

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



23 YEARS LATER, HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEVER FORGETS, INVITES COMMUNITY TO JOIN 9/11 COMMEMORATION



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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 11, 2024

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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23 YEARS LATER, HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEVER FORGETS, INVITES COMMUNITY TO JOIN 9/11 COMMEMORATION

The 9/11 terrorist attacks killed citizens of 78 countries on United States soil, an act that challenged America’s strength and resilience. A generation later, annual remembrances honor the 2,977 lives lost in targeted attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93. The attacks took the lives of more than 700 New Jerseyans, including 155 Hudson County residents. Twenty-three years later, the pain of that day is still palpable as families mourn loved ones, workers remember lost colleagues, children have grown up not knowing a parent, and supporters continue to honor the fallen.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) invited students, faculty, staff, and community members to join together on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 for an inspiring commemoration of that fateful day.

The event began with the raising of the flag in front of the Gabert Library. The ceremony featured special remarks from Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President; John Farmer, who served as New Jersey Attorney General during 9/11; Dr. Christopher Cody, HCCC History Instructor, who provided a historical timeline of events that led to the 9/11 attacks; and Chris Hoff, a Wounded Warrior speaker who delivered the keynote address. Dr. Yeurys Pujols, HCCC Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, provided closing remarks.

“The 9/11 remembrance we host each year reflects our dedication to honoring the legacies

of those who lost their lives,” said Dr. Reber. “In many ways, the terrorist attacks changed the way we live and still impact those who carry the emotional and physical scars. Through all of our pain, we have also been reminded that Americans can come together, heal, and emerge stronger by lifting and caring for each other.”

Keynote speaker Chris Hoff is a Wounded Warrior Project Peer Leader and retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant who shared his experience of living with post-traumatic stress disorder. Mr. Hoff enlisted in the military straight out of high school in 1986 and was honorably discharged after serving for eight years. Inspired to reenlist in the Army Reserves after 9/11, Mr. Hoff suffered a traumatic brain injury during Humvee rollover training in Afghanistan. Undiagnosed and sent back to work, he attended fallen comrade ceremonies and volunteered to deliver the bodies of service members who had been killed to their families. As his personal life unraveled under the stress, Mr. Hoff contemplated suicide. The Wounded Warrior Project empowered him to live.

The rooftop terrace that adjoins the HCCC Atrium provided a befitting background for the event as it is home to a steel fragment believed to be from the World Trade Center North Tower East Façade. The artifact was part of the Remember 9/11 exhibit at the New Jersey State Museum before it was donated to the College.

ON THE COVER: *The Hudson County Community College 9/11 Memorial, a steel fragment believed to be from the World Trade Center North Tower East Façade.*

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR AS A GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®

A great workforce plays a significant role in distinguishing one college from another. Faculty and staff set the standard of quality for creating a culture of student success; advancing diversity, equity and inclusion; promoting professional growth; and maintaining an environment where everyone is heard, valued, and respected.

For the third year in a row, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) was chosen as a 2024 Great College to Work For® by ModernThink LLC.



Pictured here: Hudson County Community College faculty, staff and administrators joined more than 130 students who were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society last fall.

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER NAMED TO NJBIZ "EDUCATION POWER 50" FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

NJBIZ has named Hudson County Community College (HCCC) President Dr. Christopher Reber to the 2024 NJBIZ "Education Power 50" list. This is the fourth year in a row that Dr. Reber was selected for this honor.

In compiling the "Education Power 50" list, the NJBIZ editorial staff, with input from education experts, selects individuals who have achieved acclaim for their professional accomplishments and public service. The NJBIZ "Education Power 50" includes individuals whose meaningful contributions to the advancement of the public interest through their work and community service help make New Jersey a better place to live, work, and do business. The 2024 "Education Power 50" honors those who provide traditional lessons through time-tested methods and those who educate through sterling example.

In announcing Dr. Reber's addition to the Power 50 list, NJBIZ wrote that he "leads and supports initiatives that close achievement gaps, prioritize student success, expand online programs, and create diverse pathways for certificate and degree completion that pave the way to long-term employment with family-sustaining wages." Among Dr. Reber's recent

achievements, NJBIZ cites breaking ground for the College's \$96.3 million Center for Student Success tower in the bustling Journal Square area of Jersey City; establishing an internship program with the Hudson County Economic Development Corporation that matches local businesses with students; signing a milestone agreement with Saint Peter's University to simplify the transfer process; and instituting the joint apprenticeship/degree program with International Union of Operating Engineers 825 that recently graduated its first cohort of students.

The NJBIZ editors also noted that HCCC has received several accolades under Dr. Reber's leadership, including the Association of Community College Trustees Northeast Region Equity Award; the *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award; the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges Award; the Modern Think, LLC Great Colleges to Work for Award; and to Dr. Reber, the American Association of Community Colleges CEO of the Year. Additional College honors noted by NJBIZ are the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society 2024 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, Hispanic State

Parade of New Jersey, Inc. Education Leader 2022 Award, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Legends Spirit Award, Phi Theta Kappa 2020 Middle States Regional Award of Excellence and the "Paragon President" Award.

Dr. Reber recently joined the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) Board of Directors and serves on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Leadership Group.

"It is my great honor to be recognized among the distinguished educators and community members who are dedicated to serving our community and presenting transformational opportunities for our next generation of leaders," Dr. Reber said. "I am grateful to my HCCC family, and our community, including HCCC partners and elected officials. I am proud to share this recognition with them."



Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber.

HCCC'S HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM THRIVES WITH \$100,000 INVESTMENT FROM PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

A \$100,000 Signature Grant from Provident Bank Foundation (PBF) made a profound impact on the lives of over 400 Hudson County Community College (HCCC) students who participated in the award-winning Hudson Scholars program and are now HCCC graduates.

In 2023, PBF awarded a series of \$100,000 Signature Grants for three different funding priorities: Education; Community Enrichment; and Health, Youth, & Families. The grants fund the creation or expansion of innovative programs that address systemic challenges in our communities and their root causes.

HCCC's Hudson Scholars program received the Education Signature grant to fund "innovative programming that expands access to, and improves the quality of, academic development opportunities and educational experiences."

Hudson Scholars was exactly the type of program PBF was looking for, as it expands access to educational opportunities for Hudson County students and significantly improves the academic outcomes these students achieved. "The Hudson Scholars program is

groundbreaking," says Samantha Plotino, Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation, "and we believe it to be the ideal model for community colleges nationwide to abate the challenges that might delay or prevent students from graduating."

Developed under the visionary leadership of HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber, the award-winning Hudson Scholars Program addresses these challenges, expands academic access, and drives student success through a unique, holistic combination of proactive academic advisement, financial stipends, high-impact educational experiences, and early academic intervention. Students can use these monthly stipends to pay for needs beyond tuition including books, transportation to and from classes, and more.

Launched in 2021, the Hudson Scholars Program received national acclaim when it won the prestigious, nationally competitive 2024 Bellwether Legacy Award a year after winning



With the support of a \$100,000 grant from the Provident Bank Foundation, the Hudson Scholars Program has created significantly improved outcomes for hundreds of HCCC students. Pictured: Hudson Scholars graduates at HCCC's 2024 Commencement.

the 2023 Bellwether Award for Instructional Programs and Services. Hudson Scholars also earned the 2021-2022 Innovation of the Year Award from the League for Innovation in the Community College.

Many students enrolled in the Hudson Scholars program face significant barriers to academic success, whether it's navigating

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MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Larry Anderson
Ashley Pianko

Five Years

Ernestina Vargas
Joyce Lynn Wong-Castellano

15 Years

Zuany Chicas Martinez

25 Years

Abdallah Matari

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Malaya Allen
Jaden Antonacci
Anabela Cunha-Almeida
Gabriela Danta
Denifer Garcia
Isak Gomez
Roberto Gomez
D'Marie Hamilton
Doaa Hussien
Veronica Martinez
Douglas McKeon
Aqsa Naveed
Betzabe Reyes *
Whitney Rivera
Andrew Shellington

Five Years

Sara Haizoun
Manira Traore

* Temporary Full- Time



HCC
Faculty & Staff
Wellness Fair
2024

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 9, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM

CULINARY CONFERENCE CENTER
161 NEWKIRK STREET
SCOTT RING ROOM
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Omnia Daoud, Coordinator, ESL Resource Center (Grant-funded), Sept. 16, 2024 - Sept.16, 2025

Betzabe Reyes, Administrative Support Specialist, Sept. 16, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Katherine Sorto, Career Advisor (Grant-funded), Sept.11, 2024 - Aug.31, 2025

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.
A Manager's Toolkit for Improving
Employee Performance

<https://tinyurl.com/AManagersToolkit>

Thursday, October 3
Benefits and Pension

Thursday, October 10
You're an Internal Candidate, Now What?

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

Join us via Webex at:

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=m69f28168342b1b5f1a46a6d246ad4508>

Thursday, October 17
Neuroplasticity

Thursday, October 24
SAE's Approach to Professional Development

Wednesday, October 30
Navigating the Hiring Maze: Strategies
for Search Committee Success

2025 ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT IS OCTOBER 1 - 31, 2024

This is a great opportunity to visit mynjbenefitshub to review your current SHBP/SEHBP benefits and evaluate your needs for 2025. As a reminder, new medical plans were added in 2024. You are able to make plan changes during Annual Open Enrollment, even if you participated in the Special Open Enrollment period.

If you take no action, your current benefit elections will carry over to the new plan year.

If you are not able to log in via your myNewJersey account, visit mynjbenefitshub.nj.gov to register your account and log in from any device. The company key is: SHBP/SEHBP

MODIFICATION TO STAFFING TABLE

Joyce Alvarez, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Karina Arango, Student Success Coach to Student Success Manager (Grant-funded)
Dalisay Bacal, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Anita Belle, Director II to Assistant Vice President (Partially Grant-funded)
Marian Betancourt, Student Success Coach to Coordinator II (Grant-funded)
Dan Brookes, Business Developer to Associate Director (Partially Grant-funded)
Natalie Brown, Internship Coordinator to Coordinator II (Grant-funded)
Denisse Carrasco, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Chastity Farrell, Director I to Assistant Vice President

Evani Greene, Student Success Coach to Coordinator II (Grant-funded)
Carmen Guerra, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Brianna Heim, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Machli Joseph, Student Success Coach to Assistant Director (Partially Grant-funded)
Sean Kerwick, Associate Director to Associate Director
Alex Muniz, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Fabiola Ocean, Student Success Coach to Student Success Manager (Grant-funded)
Priscilla Ochoa, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Prachi Patel, Bookkeeper to Administrative Assistant

