

# HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



**HUDSON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
NAMED '2022 GREAT  
COLLEGE TO WORK FOR'**

**2022 GREAT  
COLLEGES  
TO WORK FOR®**

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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 November newsletter are due by Friday, October 14, 2022.

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED '2022 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR'**

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) has been selected as one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. The College was recognized for excellence in professional development; shared governance; faculty experience; diversity, inclusion, and belonging; and confidence in senior leadership.

"This honor is especially meaningful because it was awarded based on the results of a questionnaire that captured employment data and workplace policies, and more importantly, a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional staff," said HCCC President

Dr. Christopher Reber. "Confidential employee feedback was the primary factor in HCCC's earning this recognition."

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the United States. The program uses a two-part process to assess colleges that earn top ratings from their employees regarding workplace practices and policies. These include a ModernThink Higher Education Institution Questionnaire, and a ModernThink Higher Education Insight survey that was vetted by a panel of higher education experts. This year, 212 institutions participated in the program, including 130 four-year institutions and 82 two-year institutions. Sixty-eight institutions have been recognized as a 2022 Great College to Work For®,

including 46 four-year institutions and 22 two-year institutions. HCCC is the only college in New Jersey to be honored with this recognition.

Home to 18,000 full- and part-time students, HCCC is also home to nearly 1,000 employees, 40% of whom are former students. Anna Krupitskiy, HCCC Vice President for Human Resources, said that when Dr. Reber began his presidency in 2018, he focused on climate, culture, and community, addressing morale, salaries, and developing more trusting relationships between administration and all employees.

Dr. Reber inaugurated and conducts Monthly Town Hall Meetings and provides other platforms for faculty, staff, and students to learn about recent HCCC developments, and participate in dialogue with College leaders and one another. "This has empowered members of the College community to develop vertical relationships with colleagues, which in turn has led to many collaborations, partnerships, and alliances within the College and with external community partners," Ms. Krupitskiy stated.

At the start of Dr. Reber's tenure he also developed collaborative relationships with each of the College's four collective bargaining units:

*Continued on page 14*

**ON THE COVER:** Hudson County Community College Class of 2022 graduates celebrate at Commencement exercises.

**HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPOINTS FOURTEEN FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS**



Ingrid Aviles



Tosha Bratcher



Jonathan Cabrera



Christopher Cody



Madeline Cruz



Yavuz Birol Guner



Marissa Lontoc



Raffi Manjikian



Daniel Ondieki



Josue Perez



Gunes Senturk



Katherine Thurman



Michelle Vera



Saliha Yagoubi

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) announced the appointment of fourteen full-time faculty to serve students and the College as the new 2022-23 academic year begins. Some of these faculty are new to the College, and some have been promoted after serving with distinction as part-time, adjunct faculty.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber noted that student success is at the very heart of the College's mission, and HCCC is committed to appointing and retaining full-time faculty who

provide high-quality and inspirational teaching and educational services.

At HCCC's recent College Service Day that began the new academic year, Dr. Reber stated, "We are adding new full-time faculty where there is sustainable need, providing opportunities for long-serving adjunct faculty to move into full-time tenure-track positions, and investing in scores of best practice professional development programs and opportunities to support our workforce."

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## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY EARN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACUE TEACHING CREDENTIAL

Twenty-four Hudson County Community College (HCCC) faculty members were honored at a College pinning ceremony to begin the 2022-23 academic year. The ceremony recognized faculty for becoming Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) certified, earning the only nationally recognized collegiate teaching credential endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE).

To earn the ACUE credential, faculty members completed the “Effective Online Teaching Practices” course and learned evidence-based teaching practices that improve student engagement, increase persistence, and close equity gaps. The 25-module course requires faculty to implement and reflect on new teaching practices in their courses and refine their methodologies.

“In pursuing this certification, HCCC faculty demonstrated a strong commitment to their continuing professional development and closing equity gaps in student achievement,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “The ACUE courses augment the resources Hudson County Community College provides to assist faculty in helping students succeed personally and academically.”

The pinning ceremony was hosted by the College’s Center for Teaching, Learning, and



*Pictured here, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President, Dr. Christopher Reber with HCCC Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, Dr. Paula Roberson at the College’s recent College Service Day.*

Innovation (CTLI), which partnered with ACUE to facilitate the courses. ACUE courses address over 200 evidence-based teaching practices that include how to design an effective course, establish a productive learning environment, use active learning techniques, promote higher-order thinking, and utilize assessments to inform instruction and promote learning.

*Continued on page 5*



Please join  
HCCC President Dr. Chris Reber  
for a  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
on Wednesday, October 12  
12 p.m.

**In-person at:**

**Culinary Conference Center**

161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room,  
Jersey City, NJ

**North Hudson Campus**

4800 Kennedy Blvd., Room N703,  
Union City, NJ

**Virtual at:**

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-OCT>

Meeting number: 2632 642 9948  
Password: OctTH

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY 2022 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD

Hudson County Community College has once again received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine*, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. The annual award recognizes colleges and universities in the United States that demonstrate outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. HCCC is one of just seven community colleges among the 103 colleges and universities to receive this year’s award. The recipients will be featured in the November 2022 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine*.

“We are very proud to accept this national award for the second year in a row,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “The 2022 HEED Award honors the College’s collective efforts and best practices in support of student success and diversity, equity, and inclusion. This recognition of excellence is the result of the entire College family’s dedication and contributions, and the strong support of our Board of Trustees.”

“The HEED Award process consists of a comprehensive and rigorous application that includes questions relating to the recruitment and



*Hudson County Community College welcomes back its Hudson Scholars in a September 2022 reception; HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber is pictured in the center, third row. The College has been honored for Hudson Scholars and other programs dedicated to student success and retention.*

retention of students and employees — and best practices for both — such as leadership support for diversity, campus culture and climate, supplier diversity, and many 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 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.”

*Continued on page 12*

## MILESTONES

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

### FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Michelle DeLaFleur  
Mariana Fuentes  
Richwyn Nicandro

10 Years

Sheila Marie Aitouakrim

15 Years

Karine Davis

20 Years

Sharon Moise

### PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

5 Years

Alexander Benitez  
Fabiola Josaphat  
Betsaida Rosario

10 Years

Manuel Lendorf

### RETIREMENT

Mei Xie, Technical Service Librarian  
(effective Aug. 31, 2022)

### APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

Anita Belle, Director, Workforce Pathways  
(effective Sept. 14, 2022)

Marian Betancourt, Student Success Coach,  
Reentry Students (Grant-funded)  
(effective Sept. 14, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023)

Tatiana Gaona, Director of Career Services  
(effective Sept. 14, 2022)

Machli Joseph, Student Success Coach, Local 825  
Operating Engineers Dual Education Program  
(Grant-funded) (effective Sept. 14, 2022 to  
Aug. 31, 2023)

Sean Kerwick, Program Manager, Supply Chain  
and Logistics, Center for Workforce Innovation  
(Grant-funded) (effective Sept. 14, 2022 to  
Dec. 31, 2022)

Fabiola Ocean, Student Success Coach,  
Incarcerated Students (Grant-funded)  
(effective Sept. 14, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023)

Mary Ellen Piel, Technical Services Librarian  
(effective Sept. 15, 2022)

Melanie Suarez, Admissions Advisor  
(effective Sept. 14, 2022)

Meghry Tutunjian, Student Success Coach,  
Seacaucus Center (effective Sept. 19, 2022)

### APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Michelle DeLaFleur, Interim Director of Patron  
Services (effective Sept. 15, 2022 to Feb. 15, 2023)

Alexandra Plante, Director of Library Instruction  
(effective Sept. 15, 2022 to Feb. 15, 2023)

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS FOR OCTOBER 2022

Teamwork Strategies (Live – All Employees),  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
to 4 p.m.

In any endeavor in which multiple people have an  
impact on the result, strong teamwork is the key to  
success. This session explores the individual skills  
that make strong team members and how to apply  
those skills both at work and in life.

