

HCCC Happenings

A publication of the Communications Department



HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR GRADUATES OF RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM

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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 October newsletter are due by Friday, September 13, 2024

Please send your news items, comments and suggestions to:

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR GRADUATES OF RADIOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Medical imaging allows healthcare providers to view within patients’ bodies that which cannot be seen by the eye, thereby enabling providers to diagnose, monitor and/or treat medical conditions. Radiography is one of the most utilized medical imaging technologies. Even though radiography technologists – also known as radiographers – comprise one third of all healthcare professionals, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts employment opportunities will continue to grow as care for the nation’s steadily aging population will likely expand the need for imaging to diagnose medical conditions.

On Thursday, August 8, 2024, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) honored graduates of the College’s Radiography program with its sixth annual White Coat Ceremony. The 14 members of the HCCC Radiography Class of 2024 include Jose Costa, Tyer Ellensen, Francisco Fabian, Mario Hurtado, Martina Kamal, Janita Morales, Erika Ortiz, Paula Ortiz, Tiffany Padilla, Peter Politis, Grace Rafter, Dania Diaz, Daniel Ross, and Adrian Zajkowski.

The White Coat Ceremony is a universal, time-honored and symbolic rite of passage for students of the healing arts, and for radiologic graduates, it conveys the relationship they share with other professionals in healthcare services. While receiving their white coats as symbols of caring, compassion and service, graduates pledged dedication to their profession by stating the Radiologic Sciences Oath of Commitment.

Cheryl Cashell, M.S., R.T. (R)(M)(QM), the College’s Director of Radiography, presided over the event. Dr. Darryl Jones, HCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs, welcomed graduates, instructors, staff, and guests and offered congratulatory remarks. Additionally, instructors presented awards to recognize graduates’ outstanding Academic, Technical, Achievement, Excellence, and JRCERT (Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology) accomplishments.

Students who complete the HCCC 63-credit Associate in Science in Radiography program receive their degree as well as a certificate

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ON THE COVER: *Hudson County Community College held a time-honored “White Coat” ceremony for graduates (pictured here) of the College’s Radiography program.*

DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER, JOINS BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Christopher Reber, President of Hudson County Community College (HCCC), joined the BHEF Board of Directors along with Jae Lynn Akins, HR Executive at State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, and Terrence Cheng, Chancellor of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. Dr. Reber is the sole community college president to serve on the Board.

BHEF is a national network connecting pioneering corporate and higher education leaders to identify emerging skills and co-develop pathways that address talent gaps. Business and higher education leaders join the Forum to lead innovation that meets the changing needs of learners, workers, and businesses. For members and partners, BHEF convenes action-oriented summits and roundtables; illuminates emerging talent needs and skill gaps; rapidly prototypes, implements, and scales talent solutions that bridge learning and work; and advocates for transformative business-higher education partnerships.

BHEF Board members champion the BHEF vision; participate in governance and oversight;

commit to collaboration and attending at least two in-person member meetings each year; amplify BHEF’s influence by acting as ambassadors and building awareness among industry and academic peers; and support innovation and research by actively endorsing and contributing to BHEF’s learning and research agenda, and helping steer innovative projects that align with the organization’s strategic priorities.



Hudson County Community College President Dr. Christopher Reber recently joined the Business-Higher Education Forum Board of Directors.

“Our three new Board members will bring their expertise to our work to create inclusive pathways into the critical occupations and skills of the future, ensuring that innovative higher education and business leaders are key actors in achieving this vision, and catalyzing impactful collaboration,” said Kristen Fox,

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2024 DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION SUMMER RETREAT

The 2024 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Summer Retreat, hosted by the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) and the Office of DEI, was held Wednesday, July 31, 2024 to Thursday, August 1, 2024, offsite at the Courtyard Marriott in Edgewater, New Jersey. Over two days, the retreat provided safe spaces for diverse thought by engaging in crucial conversations to build pathways leading to transformational change. The retreat provided opportunities to examine the national landscape of DEI and assess our individual and collective journeys, while also accounting for our triumphs and missed opportunities along the way.

The featured speaker of the retreat was Professor Loretta Ross, associate professor at Smith College, who spoke about navigating challenging conversations and cultivating compassionate connections. The program included DEI celebrations, open discussions, workshops on specialized topics, as well



On Wednesday, July 31, Hudson County Community College began its two-day annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summer Retreat, held at the Courtyard Marriott by Edgewater NYC Area. Pictured from left: Joseph Caniglia; Diana Galvez; Trustee Pamela Gardner; HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber; Smith College Associate Professor Loretta J. Ross; Raffi Manjikian; Dr. Yeury Pujols; Nina Maria Resurreccion; and Dr. Darryl Jones.

as planning and reflection opportunities. It also provided moments of introspection when attendees reflected on similarities and differences while stimulating our sense of community to efficiently support the completion of the 2024–2029 DEI Action Plan. Overall, approximately 70 attendees participated in the DEI retreat. The PACDEI co-chairs, Instructor Raffi Manjikian and Diana

Galvez, Dr. Yeury Pujols, and Dr. Christopher Reber thank everyone involved for their hard work in planning and setting up the event. As Dr. Reber says, “it takes a village,” and this year’s DEI retreat was thanks to the hard work of so many, which include the planning committee, PACDEI members, and many other community members.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH THE HCCC FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Foundation Art Collection features a rich mosaic of works by Hispanic artists reflecting the College’s robust commitment to supporting Hispanic-American culture.