Qua'fayshia Ransom, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Maritza Reyes, Associate Director to Director II (Grant-funded)
Laura Mendez, Coordinator I to Coordinator II
Maria Sarmiento, Alumni Manager
Career Services Manager (Grant-funded)
Albert Williams, Coordinator I to Coordinator II (Partially Grant-funded)
Samaya Yashayeva, Assistant Director to Associate Director
Gregory Burns, Safety and Security Manager to Associate Director, Safety and Security

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Mark Gomes, Instructor, History (Non Tenure-track), August 16, - December 31, 2024
David Nash, Instructor, English (Non Tenure-track), August 16, - December 31, 2024
Ayca Palancilar, Instructor, ESL (Non Tenure-track), August 16, - December 31, 2024

APPOINTMENT OF FULL-TIME FACULTY

Annie Barran, Instructor, Nursing (Tenure-track), effective August 16, 2024

INTERVIEW WITH HCCC PROFESSOR CATHERINE SWEETING, AUTHOR

This past semester, Professor Catherine Sweeting was teaching her literature and English composition classes here at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) as usual, but that wasn't all she was up to –she also published her acclaimed new novel, *Remnant*.

The novel tells the story of two women – Olu, a young woman kidnapped from Nigeria who is forced into slavery in South Carolina and attempts to escape during the Revolutionary War, and her niece, Joanna Vassa, a biracial orphan raised by her guardian, who struggles to find her path through boarding school in England where she contends with racist attitudes and a hostile environment.

In the words of our own Dr. Benny Youssef,

who included it on his list of the top five books to read this past summer in a recent edition of *Happenings*, ultimately, “*Remnant* is a coming-of-age novel about two young women of color striving to carve out meaningful lives despite monumental obstacles.”

The novel questions whether the two protagonists will ever meet, reuniting the family.

Remnant is an intriguing work of historical fiction. Professor Sweeting was inspired to write it after reading and analyzing *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, the memoir of noted Black abolitionist and author Olaudah Equiano, while in graduate school. She learned of Equiano’s sister, whom she names



Olu, and daughter, Joanna, and wondered about their lives, inspiring her to put pen to paper in imagining their experiences and filling in the blanks of these lives that have been lost in the sands of time.

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HCCC CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HCCC AND HUDSON COUNTY LATIN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SIGN HISTORIC MOU



Local leaders and officials look on as Heidi Castrillon, President of HCLACC (seated, left), and Dr. Christopher Reber, President of Hudson County Community College (seated, right) sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at fostering collaboration and support for the Latin American business community in Hudson County.

On Tuesday, September 24, HCCC and the Hudson County Latin American Chamber of Commerce (HCLACC) signed an MOU to strengthen the Latino business community through educational training, information sharing, networking, and resource exchange. This partnership will also provide internship opportunities for students, allowing them to gain valuable on-site work experience and better prepare for future employment. Dr. Christopher Reber, President of HCCC; Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President of DEI; and Heidi Castrillon, President of HCLACC, were joined at the event by guest speakers Anthony Romano, Chair of the Hudson County Board of Commissioners; Terrance Clark, President and CEO of the NY NJ Minority Supplier Development Council; Elizabeth Berman, President and CEO of Continental Food and Beverage Inc.; and Rev. Bolivar Flores. Local leaders, community members, and stakeholders came together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

DR. YEURYS PUJOLS RECOGNIZED AMONG OUTSTANDING DOMINICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

On Sunday, Sept. 22, Dr. Yeurys Pujols, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Hudson County Community College, received the “Outstanding Dominican Recognition Abroad” (Dominicano Destacado en el Exterior) award at a special ceremony at Lehman College in The Bronx, New York.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic through the Institute of Dominicans Abroad (INDEX) coordinated the event, which honored 21 individuals. His Excellency, President Luis Abinader, attended and personally recognized each honoree.

DR. JOSE LOWE TO RECEIVE 2024 EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION AWARD

Dr. Jose M. Lowe, Educational Opportunity Fund Director, will be honored as a recipient of the "Excellence in Higher Education" award at the 49th annual Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey. This award recognizes Dr. Lowe's outstanding contributions to advancing educational opportunities for students, particularly within the Hispanic community.



This year's parade, themed "Our Hispanic Pride," will take place on Sunday, October 6, 2024, starting at 12:30 p.m. The parade made its way down Bergenline Avenue from 80th Street in North Bergen to 31st Street in Union City. It was a vibrant display of culture, featuring over 40 performing groups from 21 countries. Everyone was invited to join in this joyous celebration of Hispanic heritage, unity, and pride and to honor the achievements of individuals like Dr. Lowe, who continue to make a lasting impact on our community.

Foundation Art Collection

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

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

Donor Acknowledgment

Thank you to Jersey City writer, artist, and dancer **Charles Kessler** for generously donating over 50 works of art. That donation officially takes the number of art works in the collection to over 2,000. This marks a significant milestone for the Foundation Art Collection we can all be proud of. We plan to display many of these newly donated works in a Jersey-City-themed permanent exhibit in the new Center for Student Success, scheduled to open in 2026.