Motivating Your Team (Live – Leaders and  
Managers), Wednesday, Oct. 26, 12 p.m. to  
1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Strategic leadership is often the key element gov-  
erning motivation, engagement, and innovation,

but not every team member may be motivated in the  
same way. Join us to discuss tactics to improve mo-  
tivation and realize consistent high performance.

Managing Your Finances Paycheck  
to Paycheck (Pre-Recorded)

Are you tired of scrambling for cash a few days  
before your next paycheck? Do you have money  
set aside for emergencies? Are you working on  
major financial goals like paying for your children's  
college education or your retirement? Join us for this  
very practical and actionable webinar on budgeting.  
Learn how to create your budget, set financial goals  
and then find the money to fund them.

To sign up for these webinars, visit [eap.ndbh.com](http://eap.ndbh.com), enter company code HCCC,  
scroll down to the "Check Out Our Webinars" box.

Questions? Connect with your EAP account manager, HR department or 800-624-5544

## OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR THE YEAR 2023: OCTOBER 1 – 31

Attention First-Time Enrollees and/or members who are adding or removing dependents for 2023:

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your Human Resources Benefits Personnel  
Stephanie Pina, [spina@hccc.edu](mailto:spina@hccc.edu) or (201) 360-4070 or  
Carmen McGuire, [cmcguire@hccc.edu](mailto:cmcguire@hccc.edu) (20) 360-4072.

## Hudson Is Home (HIH)

Employee Recognition Program

### SAVE THE DATE

Nomination period is from Saturday, October 1  
through Monday, October 31, 2022.

### Call for Nominations!

#### HIH CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

HIH Inspirational Leadership Award  
HIH Diversity Award  
HIH Innovation Award  
HIH Newbie Award  
HIH Collaboration and Team Achievement Award  
HIH Outstanding Faculty Award  
HIH Annual Employee Spotlight Award



For more information, email Lilisa  
Williams at [lwilliams@hccc.edu](mailto:lwilliams@hccc.edu).



## HCCC Faculty & Staff WELLNESS FAIR 2022

Thursday, October 6, 2022

#### Featured Workshops

**Financial: Paying Off Your Student Loans**  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**SIT-UP! Exercises to Improve Desk Posture**  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

- Free Flu Shot Clinic
- Free Messages For Employees
- RAFFLE GIVEAWAYS!

For more information, contact:  
Carmen McGuire at [cmcguire@hccc.edu](mailto:cmcguire@hccc.edu)  
Stephanie Pina at [spina@hccc.edu](mailto:spina@hccc.edu)

Culinary Conference Center  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

North Hudson Campus  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Snacks and refreshments provided.

#### At a Glance

AIG Retirement Services  
Equitable  
Prudential  
Colonial Life  
National Vision Administrators (NVA)  
NJM Insurance  
Adjunct Faculty Federation  
Hudson Helps Resource Center  
Mental Health and Wellness Department  
Safety and Security  
Academic Administrative Union  
Accessibility Services

## HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT NAMED TO NJBIZ 'EDUCATION POWER 50' FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

**H**udson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees Chair, William J. Netchert, Esq., announced that HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber has been named to this year's *NJBIZ* "Education Power 50" list.

The 2022 list honors educators and administrators who are meeting the interrupted learning challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, rectifying historical inequities, and addressing the needs of New Jersey's important economic sectors. In announcing the honorees, *NJBIZ* Chief Editor, Jeffrey Kanige, wrote: "As education evolved along with the economy, these individuals will ensure that the next generation – and the one after that – will be equipped to move the state forward. They are producing new health care professionals to meet serious medical needs. They are ensuring that communities of color will be better able to participate in the economic growth most business leaders expect at least over the medium term. And they are imparting skills that will enhance the trades we all depend upon to make our lives easier and more enjoyable."

"This is the second year in a row that *NJBIZ* has recognized Dr. Reber with this honor," Mr. Netchert stated. "We are very proud of him, and all he has done to promote student success, and diversity, equity and inclusion, and to address the unprecedented systemic challenges of achieving lasting improvement in the Hudson County workforce ecosystem."

Dr. Reber, who was installed as HCCC President in July 2018, tirelessly and passionately advocates Hudson County Community College (HCCC) as well as state and national community college priorities. As HCCC President, he created the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI); established the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; instituted the "Hudson Helps Resource Center" to promote student retention and success through wraparound services to support the holistic needs of students; initiated "Hudson Scholars," an award-winning student retention and support program poised to become a national model for community college best practices promoting student success; formed community and corporate partnerships that promote upward social and economic mobility for students and community members, including the Gateway to Innovation program that received a \$1,050,000 award from JPMorgan Chase.

His leadership throughout the pandemic resulted in the formation of the HCCC Return to Campus Task Force comprised of students, faculty, and staff; the College's investment in technology to offer courses, programs, and services remotely and online; providing free Chromebooks to all students in need; the preparation and distribution of more

than 11,000 ready-to-heat meals by the HCCC Culinary Arts Institute students and chefs; and the HCCC vaccine initiative program that provided \$100 incentives for students to become fully vaccinated – strengthening and prioritizing the health and safety of all. His administration also waived \$4.8 million in outstanding financial balances for more than 5,000 HCCC

students during the pandemic. Because of the culture of caring and connectedness Dr. Reber nurtured, HCCC students have proudly coined the phrase, "Hudson is Home!"

Christopher Reber has devoted his entire 40-year-plus career to higher education, serving as President of the Community College of Beaver County (2014-18); Executive Dean and Campus Executive Officer of Venango College of Clarion University of Pennsylvania (2002-14); Associate Provost for Advancement and University Relations, Dean of Student Affairs, and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Education at Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend College (1987-2002); Director of Human Resource Development Division, and Director of Lifelong Learning at Lakeland Community College (1984-87); and other positions earlier in his career. He holds a Postdoctoral Certificate from the Institute for Educational Management, Graduate School of Education at Harvard University; Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Pittsburgh; M.A. in College Student Personnel Administration from Bowling Green State University; and B.A. in Latin from Dickinson College.

Dr. Reber is the recipient of the 2022 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer Award; Hudson County Chamber of Commerce's inaugural "Spirit Award" presented at the 2021 Chamber Legends Gala; 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Middle States Regional Award of Excellence; and 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award.

"Being named to the 2022 *NJBIZ* Education Power 50 represents the transformational opportunities that have been achieved for our students and our community by working with my HCCC colleagues, our community, corporate partners, and elected officials," Dr. Reber stated. "I am proud to share this award with all of them."



*Pictured here, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President, Dr. Christopher Reber.*

## HCCC FACULTY EARN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACUE TEACHING CREDENTIAL

*Continued from page 3*

"Through this partnership with ACUE, which began in December 2019, 64 faculty have amassed 3,978 hours of professional development to improve student success and enhance teaching practices. We are proud of this stellar accomplishment by all completers," said Dr. Paula Roberson, Director of the College's CTLI. "The faculty completed a significant and meaningful certificate program during the height of the pandemic. They persisted while balancing the transition of their courses to an online format to become better educators and improve student learning."

"ACUE has given me the ability and confidence to attempt new teaching techniques and activities. In addition, ACUE has encouraged me to view my teaching, classroom organization, and management from the student's perspective," said Nancy Saliba, Lecturer of Nursing.

Numerous independently validated impact studies show that students learn more and that equity gaps close when courses are led by ACUE certified faculty.

### About the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

The ACUE's mission is to ensure student success and equity through quality instruction. In partnership with colleges, universities, higher education systems and associations, ACUE prepares and credentials faculty in the evidence-based teaching practices that improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Numerous and independently validated studies confirm that students are more engaged, learn more, and complete courses in greater numbers – more equitably with their peers – when taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty. ACUE's online, cohort-based credentialing programs are delivered through institutional partnerships and open enrollment courses endorsed by the American Council on Education.