Renowned American labor leader and Civil Rights activist Cesar Chavez inspired Americans and the world community to work peacefully for social justice. He famously said, “No violencia es nuestra fuerza.” (Translation: Non-violence is our strength). An authentic vintage framed social-justice campaign button – with Chavez’s image and that quotation – is installed alongside many other items of Americana in a history classroom at HCCC. This educational treasure is part of the history and cultural heritage collection at the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

Chavez also stated, “We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community – and this nation.” Hudson County Community College and the HCCC Foundation Art Collection seek to embody this ethos each day, and the HCCC Foundation Art Collection proudly reflects this diversity and celebrates the College community’s strong Hispanic presence, featuring 75 permanently installed paintings, sculptures, and limited-edition prints by Hispanic artists. September 15 marks the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs through October 15, making it a great time to celebrate and reflect on the

contributions of these Hispanic artists in the HCCC Foundation Art Collection.

Over 50% of Hudson County Community College students identify as Hispanic or Latino. HCCC is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and a proud member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), a national organization dedicated to championing the success of Hispanic students in higher education. In 2023, the College was recognized for its excellence in support of this mission with the organization’s “Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award.”

HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber stated, “Art has the unique power to transcend boundaries and connect us to diverse cultural experiences. Our collection of Hispanic art not only celebrates the rich heritage and contributions of Hispanic artists, but also serves to inspire our students and community.”

The Hispanic heritage experience in the United States ranges from the pampas of Argentina and Uruguay all the way north to Caribbean islands like Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and everywhere in between, and the Foundation Art Collection reflects that diversity.

The Foundation’s collection of artwork by Hispanic artists also ranges in time from a pre-Columbian (before 1492) sculpture from the Colima Alcarraza culture dating back to 400 B.C., to modern-day works from both world-renowned



Francisco Zuniga, “Evelia en un butaque”

artists like Teresita Fernandez and Picasso, and award-winning HCCC student artists.

While these works are exhibited throughout HCCC’s Journal Square and North Hudson campuses so that all members of the HCCC community can enjoy them, the third-floor corridor of the Gabert Library at 71 Sip Avenue is dedicated to Hispanic art and features many pieces by prominent Hispanic artists, including Alejandro Anreus and Felix Gonzales-Torres.

Each piece has its own unique story behind it, but one particularly notable work that is making a splash beyond the corridors of HCCC is Francisco Zuniga’s *Evelia en un butaque*, located on the fifth floor of the Gabert Library. Created in 1977 by the renowned Costa Rican-born

MILESTONES

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

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

Five Years

Lisa Bogart
Anthony Deschamps
Stephanie Sergeant
Iqra Usmani
Sharon Wilson-Harriott

10 Years

Jacquelyn Delemos

45 Years

Daisy Baiza

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

One Year

Ciro Camacho Jr.
Gabriela Fossati
Dhruv Patel
Ashley Rinaldi
Frank Gonzalez Rivera
Ciro Romero

Five Years

Elissa D'Aries
Abdoulaye Diallo
Magda Dimanche
Briana Espinosa
Nelson Lovera Aquino

APPOINTMENT OF STAFF

Cynthia Bardales, Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars

Jessica Cortez, Academic Counselor

Ryan Csordas, Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars

Jacquelyn, DeLemos, Administrative Assistant, Accessibility Services

Brooke Duffy, Director of Library Instruction,

Diana Galvez, Associate Director, North Hudson Campus

Jenny Henriquez, Associate Director, Honors Program

Junwen Liu, Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars

Christopher Rivera, Director of ESL and Academic Foundations English

Rebecca Shaffer, Academic Counselor, Hudson Scholars

Luz Tellez, Academic Advisor, North Hudson Campus

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FACULTY

Yusuf Dag Instructor, STEM (Non-tenure Track) August 16, 2024 -December 31, 2024

Robert Maurer Instructor, Culinary Arts (Non-tenure Track) August 16, 2024 -December 31, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 12

New Hire Orientation - Office of Faculty and Staff Development

Monday, September 26

Succession Planning - Dr. Christopher Conzen, Executive Director, Secaucus Center & Early College Program

Thursday, October 3

Benefits and Pension Josianne Payoute, Director of Benefits and Compensation

Thursday, October 10

You're an Internal Candidate, Now What? Dr. Bernadette So, Dean of Student Success

Thursday, October 17

SAE's Approach to Professional Development Dr. Lisa Dougherty, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment

Thursday, October 24

Neuroplasticity Kenny Fabara, Director, Academic Affairs

TBD

Adjunct Faculty Conference



Hudson County Community College Wellness Fair

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street
Jersey City, NJ

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY FULL-TIME STAFF

Karina Arango, Student Success Coach, Academic and Workforce Pathways Program (Grant-funded) September 1, 2024- May 31, 2025

Anne Hutchinson, Librarian, September 1, 2024- December 31, 2024

Matthew Kolbusz, Associate Director, ESL and Academic Foundations English (Grant-funded), August 14, 2024- September 30, 2026

Fabiola Ocean, Student Success Coach, Academic and Workforce Pathways Program (Grant-funded), September 1, 2024- May 31, 2025

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP) WEBINARS

To sign up for upcoming webinars, visit eap.ndbh.com, enter company code HCCC, and scroll down to the "Check Out Our Webinars" box.

