

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RINGS IN 50 YEARS WITH JUBILANT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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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 10, 2025

Please send your news items, comments
and suggestions to:

Communications Department
26 Journal Square, 14th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Phone: 201.360.4060
Fax: 201.653.0607
communications@hccc.edu

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RINGS
IN 50 YEARS WITH JUBILANT ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) launched its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration, *Fifty and Forward*, on Tuesday, Sept. 9 with a day of reflection, recognition, and festivities that drew hundreds of students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and community partners.

The formal program at the Gabert Library featured remarks from President Dr. Christopher Reber, student and alumni reflections, and leadership voices including Trustee and alumna Silvia Rodriguez, Theatre Arts Professor Joseph Gallo, students Anu Bisht and Neivi Nuñez, and Board Chair Jeanette Peña. A video message from U.S. Senator Cory Booker added to the occasion. The HCCC Foundation presented its inaugural Heart of Hudson awards to President Emeritus Dr. Glen Gabert, Trustee Emeritus William J. Netchert, Esq., and former Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise for their transformative impact on the College.

Actor and Jersey City native Derek Luke, known for roles in *Antwone Fisher*, *Glory Road*, and *Captain America: The First Avenger*, joined for a fireside chat reflecting on identity, purpose, and his Jersey City roots.

Meanwhile, the Student Center came alive with athletic-themed activities, including appearances by mascots from the New York Red Bulls and New Jersey Devils, voting for HCCC’s future mascot, and previews of potential basketball jerseys. Family-friendly activities included photo booths, caricatures, an ice sculpture, and more. Arts and culture were also highlighted through the “Garden State Vision” alumni art exhibit, a preview of the Museum of Jersey City History’s anniversary exhibit, and an oral history project led by HCCC faculty Assistant Professor Sean Egan. Ph.D. and Associate Professor Antonio Acevedo.

The celebration culminated at Culinary Plaza Park with a dance party and champagne toast led by DJ Prince Hakim, son of Kool & the Gang’s Robert “Kool” Bell. DJ Prince Hakim led the toast and a crowd-wide singalong of “Celebration.”

“Our 50th anniversary was filled with joy, pride, and energy,” said President Reber. “We honored our history, celebrated our community, and looked ahead to the next fifty years stronger than ever.”

Learn more at hccc.edu/50th.

ON THE COVER: Hundreds of attendees, including HCCC students, alumni, faculty, and staff, along with community members, celebrities, and local luminaries came together for a rousing celebration of HCCC’s 50th anniversary.

HCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES GRANTS TRUSTEE
EMERITA STATUS TO PAMELA GARDNER



Trustee Emerita Pamela
Gardner (holding award
plaque) with members of the
Hudson County Community
College Board of Trustees.

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Board of Trustees recently recognized the outstanding service of longtime Trustee Pamela Gardner by bestowing upon her the title of Trustee Emerita.

Ms. Gardner served on the HCCC Board of Trustees for eight years, during which time she made substantive contributions as both Trustee and Board Officer, as well as active service on

the African American Outreach Committee, which she co-founded, and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

At the Board’s regular Sept. 16 meeting, Gardner’s dedication to public education in Hudson County and her leadership in advancing the mission of the College were noted with deep appreciation by the Board, President, administration, and guests.

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE EXECUTIVES EARN HACU
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY/LA ACADEMIA
DE LIDERAZGO FELLOWSHIPS



HCCC North Hudson Campus Executive Director Dr. Joseph Caniglia and Associate Dean of Career and Transfer Pathways Jennifer Valcarcel have been selected as Fellows of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ (HACU) Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo Program.

In recognition of their leadership and commitment to student success, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) executives Dr. Joseph Caniglia and Jennifer Valcarcel have been selected for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ (HACU) seventh annual Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo. They join 26 Fellows from across the nation in the yearlong program designed to prepare rising executives for senior-level roles in higher education.