## SAVE THE DATE



**ATD Coaches  
Dr. Mary Fifield and Dr. Rene Garcia  
will be visiting  
Monday, October 31  
and Tuesday, November 1.**

# Foundation Art Collection

The Hudson County Community College Foundation Art Collection of 1,750+ works is installed in the public areas of ten 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 work are in the Collection, and new additions to the Collection.

## Donor Acknowledgements:

Thank you to the anonymous donor for the Taschen volume "The North American Indian, The Complete Portfolios" about the work of photographer Edward S. Curtis.

## Artist News:

If you like the work of **Chakaia Booker**, **Luis Cruz Azaceta**, **Jaune Quick-to-See Smith**, and **Juan Sanchez** permanently on view at Hudson County Community College, you might enjoy visiting the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University, 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, where you can see more work by these artists in a temporary exhibit called "American Stories: Gifts from the Jersey City Museum Collection" until December 30. Admission is free. These works were originally part of the Jersey City Museum, which now makes its home at Rutgers. According to the museum, "American Stories" highlights works by a wide range of artists and provides an inclusive view of American art and life through a local lens." Closer to home, you can find works by these artists on campus by looking at our website for their locations: <https://www.artworkarchive.com/profile/hudson-county-community-college-foundation-art-collection>. Search by typing the artist's name in the white search box in the upper right-hand corner, and take yourself on a self-guided tour!

If you'd like to take yourself on a thematic art walking tour at Hudson County Community College, you are welcome to use our online walking guides to Asian art, art of the African Diaspora, Hispanic art, and art by women. Go to Foundation Art Collection ([hccc.edu](http://hccc.edu)) and scroll down to the bottom to access the guide you seek. If there's a guide you'd enjoy using and you don't see it here, let us know and we'll make one! Contact the Foundation Art Collection at (201) 360-4007 or email [ASiegel@hccc.edu](mailto:ASiegel@hccc.edu).

**Teresita Fernandez'** work is on view on the first floor of the Gabert Library in the small wood-and-glass cabinet on the wall opposite the entrance. She was recently interviewed by the National Gallery of Art as part of their "Artists at Work" series. Fernandez spoke about the role of landscape in her art. She said, "I'm trying to

radically redefine and reframe how it is we think about place and about landscape. It's less about the framed vista in front of your eyes...and more about understanding what happened there, who lived there, the less visible aspects of the landscape." She referred to her epic work, *Fire: United States of the Americas*, which is a huge map of the United States in charcoal—each state is surrounded by white space. (It is currently on view at the Philadelphia Museum through January 2023.) She says, "What I'm asking viewers to do is to actually find themselves, and to look for themselves in the landscape and to be curious about their connection and their implied role within the social, historic and political constructs. For me, the history of the land is really the history of power: who gets to be visible and who is invisible..." She adds about the work: "It's very strange to see these geometric shapes that are about domain and how land has been conquered and divvied up in these parcels that are very geometric and have nothing to do with the natural formations of the land itself." You can see more of the interview here: Teresita Fernández's *Stacked Landscapes* YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ClbI7M6XGGI&t=1s>

A limited-edition print by **Meret Oppenheim** is on view on the first floor of 2 Enos Place. Starting October 30 through March 4, the Museum of Modern art will exhibit her work in a large retrospective (over 200 pieces) called "Meret Oppenheim: My Exhibition." Admission for full-time students is \$14, unfortunately, and the Museum's "free" night is only open to NYC residents. However restrictive the museum's new admission policies are, it is nonetheless worth considering some things Oppenheim is famous for saying: "Nobody will give you freedom," she said in her 1975 acceptance speech for the City of Basel Art Prize. "You have to take it." A pioneer in her thinking about gender, Oppenheim also said she disliked the term "woman artist." Instead, the artist spoke of "androgyny of the spirit" as necessary to make fine art. She added, "If you speak a new language of your own, that others have yet to learn ... you may have to wait a very long time for a positive echo."

At the Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street in New York City through January



*This untitled, 1970s, gouache on paper work by Ukrainian-American artist Jacob Pell is 23" x 16.5." Thanks to Dana Boylan and Carol and Donald Glaser for the generous donation. You can see other still-life work by Jacob Pell on view on the first floor of 168 Sip Avenue - the building to the left of the HCCC book store.*

8, 2023 is the exhibit, "New York: 1962-1964." The Museum is free on Saturdays. The show examines "how artists living and working in New York responded to their rapidly changing world, through more than 150 works of art—all made or seen in New York between 1962 and 1964." In that three-year period, America witnessed what the museum refers to as "epoch-changing events—such as the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963), and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1963) [that] fundamentally altered the social and political landscape of [...] the nation. An unprecedented economic boom broadened the array of available consumer goods, and an expanding media network introduced new voices into increasingly urgent conversations about race, class, and gender." The exhibit includes many works by artists whose work is on display on our campus, including: **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Agnes Martin**, **Robert Rauschenberg**, **Faith Ringgold**, **Miriam Schapiro**, **Carolee Schneemann**, and **Andy Warhol**, among others.

**We welcome anecdotes and information about how the Art Collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the Art Collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact [ASiegel@hccc.edu](mailto: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](mailto:nicolebjohnson@hccc.edu)**

**To donate artwork, find detailed information here:** [www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html](http://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](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html)

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**  
presents



**YOUR HOME IS MY HOME EXHIBIT CELEBRATING  
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH OPENED AT THE  
DINEEN-HULL GALLERY**



Artist Fabricio Suarez



Artist Maria De Los Angeles

*Your Home is My Home* opened on September 14, 2022 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in the Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery at Hudson County Community College.

Exhibition artists include: Blanka Amezkua, Maria de Los Angeles, Alex Morel, Onel David Naar, Fabricio Suarez, and RescuePoetix. Additionally, HCCC Foundation Art Collection artists Alexandro Anreus, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Yolanda Lopez, and Amalia Mesa-Bains are featured. The exhibition is curated by Gallery director, Michelle Vitale.

Highlights include the emotive border patrol drawings of Mexican-born artist, Maria de Los Angeles; South Bronx native, Onel David Naar's disintegrating plantain leaves juxtaposed against the New York skyline; the lush, imagined utopias by Uruguayan painter, Fabricio Suarez; Alex Morel's documentarian photos highlighting the chasm that divides Haiti and the Dominican

Republic on the island of Hispaniola; and the vibrant femme fatales handstitched on tortilla cloth by interdisciplinary artist, Blanka Amezkua, and crocheted by the artist's mother.

The exhibition also includes the Spanish and English writings of the celebrated Jersey City Poet Laureate, RescuePoetix.

Stop by to see this exhibit- closing to the public on November 14, 2022. (Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Sixth floor, Jersey City, NJ)

Artist lectures, workshops, and gallery tours will run throughout the exhibition.

For more information, visit: <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/bdj-dcs-gallery.html>

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment. To schedule your visit, email: [mvitale@hccc.edu](mailto:mvitale@hccc.edu).

**Events Calendar  
OCTOBER**

- 1 - 2 **JCAST Studio Tour:**  
Enjoy city-wide art events at [www.theJCAST.com](http://www.theJCAST.com)
- 5 **Papel Picado Workshop:**  
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Gallery - 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
An afternoon with Blanca Amezcua creating papel picado celebratory flags.
- 12 **Cosmic Spacial Reasoning Closing Reception**  
Gallery at North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, NJ - 12:30 p.m.  
Celebrating the artwork of teachers, with refreshments and live music.
- 25 **Beginner Piano Lessons with Eduardo Rivera**  
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Gallery- 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Beginner-level piano lessons, led and taught by an HCCC Alumnus.
- 27 **Beginner Piano Lessons with Eduardo Rivera**  
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Gallery- 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Beginner-level piano lessons, led and taught by an HCCC Alumnus.