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

STAFFING MODIFICATION

Finance

Quintessence Jones, Accountant to Associate Director, Accounts Payable

Nicole Sanchez, Accountant to Senior Accountant

Career and Transfer Pathways

Associate Director, Career and Transfer Pathways Senior Assistant Director, Career and Transfer (Grant-funded)

Career and Transfer Specialist (Grant-funded, Two Positions)

Rimsha Bazaid, Transfer Coordinator to Career and Transfer Coach

Diana Sanchez, Career Coach to Career and Transfer Coach

Connie Silletti-Cafaro, Perkins Equity Coordinator (Grant-funded) to Career and Transfer Specialist (Grant-funded)

Imane Zehaf, Career Coach (Grant-funded) to Career and Transfer Specialist (Grant-funded)

Communications and Web Management

Jessica Brito, Social Media Coordinator to Assistant Director

Jennifer Christopher Director, Communications to Assistant Vice President

Kristofer Fontanez, Manager of Web and Portal Services to Associate Director, Web and Portal Services

Jay Singh, Web Developer (Part-time) to Web Developer

Institutional Research

Aycha Edwards, Assistant Director, Institutional Research to Director, Institutional Research

John Urgola, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Research to Associate Vice President, Institutional Research

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH HUDSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND CITIZENS PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION TO ANNOUNCE NEW SMALL BUSINESS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Hudson County Community College (HCCC), in collaboration with Hudson County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC), announced a new internship program that matches Hudson County businesses with HCCC students. The HCEDC - HCCC Internship Program is supported by a grant to HCEDC by Citizens Philanthropic Foundation that funds stipends for participating students.

Program details were provided by HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber; HCEDC Executive Director Michelle Richardson; and HCCC Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development Lori Margolin.

The HCCC-HCEDC Internship Program was launched in spring 2024 with a Project-Based

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Members of the Hudson County Community College-Hudson County Economic Development Corp. Internship Program Team, from left: (front row) Rosennies Feliz, HCEDC Marketing, Communications and Program Coordinator; Lori Margolin, HCCC Associate Vice President for Continuing Education and Workforce Development; Haya Almahdy, HCCC Student Intern; Alejandro Fuenmayor, Owner, Cavany Foods; Alka Kustagi, AIA, Owner, CHB Interiors; Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President; Michelle Richardson, HCEDC Executive Director; (back row) Elise White, SRL Enterprises President and Managing Member; Natalie Brown, HCCC Internship Coordinator; Mina Abdelmaseeh, HCCC Student Intern; and Destiny Knowles, HCCC Student Intern.

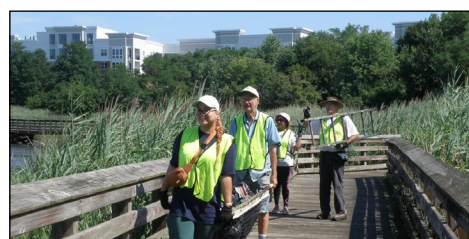
PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY NEWS



Joanne Rivera (left) with her daughter and Karen Velasquez volunteered at the New York Road Runners Open Run at Lincoln Park on July 28.



On July 28, Dynasty Gonzalez with her mother Nury and daughter Juliette; Desiree Page; alumna Betsy Apena with her parents Lorenzo and Teodora; and chapter advisor Prof. Ted Lia volunteered at the Friends of Liberty State Park Annual Picnic.



On August 10, Environmental Heroes from Bayonne Nature Club, Hackensack Riverkeeper and students from Hudson County Community College, cleaned up huge amounts of trash from Rutkowski Park in Bayonne.

Blood Drive

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, Beta Alpha Phi Chapter co-hosted a blood drive with New Jersey Blood Services, a division of the New York Blood Center, at the HCCC STEM Building. Chapter members recruited donors prior to the drive and performed needed tasks such as managing the queue and serving refreshments for donors.

America Needs You Selects HCCC Fellows

Congratulations to Mina Abdelmaseeh and Marolla Youakim on their selection as Fellows in the America Needs You (ANY) program.

The two-year program Fellows Program empowers low-income, first-generation college students with the tools they need to graduate college, succeed in their careers, and compete at the highest level by providing one-on-one mentorship, intensive career development, robust networks, and holistic support. The program consists of monthly workshops

focused on the essential, non-academic skills needed to attain professional internships and jobs.

Abdelmaseeh and Youakim attended their first workshop on July 13 at Kean University.

SMART Application Is Open

The SMART Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, is a combined educational and workforce development opportunity for students pursuing STEM degrees. Start your SMART application today! Visit www.smartscholarship.org.

Phi Theta Kappa's New FAFSA Mentoring Tool

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is proud to announce the launch of PTK's new FAFSA Mentoring Tool, designed to support students in navigating the complexities of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process. PTK members will have free access to



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.

this tool that aims to empower high-achieving community college students by providing expert guidance and stream-lining the financial aid application process. Learn more at <https://www.ptk.org/phi-theta-kappa-honor-society-launches-ai-powered-fafsa-mentoring-tool-to-assist-students/>

Foundation Art Collection

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

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

Donor Acknowledgment

Thanks to an anonymous donor for the art books.

Student Opportunity: Writing about Art

Thanks to a generous grant from the City of Jersey City Office of Cultural Affairs, this fall the HCCC Foundation will hire students to write educational placards for artworks on campus. Students can "earn while they learn;" they will be paid to take brief workshops on how to write about art. They also will be paid to draft the actual placards for works on the walls of the College.

Students interested in seeing their writing "published" on the descriptive panels next to artworks on campus should contact Andrea Siegel, Coordinator, for more information at ASiegel@hccc.edu.