The HACU Leadership Academy provides Fellows with mentorship from university presidents and senior administrators, specialized training, and the opportunity to complete a project that directly benefits their home institution. Faculty include leaders with over 100 years of combined experience across higher education sectors.

Dr. Caniglia serves as Executive Director of HCCC’s North Hudson Campus in Union City, which enrolls nearly 3,000 students, more than 70% of whom are Hispanic. Beginning as an adjunct professor, he advanced to tenured faculty and administrative leadership, assuming his current role in 2021. He has expanded academic programs, created an annual Aspiring Student Leadership Conference, supported the Latino Advisory Council, and shared expertise nationally on learning communities and student success.

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HCCC SIGNS MOU WITH SAVE LATIN AMERICA TO EXPAND
STUDENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) and Save Latin America formalized a new partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration that will enhance educational outcomes, well-being, and access to social services for both students and community members.

Through the partnership, Save Latin America will provide workshops and seminars on topics such as health, mental health, housing assistance, financial literacy, and employment services. The organization will also offer internship and field placement opportunities for HCCC students, participate in joint outreach initiatives, and support engagement efforts on campus.

In turn, HCCC will provide space — both physical and virtual — for programming, promote services through its communication channels, and collaborate on outreach strategies



HCCC and Save Latin American signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration on Sept. 24. Seated in center displaying the signed MOU are HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber and Save Latin America Executive Director Henry Acosta. They are pictured with elected officials, community leaders, and administrators from the College and SLA.

to connect students with available resources. The College will also provide academic support and supervision for interns placed with Save Latin America.

This collaboration strengthens community engagement and workforce development opportunities while ensuring students and residents have greater access to the resources they need to thrive.

BUILDING HER FUTURE: DIAMOND
VAZQUEZ JOINS J. FLETCHER
CREAMER & SON, INC. AS
INTERN PROJECT ENGINEER

Diamond Vazquez, a student of the HCCC Construction Management program, has been selected as an Project Engineer Intern with the prestigious construction company J. Fletcher Creamer & Son. Her selection is particularly noteworthy as it followed intense competition from students across the region, many of whom are already working in the construction industry and possess field experience. Despite being set to graduate at the end of the fall semester, Diamond distinguished herself through her knowledge, skills, and determination. As she embarks on this exciting professional journey, HCCC Happenings sat down with her for a brief interview to learn more about her goals, experiences, and what she hopes to gain from this internship.



What made you select Construction Management as a major?
I chose Construction Management because I have always been interested in how projects come together, from planning to completion.

How are you applying what you have learned in the classroom to your internship?
I have been able to apply what I have learned in classes like construction codes, cost estimation, survey and site planning, engineering graphics, and project planning and control. For example, understanding codes helps me review plans; cost estimation connects to the profit and loss tracking sheets I complete; survey and site planning helps when I go out to the field; and project planning; and control directly relates to scheduling and documentation.

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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.



You can see the College's work by Andy Warhol at the Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Room 218 (Dean's Reception Area). The work, *Perrier White*, is a 17.5" x 23.5" Offset Lithograph created in 1983. It was acquired from the artist's estate.

ARTIST NEWS

The **Andy Warhol** Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (where the artist was born) wants you to make your own Warhols and has a website to guide you! Nicole Dezelon, Senior Director of Learning and Public Engagement at the Warhol Museum, says, "Now everyone, everywhere can explore Warhol's silkscreen printing process and claim their own 15 minutes of fame by creating a digital silkscreen print to share with the world." You can upload photographs of yourself or a friend and make your own "Warhol" at <https://diy.warhol.org>.

If you like the works of **Mickalene Thomas** installed on the first floor of the Gabert Library, you might enjoy this recent half-hour interview with the artist: "Artist Mickalene Thomas: Being an Artist Is a Radical Act" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdKqUFd6KL8>).