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Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery](https://www.instagram.com/dineenhullgallery)

**For more information, email:  
[gallery@hccc.edu](mailto:gallery@hccc.edu) or visit**

[www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html](http://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/doca-culture.html)

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**



**25<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION GALA**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 | 6 p.m.**

Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
[foundation@hccc.edu](mailto:foundation@hccc.edu)

## HCCC HOSTS WELCOME BACK MIXER FOR HUDSON SCHOLARS



Hudson Scholars engage in a game of Jenga, in which players take turns removing blocks from a tower and placing them at the top. Even HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber (left photo, foreground) got in on the fun!



On Tuesday, Sept. 6, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) held a Welcome Back Mixer for students in the Hudson Scholars Program.

“Hudson Scholars” is a tripartite model of student support that provides proactive advisement, financial stipends, and early academic intervention. “Hudson Scholars” utilizes

best practices of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) and the City University of New York (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) to ensure that a greater number of students facing financial challenges, language barriers, employment concerns, and family responsibilities complete their college educations.

## JACK KENT COOKE UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPENS OCT. 6

The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship application will open during Fall 2022. Students who will be transferring next year may be eligible for this scholarship. For students who will be transferring later, it is not too early to learn about this and other scholarships so you will be better prepared when ready to apply.

Preparation may include getting involved in community service, college involvement, and internships.



For an overview on the application process, please visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLhP\\_2d7-bA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLhP_2d7-bA). The application will be available beginning Oct. 6 and is available at <https://www.jkcf.org/our-scholarships/undergraduate-transfer-scholarship>.

## ESL RESOURCE CENTER



Christine Petersen (right), Associate Director of Financial Aid, facilitates a workshop on financial aid at the Journal Square ESL Resource Center.

On Wednesday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Sept. 15, the ESL Resource Center, in collaboration with the Financial Aid Office, presented two workshops in its Journal Square location (119 Newkirk Street, Building I, Room 102). These free workshops were offered in both English and Spanish, and students learned all about the financial aid process, including who is eligible, how and when to apply, and more.

The ESL Resource Center thanks Christine Petersen, Ana Moran, and Cielo Cortez for making this valuable workshop possible! Stay tuned for information about future events!

### SAVE THE DATE

Phi Theta Kappa  
International Honor Society

Beta Alpha Phi Chapter  
Induction Ceremony  
Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022  
2 p.m.

Culinary Conference Center  
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ

## HCCC FALL 2022

# OPEN HOUSE

A choose your own adventure event!

Find your passion at our Fall 2022 Open House where you will have access to explore different academic programs and our buildings in person!



[www.hccc.edu/openhouse](http://www.hccc.edu/openhouse)



### Where:

Your check-in and starting point will be at our new Student Center located at 81 Sip Avenue, Jersey City, NJ (next to HCCC's Journal Square Gabert Library).

### When:

**SATURDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 22, 2022**  
**10 a.m to 1 p.m.**

Registration is required!

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/HcccFall2022> to register now!

### Join us to:

- Explore our campus on your time; meet faculty, and tour departments that interest you
- Meet with Financial Aid and find out if you are eligible for free tuition
- Complete an Admissions application
- Engage with different student and support services
- Speak with students, faculty, alumni, and staff





## HCCC APPOINTS FOURTEEN FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

*Continued from page 2*

The newly appointed HCCC faculty members include:

HCCC alumna **Ingrid Aviles**, Instructor of Practical Nursing, HCCC in January 2022 after serving as a Staff Nurse Educator and working in the Emergency Room at Christ Hospital. In addition to her teaching responsibilities at HCCC, Aviles is an Adjunct Instructor at Felician University and Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center. Aviles earned a master's degree with a specialization in Nursing Education from Aspen University, a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Thomas Edison State University, and an associate degree in Nursing from HCCC. A member of the American Nurses Association and the Emergency Nursing Association, she also volunteers at Hackensack Meridian Health Palisades Medical Center.

**Tosha Bratcher**, Instructor of Nursing and Health Sciences, most recently worked as a Nursing Instructor for the Milwaukee School of Engineering - School of Nursing, and Bryant & Stratton College. As a Registered Nurse, Bratcher cared for patients in various medical facilities including Glendale Health and Rehabilitation Center and Wheaton Franciscan-St. Francis, where she managed patient care and supervised staff. Bratcher earned a master's degree in Nursing from Capella University, and Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Concordia University. She holds a New Jersey State License and a Wisconsin Multi-State License in Nursing. Bratcher is a member of the Code Red RN Student Nurse Mentor Program.

**Jonathan Cabrera**, Instructor of Criminal Justice, was appointed an Adjunct Instructor at HCCC since 2019 and is a current member of the HCCC All College Council. He taught Criminal Justice courses at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and Rutgers University. While arranging initiatives and coordinating team management at the New York City (NYC) Mayor's Executive Office, he also collaborated with the NYC Department of Corrections on various projects. Cabrera holds a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree from New Jersey City University. Cabrera served as a Rutgers University Part-Time Lecturer Senate Representative and a BMCC Association Board Member.

**Dr. Christopher Cody**, Instructor of History, has taught at HCCC as an Adjunct Instructor since 2019. Dr. Cody previously taught an array of history courses at various higher education institutions including New Jersey City University (NJCU), New York City College of Technology, and St. John's University. He obtained a Ph.D. in World History from St. John's University. Dr. Cody has a Modern Standard Arabic Certificate from New York University (NYU) School of Professional Studies, and a master's degree in World History from Northeastern University. He is the recipient of the 2021 National Society of Leadership and Success Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Madeline Cruz**, Instructor of Nursing, joined HCCC in January 2022 after serving as a faculty member at Eastern International College and as an educator at Bloomfield College. She holds master's and bachelor's degrees in Nursing from Rutgers University. Cruz is the proud recipient of the Excel Grant, the Minority Biomedical Resource Support Fellowship, and the Spirit of Nursing Award. She is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses and the New Jersey Association of Infant Mental Health. Her community outreach work includes the National Service Office of Nurse-Family Partnership and participation in the Nurse-Family Partnerships Diversity Committee.

**Yavuz Guner**, Instructor of Computer Science/Cybersecurity, has served HCCC as an Adjunct Instructor in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) since 2020. He also teaches Cybersecurity at Saint Peter's University. Guner holds a master's degree in Cybersecurity from Saint Peter's University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Koc University in Istanbul, Turkey. He is certified as an Ethical Hacker by EC-Council and Security+ by CompTIA. His community service includes College Pathways Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Training, and Community Food Distribution for Jersey Cares.

**Marissa Lontoc**, Instructor of Table Service, has served HCCC for nearly 10 years as Baking and Pastry Adjunct Instructor, Culinary Arts Lecturer, and Coordinator of the Baking and Pastry Program. Prior to joining HCCC, she was the Pastry Chef and Garde Manager for the Liberty National Golf Course, a chef at Skinner's Loft in Jersey City, and a home economics teacher at Peref Woodrose School in the Philippines. Lontoc anticipates completing her master's degree in Education at Saint Peter's

University this year. She holds a ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification and maintains an industry standard of excellence by participating in various professional development courses, including "Bread on the Rise" at Johnson and Wales University, Trendsetting Plated Desserts, and French Pastry School.

**Raffi Manjikian**, Instructor of Chemistry, has amassed an impressive higher education background teaching at various institutions including Saint Peter's, Rutgers, and Kean Universities as well as at HCCC. In addition to teaching courses in the College's Division of STEM, he served as the Secretary of the Adjunct Faculty Federation Union and was a member of the Return to Campus Task Force. Manjikian anticipates completing his Ph.D. in Health Science in 2023. He holds a master's degree in Chemistry from Seton Hall University, certification in Higher Education Teaching from Harvard University, and a Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University.

**Daniel Ondieki**, Instructor of Mathematics, joined HCCC as an Adjunct Instructor in 2016. He previously held the position of Algebra and Geometry Teacher for the Newark School of Fashion and Design, where he was a member of the High School Student Success Team. He also tutored students in Mathematics at the Newark YMCA and served as an Adjunct Instructor at New Jersey City University (NJCU). Ondieki is pursuing his Ed.D. in Mathematics at Columbia University Teachers College. He holds a master's degree in Mathematics Education from NJCU, and a Certified Public Accountant designation from Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board.