Artist News

If you like the works on display by **Elizabeth Catlett**, on the first floor of the Nursing Program at 870 Bergen, in the public areas of Academic Affairs on the 4th floor of 70 Sip Avenue, or on the 3rd floor of Gabert Library, it might be worth a PATH ride and then a subway trip to the Brooklyn Museum after September 13, when the exhibition, "Elizabeth Catlett: A Black Revolutionary Artist and All That It Implies" goes on display.

Elizabeth Catlett (1915–2012), according to the Brooklyn Museum was a "defining Black woman artist of the twentieth century." Born in Washington, DC, Catlett became, as the Museum puts it, "a deft sculptor and printmaker, devout feminist, and lifelong social justice advocate." Growing up during the Great Depression, she applied to her first-choice college, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and was accepted. When the Administration found out she was Black, they rejected her application. Instead she went to Howard University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), where she graduated cum laude. After winning a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship in 1946, she moved to Mexico to complete "a series of lithographs, paintings, and sculptures of Negro women in the fight for

democratic rights in the history of America." She settled permanently in Mexico, marrying sculptor Francisco Mora. They had three sons.

According to the Museum of Modern Art, even though she lived in Mexico, she "remained keenly aware of and involved in Black peoples' political efforts in the United States throughout the 1960s and '70s... Her leftist political involvement led the U.S. to label her an 'undesirable alien.'" For over 10 years, she was barred from re-entering the U.S. Because she could not get a visa in 1970 to attend a conference held in her honor at Northwestern University, she phoned in her remarks, declaring, "I have been, and am currently, and always hope to be a Black Revolutionary Artist, and all that it implies!"

Her U.S. citizenship was reinstated in 2002. She made the work *Gossip*, which is in Foundation Art Collection, in 2005 at the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions which was then housed at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. After January 19, 2025, the show at the Brooklyn Museum, which includes 150+ works by the artist, will travel to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

If you have taken a look at the huge work, "What is an American" by **Jaune Quick-to-See-Smith** on the 3rd floor of the Gabert Library and wondered about the red-white-and-blue flag allusion, you might be interested in a new video by the National Gallery of Art about Quick-to-See-Smith, "Artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith Takes on Pop Art" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOytQ-Rzky>). In the video, *The New York Times* art critic Aruna D'Souza, points out that for Quick-to-See-Smith, who grew up on the Flathead reservation in Montana, and is a member of the Salish and Kootenai nation, using the American flag in an artwork had a different meaning than it might, say, for Jasper Johns, an artist who famously painted the flag while claiming that it was so visually familiar, it had lost meaning and was neutral. D'Souza says, "His 'empty' paintings really do have meanings for America's First Peoples....The U.S. flag was hardly neutral to first nations and Native Americans who were having their sovereignty



Nancy Azara, Broken Leaf (2007), Digital Print with Pochoir and Hand Lithography, 12" x 12"

quashed by a new government." She adds that the flag is, "deeply embedded in history, and a history that was important to Native American people." She says it is a, "reminder to us as viewers: No image is neutral. No image comes without a history, and a politics, even if we at first glance aren't aware of it." The 13 Colonies immortalized on the flag in the stripes, and the 50 states commemorated in the stars, are both part of maps drawn over earlier maps of territories belonging to the First Nations people.

Rest in Peace, **Nancy Azara**, who died June 27 at the age of 84. Her work can be seen on the 6th floor of the Gabert Library in a group of prints devoted to the 2nd Wave of the Feminist movement. The work in the Collection, "Broken Leaf," has a variety of reds. According to Azara's obituary in *The New York Times*, "Ms. Azara's 'deep magentas,' the feminist psychologist and author Phyllis Chesler said, 'are the color of blood, of sacrifice, of death and of rebirth.' Ms. Azara, she said, 'resurrected a more pagan archetype of the Great Mother for the mother-starved daughters of patriarchy.'"

Rest in Peace, **Audrey Flack**, who died June 28 at the age of 93. A ground-breaking photorealist painter, pity essayist, and lifelong feminist, her wisdom and insight will be missed. You can see her work in the Culinary Conference Center, 3rd floor Student Table Service Training Area (313).

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.

TEAM WALKER, FRESH CHEF, AND HCCC COLLABORATE

Between Aug. 7 - Aug. 16, over 20 local Jersey City students participated in a meaningful culinary arts camp. This camp combined basic food preparation techniques with entrepreneurship, while also involving a community service component that each entrepreneur should experience when they operate a business in their community.

Chef Ameer Natson, founder of Fresh Chef, along with Chef Monique (HCCC Culinary Arts Graduate), provided daily instruction to all attendees. The pinnacle of this camp occurred when over 100 meals were distributed to two Jersey City neighborhoods in need over a

two-day period.

This initiative was the concept of Commissioner Jerry Walker, who approached the College for help with mitigating the lack of free camps for Jersey City youth partnered with Chef Ameer and Ashley Christmas by incorporating resources from their Fresh Chef initiative.

We thank all collaborators for sharing their resources to make this initiative a great success!



Students learned basic culinary arts and baking skills, while being of service to Jersey City residents in need.

NEW SMALL BUSINESS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Internship that teaches entrepreneurs and small businesses how to access resources for growth and provides experiential learning opportunities for talented HCCC students. Student interns provide technical assistance in marketing, digital literacy, and social media, allocating up to 55 hours to each business. The first cohort of five student interns were placed with CHB Interiors, ConSHINement LLC, Cavany Foods LLC, Medical Office Technologies, and She is Incorporated.