Artist News

Artist **Ken Rush**, whose work can be seen on the second floor of 168 Sip Avenue, was just featured on CBS News in relation to a painting he made in 1971 as the World Trade Center towers were being constructed. The canvas shows a huge blue sky with the Towers in the background (he was painting from the Brooklyn shoreline). The artist says, "I feel a certain sadness now when I look at it... those buildings spoke of our aspirations. They were literally a cathedral to commerce." The aforementioned picture was recently donated to the 9/11 museum in New York City. If you'd like to see an interview with the artist, visit <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/world-trade-center-twin-towers-painting-ken-rush>. Meet the Brooklyn artist who painted the twin towers under construction in 1971 - CBS New York ([cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com))

At the nearby Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, New Jersey you can see the show: "Kimberly Camp Cross River: A Parallel Universe" curated by **Judith K. Brodsky** and **Ferris Olin** through January 12, 2025. Both Camp and Brodsky have work in the Foundation Art Collection. Camp's work is on the third floor of the Gabert Library, and Brodsky's work is on the fourth floor of the STEM Building.

Kimberly Camp is exhibiting her handmade dolls. Wait. Can dolls be art? Yup. She's been making dolls for over 40 years, using artist techniques such as painting, sculpting, sewing and beading. According to the museum, Camp crafts her dolls from "materials like clay, textiles, recycled fur, and acrylic paint." Further, the exhibition is divided into three categories:

"Blackness: Offering new perspectives on storytelling and identity, these works challenge viewers to reflect on race and cultural heritage.



Untitled by Charles Kessler (1988) Acrylic on Wood, 7 x 96 in. You can see this work in the reception area on the first floor of 2 Enos Place.



Makimono II by Charles Kessler (1986) Acrylic on Wood, 7 x 96 in. You can also see this work in the reception area on the first floor of 2 Enos Place.

Animal Anthropomorphism: Highlighting the mythic connections between humans and the animal kingdom, emphasizing shared behaviors and traits.

Fantasy Universe: Imagining a vibrant utopia where Camp's dolls reside in endless creativity, color, and perpetual sunshine."

If you have a moment, check out the exhibit in Clinton. Admission is \$7. Children under 12 are free.

Mickalene Thomas's mid-career survey, "All About Love," at the Broad Museum in LA closed last month. Reviewer Alexis Clements, in the online arts magazine *Hyperallergic*, noted of this beautiful show, "Thomas's work is a direct and personal response to European and North American histories of denying the humanity and beauty of Black women and exoticizing and fetishizing their bodies." Closer to home, you can see two portraits by Thomas on the first

floor of the Gabert Library. Both depict her beloved dachshund, Priscilla.

Three works by **Buzz Spector** can be seen on the second floor of 2 Enos Place. If you'd like to see more of the artist's work, and you'll be in Missouri any time soon, it is on view at the Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis through December 21, 2024. This new show, called "verso/recto," is an exhibition of new altered books. Recto traditionally means the "right" or "correct" or "front" page of a book (or work of art). Verso (meaning turned or changed) usually refers to the back of the artwork or the back book page. Spector has used books as his "artist material" for over 40 years. In this case he makes what he calls torn-paper paintings by taking literature related to famed Italian filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni and related to artist Lawrence Weiner for example to create ripped "bookish" objects that are works of art.

We welcome anecdotes and information about how the Foundation Art Collection benefits our community. If you have enjoyed using the Art Collection in your teaching, your studies, or your everyday life, please let us know! Contact ASiegel@hccc.edu and tell us the story of how the Art Collection works for you.

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

To donate artwork, find detailed information here: www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/index.html.

Explore the Foundation Art Collection using our new online searchable tools! Go to www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

27TH ANNUAL GALA

SAVE THE DATE

12.05.24
6 P.M.

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ 07306

HCCC'S HUDSON SCHOLARS PROGRAM THRIVES WITH \$100,000 INVESTMENT FROM PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

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financial challenges, working to put themselves through college, juggling family responsibilities, or food and housing insecurity. In the fall of 2023, when PBF began its support of the program, 34% of HCCC students were adult learners, 55% identified as Hispanic or Latino, and 88% self-identified as nonwhite. A staggering 77% of first-time, full-time students begin their college experience in English as a Second Language (ESL), Developmental English, or Developmental Math courses, and 80% qualify for Federal financial aid.

The results are a testament to the program's success: 21% of Fall 2021 Hudson Scholars graduated within two years, over triple the number from 2018-2020. Hudson Scholars has made its greatest impact on students from traditionally underrepresented communities.

Many HCCC students and Hudson Scholars are first-generation college students and don't have experience navigating the complexities of starting college. Nina Maria Resurreccion, an Exercise Science student at HCCC and the Student Government President, explained, "I didn't know where to start, which classes to take, or how to schedule them." The personalized guidance from her advisor helped her begin on the right path.

Sonny Tungala, an HCCC student and adult learner pursuing a degree in nursing, said, "Being a Hudson Scholar has been a big help to me. The academic advisors provide you with all the necessary support systems. They have the resources to help students balance the academic and social aspects of being a student. They guide you on your path to reaching your goals. Hudson Scholars is a dream come true for me."

Hudson Scholars like Nina appreciated the belief and support from their advisors, which expanded their horizons and pushed them to go beyond what they previously thought they were capable of achieving. This belief and support led to significant academic and personal growth for students like Nina, who reflected that "Being here gave me a lot of opportunities to better myself and express myself a lot more. I was able to explore a lot more things, especially in terms of being involved on campus. I recently became Student Government President. I never expected to be in this position, but HCCC gave me the opportunity. Hudson Scholars gives you a lot of confidence in yourself and makes you realize nothing is impossible. My advisor has been a great mentor for me – whenever I felt like I was on the verge of failing, he made me feel like I could succeed. Sometimes you need someone to push you harder, and he was that person for me."