**Dr. Josué Pérez**, Instructor of Philosophy, comes to HCCC from Nyack College where he served as an Associate Professor of Theological Studies for over 10 years. He also taught Philosophy as an Adjunct Instructor at various institutions including Hillsborough Community College, Union College, and William Paterson University. Dr. Pérez earned his Ph.D. in Theology and Religious Studies and master's degree in Philosophy from Drew University. He also holds a master's degree from Columbia International University and was the recipient of the Drew and William Randolph Hearst Scholarships. Dr. Pérez is a member of the American Philosophical Association, the American Academy of Religion, and the author of several academic publications.

*Continued on page 11*



We are here for you!

**Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?**

**Difficulty in a course?**

**Dealing with mental health and wellness?**



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

Please complete the  
General Concern Form at  
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>.

A member of the  
CARE Team will  
respond to you shortly.



## CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

Made Possible by Gateway to Innovation, a Partnership with JPMorgan Chase

### FABIOLA OCCEAN Class of 2018, Liberal Arts



I was working at a Men's Warehouse at Newport Centre Mall as a Sales Manager. At the same time, I was preparing to complete my Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology at New Jersey City University. Like many of us, when the pandemic hit, I was unemployed; my job was downsized. During that time, I tapped into my creative and entrepreneurial side and started an online boutique store; I was still looking for a career.

My experience with Alumni Services is, in a word, amazing! Ms. Maria provided me with one-on-one interviewing techniques and valuable workshops. She sent any position that she felt was a fit my way and walked me through the

beginning and end of my job search. She continued checking in with me before and after interviews.

I currently have two jobs, thanks to Ms. Maria. I am a Student Success Coordinator for the Academic and Workforce Pathway Program under the Continuing Education Workforce Development Program at Hudson County Community College. I am also a Mental Health Worker at Hoboken University Medical Center. These new positions are helping me grow professionally and personally. I am gaining new skill sets by attending professional training courses at HCCC and addressing challenges head-on. I am now pursuing my Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Counseling at NJCU.

To whom am I thankful? First and foremost, to God! Also, I am grateful to my parents, daughter Faith, and Ms. Maria. Thank you, Ms. Maria, for assisting me, consistently sending job leads to me, and for your workshops which helped me a lot. You never gave up on me during my job search, even when I started to become discouraged.

My advice to students of HCCC? "Be unapologetic to thyself." Take advantage of everything HCCC offers, and my most important advice is, "Network, network, network!"



Left to Right: Denisse Carrasco, Healthcare Coordinator-Gateway to Innovation; Afrodita Hernandez, Student Success Coach-Gateway to Innovation; Hiram Miranda, Finance & Technology Coordinator -Gateway to Innovation.

#### The Latin Society Meet and Greet

On Tuesday, September 20, the Gateway to Innovation team participated in The Latin Society Meet and Greet event at the North Hudson Campus.

The Gateway to Innovation team provided program information about our ESL classes, Financial Counseling Passport Program, Healthcare certificate programs, and our newest Finance & Technology programs.

We were grateful to participate in a campus event with The Latin Society at the North Hudson Campus.

#### Gateway to Innovation Finance & Technology Program

We are proud to announce the Gateway to Innovation Finance & Technology Program for Hudson County residents.

We provide career pathways into the finance and technology industries by preparing our students with industry-recognized certificate training, wraparound career development services that provide support on your new career or academic pathways.

Join our information sessions scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays in October.

**To register for a Gateway to Innovation: Finance & Technology Program information session, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p933zyw>.**

### Upcoming Programs

#### Welcome to Computer Basics

October 5, 2022 through November 16, 2022  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Wednesdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/367730771637>

#### Excel Functions for Data Analysis

October 6, 2022 through November 3, 2022  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/405292309207>

#### Microsoft Office PowerPoint All in One

October 7, 2022 through November 4, 2022  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Fridays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/399077801447>

#### Microsoft Office Excel Level III

October 11, 2022 through November 15, 2022  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Tuesdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/330632248957>

#### Copywriting for Marketing

October 11, 2022 through November 10, 2022  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/383123461587>

#### Social Media Marketing Certificate Program

October 18, 2022 through November 29, 2022  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/406296332267>

#### Podcasting Essentials for Beginners Workshop

October 18, 2022 through November 17, 2022  
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/368426883727>

#### Microsoft Excel Level I

November 22, 2022 through December 13, 2022  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Tuesdays)  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/367751453497>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
Department of Continuing Education, 161 Newkirk  
Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
(201) 360-4224 | [CE@hccc.edu](mailto:CE@hccc.edu) |  
[www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation](https://www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation)

## HCCC FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$200K IN SCHOLARSHIPS

by Natalia Da Silva, Development Coordinator

The Hudson County Community College Foundation has awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to 77 students for the 2022-23 academic year. Student recipients come from various backgrounds and interests. Eight of the recipients completed their high school education outside the United States.

Over 20 majors are represented in this cohort of awardees - Nursing, Medical Sciences, Radiography, Computer Technology, Theater Arts, and Electronics Engineering Technology, to name a few. Seventeen students had GPAs of 3.7 and above.

Our scholarship awardees' academic pursuits would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors. These gifts have a truly transformative impact on our students' lives. One student described the experience of receiving her award letter; "I couldn't believe it, and I didn't know what to do. I jumped up and down with my mom inside of Broadway Diner." She noted that this scholarship was the stepping stone she needed to continue her journey to becoming a registered nurse.

Another scholarship recipient described his deep concerns about being able to afford his last two semesters here at the College. He described the Egan Family's gift as lifting "a hefty burden from my shoulders." This scholarship means our scholar can focus on maintaining his 3.9 GPA and finalizing his Psychology degree.

These experiences are reflected in students across the College. We are grateful to have impacted so many students' lives this academic year, thanks to donors who recognize our students' excellence.

We are thrilled to bring together our HCCC Foundation Scholarship awardees and the donors who make their dreams possible on October 12, 2022, at our Donor Scholar Celebration. Our scholars are eager to meet the donors who have made this transformative impact on their lives, and our donors are eager to hear the students' stories and celebrate with them and their families.

We thank our community for the tremendous support and look forward to continuing growing this momentum and continuing to change the lives of our students and community.

## ARABIC SUPPORT GROUP OFFERED BY WOMENRISING AT HCCC'S NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS



Pictured from left: Margaret Abrams, DVRT Coordinator, WomenRising, Inc.; Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director, HCCC North Hudson Campus; and Mary Hanry, support group facilitator

WomenRising, the foremost community-based organization for women in Hudson County, has announced that it will conduct a support group for individuals who have experienced any kind of abuse. Group sessions will be held at Hudson County Community College's North Hudson Campus on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Take a self-guided tour of the Foundation Art Collection celebrating Hispanic Artists.

<https://www.hccc.edu/community/resources/documents/foundation-art-collection-hispanic-arts-brochure-2022.pdf>



## PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Congratulations to Swathi Karamcheti, Adjunct Instructor, STEM Division, on the inclusion of a narrative in the recent publication of *Developing Intercultural Competence in Higher Education: International Students' Stories and Self-Reflection* (Taylor & Francis).

## HCCC APPOINTS FOURTEEN FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Continued from page 9

**Dr. Gunes Senturk**, Instructor of Physics, has deep experience as a college-level Instructor of Physics at various institutions including Wichita State University and Skidmore College. Dr. Senturk also served as Astrophysics and Planetary Research Scientist Editor for the American Museum of Natural History in New York and as Senior Data Scientist with AdTheorent, Inc. She earned a Ph.D. in Physics and master's degrees from Columbia University. Her extensive research experience includes various projects at Columbia University.

**Dr. Kate Thurman**, Instructor of Sociology, comes to HCCC from Passaic County Community College (PCCC). Prior to PCCC, she taught at Rutgers University. Dr. Thurman holds doctoral and master's degrees in Sociology, and expects to complete her Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University this coming year. Her research

experience in sociology includes work for the Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy at Rutgers Law School. Dr. Thurman's grant-writing and consultation skills have proven to be profitable for the institutions she has served.