The recently added Development-Based Internship engages HCCC students with businesses involved in Hudson County construction projects. The College and HCEDC are working with SRL Enterprises, a minority-owned Hudson County business, to build out this portion of the program.

Both programs are financially backed by HCEDC, HCCC, and a grant from Citizens

Philanthropic Foundation that allows businesses to hire interns at no cost, as the grant fully funds interns' \$20 per hour stipends for the first year. Students complete a five-hour internship training program and interview with a business prior to selection. Although the program recently launched, it has already exceeded expectations.

"At Citizens, we believe small businesses have the power to uplift communities and are committed to helping provide the resources and tools needed for them to succeed," said Danny Lee, Senior Vice President and District Sales Manager for Tri State Metro at Citizens. "We're thrilled to help launch Hudson County Community College's new small business internship program and look forward to seeing the impact this new accessible career pipeline has on the businesses and future workforce of Hudson County."

"The launching of this paid internship program in coordination with local County

businesses showcases the types of opportunities Hudson County Government is providing for our residents," said County Executive Craig Guy. "In our partnership with HCCC and HCEDC, our County is providing the opportunity for students to gain real-world experience fostering career development, while also building a more skilled and diverse workforce for businesses in our local area."

"The HCCC-HCEDC Internship Program provides businesses with the opportunity to evaluate and train potential long-term employees, build a talent pipeline, reduce recruitment efforts and costs, and fuel regional economic growth," Dr. Reber stated. "We are grateful to the County, HCEDC, Citizens Philanthropic Foundation, and our host businesses for making this program a reality. Combining education and workforce development is a win-win for everyone in Hudson County."

JOIN US FOR THE DINING SERIES

The fall edition of HCCC Foundation's always-anticipated Subscription Dining Series is fast approaching, and subscriptions for this in-demand fall fixture are expected to sell out quickly.

Culinary Arts Center- 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, NJ
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. | Eight Fridays (September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15)

Your subscription of \$1295 for eight weeks*, or \$647.50 for four weeks can occur during the first four dates (September/October) or the last four dates (October/November). Our unique meals and service prepared entirely by our students and include appetizer, entree, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, and other surprises!

Seating is limited to four diners per table, per week.
Gratuity not included. *Single weeks are not available.

www.hccc.edu/foundation



Hudson County Community College 9/11 Memorial



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Chris Hoff

After enlisting in the military straight out of high school in 1986 and serving eight years, Chris Hoff was honorably discharged. But seven years later, Chris was inspired to reenlist in the army reserves one day after the tragic events of 9/11. Hoff is now a Wounded Warrior speaker who shares his experiences of service to the country, the challenges of living with post-traumatic stress disorder, and his ability to overcome them.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Gabert Library, 71 Sip Avenue
Benjamin J. Dineen III and Dennis C. Hull Gallery and Atrium, Jersey City, NJ

Food and refreshments will be served after the event.

PLEASE REGISTER AT: <https://form.jotform.com/242206252607146>

This Commemoration is open to all HCCC students, faculty, staff, and community members.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH THE HCCC FOUNDATION ART COLLECTION

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Mexican artist, the charcoal and crayon drawing features a woman resting on a mid-Century modern version of the butaque chair, which has been a widely-recognized hybrid of Spanish and pre-Colombian furniture within Mexican culture and design since the late 16th Century. Recently, the drawing became the Foundation Art Collection's first work featured in an exhibition publication when it was included in the Museum of Modern Art's catalog for the museum's *Crafting Modernity: Design in Latin America 1940–1980* exhibition.

Many pieces depict the experiences of the Hispanic and Latino diaspora in the United States, including difficulties with immigration, life under authoritarian rule in some Latin American countries, and the struggle to overcome socioeconomic injustice. Especially relevant at this historic time is Yolanda Lopez's

limited-edition print, "Your Vote Has Power" that depicts a woman casting a vote while carrying her child on her back.

Dr. Andrea Siegel, Coordinator of the HCCC Foundation Art Collection, explains that "A thirst for a better world is a powerful theme in many of these works. We work towards that in many ways, and one of them is through art."

To arrange a free tour to see these remarkable works by Hispanic artists, along with any other of the 2,000+ works installed at Hudson County Community College, please email Dr. Siegel at asiegel@hccc.edu.

If you're interested in checking out the collection online, visit <https://www.hccc.edu/community/arts/foundation-art-collection/category-collection-search.html>

DR. CHRISTOPHER REBER, JOINS BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BHEF Chief Executive Officer. "With the diverse perspectives, strong leadership, and momentum we have across our network, we are poised to more closely align higher education and the business sector for strong economic outcomes."

In addition to Jae Lynn Akins and Terrence Cheng, Dr. Reber will join Board members Joseph E. Aoun, President, Northeastern University; Board Vice Chair Jeffrey D. Armstrong, President, California Polytechnic State University; John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University; Lisa Gevelber, Chief Marketing Officer, Americas Region, Google and Founder, Grow with Google; Board Chair Laura K. Ipsen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ellucian, Inc.; Earl F. "Marty" Martin, President, Drake University; Ryan Oakes, Managing Director, Accenture; Jay A. Perman, M.D., Chancellor, University System of Maryland; Madeline Pumariega, President, Miami Dade College; and Timothy D. Sands, President, Virginia Tech.

"It is an honor to join the BHEF Board of Directors. All throughout my career I have prioritized higher education partnerships and collaborations with business and industry so the people of our community thrive in strong economies and careers with family-sustaining wages," Dr. Reber stated. "I look forward to working with the esteemed members of the Board in furthering BHEF's important work."