If you like **Jaune Quick-To-See-Smith's** work "What is an American?" installed on the fourth floor of the Gabert Library, you might be

interested to know about a discussion inspired by that work on Oct. 1 Led by Angélica Becerra, Bradford and Christine Mishler Associate Curator of American Art, The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens and Jun P. Nakamura, Assistant Curator of Prints and Drawings, Princeton University Art Museum, the panel, which coincides with the United States' 250th anniversary, examines "how ideas of 'Americanness' have been imposed, disputed, and redefined since the nation's founding, through artworks made in the past century." For more information, please visit <https://www.fineartprintfair.org/print-month-2025/whose-america%3F-reflections-on-america-at-250>.

Artist **Dahlia Elsayed** writes: "During the past year, while working on some large-scale projects (and trying to process the distressing news cycles) I have found solace in making small works on paper. The series grew into sequential pages about wayfinding in these times, a visual diary of compressed navigations, inspired by the structures of Islamic miniatures and illuminated manuscripts." This new body of work, titled *Book of Going Forth*, will be exhibited at Morgan Lehman Gallery. 29 works (a lunar cycle length) will be on view along with a new rug the artist made, through Oct. 18, 2025. For specific exhibit information, visit Elsayed's website at <https://dahliaelsayed.com/news>.

The New York Times recently published an article about how censorship impacts artists. Included among the artists featured is **Karen Finley**, whose work is in the Foundation Art Collection in the fifth floor Gabert Library studio arts classroom. *The Times* article was illustrated by **Barbara Kruger**, whose work is on the second floor of 2 Enos Place. As background to the interview, *The Times* reported that in 1990, Finley, with three other artists, sued

the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) because the NEA rescinded their fellowships. Finley is most famous for covering herself in chocolate as a performance art piece. Many people who know about the chocolate don't know what the work was about.

The artists who sued the NEA pursued justice all the way to the Supreme Court. Eight years after the artists filed suit, the Court ruled against them, saying the NEA should base decisions on "general standards of decency" in "addition to artistic merit," thus changing the nation's ideas about public funding for the arts. Artist Karen Finley says, "When I did ['We Keep Our Victims Ready' (1990), which she'd begun performing the year before], I was looking at sexual violence. In my performance, I covered my body in chocolate, a ritual that represented the body being devalued and dehumanized. Then I turned it around. At the end, I covered my body in silver tinsel, making myself almost like a disco ball. Three other artists — John Fleck, Holly Hughes and Tim Miller — and I were denied our grants [by the N.E.A.] because of the content of our work. We considered it vague that the government could use decency to restrict funding, so we appealed to the Ninth Circuit and won. But then it went to the Supreme Court, and that's where we lost.... That became a precedent for where we are today. If the government considers a work or production to be indecent, it can restrict support. The public has to be thinking about this in a much broader fashion. That's what we're seeing with trans health care, with abortion. We can see it in the libraries, universities and colleges. It's become pervasive. I think about the artist as a historical recorder. I was speaking about sexual violence, the AIDS crisis, war — many issues that are still here today.... I was considered to be important enough to censor, but it was very upsetting and hurtful for me in the beginning. I went into teaching, but I never stopped making work. Eventually I went back to thinking about why I create art. I made the decision that I'd work from joy — which might be more of a radical gesture than the art itself." If you'd like to read about this, go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/31/t-magazine/artists-censorship-book-bans.html>

Rest in peace, **Robert Wilson**, an artist who could do many things well. He died in July. His work can be seen on campus in the third floor (Room 304) Hospitality Management Lab

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL EVENT



Hudson County Board of Commissioners Chair Anthony L. Romano delivers the keynote address at HCCC's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.

Twenty-four years after Hudson County lost 155 residents in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted a memorial to honor victims and their families. The remembrance took place on Thursday, September 11, 2025 in the Gabert Library at 71 Sip Avenue in Jersey City.

Elected officials, emergency responders, students, educators, historians, and community members offered reflections and tributes from the College's Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery and Atrium, which overlook the New York City and Jersey City skylines.