Beyond the academic and financial support, HCCC nursing graduate Shemia Superville, who recently moved to the United States from Grenada, appreciated the opportunity to meet and form friendships with like-minded HCCC students in the program. She met many of her friends at HCCC playing games like Uno and Jenga at a Hudson Scholars mixer event. Forming these bonds with her fellow students helped to set the stage for her academic success by giving her a sense of belonging and making her feel at home.

The one-on-one personalized level of academic support helped these Hudson Scholars succeed and achieve their academic goals. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of PBF and others.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated, "This program has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of our students, enabling many of them to overcome significant barriers and achieve their academic and personal goals. The Provident Bank Foundation's commitment to expanding access to education and fostering student success aligns perfectly with our mission at HCCC, and we are thankful for their trust and partnership in transforming the lives of so many in our community."

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY ENGAGES COLLEGE COMMUNITY DURING NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



Pamela Gardner, Vice Chair of the Hudson County Community College Board of Trustees (second from right), with fellow members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, North Jersey Alumnae Chapter at the Gabert Library during National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday, Sept. 17).

HCCC & the Latino Advisory Council presents:

**North Hudson Campus
Fall 2024 Open House**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**& Hudson es tu Casa
Community Resource Fair**

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

**North Hudson Campus
4800 Kennedy Blvd., Union City, NJ 07087**

- Admissions & Enrollment
- Meet with the Financial Aid Department & see if you qualify for tuition waiver
- Learn about different academic programs
- Speak with students, faculty, & staff members

**County Social Services Flu & Covid-19 shots
Family Care & other Health Insurance
Plans Workshops**

WORKSHOPS:
Latest Immigration and Refugees Laws
Small Business Growth
Job Readiness in Healthcare
Wellness & Personal Development
Resilient Paths to Goals presented by
Trinidad de la Rosa, author of "An Immigrant's Guide"

Explore Academic Programs and Services

Complete a HCCC application

Take a Campus Tour!

To Register:
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-0H24>

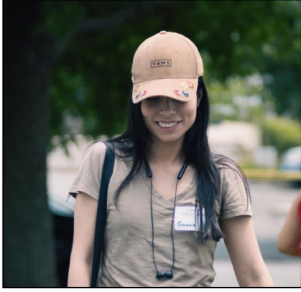
Family Fun, Food & Activities!

DJ and Cultural Entertainment

Arts & Crafts for Children

For more information and full schedule details, visit:
www.hccc.edu/openhouse

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Genesis Avellaneda at the Kearny Public Schools Uniform Exchange (August 11).



Isra Ibrahim (left) and Jules Rose volunteer at Liberty State Park on August 31.



Ashley Medrano volunteering at the blood drive on August 28.

Greenville Community BBQ

Alumna and former Beta Alpha Phi Vice President Alison Robinson, a member of the event committee, invited Phi Theta Kappa to volunteer at the Greenville Community BBQ. Kenia Sandoval and D'Metriotis Van de Mark responded to the request for volunteers.

Rutkowski Park Cleanup

"Thanks!" to the environmental heroes from Bayonne Nature Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper, and students from Hudson County Community College – including members of Beta Alpha Phi Chapter – who cleaned up huge amounts of trash from Rutkowski Park, making it a better habitat for humans and wildlife.

Kearny Public Schools Uniform Exchange

Alumna Genesis Avellaneda volunteered at the Kearny Public Schools Uniform Exchange distribution on Sunday, August 11. The August 10 distribution was rescheduled for the next day because of the forecast of rain. Another distribution of school uniforms and supplies was held on Saturday, August 17, during which Phi Theta Kappa assisted.

Save the Date: Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention

Beta Alpha Phi Chapter is collaborating with the HCCC Active Minds chapter and the Office of Mental Health Counseling and Wellness to create a team for the October

20 event, which will be held at Stevens Institute in Hoboken. Jessenia Rivera is the liaison for PTK. To join or donate to the team, please visit <https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=346787>

Register now for Fall 2024

HUDSON ONLINE

7-Week Classes

ONB begins on October 24, 2024

Earn credits and your degree online from home!

What should I do if I want to take a classes online?



[View Available Online Classes](#)



Pick a course you need to graduate. Visit [Student Planning](#) to view your progress.



[Register for Classes](#)



View the [Enrollment Guide](#) for important dates and deadlines.



For information on enrolling at HCCC:
Text or Call: 201.509.4222 | Email: admissions@hccc.edu

3rd Annual

Aspiring Student Leadership Conference for High School and HCCC Students



**Monday,
November 18, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

North Hudson Campus,
4800 Kennedy Blvd., Multipurpose Room
(N203), Union City, NJ

Breakfast and Lunch will be served

*Keynote speaker, workshops,
and other events to take place.*

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



RSVP by
October 25, 2024 to:
<https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Aspire>
or scan QR code

THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR AS A GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR®

Continued from page 2

HCCC was selected as one of only 75 colleges and universities, and one of only 22 community colleges to achieve Great College to Work For® recognition in acknowledgment of the College’s best practices, policies, and positive employee survey ratings. The College was recognized for excellence in Job Satisfaction and Support, Professional Development, Faculty and Staff Well-being, Shared Governance, Faculty Experience, and Diversity, Equity and Belonging. This was the second consecutive year in which HCCC earned Great Colleges Honor Roll designation, which was granted to just four two-year colleges nationwide that were most often recognized by their employees in each category.