Dr. Reber has devoted his entire 40-plus year career to higher education. As President of Hudson County Community College since 2018, he leads and supports the College's engagement in local, regional, and national partnerships that support life-changing opportunities for students and the community.

Dr. Reber has been recognized with many awards, including American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) 2024 Award of Excellence – CEO of the Year; Phi Theta Kappa 2024 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction; Hudson County Latin American Chamber of Commerce 2023 Education Leader of the Year Award; NJBIZ 2021, 2022 and 2023 "Education Power 50"; 2022 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Northeast Regional Chief Executive Officer Award; Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey, Inc. Education Leader 2022 Award; Hudson County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Legends Spirit Award; and 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society "Paragon President" Award.

Earlier this year, Dr. Reber was nominated to serve on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Leadership Group. That body provides guidance and strategic direction to ensure the Hispanic community equitably participates in and benefits from USDA education and employment programs, resources, and services.

HCCC WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Continued from page 2

in radiography that allows them to sit for the American Registration of Radiologic Technicians (ARRT) national examination. Alongside their academic studies, students undertake six semesters of clinical practicum where they are mentored by radiography professionals and acquire hands-on training in real healthcare settings. HCCC Radiography graduates who earn degrees or certificates through this pathway have a perfect record: 100% completion/graduation rate, 100% ARRT pass rate, and 100% job placement rate.

"We are so proud of our Radiography graduates. They worked diligently to earn their degrees, and going forward they will play essential roles in saving lives," Dr. Reber said. "Our best wishes go to them for successful and fulfilling careers."

A Culture of Learning: All Voices Equal Better Choices

Kimberly Dark

Hosted by Joseph Caniglia



**Thursday,
September 19, 2024
1:00 p.m.**

Join us at:

<https://hudsonccc.webex.com/hudsonccc/j.php?MTID=mba6e769d018aa0bf84380b565886767c>

Meeting number: 2633 194 2931

Password: pC3aMnBpB88

Kimberly Dark is a writer, sociologist and storyteller, working to reveal the architecture of everyday life so that we can reclaim our power as social creators. She's the author of four books, including *Fat, Pretty and Soon to be Old: A Makeover for Self and Society and Damaged Like Me: Essays on Love, Harm and Transformation*. Her essays, poetry and stories are widely published in academic and popular publications alike.

She teaches for Cal State Summer Arts and travels to offer keynotes, workshops and lectures internationally and online.

Kimberly brings decades of experience (and multiple awards) as a facilitator, performer/storyteller, and teacher entertaining people with complex yet accessible messages about the human experience, and about the ways we co-create our culture. By looking at the complexity in our lives, Kimberly teaches her audiences how to become the subject of their own stories, and how to co-create a better world.

For more information, please contact:

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

SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) proudly supports local high school talent through its collaboration with the American Chemical Society SEED program. This summer, Jade Castillo and Dean Sanailcela from Jose Marti STEM Academy join the program, working on innovative research projects under the mentorship of HCCC Professors Dr. Clive Li and Faiza Fayyaz, and with the enthusiastic support of Dr. Burl Yearwood, Dean of the School of STEM. This initiative highlights HCCC's commitment to fostering scientific inquiry and providing valuable lab experience to aspiring young scientists in our community.

Innovative Antimicrobial Composite Materials: Development, Testing, and Performance Analysis - Abstract

The widespread presence of microorganisms continues to be a serious public health concern. Despite the various advances in hygiene and sanitation, the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and the spread of infectious diseases demonstrate the urgent need for innovative methods to assist in preventing the transmission of harmful germs from surface to surface. This research focuses on the development of an antimicrobial composite, testing and utilizing zinc pyrithione known

for its antimicrobial properties. The composite samples were studied by measuring the zones of inhibition in both *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* bacterial cultures. Results showed that zinc pyrithione composites had significantly high antibacterial activity. One potential application of this material is in products such as toilet seats. This research demonstrates the ability to enhance hygiene and safety in our day-to-day lives. By incorporating this composite into everyday items, its chemically made antibacterial properties can lead to significant improvements in public health standards and overall quality of life.

Door Detector - Abstract

The "Developing a Door Detector" project focuses on creating a practical tool to aid visually impaired individuals in navigating doorways with greater ease and safety. This device combines infrared and ultrasonic technologies to offer a multi-sensory navigation aid. Users operate the system via an infrared remote control, which allows them to select specific doors. Each door choice triggers a unique buzzer sound, providing clear, audible guidance. Additionally, ultrasonic sensors detect the presence of individuals and activate the buzzer to alert users to nearby doors or obstacles. This device addresses a common



Pictured from left: Faiza Fayyaz; Dr. Burl Yearwood; Jade Castillo; Dean Sanailcela; and Dr. Clive Li.

challenge for visually impaired individuals: the difficulty in identifying and locating doors in various environments. By offering precise auditory signals, it helps users avoid accidents and become more confident in their movements. Ultimately, the door detector is designed to enhance independence and improve the daily lives of its users, making the task of finding and identifying doorways more intuitive and safer. This project represents a significant step forward in assistive technology, aiming to bridge a crucial gap in accessibility and support.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE



Dr. Peter Cronrath and Elana Winslow represent the College at the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) Faculty Innovation Fellowship at Drake University with Fellows in Des Moines, IA. The faculty are members of the inaugural cohort of the Fellowship.