**Michelle Vera**, Instructor of ESL/Bilingual, began teaching at HCCC as an Adjunct Instructor of English in 2020. She previously taught Creative Writing and English Language Arts at EPIC High School. Vera holds a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Education from the City University of New York (CUNY), and a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University with a triple major in Gender Studies, Latin American Studies, and Political Science. Fluent in English and Spanish, her vast translation experience includes the New Brunswick Today online newspaper. She assisted individuals through

the immigration and visa processes when she was a legal assistant for the law firm of Salmen-Navarro and Lavergne, PC.

**Saliha Yagoubi**, Instructor of ESL/Bilingual, has been a member of the HCCC family for over 16 years, teaching as an Adjunct Instructor and an Instructor of ESL in the College's Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development. She earned a master's degree in Theory of Translation from the Universidad Aut6noma de Barcelona, Spain, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Translation and Interpretation from the University of Oran, Algeria. Yagoubi fluently speaks and interprets multiple languages.

## HCCC RECEIVES INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY 2022 HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD

*Continued from page 3*

The 2022 HEED Award recognizes HCCC for its efforts to recruit historically under-represented and first-generation students and its initiatives to recruit and retain a diverse faculty. The award also honors the College for its programs dedicated to student success and retention, including the ground-breaking “Hudson Scholars” program. “Hudson Scholars” is a tripartite model of student support providing proactive advisement, financial support, and early academic intervention that received the League for Innovation in the Community College “2021-22 Innovation of the Year Award.” The other categories that earned HCCC this national recognition are excellence in diversity planning and accountability; diversity-focused financial strategies; diversity and unconscious bias training; multicultural branding and communications techniques; supplier diversity; development of cultural competency; and understanding and addressing issues of campus climate.

Hudson County Community College serves one of the most ethnically and racially diverse communities in the United States. In 2019, Dr. Reber established the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI), a team of 40 students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and external community members. PACDEI, through collaborations and partnerships, has played an essential role in the organic development of an inclusive institutional climate. At the time of PACDEI’s inception, HCCC administered a College-wide climate survey. The survey results informed the development of four Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) overarching goals that served as the foundation of PACDEI’s comprehensive DEI Action Plan.

These DEI goals are interwoven in the College’s updated Mission, Vision, and Values statements, and the Board of Trustees’ Goals, Academic Master Plan, 2021-24 College Strategic Plan, and Student Success Action Plan.

Led by Yeury Pujols, the College’s Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the HCCC Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion includes Accessibility Services, Cultural Affairs, and oversight of Title IX operations. The Office of DEI is charged with promoting an institutional climate that embraces and celebrates differences while championing equitable and inclusive practices, policies, and procedures in all activities for all community members. This includes support for HCCC offices and divisions in establishing guidelines and practices for recruitment and hiring, screening committee policies, promotion considerations, and succession planning; creating clear and transparent processes for safety, security, and incident reporting that are free of intimidation and respectful of confidentiality; and building community and a sense of belonging for students by advancing their academic development, professional growth, and personal transformation. Hudson County Community College has also been recognized recently with other national and regional DEI awards including the “2022 Great College to Work For” Award from the Great Colleges to Work For® program; the “2022 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges” from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) in collaboration with *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*; 2021 INSIGHT Into Diversity HEED Award; and Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) 2021 Equity Award for the Northeastern United States.

## NJ BLUEBERRIES AND HEALTH DISPARITIES



*Kathy Smith-Wenning, Director of Health-Related Programs at HCCC.*



*Healthcare outreach workers visit a migrant camp in Hammonton, New Jersey. Representatives from Hudson County Community College, Virtua Hospital (Voorhees), Jefferson Hospital (Philadelphia), and the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Primary Care & Rural Health attended. (Photo courtesy of Migrant Worker Outreach of South Jersey)*

At the invitation of Dory Dickson, Director, Migrant Worker Outreach, Kathy Smith-Wenning, Director Health-Related Programs, joined a group of healthcare outreach workers to visit blueberry farm migrant camps in Hammonton, NJ. There are 56 blueberry farms located in Atlantic County. Eighty percent of New Jersey blueberries are from Hammonton farms.

This trip provided an inside view into the lives of migrant farm workers. Smith-Wenning spoke with individuals from Haiti, Guatemala, and Mexico about life in the camp. Their stories provide case study background information for the course HLT 218 Health Disparities in the U.S.

In public health, migrant workers and families are considered special populations; their needs are complicated by access to few healthcare services. The good news: Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers has two mobile vans dedicated to bringing medical care to the camps. During the visit, representatives from both Jefferson Health NJ and Virtua Hospital Voorhees witnessed the critical need and discussed possibilities of expanding their reach into the camps to provide needed care.

### DON'T MISS Hudson County Community College

OUT of the BOX PODCAST



To listen, visit [www.hccc.edu/outofthebox](http://www.hccc.edu/outofthebox).

Tune in to our monthly podcast for a timely discussion about education, people, programs, events, issues, and solutions that affect those who live and work in Hudson County.



## Aspiring Student Leadership CONFERENCE

Monday, November 14, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
HCCC North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, NJ 07087

Open to HCCC students and high school students in the area surrounding the North Hudson Campus.

For additional information please contact:

Joseph Caniglia  
Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus  
jcaniglia@hccc.edu | 201 - 360 - 5346

Angela Tuzzo  
Associate Director of Student Life and Leadership  
atuzzo@hccc.edu | 201 - 360 - 4197

## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS

### Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk will take place in Jersey City on Sunday, Oct. 9. Dina Thompson is serving as captain of the HCCC-PTK team.

Join the team to walk or volunteer by visiting [https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR/Making-StridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY22NER?team\\_id=2633696&pg=team&fr\\_id=102932](https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR/Making-StridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY22NER?team_id=2633696&pg=team&fr_id=102932), or contacting Prof. Ted Lai, the chapter's advisor.

### From the Phi Theta Kappa "Reach" Blog, Nov. 19, 2020

Applying for scholarships? Phi Theta Kappa's experts offer six practical tips for making your application the best it can be.

1. Know the Purpose. Scholarship purposes are like shoes. Many styles exist, but the fit is dependent upon the person. Knowing the purpose is powerful in finding the right-fit scholarship. Fun fact: to find out what PTK scholarships you're eligible for, take our Eligibility Quiz at [scholarships.ptk.org](https://scholarships.ptk.org).

2. Update Regularly. You'll miss 100 percent of the scholarship opportunity shots you don't take by not updating your application. Log in to PTK's



Marlenne Andalia (left) and Birva Pinto gardening at Liberty State Park on Saturday, Sept. 10.



Professor Laura Samuelsen (left), her daughter, and Prof. Ted Lai, Beta Alpha Phi Chapter Advisor, participated in the gardening program at Liberty State Park on Saturday, Sept. 17.



Scholarship App at least once a semester to update or complete your app. Keep your application updated and relevant.

3. Meet the Requirements. Be honest on the eligibility quiz. Sounds so simple, right? Tricking the system to force an application open causes you to waste time if you aren't really eligible.

4. Apply Early. Get started working on your app as early as possible to provide ample time to finesse content before the deadline. Essays are usually the most heavily weighted item on an application. It's worth your effort to invest the most time on this portion of your application.

5. Get Personal. In it to win it? Let's get real — the more candid you are with telling your story and how it has motivated you in your personal and academic pursuits, the greater chance you'll have of your app resonating with a judge. Increase the odds of scoring well by telling your story well.

6. Proofing Party. Different strokes for different folks. Having multiple sets of eyes on your application can help strengthen entries, spot grammatical errors, and create cohesive content. Host a proofing party to inspire peer reviewing.

## CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING, AND INNOVATION (CTLI)

### THE ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS (ACUE) PEER-SHARE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mission: To enhance teaching effectiveness, thereby improving student learning.