ModernThink LLC uses a two-part assessment process: an institutional questionnaire that captures employment data and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff.

“Our commitment to our students begins with our dedication to our entire HCCC family,” said HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber. “Investing in the professional growth of our colleagues helped us build an effective workforce that is centered on student achievement. The fact that employee feedback was the primary factor in earning this honor makes it even more special.”

When he began his presidency in 2018, Dr. Reber focused on climate, culture, and community, addressing morale, salaries, and mutually respectful relationships among all employees. He instituted monthly Town Hall Meetings for faculty, staff, and students to stay informed and communicate with each other, and helped establish collaborative relationships with all four of the College’s collective bargaining units.

HCCC nurtures internal and external collaborations, partnerships, and alliances

to foster transparency and achievement. The President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) develops and maintains DEI infrastructure including guidelines for best practices in recruitment, hiring, succession planning, safety, and professional development. HCCC faculty and staff participate in a tuition-reimbursement program, and have access to a wide range of professional development opportunities including workshops, academic and certificate programs, and programs of inclusion and belonging. This past year, employees received a collective \$500,000 of College funding for their professional development.

“We are dedicated to providing employees and students with life-transforming opportunities and resources in a culture of care and respect. Proudly, about 40% of our employees are HCCC alumni, underscoring the fact that Hudson is Home,” Dr. Reber said.

HCCC THEATRE STUDENT BEGINS INTERNSHIP



Theatre Arts student Nastasja Radovic begins her Internship at Art House Productions (AHP) in Jersey City. Pictured here from left-to-right: Radovic; Meredith Burns, Artistic Director at AHP; and Associate Professor of Theatre Joseph Gallo.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

From Excellence to Innovation: Prof. Saliha Yagoubi’s Global Impact on Education

After receiving the Excellence Award and presenting for the second year in a row at the NISOD Conference, Prof. Saliha Yagoubi is taking bigger and farther steps this year! We are thrilled to announce Saliha Yagoubi’s attendance and presentation at The International Academic Forum (IAFOR): Paris Conference on Education (PCE 2024). Connecting with educators, researchers, and industry professionals worldwide was an incredible opportunity as she represented Hudson County Community College amongst educators from all over the world. Her presentation “Exploring Translanguaging in Adult ESL Classrooms: Fostering Multilingual Competence” was well-received, sparking insightful discussions among international scholars. She gained valuable insights from the sessions she attended and looks forward to applying what she learned to her work here. Her journey isn’t over yet as her presentation will make one more stop at the 2nd Global Conference on Innovations in Education (eduglobalconf.org) in the United Arab Emirates.



The Poetry and Language Collective

invites Faculty and Staff to join us for our Fall 2024 Professional Development, centered on encouraging our students and ourselves to be more creative in the classroom.



Metaphors of Work : Seeing the beauty in what you do
with Professor Karen Hom-Galli
Wednesday October 23 | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Gabert Library, 71 Sip Ave., Rm. L406, Jersey City, NJ

Register for upcoming workshops at:
<https://www.hudsonplc.org/event/s/event-registration>

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

Join us to walk to raise awareness for those affected by suicide. The walk helps to raise awareness and much-needed funds, strongly sending the message that suicide can be prevented and that **no one is alone!**

HOBOKEN WALK Sunday, October 20, 2024

On-Site Registration Starts: 9:00 a.m.
Program Starts: 10:00 a.m.

Babbio Center-Stevens Institute of Technology
525 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030



HCCC WALK CAPTAIN:
Joycelyn S. Wong-Castellano jwongcastellano@hccc.edu
PTK LEADER: Jessenia Rivera jrivera1525@live.hccc.edu
ACTIVE MINDS CHAPTER: Neivi Nunez nnunez5216@live.hccc.edu

To donate and sign up, go to:

<https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=346787>

CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Water Workforce Utility Program (WWUP)

Hudson County Community College has partnered with New Jersey Water Association and New Jersey Future to address the recent unprecedented systemic challenges in the water industry. The result of the collaboration was the development of the Water Workforce Utility Program (WWUP). On September 7, the WWUP graduated its second cohort. This program was originally designed to educate, train, and introduce participants to careers in the water sector. For more information on the water workforce program please contact Mylz Wilson at mwilson@hccc.edu.



Brews & Bites: a Beer and Food Tasting Event

On September 21, Continuing Education, HCCC's School of Culinary Arts, and NJ Beer Co. hosted the event, "Brews & Bites: a Beer and Food Tasting."

During the event, expert brewers guided attendees through a tasting of eight unique beers, explaining the flavors and characteristics of each. Attendees also toured the brewery and learned about the brewing process and the different styles of beer that NJ Beer Co. offers.

HCCC's Chef Puk led two cooking demonstrations, teaching attendees about complementary foods and flavors that pair well with various beers. CAI students served attendees samples of six different dishes to enjoy with the craft beers.

For more information on Continuing Education culinary programs, please email Chastity Farrell at cfarrell@hccc.edu.



Celebrating ACCESS Program Completers

On September 14, 2024, a heartwarming celebration unfolded as the ACCESS (Accessible College and Continuing Education for Student Success) Program honored its newest cohort of completers. The event, which included a luncheon catered by Flik Services, was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and resilience of students who successfully navigated the program.

