



# EYE ON ESSEX

AUGUST 2011

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

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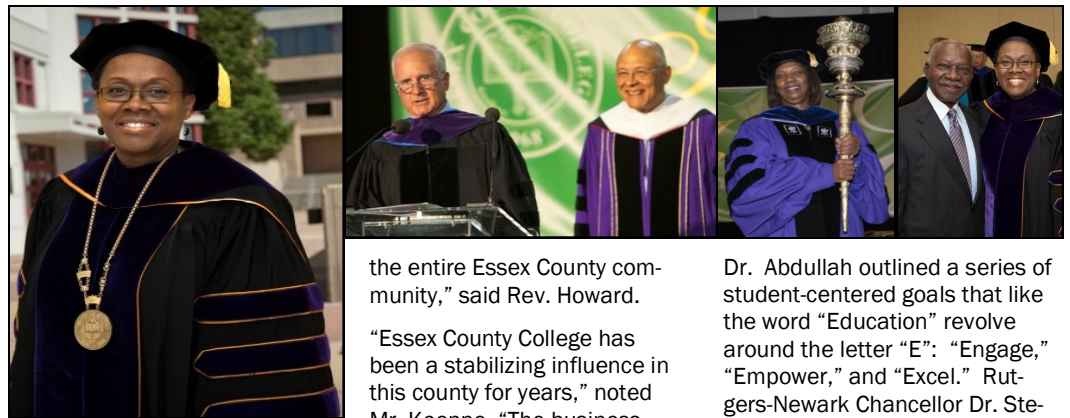
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## ECC HOLDS FIRST PRESIDENTIAL INVESTITURE CEREMONY IN 30 YEARS



### THE THREE 'E'S OF ECC

The end of summer marks the time when we **engage** in planning, so we can **empower** our students and continue to **excel** as an institution. These three action words, **Engage, Empower, and Excel**, mean the most to the future of Essex County College and will be hallmarks of my presidential vision and leadership and our joint governance of this institution for even greater student success.

We certainly must **engage** our students to reach their goals; and we must **engage** our community to support the College and its valuable mission.

We must **empower** ourselves, our students, and our collective "desire" to raise the intellectual capital and per capita income of this community.

We can and will **excel** beyond our wildest dreams. Together, we are dreaming the possible dream because we are educators on a mission of mercy and love for students.

We are shepherds – changing lives and building unimaginable futures. This is my commitment to my community and my Essex County College faculty and staff as its sixth president. It is also our collective commitment to you, the residents and leaders of business-industry in Essex County.

For the first time in 30 years, Essex County College held an Investiture ceremony for our new president Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah, who formally assumed the leadership of the College on August 29.

Honorary co-chairs Alfred C. Koeppel, CEO of the Newark Alliance, and former president of PSE&G; and Rev. Dr. M. William Howard Jr., pastor of Newark's Bethany Baptist Church and a member of the Rutgers University Board of Governors, predicted a great future for ECC under the leadership of Dr. Abdullah.

"She has realized since she started here the important role this college has in education for

the entire Essex County community," said Rev. Howard.

"Essex County College has been a stabilizing influence in this county for years," noted Mr. Koeppel. "The business community has looked to the College as a trusted resource, and I know with confidence that will continue under Dr. Edythe Abdullah."

The Investiture program included a brief formal ceremony in which Dr. Abdullah received the President's Medallion from ECC Trustees Dr. Lawrence Feinsod and Calvin Souder, Esq. She will wear the medallion at all official future College events, such as Commencement. After the formal ceremony, Dr. Abdullah delivered her inaugural address.

"I promise the legacy of our students comes first," said Dr. Abdullah, who is also the first woman to hold the College's highest rank.

Dr. Abdullah outlined a series of student-centered goals that like the word "Education" revolve around the letter "E": "Engage," "Empower," and "Excel." Rutgers-Newark Chancellor Dr. Steven Diner delivered the keynote address.

"You are leading an institution with a proud history and an exceptional mission," stated Dr. Diner. "It's an emotionally challenging job, but I know you are up to the challenge and remember, there are so many people here eager to help."

The new ECC President started in her post on April 1, 2010, succeeding longtime President A. Zachary Yamba who retired after 29 years of service. An Investiture ceremony traditionally takes place in the first 18 months that a new president has taken office, giving time for her to reflect on the institution and build a vision for its future.

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## ECC STUDENTS IN THE NEWS:

### ECC TRIO ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Three ECC students, including one member of the Class of 2011, participated at the Athgo International Venture Capital Competition in August, an event held in partnership with the World Bank Speakers Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Ashraf Amadou, who graduated from Essex this past May with an Associate degree in Biology/Pre-Medicine, was on the second place team. His team designed an "emPower," a smart phone application that would allow users to turn off appliances remotely. They received \$2,000 in startup money.

Ashraf, who will attend Montclair State University in January, was paired with students from New

York and Pennsylvania. Biology Professor Eunice Kamunge served as the team's advisor.