HCCC HOSTS PSEG FOR LEADERSHIP MEETING



PSEG's delegation of leaders with HCCC President Dr. Christopher Reber and Vice President Nicole B. Johnson (pictured center).

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) hosted a cohort of PSEG Directors, a Senior Regional Manager, Regional Managers, and Supervisors of PSEG's external affairs, public affairs, and outreach departments for their internal meeting in the Johnston Room at the Culinary Conference Center. Following an internal presentation, Dr. Christopher Reber, HCCC President, and Nicole Johnson, Vice President for Advancement & Communications and Executive Director of the HCCC Foundation, joined the group to discuss the priorities of the College and the existing and continued partnership between HCCC and PSEG.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2024 CLASSES

HCCC Offers Classes in Multiple Modalities

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

12-Week Quick Term and Classes at Secaucus Center
Wednesday, September 18, 2024

7-Week Online Classes
Fall Online B and Fall 7-Week 2:
Thursday, October 24, 2024

Students must register at least one day prior to the first class meeting.

APPLY at
www.hccc.edu/apply

www.hccc.edu/freetuition



CONTINUING EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Continuing Education Launches Pronunciation and Accent Reduction Class

In July and August, Continuing Education launched its English Pronunciation and Accent Reduction class, created and taught by ESL instructor and linguistics specialist, Aycha Edwards. The class was designed to improve students' English language pronunciation skills for more effective communication. The students' native languages included Arabic, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish. Students covered topics such as intonation, stress, linking, rhythm, and learned the individual sounds found in English. Through practice activities and real-world conversations, students developed their English pronunciation and speaking skills in a personal and supportive environment.

For more information on continuing education ESL classes, please contact: gransom@hccc.edu or email ce@hccc.edu



Residential area at St. Joseph's School for the Blind in Jersey City.

HCCC CAT Staff Embark on Walking Tour of St. Joseph's School for the Blind

The Hudson County Community College (HCCC) Center for Adult Transition (CAT) staff recently embarked on an inspiring visit at St. Joseph's School for the Blind, guided by Migdalia Viole, Director of Community and Donor Relations. The visit, part of their ongoing mission to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in education at CAT, provided an invaluable opportunity for the team to witness first-hand the groundbreaking work being done at the school.

During the May 29, walking tour, the HCCC CAT staff explored classrooms equipped with adaptive technologies, where students engage with Braille, large print, and audio resources tailored to their individual learning needs. The tour also included visits to the mobility training rooms, sensory gardens, and recreational spaces designed to foster independence and socialization.

"The dedication of the educators and staff at St. Joseph's School for the Blind is truly inspiring and their commitment to creating a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically and personally aligns perfectly with our mission at HCCC CAT," stated Associate Director of CAT, Maritza Reyes.

"This visit gave us new insights into how we can further support our students enrolled through our service coordination partnership with St. Joseph's School for the Blind."

The visit also included a roadtrip through different U.S. states and interactions with students who shared their experiences navigating the world with visual impairments and other abilities. These conversations highlighted the importance of specialized educational approaches that cater to the unique challenges faced by students with disabilities.

The walkthrough marks a significant step in HCCC's ongoing efforts to champion inclusivity and accessibility in education. By learning from institutions like St. Joseph's School for the Blind, CAT staff are better equipped to make meaningful contributions to the lives of students with disabilities at HCCC and beyond.

CONTINUING EDUCATION Upcoming Programs

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, September 5, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/y35sad6j>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Friday, September 6, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/y35sad6j>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/y35sad6j>

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (IN-PERSON)

Friday, September 27, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Price: \$77
<https://tinyurl.com/yjz72fpb>

FINANCIAL BASICS FOR PERSONAL FINANCES & WEALTH BUILDING (ONLINE) | Tuesdays (3 Sessions)

September 10 through September 24, 2024
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Price: \$95
<https://tinyurl.com/2zbux79m>

NICET LEVEL 1 HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PREPARATORY COURSE (ONLINE)

Saturdays and Sundays | September 21 through October 13, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Price: \$350
<https://tinyurl.com/4fvr9xbm>

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (ONLINE) | Mondays and Thursdays

September 23 through November 4, 2024
6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | Price: \$1,200 (Payment plans are available for students and may be covered by your employer.)
<https://tinyurl.com/wyj4w4r8>

PUBLIC SPEAKING ESSENTIALS: TECHNIQUES FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION (ONLINE)

Mondays | September 23 through October 14, 2024
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Price: \$125 | Instructor: Martine Cadet
<https://tinyurl.com/54p9sx3p>

MICROSOFT EXECL BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE (IN-PERSON) | Wednesdays (11 Sessions)

September 25 through December 11, 2024
6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. | Price: \$265
<https://tinyurl.com/y6hwh4yp>

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR BEGINNERS (ONLINE)

Wednesdays | September 25 through December 18, 2024
(No class on 10/9, 11/6, & 12/11) | 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Price: \$150
<https://tinyurl.com/y748979y>

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

NSF AND NIH FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

The Summer 2024 term was full of professional development opportunities for Instructor Raffi Manjikian, who applied for and was accepted into workshops and short courses for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Each opportunity was fully funded by the respective national organizations.

On June 14 and 15, Instructor Manjikian participated in the NSF-funded project in Atlanta, Georgia entitled, "Impacting Assessment Practices of Postsecondary Faculty Teaching Gateway Chemistry Courses." The purpose of the workshop was to improve college chemistry faculty members' abilities to create assessments and interpret assessment data for their courses and programs. The workshop specifically targeted faculty members at two-year institutions. Instructor Manjikian was excited to be the only faculty member representative from New Jersey in the program.