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber reflected on the enduring impact of the

attacks, noting how Jersey City became a hub for security, infrastructure protection, and unity among diverse communities. Hudson County Executive Craig Guy emphasized the significance of the day for local residents, including first responders who supported rescue and recovery efforts.

The program opened with remarks by HCCC Associate Director of Institutional Engagement and Excellence Training Richard Walker, followed by Dr. Reber's welcome. Hudson County Board of Commissioners Chair Anthony L. Romano delivered the keynote address, and Jersey City Fire Department Battalion Chief and author Dwayne Taylor shared reflections.

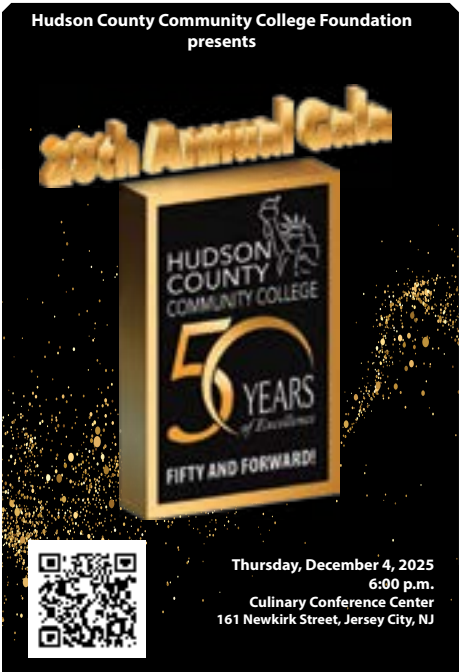


Romano is also pictured with campus and community leaders during the program.

Other speakers included HCCC faculty, veterans' services staff, cultural affairs leaders, and students, with closing remarks from HCCC Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Excellence Dr. Yeurys Pujols.

A highlight of the event was the viewing of a World Trade Center steel fragment on the rooftop terrace, believed to be from the North Tower's East Façade. Donated to HCCC by the New Jersey State Museum, the artifact served as a powerful reminder of the day's lasting impact.

The HCCC Foundation Art Collection also features 9/11-related works displayed across the Journal Square Campus.



FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION

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in the Culinary Conference Center. Gallerist Thaddeus Ropac, who exhibited Wilson's work, talked in *The New York Times* about the artist's contributions to many fields, "Since the late 1960s, his productions have decisively shaped the contemporary aesthetics of theatre and opera. Through his signature use of light, innovations in movement and the classical rigor of his designs, the force and originality of his vision will continue to leave a lasting impact across artistic media. Bob will be remembered as a visionary across a wide variety of artistic disciplines, as an acclaimed director, stage architect, designer, choreographer, curator and visual artist. I'm grateful to have collaborated with him for numerous exhibitions in our galleries in Salzburg and Paris over the past 30 years, showing his drawings, sculptures, installations and video portraits."

If you like the **Man Ray** work on the first floor of 2 Enos Place, you might enjoy a new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art called "Man Ray: When Objects Dream" through Feb. 1, 2026. The Museum is on 1000 Fifth Avenue on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Be sure to bring a valid student ID from Hudson County Community College to the museum. That way, you can pay what you wish (see <https://engage.metmuseum.org/admission> for more information).

Did you know our HCCC Library has free museum passes to a number of major local museums? Visit this link to check it out: <https://library.hccc.edu/museum-pass>

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.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



The Beta Alpha Phi team serving and walking at the St. Jude in New York City.



Beta Alpha Phi participated in the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Walk on Aug. 2.

St. Jude Walk

On Sunday, Sept. 14, Beta Alpha Phi Chapter was among the 135 teams and 1,233 participants in the Rockefeller Park, New York City site of the walk to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a world-renowned medical and research center dedicated to advancing cures and prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases, primarily childhood cancer. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food, allowing them to focus solely on helping their child live.

