events, students, or classes, or make an annual contribution at a level that works for you. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

Giving is easy — visit <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html#ways-to-give> to make your impact today!

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ALUMNI CORNER

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and be prepared to hustle for your art. The inspiration for our current show "Artist Soup" is an analogy of what it takes to be a working artist. Like a soup, it requires many different ingredients, patience, time and effort.

Any favorite memories of HCCC?

Some of my favorite memories are when we would go on field trips with Professor Michael Lee to the galleries in SOHO, MOMA

and The Met. As Art Club President, I always enjoyed organizing student art exhibits and receptions and always encouraged other students to join. Another great memory is when HCCC purchased one of my paintings for their permanent collection. Whenever I see it hanging in the student lounge at 71 Sip, it brings me great pride and fond memories of my time and achievements at HCCC.

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

Join, socialize, and network!

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

HUDSON
COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

50 YEARS
of Excellence

FIFTY AND FORWARD!

All are welcome!
– staff, faculty, students, alumni,
and community members



Scan QR Code or click on link below to register
for our upcoming 50th Anniversary events!
<https://www.hccc.edu/page/50th/index.html>

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence!

Join us as Hudson County Community College marks its golden anniversary with a year of exciting events and milestones.

Save the dates and be part of the celebration!

HCCC 50th Anniversary Annual Gala *

Thursday, December 4, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ
* ticketed event

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



COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

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

