

# "EOF MATTERS"

The newsletter from The Educational Opportunity Fund Program at Essex County College

April 2009



Ms. Ivonne DePascual, Editor

**From Ms. De Pascual's Desk:** College is a very exciting time in a person's life. It is a period when you can reassess your goals, and map up the course of your life using the steps you have to take in order to be where you dream in the near future. This can be very demanding and stressful experience at times. Academic, personal, interpersonal or health related problems can considerably affect your academic performance, and may make you doubt your ability and level of commitment to continue with your education. Please know that your EOF counselors are here to assist you throughout your college experience to deal with personal and academic problems. I truly encourage you to establish a relationship with your counselor so you feel comfortable about approaching him/her during difficult times, for registration, to talk about your future plans, your transfer options, or just to chat and network. You are the heart of this college and we are here to serve you and help you to move ahead in the direction of your dreams.

**On Line Summer and Fall 2009 Registration is taking place right now.** Take advantage of My ECC Portal and register early for the classes that best fit your busy schedule. If you need help with online registration, stop by the EOF Office and ask your EOF Counselor for assistance. Having difficulties? Feel free to bring your concerns to Ms. Joanna Romano, EOF Director. She is committed to provide all EOF students with the best quality of service. You can email her at: [romano@essex.edu](mailto:romano@essex.edu), call her (973) 877-3231 or just stop by her office, room 3209.

## **Summer and Fall 2009 In-Person Registration**

**April 30 - May 1, 2009**

(9:00 am to 6:00 pm)

**From Ms. Silva's Desk:** The **EOF Pre-Freshman Summer Program** is currently accepting applications. Spread the word about this magnificent opportunity to people you know who are ready to start their college journey. The Pre-Freshman Summer Program is a six-week intensive college preparation program that will allow its participants to strengthen their academic skills in Math, Reading and English. Participants will also gain 3 college credits. The Pre-Freshman Summer Program will run from July 8 through August 18, 2009 Monday to Thursday (8:30 am to 4:30 pm). Please contact Ms. Silva at (973) 877-3229 or [silva@essex.edu](mailto:silva@essex.edu)

All returning students must renew their financial aid for the academic year 2009-2010 before **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**. **Do not miss this final deadline and jeopardize your financial aid eligibility for a state grant (TAG).** The website to apply for financial aid or renew your FAFSA is [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## **Scholarship Opportunity - Check it Out!!**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission provides \$5000.00 scholarship to college students that meet the below criteria: 1. Enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in the State of NJ at the time of the award. 2. Show evidence that you intend to pursue a course of study in social work, political science, history, divinity or religion, sociology, psychology, and the like. 3. Have completed 15 credits and achieve a GPA of 3.00 4. Have demonstrated leadership skills through active participation in community service, and/or extra curricular activities. 5. U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident. **The Deadline to apply is Friday, May 22, 2009.** Please see your EOF Counselor for more information and to obtain the application package.



**From Ms. Romano: Congratulations 2009 Graduates!!!! Time to Celebrate!!!**

EOF is extremely proud of it's 2009 Grads! Your effort, commitment and perseverance have paid off, and to honor you, EOF is hosting its **Annual Graduation Celebration Dinner**. All 2009 Graduates, are cordially invited to attend this evening of celebration and enjoyment. When? May 15, 2009 at the Manor at Branch Brook Park - watch for the formal invitation! (If you would like to be a part of the planning, please see Ms. Romano). A memorable event, we will get dressed up, have a great dinner, and honor all of the efforts that have led to graduation!!!

**From the Desk of Ms. Calloway:** Ms. Tawana Dennis (refer to Student Corner) has been offered an internship to study law abroad -this summer in Africa! She can bring her two young sons with her - WOW, what an experience! When she graduates, she will be a paralegal and is planning to go to law school! Tawana is also part of the EOF Alumni Group, which will be helping to plan this year's Graduation Banquet!

**From the Desk of Ms. Beretta,** Save the date: Free! Free! Saturday, April 18, 2009 (8:00 am to 3:00 pm) Rutgers University, Douglas College Student Center, New Brunswick, NJ. **LUPE's Fourth Annual Statewide Young Latina Leadership Conference "K knowledge! Empowerment! Action!"** a powerful inspiration for young Latina women. **Keynote speaker: Lynda Baquero, Reporter, NBC4 New York.** For more information and to register, please email: [younglatinaconference@yahoo.com](mailto:younglatinaconference@yahoo.com)

**GQH'I tcf wcvgu'y j q'ctg'tgegklpi 'c'Ucvg'Cy ctf 'hqt 'cecf go le'uweegu'r rgcug'o ctnl'vj g' f cvg<' Crtki39<sup>vj</sup> .I gqti lep'Eqwt v'Wpkgtuls{ =GQH'Ucvg'Cy ctf ggu'Egt go qp{ "**

Contact: Ike Azubuiké at 973-877-3104 – We have a bus to take us – since seating is limited, only the awardee can take the bus. However, if you have friends and family that want to attend, all are invited – just plan ahead for your own arranged transportation!

**Student (EOF and ECC Alumni!!!) Corner - I tggvpi u'Hgmjy 'GQH'Uwf gpvu<'**

I am Tawana Dennis an ECC EOF alumnus, majoring in Justice Studies at Montclair State University. I talk to you in this letter via blessings, and much gratitude to the EOF department. Through my participation in the EOF Program, I have experienced a world or opportunities that I would have otherwise never known.

There is a saying that states "Dare to dream because nothing is impossible," this is the essence of the EOF Department. They not only dream with you, but they help you to cultivate your dream into reality. The journey may become difficult at times, but remember that anything worth having is worth working for and waiting for. The EOF staff understands this journey and they are there to guide and nurture you through it, like family. To utilize that avenues provided to you by the EOF department only enhances your ability to excel in the academic atmosphere.

The counselors here in the EOF Department have always been supportive, compassionate, understanding and helpful. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask. When applying to transfer, let them help you out. There is an abundance of resources and information available to you; access it, make good use of it. I can absolutely attest to this and even after you've left the halls of ECC to continue your journey, you can always come back and know that you're at home in EOF.

Much love, Tawana

**"EOF GET WITH THE PROGRAM"**