Congratulations to Naoual Daoud

Naoual Daoud has been selected as an inaugural 2025 Chime Workforce Scholar and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Recipients are chosen for their academic excellence, engagement, leadership potential, and career readiness.

The scholarship is made possible through the Chime Scholars Foundation, which distributes \$200,000 annually to 200 community college students in workforce-ready programs. The funds support both educational expenses and workforce-entry costs such as certification fees, uniforms, and tools.

Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Walk

On Saturday, Aug. 2, Beta Alpha Phi Chapter participated in a walk benefiting the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. The PFF Walk unites all impacted by pulmonary fibrosis and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and provides a special opportunity to raise funds, build awareness, and make a meaningful impact on those affected by the disease.

Join the Out of the Darkness Hoboken Walk

Beta Alpha Phi Chapter, Active Minds and BC2M (Bring Change 2 Mind) invite you to take part in the Out of the Darkness Hoboken Walk on Sunday, Oct. 19, at the Babbio Center, Stevens Institute of Technology, 525 River Street, Hoboken. On-site registration begins at 9 a.m., and the program starts at 10 a.m.

This annual event raises awareness and critical funds to support those affected by suicide, sending a powerful message that suicide can be prevented and no one is alone.

Sign up or donate here: <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/team/362742>. Campus leaders include Joycelyn S. Wong-Castellano (HCCC Walk Captain); Neivi Nunez (Active Minds); and Georgina Sotomayor (BC2M); and Kenia Sandoval (Phi Theta Kappa).

College 101: A Night for Parents & Students

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

We welcome all current college students and their parents, as well as prospective college students and their parents.

The event will cover important topics such as:

- Step-by-step guide to college admissions
- Understanding financial aid
- What FERPA means and how it affects students
- Academic and student support services
- Student Life and Clubs
- Meet and Greet with faculty and advisors



TO REGISTER:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/fed-c7f986d0347fb85c5736d97ad8302>

HCCC Alumni: Get Involved!

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

HCCC RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM



Invites you to join us for our
VIRTUAL FALL 2025
Radiography Program

Q&A SESSION

To find out more information about becoming a student at HCCC and a RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST.

Wednesday,

November 19, 2025

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Join at:

<https://tinyurl.com/Radiography25>

For more information please contact (201) 360-4784.

HCCC PHARMACY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



Invites you to join us for our upcoming VIRTUAL Pharmacy Technician Q&A SESSION

To find out more information about becoming a student at HCCC and the Pharmacy Technician Academic Certificate.

Tuesday, October 14 at 4 p.m.

Join at:

<https://tinyurl.com/RadiographyatHCCC>

or

Tuesday, November 18 at 4 p.m.

Join at:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCPharmacytech>

For more information, please contact:

Catherine Sirangelo, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences
201-360-4338

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

Are you experiencing stress, depression, or anxiety?

Difficulty adjusting to the College environment?

Dealing with mental health and wellness?



Please complete the General Concern Form
Click here: <https://tinyurl.com/HCCC-Care> or scan the QR code.
The form is NOT monitored 24/7.

A member of the CARE team will respond to your request during regular business hours.

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



REGISTER NOW!

for Fall 2025 Classes



HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

On-Campus, Online, Remote, Hybrid (On-Campus/Online), Hybrid (Remote/Online), and Immersive Telepresence Video (ITV)

7-Week Online Classes

Fall Online B and
Fall 7-Week 2:
Saturday, October 25, 2025

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

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

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

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

Come Celebrate Italian Heritage at the North Hudson Campus

Everyone is Welcome!

Enjoy Italian food, music, and participate in a panel discussion

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Blvd., Multi-Purpose Room (N203), Union City, NJ

MEET THE ITALIAN HERITAGE PANELISTS



Dr. Rose Grimaldi
Instructor, English



Dr. Catherine Sirangelo-Elbadawy
Dean, School of Nursing and Health Professions



Laurie Riccadonna
Professor, Fine Arts



Joseph Gallo
Professor, Theater Arts

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



and on

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

Art House Productions & Exit 13 Productions

My Italy Story

Written by Joseph Gallo, Professor at HCCC

Starring: Michael Notardonato Directed by: Charlotte Cohn

Art House - 345 Marin Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ

For tickets, contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership
Jersey City Campus studentlife@hccc.edu.



CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Hudson County Project SEARCH 2025–2026 Kick-Off: A Celebration of Opportunity and Inclusion

The Hudson County Project SEARCH program proudly launched its 2025–2026 academic year with an inspiring Kick-Off event held on September 3, 2025 at Hudson County Community College’s Journal Square campus. This annual celebration marks the beginning of a transformative journey for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as they embark on a year of immersive workplace training and skill-building.

Project SEARCH is a nationally recognized transition-to-work program that empowers participants through real-world experience, mentorship, and career development. The Hudson County cohort, supported by a dynamic collaboration between education, workforce development, and community partners, continues to set a high standard for inclusive excellence.

This year’s Kick-Off was filled with energy, optimism, and a shared commitment to creating meaningful pathways to employment. Families, educators, and community leaders

gathered to welcome the new interns and celebrate the power of partnership.

Honoring Our HCCC Journal Square Worksite Departments

A heartfelt recognition goes to the Hudson County Community College departments at Journal Square that have opened their doors as worksites for this academic year. During our HCCC Meet and Greet held on September 17, 2025, the department leads joined us in learning about the interns and participated by sharing a little professional and personal background of hobbies and interest. Their dedication to fostering inclusive learning environments and providing hands-on training opportunities is instrumental to the success of 2025-2026 Project SEARCH Internship.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the following units:

- Facilities and Maintenance
- Flik Services
- Information Technology Services
- CEWD

- Procurement
- Early College
- Library Services

These departments exemplify the spirit of collaboration and community impact. By mentoring interns and integrating them into daily operations, they are not only shaping future professionals but also enriching their own teams with diverse perspectives and talents.

Looking Ahead

As the 2025–2026 cohort begins their internships, the Hudson County Project SEARCH team remains committed to supporting each intern’s growth, confidence, and career readiness. With the continued support of HCCC and our valued partners, we look forward to another year of success stories, skill development, and life-changing experiences.

Welcome to a new year of possibility, purpose, and progress!

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NICET LEVEL I SOIL TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE) 2025 dates will be announced soon!
Join our waitlist to be the first notified when new classes are scheduled.
Saturdays and Sundays | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://tinyurl.com/kcdwnjpv>

NICET LEVEL I CONCRETE TESTING CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)
2025 dates will be announced soon!
Join our waitlist to be the first notified when new classes are scheduled.
Saturdays and Sundays | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://tinyurl.com/5n94eycx>

BASIC ITALIAN I (ONLINE)
Wednesdays (5 SESSIONS) - October 8, 2025, to November 4, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Instructor: Gabriela Fossati
Price: \$130
<https://tinyurl.com/wsrcy8wd>

ATI TEAS TEST PREPARATION WORKSHOP FALL 2025 (ONLINE) All Test Prep Portions
Saturdays | October 11, 2025 to December 20, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$304
No class on November 29

Science/Math Prep ONLY
Saturdays | November 15, 2025 to December 20, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Price: \$152
No class on November 29
<https://tinyurl.com/ATIPrepFA25>

TOEFL TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE FALL ‘25 PREP (ONLINE)
Saturdays | October 18, 2025 to November 22, 2025
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$263
<https://tinyurl.com/TOEFLFA25>

MICROSOFT EXCEL BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE COURSE (IN-PERSON)
Tuesdays (9 Sessions) | October 21, 2025 to December 16, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi
Price: \$285
<https://tinyurl.com/y8rxdh25>

WELCOME TO COMPUTER BASICS FALL 2025 (IN-PERSON)
Thursdays (7 Sessions) | October 23, 2025 to December 11, 2025 | No class November 27 | 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Instructor: Johnstone Libutsi | Price: \$175
<https://tinyurl.com/2kmxpaap>