Monday, October 3

#### Managing the Impact of Biases

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Virtual  
Facilitator: Fidelis Foda-Kahou

This workshop focuses on the impact of biases and its consequences in a diverse environment.

The Participants will be able to:

- Reflect on how implicit biases may impact their teaching.
- Identify how inclusive grading practices, student feedback, rubrics, and surveys increase equity.
- Design course policies that reflect an understanding of their students.
- Work to view students through an asset-based mindset.

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m39a8d55cbd588796fb1ae81449816672>

Meeting number: 2631 174 3369

Password: QSpXP3ASU33

## ADJUNCT FACULTY VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Moderators 7 & 8

Saturday, October 1

Facilitator: Joseph Caniglia

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=mcb4010b2cb2b27bfb14722dfe6823856>

8:30 am | 5 hours 30 minutes

Meeting number: 2634 645 7891

Password: J87AkhDvdA3

Mod 7: Conflict Management in the Classroom

Mod 8: Formative Assessment

Thursday, October 13

#### Designing Equity Centered Courses

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

North Hudson Campus, Room N405

Facilitators: Maryann Connelly & Fatima Koura

"Equitably designed courses consider representation of student identities including culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, first language, economic class and religion." (Kwak, 2020). This session will enable faculty to put equity and inclusion at the center of every classroom lesson. Session objectives will include creating diverse perspectives and experiences in your course, being explicit about assignment expectations, and ensuring the course is accessible to all students.

Monday, October 17

#### Promoting Creativity and Confidence-Building with Peer Engagement

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CTLI Office, Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Room L026

Facilitator: Heather Connors

This workshop will introduce student-centered learning geared toward building students' confidence with analysis and feedback. During this active session, participants will learn how to facilitate class activities where students lead peer reviews and course materials discussions.

Monday, October 24

#### A Fishbowl Discussion as an Active Teaching Strategy /Get to Know Your Students

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Room L026

Facilitators: Dr. Lori Byrd & Nancy Saliba

**Fishbowl** is a strategy for organizing medium to large group discussions. Students are separated into an inner and outer circle. In the inner circle or fishbowl, students have a discussion; students in the outer circle listen to the discussion and take notes. This engaging and student-centered strategy builds comprehension of complex topics.

**Getting to Know Your Students** and understanding their interests will help one to provide them with quality learning opportunities. Taking a bit of time and care to get to know them as individuals can make one a more effective and impactful teacher. Beyond just finding out their names, age and family backgrounds, it's important to dig a bit deeper and discover their learning interests and strengths. This also will help you anticipate or identify personal issues they might be having. By noticing this, you can intervene and offer them help or point them in the right direction to get help.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT :

Paula Roberson, Ed.D., Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

[proberson@hccc.edu](mailto:proberson@hccc.edu) | 201-360-4775 | <https://www.hccc.edu/community/ctli.html>

## HCCC NAMED '2022 GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR'

*Continued from page 2*

Professional Association, Academic Administrative Association, Adjunct Faculty Federation, and Support Staff Federation. The fresh sense of collegiality and collaboration resulted in new, three-year contracts for all four collective bargaining units being resoundingly approved in May of this year by the HCCC Board of Trustees.

In 2019, Dr. Reber created the President's Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PACDEI). The council consists of more than 40 members of the HCCC community – students, faculty, staff, and external community members who work together to foster a welcoming, diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment that embraces and celebrates shared values among all constituencies.

One of the first projects undertaken by PACDEI was a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) climate survey that was distributed to the entire College community. Responses from more than 800 individuals – students, trustees, faculty, staff and administrators – formed the basis for the development of four key goals: (1) Supporting an inclusive culture of care at HCCC, including DEI infrastructure and training, programs and initiatives across the College; (2) Weaving Diversity, Equity and Inclusion guidelines and best practices into recruitment and hiring practices, screening committee policies, promotional considerations, and succession planning for more diverse faculty, staff and administrators; (3) Creating clear and transparent processes for safety, security and incident reporting that are free of intimidation and respectful of confidentiality; and (4) Building community and a sense of belonging for students

by advancing their academic development, professional growth, and personal transformation. In Summer 2021, HCCC established the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and appointed the first Vice President for that area, reporting to the President as a member of the College cabinet.

To support the College's commitment to bringing salaries to market rate over time, HCCC engaged in a two-year study by Evergreen Solutions, LLC to evaluate and update compensation and classification systems in order to help ensure internal and external equity. By December 2021 the College circulated the study recommendations to union leadership and the College community at large. An HCCC employee tweeted: "My institution hired a firm to do a compensation and classification study and has made the entire report, with all the recommendations, public to the college community. This is how you model transparency."

Dr. Reber believes the College has been successful in supporting students in large measure because HCCC supports the professional development and success of faculty and staff. HCCC provides a comprehensive offering of professional development opportunities including participation in the "Teaching at a Community or Technical College" program through the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD); offering Professional Development Day workshops; hosting the Annual Adjunct Faculty Conference; organizing and holding College Service Day and Convocation each fall and spring; developing and offering an All College Faculty Orientation; making Association of College and

University Educators (ACUE) certificate training, E-Cornell Diversity and Inclusion certificate training, and Title IX training available to faculty, staff, and students; and offering up to \$9,000 annually for each full-time employee to participate in approved credential attainment and professional development activities.

HCCC also makes it possible for faculty and staff to attend in-person conferences, workshops and institutes, and participate in webinars hosted by Achieving the Dream, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), NISOD, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, College and University Professional Association (CUPA) for Human Resources, American College Personnel Association, National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education, and many others.

An employee who was honored for twenty years of service at HCCC wrote to thank the College for commemorating the milestone with a special plaque and pin: "I wanted to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. I really loved it, and it made me proud to be an employee of the College and let me know that all those years of service are appreciated by Hudson County Community College administration and Board of Trustees. I just had to let you know how grateful I am to be a part of HCCC."



# JUST BREATHE!

**Make your day better with these  
FREE WEEKLY GUIDED MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SERIES  
for HCCC students, faculty, and staff.**

Meditation can help improve productivity, focus, stress management, and more. Together we will learn basic principles of mindfulness to help you relax and do better in your classes. Activities will include simple but powerful relaxation exercises that anyone can do! Everyone is welcome. No prior experience needed. Just walk in and relax! All you need is to be comfortably seated in your chair. If you like, you can bring your yoga mat!

## MONTH OF OCTOBER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m.

Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation  
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Room L-026, Jersey City, NJ

Tuesday, October 4	Topic: "Breathe in Light, Breathe Out Stress"
Tuesday, October 11	Topic: "The Present Moment"
Tuesday, October 18	Topic: "Your Goals"
Tuesday, October 25	Topic: "The Practice of Self-Compassion"

### Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Student Center  
81 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ

Wednesday, October 5	Topic: "Breathe in Light, Breathe Out Stress"
Wednesday, October 12	Topic: "The Present Moment"
Wednesday, October 19	Topic: "Your Goals"
Wednesday, October 26	Topic: "The Practice of Self-Compassion"

**For more information, please email: Pat Barroero, Certified Meditation Teacher [pbarroero@hccc.edu](mailto:pbarroero@hccc.edu)**



## 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.

### Saturday, October 1

Last day to file Degree Audit Application for December 2022 Graduation

### Monday, October 3

Hudson Helps Resource Center Resource Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Student Center, 81 Sip Avenue, First Floor. Register at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/8300249>

Managing the Impact of Biases, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.; join at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m39a8d55cbd588796fb1ae81449816672>; Meeting number: 2631 174 3369; Password: QSpXP3ASU33

### Wednesday, October 5

HCCC Job & Internship Fair, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., North Hudson Campus, Multipurpose Room, 4800 Kennedy Blvd. Register at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/8366530>

Hybrid Career Exploration Workshop, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street and via Zoom. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/getyourfuturestarted>

Papel Picado workshop, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Benjamin J. Dineen III & Dennis C. Hull Gallery, Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Sixth Floor

### Thursday, October 6 – Wednesday, November 9

Culinary Cycle II

### Thursday, October 6

Wellness Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

NHC In-Service and Wellness Day, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., North Hudson Campus, 4800 Kennedy Blvd.