ECC students Nicole Rapista and Cinthya Dominguez also participated in the event. Nicole, a Liberal Arts major, said it was a "great experience" even though her team did not place. Her team designed a trash can that lights up when children put garbage in it, creating a positive reinforcement.

"We wanted to design a green product to help develop good habits in youngsters so they don't litter," she said.

Cinthya, a Biology, Pre-Medicine major at ECC, par-

ticipated on a team that developed a plan to take food waste from businesses and homes to make compost for local farmers.

The goal of the competition was to empower young people to develop business plans for ventures that are profitable, socially beneficial and environmentally friendly.

"It's a real feather in ECC's cap to have students invited to such an event," said Dr. Scott Mittman, Chair of the ECC's Biology & Chemistry Division.



**ECC'S TRIO IN DC:** Participants in the competition, including: **Nicole Rapista** (Top Left), **Ashraf Amadou** (Top Right), and **Cinthya Dominguez** (Left).

## MEET ECC'S NEW ACADEMIC DEANS



**TWO NEW POSITIONS FILLED:** Jill Stein (top left) assumed a new leadership role as Acting Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and **Nerur Satish** (bottom left) joins the ECC family as the new Dean of Workforce



The two "new" positions are Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Dean of Workforce. The reinstated position of Dean of Liberal Arts was filled by a familiar face to ECC, **Jill Stein**; and the Dean of Workforce is a new face to the College: **Nerur Satish**.

Dr. Jill Stein has been a part of the ECC family since 1995, when she began her career here as an adjunct professor teaching Biology. She later served as chair of the Biology and Chemistry Division.

One of her immediate goals is to continue to build on the College's cultural assessment. Dr. Stein said she is going over the general education courses offered and making sure they fit into the overall goals and institutional mission.

"I'm also looking forward to the completion of the biology and chemistry laboratories on the third level," said Ms. Stein.

"The College will be able to almost double student capac-

ity once the work is completed."

The labs currently service several thousand students each semester.

She has been active in securing several grants for the College, including the United States Department of Education grant for Predominately Black Institutions to increase minority representation in the academic fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics).

Meanwhile, Nerur Satish joined ECC as Dean of Workforce on August 1. Dean Satish has an extensive background in both education and engineering in the private sector.

Since 2002, he chaired the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology Department at Owens Community College (OCC) in Ohio, overseeing four associate degrees and a number of career-related certificate programs. He also taught while at OCC.

Prior to his experience in higher education, Dean Satish worked in private industry, initially as a product engineer for Teledyne Technologies, and then served on the technical staffs for electronic giants such as RCA and GE.

As he becomes more acclimated to ECC, Dean Satish said he wants to be the catalyst for job opportunities in the Essex County area.

"I am looking at the market trends and the immediate needs of the workforce in terms of training for our students," said Mr. Satish. "I want to see which are the high growth opportunities."

Many of ECC's Associate in Applied Science degree programs that provide the training needed for graduates to immediately enter the workforce fall under the dean's purview.

"All of us have to work together in order to provide the best job training for our students."

Essex County College established two new positions as part of our reorganization efforts.

As approved by the Board of Trustees, and as noted as a significant accomplishment by our Middle States visit team, our reorganization plan intends to address the complex organizations that community colleges have become, and improve institutional effectiveness by distributing responsibility throughout the institution.

## SUMMER GRADUATES OF ECC



**READY FOR THE NEXT STEP:** Students in ECC's radiography program attended a pinning ceremony held in their honor on August 18.

Even though Commencement was held in May, there are a few more students who call themselves Essex County College alumni as the result of two graduation ceremonies held on the same August day.

Fourteen students of ECC's radiography program received their certificates on August 18. The gradu-

ates now will prepare for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification in order to become licensed radiologic technicians. Following the ceremony, a reception was held for the graduates and their families.

Elsewhere on the Newark campus, ECC's Adult Learning Center (ALC) was holding its Annual Recognition Ceremony in Siegler Hall.

Judith Celestin, ALC Director, addressed 203 students who were honored for successfully completing different specialized programs geared toward adults.

"We wish you well in the next stage of your lives," said Ms. Celestin.

Fifty-three students obtained their GED high school equivalency; 21 passed English as a Second Language exam; 73 are now ready to pursue post-secondary education, and 56 have obtained their United States citizenship.

## ECC GOLF AND TENNIS TOURNAMENT SET FOR OCT. 3



**GETTING IN THE SWING OF THINGS:** Enjoy the day on the tennis courts or on the golf green with the ECC team, such as **Michael King**, Chair of the Business Division. The goal is to raise \$60,000 in scholarships that will help our most deserving students earn a valuable college education and take the next step forward in their lives. The monies raised will benefit the students who are unable to continue their college education due to economic difficulties. The 13th Annual Essex County College Golf & Tennis Scholarship Tournament will be held at the Maplewood Country Club on October 3, 2011. Individuals can sign up to golf for \$325 per person, or to play tennis at \$200 per person. Corporate sponsorships begin at \$250. The event begins at 10:30 am and concludes with a dinner buffet. For more information contact Leigh Bello de Castro at (973) 877-3484 or via email: bellodecastro@essex.edu

## ECCPA HOSTS NJ ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Essex County College Police Academy (ECCPA) hosted the Northern New Jersey Chapter of The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) on August 17.