From July 16 to July 19, Instructor Manjikian joined participants on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland for the short course in Genomics, sponsored by the National



Raffi Manjikian (Sixth from right, second row) with the NHGRI Short Course in Genomics 2024 Cohort.

Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). The NHGRI Short Course in Genomics offered science educators the opportunity to hear lectures and receive teaching resources from leading researchers, clinicians and staff. Topics included complex diseases, sequencing technologies, brain and behavior, bioinformatics, gene editing, the human microbiome and ethical issues in genomics research. Manjikian was one of two faculty members from New Jersey to participate in the program.

At these gatherings, Manjikian proudly represented Hudson County Community College and the School of STEM at the national level. These events presented Instructor Manjikian with the occasion to make connections and partnerships with professionals associated with both national organizations which he hopes to maintain while pursuing future opportunities.

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





**HUDSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
School of Science, Technology,
Engineering, and Math (STEM)

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




Please join HCCC President
Dr. Chris Reber for a
TOWN HALL MEETING
on **Thursday, September 12**
at **12 p.m.**
Lunch will be served.

In-person at:
Culinary Conference Center
161 Newkirk Street, Scott Ring Room
Jersey City, NJ

Virtual at: <https://tinyurl.com/TH-SEPT24>
Meeting number: 2634 485 0008 |
Password: Sept2024


*Learn about important updates and have
your questions answered in real time.*



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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JOURNAL SQUARE CAMPUS

70 Sip Avenue
 Jersey City, NJ 07306
 Phone (201) 714-7100

NORTH HUDSON CAMPUS

4800 Kennedy Boulevard
 Union City, NJ 07087
 Phone (201) 360-4600

SECAUCUS CENTER

Located at the Frank J. Gargiulo Campus of the Hudson County Schools of Technology
 One High Tech Way
 Secaucus, NJ 07094
 Phone (201) 360-4388

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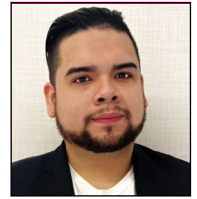
www.hccc.edu

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



ALUMNI CORNER

**Andres Pinargote, HCCC Class of 2016
 A.S. in Accounting**



How did you decide to attend HCCC?

I went directly to Fairleigh Dickinson University after graduating high school. I was surrounded by students there who had their tuition paid by their parents and didn't have to work. I didn't fit in.

Being a first-generation college student, there were too many things that were confusing to me, and no one was patient enough to explain it all. I was in a terrible situation with no help or guidance on how to manage academics and college life while working.

I needed a fresh start, and my gut feeling was telling me to go to community college. In 2013, I applied for HCCC's liberal arts programs, oblivious to the fact that I had just made the best decision for my academic career! I made the switch to an accounting degree shortly afterward.

What made HCCC the right choice for you?

Growing up in a low-income environment, the choice was never obvious. I needed to choose a college that was affordable, just as much as I needed to choose one that was going to set me up for success. After looking at the wide range of classes HCCC offered when I joined orientation along with the FAFSA presentation, I was confident in my decision to go to HCCC. At HCCC, I was a student leader for various clubs and was recognized as such. HCCC boosted my confidence and opened many doors for me academically and professionally.

How did you become interested in tax accounting and asset wealth management?

I knew I wanted a competitive degree and to work with numbers, so business was an obvious route for me. I narrowed it down to finance and accounting. I chose accounting because I wanted to learn a "new language." Accounting as a concept is a science that only other accountants understand.

Choosing the world of tax accounting within asset wealth management at PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) simply came down to curiosity! I've always loved learning new concepts and asset wealth management tax was a completely new industry to me.

What advice would you give to HCCC students who want to pursue a career in accounting/wealth management?

Take your accounting and finance classes seriously!

There were so many concepts from my classes that have helped me in my career at PwC.

But at the end of the day, none of that matters if you throw in the towel early in your career, so don't give up! I got my bachelor's at the age of 28 while most students get them at the age of 22. As diverse as HCCC may be, we all have similar stories with similar struggles and sacrifices. Regardless of what your situation may be, your drive, willingness to adapt, and hunger for success make you just as capable as anyone else.

Motivation doesn't mean anything; ultimately, determination and discipline are what matter.

Can you talk about the challenges you overcame and the hard work it took to get to where you are today?

Being a first-generation student means you go directly into college not knowing anything. You don't know what college credits are, FAFSA applications seem like rocket science, loans are confusing, the GPA grading system is new, Blackboard is your main source of navigation, and transcripts are needed -- the list goes on and on. These things may sound obvious but try understanding this while working full-time without the help of your parents or siblings at a young age -- it can be quite challenging.

One cold winter day, I remember accidentally walking into the wrong building where students were hosting an event for the business and accounting club. I decided to stay to regain warmth and learned of the business program and how it helped them. A year later, I declared myself an accounting major and was nominated President of the Business and Accounting Club for 2015-2016.

Who do you want to thank in your pursuit of a new career?

For starters, my mom! She always wanted to be an accountant but had to leave school in Ecuador to support us. She inspired me to be the best man I can be.

I also wanted to thank the entire business faculty for being as supportive as they were during my HCCC days. Specifically, Professor Lester McRae and Paul Dillon, who was the Dean of Hospitality Administration/Management at the time, and he is incredibly missed. They were some of my biggest mentors as a business student. They guided me on managing the Business and Accounting club and my staff effectively while introducing me to many opportunities within the program.

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