ACCESS is a 15-week, pre-college/workforce transitional program for youth between the ages of 17 and 24 with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Courses include Fundamental Life Skills/Student Success, Work Readiness, and Computer Literacy. At program completion, students are connected with supportive program pathways.

The event was filled with pride and joy as families, friends, and staff gathered to recognize the achievements of these remarkable individuals. A PowerPoint presentation showcasing the journey of the students was a poignant reminder of the challenges they overcame and growth they experienced. It was clear that each student had a unique story, and together, they had formed a tapestry of inspiration and hope.

A celebration highlight was the awarding of six Certificates of Completion. Each certificate represented not just the completion of a program, but countless hours of hard work. In addition to the Certificates of Completion, Certificates of Recognition were awarded to students who showed exceptional dedication and success throughout the program.

The event was a testament to the power of education and community, underscoring the importance of providing opportunities and supporting those with diverse abilities. As one ACCESS staff member said: "Today, we celebrate not just the end of a journey, but the beginning of new possibilities. Our students have shown us that with determination and support, anything is possible. We are incredibly proud."

CONTINUING EDUCATION **Upcoming Programs**

FINANCIAL BASICS FOR PERSONAL FINANCES & WEALTH BUILDING (ONLINE)

Tuesdays (3 Sessions) October 1 through October 15
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Instructor: Jairo Borja | Price: \$95
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/financial-basics-for-personal-finances-wealth-building-registration-914732458407?aff=oddtcreator>

NICET LEVEL I ASPHALT TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | October 5 through October 27
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nicet-level-i-asphalt-testing-certificate-preparatory-course-registration-804009623427?aff=oddtcreator>

WELCOME TO COMPUTER BASICS (IN-PERSON)

Saturdays (7 Sessions) October 5 through November 16
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Instructor: Corazon Lacsamana
Price: \$150
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-computer-basics-fall-2024-registration-981995473897?aff=oddtcreator>

NICET LEVEL 2 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | October 19 through November 10
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nicet-level-ii-highway-construction-inspection-certificate-prep-course-registration-878343859127?aff=oddtcreator>

PODCASTING ESSENTIALS FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP (ONLINE)

Tuesdays and Thursdays (10 Sessions)
October 22 through November 21
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | Instructor: Kimberly Sumpter | Price: \$125
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/podcasting-essentials-for-beginners-workshop-registration-970739176007?aff=oddtcreator>

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:

www.hccc.edu/continuingeducation

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

PROFESSOR CATHERINE SWEETING

Continued from page 6

Not only did Professor Sweeting read Equiano's memoir to conduct research for *Remnant*, she also traveled to England, where she visited sites that were important in Joanna's life and met with Arthur Torrington, the founder of the Equiano Society, and Angelina Osborne, author of *Equiano's Daughter*. Professor Sweeting also traveled to South Carolina, where she visited the types of rice plantations where Olu may have lived as an enslaved woman.

Arizona State University Regents Professor of English Devoney Looser explains that "Sweeting's vivid, moving work of historical fiction is a gift to readers in its conjuring up of the Equiano family's remarkable, long-forgotten women."

While the novel takes place in the 1700s and 1800s, the story is still as powerful and relevant as ever today because, as Professor Sweeting explains, "Every day we hear about book bans, taking African-American history out of school curriculums, or sanitizing the history of slavery in this country. Slavery is an important part of American history, and it should not be minimized, ignored, or forgotten. *Remnant* brings to life the impact slavery had on women in the 18th century ..."

The story of the Equiano family hits home for Professor Sweeting, who is married to a black minister and has three biracial sons.

This isn't the first time that Professor Sweeting has had her literary work published – the Fulbright Nehru Scholar is also the coauthor of *The Power of a City at Prayer* and has had her work published in *Ovation and Adelaide Literary Magazine*.

We spoke with Professor Sweeting to ask her a few questions about writing *Remnant* and her advice for other aspiring authors.

What did the process of starting to write a novel look like (i.e., what was the first thing you did, or how did you turn it from idea to reality?)

For *Remnant*, the first lengthy process was research. I spent a few years reading books and articles, and traveling to England and South Carolina to discover everything known about my two main characters to envision what their lives may have been like.

How do you beat writer's block?

Reading over work I've already written, and revising often inspires me to continue to write new pages.

What was the most challenging part of writing a novel? Were there any challenges you didn't expect?

The most challenging aspect is putting myself into the characters I'm writing. I used first person for both storylines, and imagining the lives of two women of color who lived centuries ago was challenging!

Can you tell us one thing about publishing a novel that people might not expect?

Writing a novel is hard, but as I had written a non-fiction book, and several short stories, that wasn't the hardest part. Finding a publisher was difficult for me. I could have self-published *Remnant* years ago, but I held out for a publisher. For me, marketing and selling the novel is the most arduous aspect (or maybe that's only because it's what is currently taking my time and effort).

What is one piece of advice you have for aspiring writers or novelists?

Persevere. I have had many rejections and have been tempted to give up, but I kept on revising, sending out the manuscript to publishers, and I was finally able to get *Remnant* published.

What are a few of your favorite books?

Yikes! That's a hard question only because I read dozens of books every year. My recent favorites are *The Covenant of Water*, by Abraham Verghese, and his first novel *Cutting for Stone*. I loved *A Suitable Boy* and *An Equal Music* by Vikram Seth. I have enjoyed all the books by Thrity Umrigar, but especially *The Space Between Us*. As long as I'm on an Indian author streak, let's add Amitav Ghosh, author of *The Hungry Tide*.