### Friday, October 7

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Sunday, October 9

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, 9 a.m., Liberty State Park, 1 Audrey Zapp Dr., Jersey City. To join or support the HCCC-PTK's team, visit [https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/MakingStrides-AgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY22NER?team\\_id=2633696&pg=team&fr\\_id=102932](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/MakingStrides-AgainstBreastCancer/MSABCCY22NER?team_id=2633696&pg=team&fr_id=102932)

### Monday, October 10

Columbus Day – College Open/classes in session (Floating Holiday)

### Tuesday, October 11

Meeting of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees, 5 p.m., Mary T. Norton Room, 70 Sip Avenue. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/99748720500?pwd=OWw4OURsMU84MEpNWDhxMkFyZ2w4dz09>; Passcode: 115387

### Wednesday, October 12

Town Hall Meeting, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor. Join virtually at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m897dc2f23300481d40ed072364650265>; Meeting number (access code): 2632 642 9948; Meeting password: OctTH

Cosmic Spatial Reasoning Art Walk, 12 p.m., North Hudson Campus

HCCC Foundation Donor-Scholar Reception, 5:30 p.m. Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Thursday, October 13

The Sisterhood/La Hermanidad Discussion: Wild Women Look Prettier When They Smile, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Register at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/8318623>

HCCC Job & Internship Fair, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Culinary Conference Center Banquet Room, 161 Newkirk Street. Register at <https://involved.hccc.edu/event/8366654>

Designing Equity-Centered Courses, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. North Hudson Campus, Room N405

### Friday, October 14

Student Affairs Professional Development Day – Accessibility Services, Admissions, Advisement & Counseling, Bursar/Student Accounts, Career Services, Early College, Enrollment Services, EOF, Financial Aid, Hudson Helps Resource Center, Mental Health Counseling and Wellness, Registrar, Student Life & Leadership, Student Services, and Testing & Assessment closed

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Monday, October 17

Promoting Creativity and Confidence-Building with Peer Engagement, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Office, Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Room L026

### Thursday, October 20 – Wednesday, October 26

Midterm Exams/Advisement Period

### Friday, October 21

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Saturday, October 22

Fall Open House, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 81 Sip Avenue. Register at <https://www.hccc.edu/admissions/admissions-events/open-house.html>

### Monday, October 24 – Monday, December 19

Culinary 7-week session 2 (EB)

### Monday, October 24

A Fishbowl Discussion as an Active Teaching Strategy, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation Office, Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue, Room L026

### Wednesday, October 26 – Monday, December 19

Online Session B

### Wednesday, October 26

All College Council General Meeting, 3:30 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room, Second Floor. Join virtually at <https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m82a95204cc5ebc6d08d72d4e9aa0f273>; Meeting number: 2633 743 5832; Password: mb-JJXMBi676

### Friday, October 28 – Monday, December 19

On-Campus/Remote Session 2 (No class – Nov. 23)

### Friday, October 28

Subscription Dining Luncheon Series, 12 p.m., Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street

### Monday, October 31 and Tuesday, November 1

ATD Coaches Visit

## HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

*Did you enjoy your experience at HCCC?*

*Are you willing to contribute time?*

*Do you want to inspire others with your success stories?*

*Are you looking for career support?*

**If so join, socialize, and network!**

For information about the College's Alumni Association and membership benefits, please email [alumni@hccc.edu](mailto:alumni@hccc.edu).



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## SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of  
the Hudson County Schools of Technology  
One High Tech Way  
Secaucus, NJ 07094



## ALUMNI CORNER

### Anna Tivade Class of 2005

#### Associate of Arts-Liberal Arts

#### What factors led you to decide to attend Hudson County Community College?

During high school, I went to Vo-Tech, so college wasn't in my immediate plans. However, after a couple of years working full-time and seeing my friends further themselves in college, I decided to change my life trajectory and enter college. HCCC was close to my home and job, and it didn't feel intimidating or too far out of my reach.

#### What is your favorite memory of the College, in or out of the classroom?

I have so many favorite memories of my time at HCCC I could write a novel! However, what stands out the most is the supportive environment and engaging professors that inspired my deep passion for learning! Before college, I greatly struggled with my learning differences, which I now know is due to ADHD, and my confidence took a huge hit. My fondest memories at HCCC include sitting in classes with the awareness that I was intelligent, interested, and valued! HCCC is where I had a significant paradigm shift!

#### How did you become interested in psychology?

Psych 101 was one of my first classes at HCCC, and I immediately became fascinated with psychology! I also really enjoyed sociology. Thus, I knew I wanted to further my education in the social sciences. Fast forward several years, I was looking for support for parenting issues and struggled to find what I needed, so I took a class on starting a mutual support group. After several years of creating and facilitating groups for parents experiencing high conflict divorce and parental alienation, I became very aware of my talent and passion, which helped guide my path to complete a master's degree in social work and become a psychotherapist.

#### How did your time at HCCC prepare you for your career/ life now?

I refer to my answer about my fondest memories. However, to expand, I enrolled in HCCC when my confidence was the size of a grain of sand. I had many faulty thoughts about my intelligence and was unaware that I was struggling with ADHD. However, after a very short time at HCCC, my confidence grew wild like an unbridled horse. The small class sizes encouraged one-on-one dialogue with the professors. The supportive environment provided many options for evening classes with other "older" students. The intimate size of HCCC offered many opportunities to improve my social skills, practice vulnerability, and develop friendships. Today, as a psychotherapist, I often provide this type of space and understanding to others as they grow their confidence. I pay it forward daily in my career.

#### What is a typical work day for you?

As a psychotherapist in a private practice, I make a schedule that works for me. I drive my kids to school every morning, and on days that I am responsible for dinner, I put together a crock pot meal. When



I'm using my best self-care habits, I typically journal, meditate, do some yoga and enjoy a cup of herbal tea and coffee before heading to work. While at work, I often see about 25 clients a week and thoroughly enjoy engaging them and walking with them on their therapeutic journeys. I use an eclectic approach, which includes family systems, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), mindfulness, emotionally focused therapy (EFT) and somatic approaches. I write progress notes between clients. I schedule my work so that I have time to be present for my children and their activities as much as possible, go on morning coffee dates or hikes with my husband, and take mini-travel trips by myself.

#### Who are your biggest inspirations that have impacted your work in some way?

I take a lot of my inspiration from others I observe. Mister Rogers was my first inspiration who brought love and unconditional acceptance into my daily life with the words, "There's no person in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are." Through her book, *It Takes a Village*, Hillary Clinton helped me first understand systems and communities. Dr. Dan Tomasulo introduced me to Positive Psychology in his class at NJCU, and I use his examples from his book, *Learned Hopefulness* in therapy sessions. Dr. Mark Lyall ignited my passion and drive to become a therapist in his counseling class at NJCU and through an intensive weekend called "Collective Momentum." Brene Brown, who reminds us that vulnerability is a good thing. Finally, Professor Ted Lai and his tireless and steady work as an advisor to Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society—where I first gained the skills to become a leader.

#### What advice would you give to recent HCCC graduates?

To borrow the words of Mister Rogers, "You've made this day a special day, by just your being you. There's nobody in the whole world like you." Take that quote and remember how amazing and important you are. Take the zest and motivation you gained at HCCC and keep on going with it because an object in motion stays in motion. Frame your diploma and hang it high with pride. Keep the connections you made with your professors as you decide how to continue your education journey.

#### What advice do you have for those students who are just starting their college careers?

Use this time at HCCC to take risks. Raise your hand, even if you're unsure if you have the correct answer. Engage in dialogue with professors and fellow students. Get involved as your schedule allows. Be courageous when faced with subjects that intimidate you and seek out free tutoring (all these years later, I am still thankful for the free tutoring I received in Algebra). Finally, savor every moment of your learning journey!

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

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