The organization's members represent federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecution entities through their public service agencies. The agenda for the day included a keynote address on organization ethics by Paula Dow – New Jersey State Attorney General.

She stated that whenever she speaks at academy graduation ceremonies she emphasizes the role ethics will play in the new officers' daily decision-making.

"Ethics training should be integrated at every level of an officer's position, starting at the academy level and continuing all the way to the top," recommended AG Dow. "As officers, you are in a high position of power and, in turn, held to higher standards."

She further suggested that ethics training be conducted yearly, and that the training be interactive and engaging.

"Using video clips from actual police stops can bring out great discussion points," added AG Dow.

Other training options would include computer

training courses as well as roll play of car stops and execution of warrants.

From 2010–2011 ECCPA trained 164 graduates; some of whom became police officers in Essex County. In August, Leigh A. Titus who graduated from ECCPA in March was sworn in as an Essex Fells police officer, and became the borough's first female officer.

For more information regarding all the Academy's programs, go to: [www.essex.edu/pacademy](http://www.essex.edu/pacademy) or call 973-877-4350.



**ECCPA HAS A 'NOBLE' DISCUSSION:** NJ State Attorney General Paula Dow (center) is flanked by ATF Special Agent Matthew Horace (left) and Essex County College Police Academy Director Rocco Miscia (right). The Attorney General provided a motivational discussion to the group about training tactics, specifically related to ethics.



# ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WE ARE ESSEX:  
CHANGING LIVES. BUILDING FUTURES.

## EYE ON ESSEX

A publication of Essex County College

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## ECC EVENTS SEPTEMBER

Most programs are free and open to the public. Events are held at the Newark campus, unless noted:

Sept 15 **"One More Time" Art Exhibit**  
Africana Institute  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Sept 24 **Bridging the Gap Symposium**  
Smith Hall  
10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

*(More events are listed on the  
"EVENTS" section on our website at  
essex.edu)*

*(INVESTITURE—Continued from Page 1)*

Dr. Abdullah formerly was the president of the Downtown Campus of Florida State College in Jacksonville, where she worked for 25 years.

She holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida and earned her bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in Indiana. She also holds a Leadership Certificate in the Management of Lifelong Education from Harvard University and was a Kellogg Fellow with the League for Innovation in community colleges.

Barnabas Health and PNC Bank were primary Event Sponsors. Amelior Foundation sponsored the Reception, with Canteen vending, Essex County College Foundation and Newark Alliance as Lunch Sponsors.

## ECC'S ENGINEERING PROGRAMS RECEIVE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

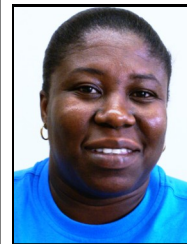
ECC's Associate in Applied Science degree programs in Civil Construction Engineering Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology have all received full accreditation by the Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc.

ABET – Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology – is the nationally recognized accrediting body of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. Accreditation by ABET demonstrates a program's commitment to providing its students with a quality education. ABET issued its report in early August following a site visit last fall.

"It is rare for a 2-year community college to seek this high-profile and rigorous accreditation, and it is a true testament to our out-

standing faculty who established and maintained the standards necessary for ABET to recognize these three engineering degree programs," said Dr. Edythe Abdullah, Essex County College President.

"The real winners, of course, are the students enrolled in these engineering programs who seamlessly transfer to four year schools and then find high-level jobs in their chosen fields."



### NEW HEAD COACH FOR THE ECC WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Back in 1999 **Monique Edouard** was seeing her final year of action as goal keeper for ECC's Lady Wolverines soccer team. After picking up her Associate degree in Physical Education, she went on to Lee University in Tennessee to continue her education.

Fast forward to 2011 and Monique is back at her first alma mater doing what she loves, coaching the women's team. "This is the perfect opportunity for me to come back to where I have nothing but pleasant memories. Plus this gives me the chance to give back to a place that believed in me," said Monique.

Originally from Haiti, Monique will continue bringing in players from the Caribbean, while also looking at local high school players, as she eyes prospects in the Essex County area. "I will look for cohesiveness with our team; it's tough but I think we can get there."

## ECC'S EOF SUMMER PROGRAM GETS STUDENTS TO LOOK TOWARD FUTURE

Sixty of this fall's incoming freshmen got a "jump start" on their college careers this summer through the state-

funded Educational Opportunity Fund's (EOF) six-week Pre-Freshman Summer Program 2011.

"They earn three general education credits and receive intensive training in math and English, all of which prepares them for freshman year," said EOF Director Joanna Romano.

Another 10 students participated in the English language intensive "Rise Up" Program. The summer program is geared toward low income students.

ECC will begin taking applications for next year's Pre-Freshman Summer Program in February 2012.

**A CUT ABOVE:** Incoming freshman students who are participating in the Summer EOF prep program, PSP'11, work on an art and student development project by creating a collage depicting their futures.