ADVANCED ITALIAN CONVERSATIONAL III (ONLINE)
Thursdays (7 Sessions) | October 23, 2025 to November 20, 2025
Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Instructor: Gabriela Fossati
Price: \$130
<https://tinyurl.com/4rvycs7>

INTRODUCTION TO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ONLINE)
Saturdays and Sundays | October 25, 2025 to November 16, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Price: \$299
<https://tinyurl.com/4uwamasu>

PODCASTING ESSENTIALS FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP (ONLINE)
Mondays & Wednesdays (8 Sessions)
October 27, 2025 to November 19, 2025 | 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Instructor: Kimberly Sumpter | Price: \$130
<https://tinyurl.com/4rttnet6>

BASIC FRENCH LEVEL I (ONLINE)
Wednesdays | October 29, November 5, 12, 19 & 26
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. | Instructor: Georgette Batubenge
Price: \$130
<https://tinyurl.com/2wskhwej>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. | Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/FALLBLS25>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON) (RADIOGRAPHY STUDENTS ONLY)
Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/FALLBLS25>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
School of Continuing Education and Workforce Development
161 Newkirk Street, Room E504, Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 360-4224/5358 | CE@hccc.edu

ALUMNI CORNER

Adrienne M. Fudge
Culinary Arts, Class of 2007

Adrienne is a chef, entrepreneur, and owner of 40 Dreams Catering ([40 Dreams.com](https://www.thrive40dreams.com/)) (<https://www.thrive40dreams.com/>)



What brought you to HCCC?

I began HCCC’s Culinary Arts Institute (CAI) in 2007. I was part of the first weekend class at the school. Classes were from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. My full-time job was in Maryland. I drove to my parents’ home on Friday nights after work to attend class on the weekends.

I visited three schools. Two of the schools were in New York. I chose CAI because all of the instructors had gone to Culinary Institute of America (CIA). I felt like I was getting the CIA education with a schedule that worked for me, and with tuition that was significantly less than the New York schools.

Tell us about your time in HCCC’s culinary program.

As a second career student, attending class over the weekends was an adjustment, but it was an amazing experience. The Chefs (Chefs Cafasso, Khouzam, Muller, and Kadko) who taught the weekend school were dedicated and wanted every student to succeed. Attending HCCC was worth the commute from Maryland every weekend.

How did the culinary program set the stage for a successful career in the culinary industry?

The culinary program set the stage by requiring us to give our best. I remember walking into class with my chef whites and the top button of my chef’s coat was unbuttoned. Chef Cafasso told me to leave the class because I wasn’t in uniform. At first, I didn’t know what he was talking about; I went to the locker room and looked over my clothing, and realized it must have been the button. I buttoned it and came back to class. Requiring excellence produces excellence; it’s that simple. The chefs held the students to a standard of excellence not only in our cooking skills, but in how we presented ourselves, and how we spoke in the lab and in class. Many students in the weekend program had full-time jobs and had been cooking for many years. The chefs helped us hone our skills and taught us new ones to create the best product.

What is 40 Dreams? What inspired you to start it?

40 Dreams Catering provides meals to senior citizens and disabled adults in nine New Jersey counties through a Medicaid-funded program. We started in 2015 and we just celebrated 10

years in business. 40 Dreams didn’t start with meal prep. We started as a traditional catering business in 2008 while I was attending CAI. Over the years, I’ve worked in restaurants, sold baked goods at farmer’s markets, ran the Cafeteria at NJ Transit in Maplewood, catered private and corporate events, worked as a personal chef, and finally found my niche in meal prep. It’s been a great journey.