I love all six of Jane Austen's completed novels (don't ask for a favorite). I like all of Maeve Binchy's books. Here are some more authors I like: Ann Patchett, Sadequa Johnson, Kristin Hannah, James McBride, Tracy Chevalier, Philippa Gregory, Jojo Moyes, Zadie Smith, Abir Mukerjee, Sue Monk Kidd, Anne Tyler, Jeffrey Archer... and many, many more!

If you're interested in reading *Remnant*, which Dr. Youssef named as one of his top five books for the summer of 2024, you can order a copy [here](#) on Amazon where it is available in hardcover, paperback, and on Kindle.

NORTH HUDSON STEM SCIENCE FAIR

Come and support the HCCC School of STEM

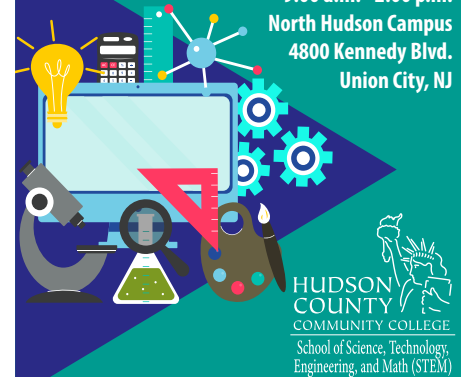
Monday, November 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

North Hudson Campus

4800 Kennedy Blvd.

Union City, NJ



For more information, contact :

Joseph Caniglia, Executive Director of the North Hudson Campus,
jcaniglia@hccc.edu

Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of STEM, byearwood@hccc.edu

Raffi Manjikian, Instructor of Chemistry, rmanjikian@hccc.edu



Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?

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



Please complete the General Concern Form

click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care>

or scan the QR code.

The form is NOT monitored 24/7. A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.

If you need immediate help call
or text 988 or visit
<https://988lifeline.org>



COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

For the most up-to-date information, please visit

<https://www.hccc.edu/calendar>. Hudson County Community College reserves

the right to modify the calendar as necessary.

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 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094
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Invest in the education of an HCCC student by making your gift of any amount today.



ALUMNI CORNER

Rimsha Bazaid, HCCC Class of 2019
A.A.S., Medical Assisting



This month, *HCCC Happenings* spoke with Rimsha Bazaid, a Career & Transfer Advisor at HCCC. Rimsha holds a bachelor's degree in Health Science from New Jersey City University and earned a master's degree in health science from the same institution.

How did you decide to attend HCCC?

I chose HCCC because I was looking for an institution that offered strong support for students in the healthcare field. As someone who values accessible and quality education, HCCC stood out for its diverse academic programs and student-focused environment. I wanted to start my journey in healthcare with a solid foundation, and HCCC's Medical Assisting program provided that essential step.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

HCCC was the perfect fit for me due to its vibrant community, commitment to student success, and resources tailored to helping students excel. The College provided hands-on learning experiences, a supportive academic environment, and a network of mentors and professionals who genuinely cared about my growth. HCCC's accessible location and diverse student body made it an inclusive space where I felt connected and empowered to pursue my career goals.

What inspired you to get your master's in Health Science and Public Health Education?

My inspiration for pursuing a Master of Health Science in Public Health Education stemmed from my desire to make a positive impact on community health and wellness. Through my academic and professional experiences, including my time at HCCC, I recognized education's vital role in promoting health and addressing disparities. The idea of equipping individuals with knowledge and skills to lead healthier lives and advocating for equity in healthcare motivated me to deepen my expertise and contribute to this essential field.

What advice do you have for HCCC students who want to follow in your footsteps?

My advice is to take full advantage of the resources and opportunities available to you. Be proactive in building relationships with faculty, advisors, and fellow students, as they can offer guidance and support throughout your journey. Stay curious and be open to exploring different aspects of your field. Challenges will arise, but remember to stay focused on your long-term goals, seek help when needed, and never underestimate the power of hard work and perseverance. Your journey may take

unexpected turns, but every experience will contribute to your growth and success.

Tell us about a challenge you overcame to get to where you are today.

One significant challenge I faced was balancing multiple responsibilities while pursuing my education. From working in various roles, such as a Career & Transfer Advisor, to being a full-time student and contributing to community projects, managing time effectively wasn't always easy. I overcame this challenge by developing strong organizational skills, prioritizing self-care, and seeking support from my mentors and peers. This experience taught me resilience, the importance of a support system, and the value of staying adaptable in the face of obstacles.

What inspired you to become a Career and Transfer Coach at HCCC?

My journey to becoming a Career and Transfer Advisor was fueled by my passion for student success and my own experiences navigating academic and career pathways as a student. During my time as a student, I realized how valuable guidance and support can be when making decisions about one's academic journey and future career. My role as a Career & Transfer Advisor allowed me to witness the positive impact that strategic planning, mentorship, and resource sharing can have on students' lives firsthand.

I was drawn to the role because it provided a unique opportunity to directly influence students' futures by helping them explore their potential career paths, connecting them with transfer opportunities, and guiding them through essential skills development, like resume writing and interview preparation. The prospect of creating equity-based services, building partnerships with employers and academic institutions, and promoting student achievement made this career path an inspiring choice for me. As a Career & Transfer Pathways Advisor, my goal is to create an inclusive, well-informed pathway for students as they advance in their academic and professional journeys.

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