I started cooking at a very young age because my mother was diagnosed with lupus and was sick all through my childhood and adolescent years. She was a bedside chef instructor. I would make something, take it to her to see if it was right and she would provide instructions from the bed. We did this for years. When she was strong enough to be in the kitchen, she was. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. My father was happy because we were both good cooks. He wanted me to go to college, so I went to college even though I wanted to go to culinary school. They both inspired me. In hindsight, getting a traditional college education is why my business is successful today. It’s not enough to just know how to cook a great meal and make it look pretty on a plate. You have to know how to work with people, communicate, review your numbers, and know your costs. My parents are the ones who truly inspired me and prepared me for being an entrepreneur in the food industry.

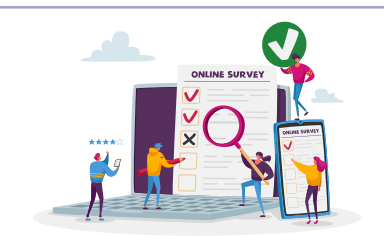
What’s it like being an entrepreneur?

Being an entrepreneur is not what most people think. Many think you make your own schedule, and you don’t have a boss. That’s a myth. You have multiple bosses because every customer is your boss, and you work on their schedule. That said, I am so grateful that I made it to this point. It’s an amazing feeling to make a difference in the world by having a successful business. It’s also a lot of responsibility. When you realize that the success of your business determines whether your employees can pay their bills, it makes you work harder. I want my businesses to be a place where people enjoy coming to work and one where our clients have a pleasant experience when they interact with us. Being an entrepreneur is a lot of responsibility, but it’s the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done.

Any advice for current HCCC students looking to follow in your footsteps?

Students who want to become entrepreneurs must have strong work ethics. They must be willing to do the hard things even when they

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Alumni Survey:

As we kick off HCCC’s 50th Anniversary celebration, we want to hear from you! Share your experiences and insights by completing our survey today: https://hccc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77111qlENrf4heu.

Your voice matters, and we appreciate your input!

What’s New?



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

Alumni Benefits:



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

Alumni Giving:



You can sponsor events, students, or classes, or make an annual contribution at a level that works for you. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Giving is easy — visit <https://www.hccc.edu/community/foundation/index.html#ways-to-give> to make your impact today!

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don't feel like doing anything. They need to have a documented vision with steps on how and when they will achieve their goals. They must network with other entrepreneurs and not listen to people who tell them they can't do it. They can do it if they don't quit. The reason why many people don't reach their goals is because they quit when it got too hard. Being in business is not always easy. I've lost thousands of dollars at no fault of my own, but I didn't let it stop me. I kept going because I believed in what I was doing, and I believed I could have a successful business. My advice to any student is to have a vision and don't give up. Work hard to get to where you said you want to go. It will take sacrifice, sleepless nights, and hard work, but the result is a feeling that is beyond bliss. Being

an entrepreneur is having a level of peace that can't be described. There is chaos all around, but I am at peace. My only regret is that I didn't start earlier.

Any favorite memories of HCCC?

A favorite memory was being a member of the American Federations Culinary Junior Team for the North Jersey Chapter. I'm still friends with most of the students that were on the team. One of them, Leif Brewer, is the Chef at 40 Dreams. I don't cook anymore; I run the business. We brought the NJ State trophy home three years in a row. I was on the team for two years, and I coached for one year. Competing was a great experience.



HCCC 50th Anniversary Homecoming Block Party and Open House

Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Culinary Conference Center and Park
161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ 07306**

*Join us in celebrating 50 years of excellence at HCCC
with a special Open House and Block Party!*

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Tasty bites and refreshing beverages from food trucks and snack stands (available for purchase)
- Festive family games and activities
- Live music and entertainment
- Community partners and services
- Guided campus tours
- Presence of HCCC's academic programs and student services
- Opportunities to engage with faculty, staff, students, and alumni

*Whether you're a
student, proud alum,
or local
community member
—everyone
is welcome!*



Let us know you are attending this event or any of our upcoming 50th Anniversary celebrations:

www.hccc.edu/goldenevents

Registration is encouraged and will make your check-in time faster, but it is not required.

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



COLLEGE EVENTS CALENDAR

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

